

## Mutualism and Cooperation

Season's greetings to you from your Mutual!

The holiday season is upon us! Already! I guess I could write about a co-op Christmas, a co-op Christmas tree or even a co-op minced meat pie, but that might be carrying things a little far. Now that I think about it, I'm not sure there's any such thing as a co-op minced meat pie, but then again, you never know!

Instead, let's get down to business and take a look at how the Mutual fared over the past year. Every end of year brings its lot of reviews, retrospectives and Bye-Byes. So, why not follow the trend with a year-end review of the Mutual's activities for the year 2001?

I'll be brief. Four articles in the newspaper, eleven regional meetings, a new logo, much brainstorming (make that much, much brainstorming), a contest, a mutualist section on the web site, a new secretary general and *alouette*, here we are at the end of the year.

Considering that, one might be tempted to ask, "So what have we accomplished? What difference have we made?" Well maybe we haven't revolutionized the world, but there's no question that we've helped create a great company, one that strives hard to develop and make a name for itself, and one that really has maintained the values of solidarity and equity. Ah, now that sounds like a Christmas message. Solidarity and equity - and when you stop and think about it - aren't those the very values that foster a certain social peace? Now this is starting to sound like a Christmas sermon!

All the same, the truth is that it does make a difference to be part of a cooperative company. That will be the subject of my next article and, in fact, the theme for 2002, the year when "Everything you always wanted to know about cooperation but were afraid to ask" will be revealed! There are a host of activities on our agenda and, of course, more articles on cooperation too. Together we'll try to understand what makes the co-op difference. Until then, best wishes for the holiday season.

See you next year!

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