

Niagara Falls Air Force Federal Credit Union

"Your Primary Financial Institution"



SUMMER QUARTERLY

www.Niagarafallsafcu.com | 2420 Olmstead Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14304, 716-297-4034, Fax 716-297-1223 | July 2011

WE HAVE MONEY TO LEND! SEE YOUR CREDIT UNION FOR ALL YOUR LOAN NEEDS...



VACATION SPECIAL! If you feel as though you are on a hamster wheel running to keep up with life, you're probably stressed out. Too much stress for too long can result in serious health

problems. That's why medical experts recommend we take time off to recharge our batteries. Research suggests that taking a vacation can even lead to fewer stressful days some five weeks later. Vacations can spark your creativity, help prevent burnout, and improve personal relationships. And, when you finance your vacation with a loan from the credit union, you'll know the rates and terms won't cause any additional stress. A vacation loan is also a way for you to set a budget for your time off, allowing you to avoid racking up high-interest credit card bills. Our vacation special is \$3,000 maximum with a 12 month term. Rates as low as 3.99%. For details on the vacation loan that right's for you, call or stop at the credit union.

NEW & USED VEHICLES - FINANCING FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW

When you're shopping for a vehicle, the dealer ads offering very low or zero percent financing have no doubt caught your attention. But you'll want to keep these translations in mind.

What the ad says: "Not all buyers will qualify."

What it means: Unless you have an excellent credit score, you may not get the best rate. If your credit record has a few blemishes, your rate may be higher.

What the ad says: "Offer good on selected vehicles only".

What it means: Slower selling vehicles.

What the ad says: "In stock vehicles only."

What it means: The car with options you want may not be eligible for the special rate. Neither will a used vehicle.

If you're in the market for new wheels, check with the credit union. Remember, we're in business to help you financially. Car dealers are in business to sell you a vehicle.

**NEW CAR RATES HAVE CHANGED:
RATE AS LOW AS 3.25% FOR A 60 MONTH
TERM.**

SHARE SECURED LOAN TO THE RESCUE

Life happens. The car needs a repair at the same time the roof leaks. Your long awaited vacation trip is just around the corner when you need to rush your child to the emergency room. Here's a way to pay for those unexpected expenses without draining your savings account: A shared secured loan from the credit union. Because you offer your savings account as collateral for the loan, we can offer a low interest rate. You can

take life's curve balls without high-interest credit card charges. Then, when your shared secured loan is paid off, you still have the money tucked away in savings, there for its original purpose. It's a smart way to borrow. Your money is also accruing interest in your savings account.

**SHARED SECURED RATES AS
LOW AS 4.4%.**

OUR SERVICES

- Home Banking Service
- Share (Savings) Account
- Share Draft (Checking) Accounts
- Holiday Club Accounts
- Youth Accounts (\$50.00 Balance)
- Scholarship Program
- Certificates of Deposit
- Money Market Accounts (Monthly Dividend)
- Visa Debit Cards & Visa Gift Cards
- Money Orders
- Certified Checks
- Automatic Loan Payments
- Wire Transfers
- Postage Stamps
- Overdraft Loans
- ATM Machine-Lodging Bldg. & Base Exchange, Bldg. 805 (FREE TO MEMBERS)
- Notary Service
- Home Equity Loans (Fixed & Variable)
- Voice Response System
- Home Mortgages
- Real Time ATM/Debit Card Processing

HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION



Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Friday 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
914th UTA's 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Office Location

2420 Olmstead Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Fax 716-297-1223

Phone Lines

236-2085 298-1533
236-3184 297-4034

VRU

297-4447 297-4448
1-800-795-3912

WHAT IS A CREDIT SCORE? (Bankrate.com – by Leslie McFadden)

Your credit score can mean the difference between being denied or approved for credit, and a low or high interest rate. A good score can help you qualify for an apartment rental and even help you get utilities without a deposit.

What is it? Your credit score is a three-digit number generated by a mathematical algorithm using information in your credit report. It's designed to predict risk, specifically, the likelihood that you will become seriously delinquent on your credit obligations in the 24 months after scoring.

There are a multitude of credit-scoring models in existence, but there's one that dominates the market; the FICO credit score. According to myFICO.com, the consumer website for the FICO score developer, "90 percent of all financial institutions in the US use FICO scores in their decision-making process." FICO scores range from 300 to 850, where a higher number indicates lower risk. A consumer has three FICO scores, one for each credit report provided by the three credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian and Trans Union. Unfortunately, consumers currently have access to only their Equifax and Trans Union FICO scores. Experian ended its agreement with myFICO.com in 2009.

What goes into a credit score? Data from your credit report goes into five major categories that make up a FICO score. The scoring model weighs some factors more heavily, such as payment history and debt owed.

Elements of your credit score:

Payment History: (35%) – Your account payment information, including any delinquencies and public records.

Amounts Owed: (30%)- How much you owe on your accounts. The amount of available credit you're using on revolving accounts is

heavily weighted.

Length of credit history: (15%)- How long ago you opened accounts and time since account activity.

Types of credit used: (10%)- The mix of accounts you have, such as revolving and installment.

New credit: (10%)- Your pursuit of new credit, including credit inquiries and number of recently opened accounts.

Personal or demographic information as age, race, address, marital status, income and employment don't affect the score. Different score impact for same missteps. How much does a specific change affect a credit score? The answer is usually "it depends" and for good reason. Credit score developers don't reveal the exact point deductions. The weight of any given activity can also vary for different credit histories.

Within a scoring model, there's more than one formula used to calculate a score, and each formula is designed for a category of consumers with similar credit profiles. The information in your credit report determines which formula is used. If you are new to credit, for instance, the scoring model will put you into a category for people with young credit histories, and use a scoring formula specific to that group. Such groups are called scorecards. Within that group, recent inquiries may cost more points that they would for a different group.

How to check your credit score: Federal law mandates the consumer's right to a free credit report annually from each credit reporting agency, but not a free credit score. Use our FICO score estimator to get your score range free of charge. To get your exact number, you have to purchase it from a score provider, such as myFICO.com or one of the reporting agencies.

TAP YOUR HOMES EQUITY...

For most of us, the biggest asset we have is the same place we sleep, watch television, and mow the grass. Although a house is the biggest asset, it's also the least liquid. That's where a home equity loan from the credit union comes in. If you need funds for home improvement, a vehicle, or other productive use of credit, tapping the equity in your home can be the best way to borrow. Even with a decline in real estate prices, chances are, your loan to value ratio will allow you to access some of the equity you have earned.

For Example: If your home is appraised at \$150,000 x 80% of value = \$120,000. Your first mortgage is \$100,000, subtracted = \$20,000. This difference could help replace that deck, aging appliances or even help your daughter/son with college tuition. It's a smart way to borrow because the interest you pay may be tax deductible. See your tax advisor.

WE HAVE VARIABLE AND FIXED RATE HOME EQUITIES AVAILABLE
(Closing costs are covered by the credit union).

2011 Senior Graduates – Every year the credit union awards two eligible graduating seniors (must be a credit union member) with a \$250.00 cash award. Any senior who is planning to continue his/her education, must complete an application along with a letter of acceptance to college in order to qualify. Awards will be drawn August 1, 2011. Applications can be picked up at the credit union. **Good luck to all!**

Congratulations to Jamie Poole and Jeremy Johnston who were our Youth winners during the month of April. Both received a \$50.00 cash award deposited to their share accounts. The credit union encourages our youth to set goals and continue the savings game.

Payday Loans: Fast, Easy and COSTLY – The ads promise quick, easy cash to keep you whole until the end of the month and pay day. The sites are user friendly, and very willing to help you out of a tight spot. But know this: The payday lender is a costly place to get a loan. (fastcashonline.com, mycash.com, etc.) You could end up owing \$1,000 or more on a \$500 loan as interest and loan renewals are added on. Come to the credit union instead. We'll help you figure out how to get back on track, without digging yourself into a deeper hole. For example, it's possible a consolidation loan can pay-off your high-interest credit cards and allow you to start tucking away funds in savings for those times in the future you need money to tide you over. So don't be conned by the offers of a quick solution to your money problems. Don't delay, stop by the credit union.

SAVINGS RATES

LAST QUARTER

Dividends are paid quarterly on accounts with an average daily balance of \$250.00 or more.

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

Minimum balance required = \$1,000.00
Refer to our website (www.NiagaraFallsafcu.com) for the most current savings rates paid on all deposit accounts.

LOAN RATES

***All Rates advertised as low as*

Shared Secured – 4.40% (24 Months)

Unsecured Personal – 8.95% (24 Months)

Overdraft Line of Credit – 17.9%

Home Equity – 5.99%

Vehicle Loans (Auto, Trucks, Motorcycles, RV's, Mobile Homes, Air Planes, Boats)

New Vehicle – 3.25% (60 Months) until 8/31/11

Used Vehicle – 4.90% (60 Months) until 8/31/11

*(** Interest rate determined by credit score)*