Our 25th Birthday

© Vera Johnson

The co-op housing program was born in sixty-eight, And it grew and spread and flourished at a most amazing rate. For its makers had a vision of a world they'd like to see, Of neighbours living side by side in friendly amity. And now we celebrate our birthday, this year we're twenty-five, Long years of hope and
The co-op housing program was born in sixty-eight, 
And it grew and spread and flourished at a most amazing rate, 
For its makers had a vision of a world they'd like to see, 
Of neighbours living side by side in friendly amity. Chorus

The things we want are basic: a secure community, 
With a mix of age and incomes, and discrimination-free, 
With security of tenure, and the members in control, 
And co-ops working hand in hand to reach a common goal. Chorus

We want to house the homeless and the ones with special needs, 
Regardless of their colour or their culture or their creeds, 
And to educate our members in the not-for-profit way, 
To say with Rochdale pioneers, "The co-op's here to stay." Chorus

We're looking for the future, we must devise a plan 
For the funding of more co-ops, and we know we surely can; 
We have roots in every province, we're a movement, 
Countrywide, The voice of Co-op Canada will be our trusty guide. Chorus

Chorus:
And now we celebrate our birthday, 
This year we're twenty-five, 
Long years of hope and struggle 
Just to keep that dream alive, 
And although they axed the program 
And thought we'd be good as dead, 
The Co-op Housing Federation of Canada 
Is forging straight ahead.

A recent song from Vera, testimony to one of her major current activities.