



Portage la Prairie
Community
Revitalization
Corporation

Revitalize Portage!

Your community revitalization news

FALL 2009

Celebrating One Year!

The Portage Community Revitalization Corporation (PCRC) celebrated its first birthday this summer. Our first year has been incredibly busy setting up new programs, office space and staff.

One of our most significant accomplishments was the completion of our Community Plan, based on input from community members to guide our activities over the next five years in the areas of housing, community engagement, poverty reduction, affordable recreation and leisure, and capacity building.

Our home beautification program was offered for the second time this summer and met with fabulous success. Twenty-nine homes and nine rental properties have been beautified to date through this program and we look forward to offering it once again next spring.

A number of organizations were helped to apply to the Neighbourhoods Alive! Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, resulting in over \$230,000 of funding distributed to local community development projects.

A new Community Facilitator was hired and will be implementing a number of projects such as block parties, safety audits and cultural awareness activities.

The Revitalize Portage! Grants program was launched this summer and provides grants of up to \$2,500 for local groups to undertake projects that fit within the priority areas of our Community Plan. So far \$11,000 of funds have been granted to local projects through this program.

A number of things are planned for the coming months and we look forward to a successful second year!

Inside this issue:

Get Involved! 2

Portagers Beautify their Homes 2

New Play-space in NE Portage 3

Revitalize Portage! Grants 3

Board Development Workshop 3

Community Plan Highlights 4

Meet Our Staff

You may see some new faces in our office these days. Elicia Funk has returned from maternity leave and filled the position of Executive Director. Elicia brings a wealth of experience in neighbourhood revitalization from her previous position as Community Development Coordinator for the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation.

Mary Lynn Moffat joined Portage CRC as our Community Facilitator at the end of July. Mary Lynn has many years of experience in event management, project management,



Mary Lynn Moffat (l) and Elicia Funk (r) in front of the Portage CRC office

public relations, marketing and volunteer engagement. She is the third generation of her family from the area and has lived in Portage for the past nine years.

Elicia and Mary Lynn would love to hear your ideas on how to revitalize Portage and encourage you to give them a call or stop by the office.

Residents on Goodale Drive & 6th Street NE enjoy their Block Party



Get Involved!

Our Community Facilitator, Mary Lynn Moffat, is busy planning events to help bring neighbours and the community together in celebration of our great city. If you are interested in volunteering for any Revitalize Portage activities or would like more information about any of these programs please contact Mary Lynn at 240-4043 or m.moffat@PortageCRC.com.

Block Parties – One of the exciting projects we have secured funding for this year is Neighbourhood Block Parties. This is a great way to get to know your neighbours and have some fun. We have a few happening this fall and some in the spring. If you are interested in holding a block party in your neighbourhood contact us for more information.

Safety Audits – We are currently planning our first community safety audit which will take place in downtown Portage. Safety Audits are a tool used to evaluate neighbourhoods with the goal of reducing crime and improving personal safety. The basic idea of a safety audit is to help people to look at a space that feels unsafe and determine why it feels that way. The audit identifies what affects the feeling of safety and allows residents to take action to correct these features. For example, is there enough lighting, would you be heard if you called for help, or do overgrown bushes or unkempt areas make you feel unsafe? Answers to these questions will help determine actions that we can take to make our neighbourhoods feel safe. We are putting together a team of individuals to do a safety audit in part of the downtown area of Portage and are looking for volunteers.

Multi-Cultural Event – To celebrate the diverse groups that make up our wonderful community a multicultural event is being planned for next spring. We would like to hear from all the different ethnic groups in the community. We need volunteers to help organize the event and to provide entertainment, food, drink, and cultural heritage information and displays. This event is for the whole community and we hope that everyone will get involved. Please contact us if you are interested!



Housing Small Grants project before and after

Portagers Beautify their Homes

When driving around town this summer you may have seen signs bearing our logo in the front yards of some busy homeowners.

Sixteen homeowners and nine rental property owners have been finishing up this year's Housing Small Grants projects. Grants ranging from \$500 to \$2500 were given out by the Portage CRC to assist with exterior home beautification projects.

We'd like to send out a big thank you to the Neighbourhoods Alive! Community Housing Improvement Initiative, funded by Manitoba Housing for the opportunity to run this program.

We'd also like to thank all of the homeowners who put in countless hours of work to complete their renovations. Thank you for your commitment to beautifying our neighbourhoods!

New Playspace in Northeast Portage

A new play area and green space is now open to the community at the Portage Evangelical Church on 3rd Street Northeast.

Les Kroeker, youth pastor for the Portage Evangelical Church says the purpose of the project was two-fold. First they hoped to beautify their property and make it an inviting part of the neighbourhood.

Secondly and more importantly they wished to provide a green space for people to stop and enjoy, as well as to provide a safe place for children in the neighbourhood to play.

This project received funding from the Neighbourhoods Alive! Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

Other projects funded through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund to date in 2009 include renovations at Youth for Christ's "The Door" youth project, play equipment for the Crescentview School playground and walking paths at Republic of Manitobah Park through the Rotary Club.



New play area at the Portage Evangelical Church

New Revitalize Portage! Grants

The Portage CRC is pleased to announce our new Revitalize Portage! Grant. Grants of up to \$2,500 are available to support short term projects in the City of Portage la Prairie that address the goals of our Community Plan.

Types of projects that will be considered include block parties and festivals, neighbourhood clean-ups, cultural programs, recreation activities and much more.

Revitalize Portage! grants are made possible with funding from the Province of Manitoba Neighbourhoods Alive! program.

This grant is an excellent way for citizens to access funds needed for local neighbourhood projects.

For more information or an application form please contact our office visit our website www.PortageCRC.com

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Thank You!

We would like to send a big thank you to Stuart Alcorn, Owen McKenzie and Kerri Vandenberg who have retired from our Board this year. Thank you so much for all of your hard work and input in making the Portage CRC a reality! Welcome to Karly Freisen, Linda McCulley and Jennifer Mousseau who joined our Board in June.

The Portage CRC would also like to send out a big thank you to Jennifer Janzen who filled the Community Facilitator position during Elicia Funk's maternity leave. We wish you well in your new endeavours!

Board Development Workshop

The Portage CRC, in partnership with Volunteer Manitoba, will be offering the workshop:

Board Development: Addressing the Challenges Facing Smaller, Rural Communities

Presented over 2 evenings:

October 29, 2009, 5:30 – 8:30 &
November 5, 2009, 5:30 – 8:30

Cost: \$45

Contact our office for more information and a registration form



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Contact Us

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Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0R1
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www.PortageCRC.com

The mandate of the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation is to enhance the well-being of our community by empowering citizens, improving neighbourhoods, fostering community spirit and building the capacity of community organizations.

Become a Member

If you would like to become a member of the Portage CRC and receive notices of Portage CRC activities, vote on important community issues and be a part of revitalizing Portage la Prairie, please contact our office or sign up on our website www.PortageCRC.com.

Name:

Organization (if applicable):

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- I live in the City of Portage la Prairie
- I work in City of Portage la Prairie.
- I volunteer in the City of Portage la Prairie

www.PortageCRC.com

Community Plan Highlights

After consultation with the community the PCRC developed a number of goals to guide our activities over the next five years. The following highlights some of the goals of our Community Plan.

Housing

- Improved quality of existing housing
- Creation of additional affordable & appropriate housing

Community Engagement

- Citizen participation and a strong sense of community and pride
- A feeling of neighbourhood safety
- Awareness of social and cultural diversity to reduce discrimination & racism

Poverty Reduction

- Improved well-being and economic situation of lower income residents

Affordable Recreation & Leisure

- Affordable recreational opportunities
- Development of physical spaces with a focus on the needs of families & youth

Capacity Building

- Improved capacity of neighbourhood and social service groups working together to meet community needs

A copy of our Community Plan is available on our website or from our office.

We want to hear from you!

Tell us what makes your neighbourhood special and we may print your story in our next newsletter and on our website. Send your submissions to:
info@PortageCRC.com or by mail to our office.