

# Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation

FALL 2008

## Introducing Ourselves

In 2007, Neighbourhoods Alive!, a department of Manitoba Inter-governmental Affairs, announced an expansion to their program to five new communities, including Portage la Prairie.

Neighbourhoods Alive! (NA!) is a program of the Manitoba Government that provides support to urban neighbourhoods through community-driven revitalization efforts.

To help establish revitalization priorities, Neighbourhoods Alive! saw to the establishment of an Interim Advisory Committee made up of interested community members.

The mandate of this committee was to advise Neighbourhoods Alive! of revitalization priorities for Portage la Prairie, develop a

neighbourhood renewal plan and recommend a process for coordinating ongoing revitalization efforts in the community.

Less than a year later through the hard work of this Interim Advisory Committee much work has already been accomplished! We are well on our way to developing priorities and a renewal plan based on community input through partnering in the Portage Community Network's Social



Planning Initiative. We have facilitated over \$100,000 of funding to support local community development initiatives through the NA! Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation Community Housing Improvement Initiative. And the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation (PLPCRC) has been established!

The PLPCRC will serve as a community resource to respond to the community revitalization needs that you, the residents of Portage la Prairie identify.

We are very proud and excited by the work that has been accomplished to date and look forward to great things to come!

## Highlights of Our Progress

- Over \$75,000 has been distributed to local community development projects through the Neighbourhoods Alive! Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and funds continue to be available.
- The Homeowner Small Grants Program was offered for the first time ever to provide grants of up to \$2,500 to lower income homeowners for exterior renovations to beautify their homes.
- The Social Planning Initiative is underway to develop a Social Plan for Portage la Prairie that will guide our activities. Community consultations are underway to ensure that the plan meets the wants and needs of residents.

# Homeowners Beautify their Neighbourhood

We are so pleased to be able to offer a program for homeowners interested in improving their homes and helping to beautify their neighbourhoods!

This year saw the birth of the Homeowner Small Grants Program. With \$30,000 in funding from Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, grants of up to \$2,500 were provided to homeowners for

renovations to the exterior of their homes.

The program was met with an overwhelming amount of interest and thirteen homeowners were approved for renovations such as painting, siding, window and door replacement and sidewalk and front step repair.

Homeowners are making the

investment from the Homeowner Small Grants go further by providing labour and additional funds to renovations.

Projects are starting to be completed and we are seeing big difference in the appearance of homes.

These Small Grants are making a big impact on households and neighbourhoods!



Before and after



## PLPCRC Inaugural Meeting

As a brand new organization in the community, we are excited to hold our Inaugural Meeting and hope that you will attend!

The goals of the meeting will be to provide information on the organization, elect a Board of Directors and establish a membership interested in be-

ing involved in community revitalization initiatives.

The meeting will be held:

**Tuesday, October 21st**

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**

**Portage Sport and Cultural Association (Bingo Hall) - 234 Princess Ave.**

Everyone is welcome and lunch will be provided.

Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Steve Ashton, will kick-off the meeting with an announcement of the provincial funding being provided to Portage la Prairie.

We hope to see you there!

# Neighbourhoods Alive! in Portage

Community organizations in the City of Portage la Prairie are now eligible to apply for funding through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund of Neighbourhoods Alive!

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund provides support for a wide variety of community development projects addressing issues such as community involvement, community economic development, crime prevention and safety, community well-being, recreation and physical renewal of community spaces.

**Projects funded to date:**

Tupper Street Family Resource Centre, Furnishings and Equipment—\$15,000

Portage Potato Festival, Children’s Entertainment—\$5,000

Portage Social Planning Initiative—\$10,000

Canadian Mental Health Association, Mental Health Awareness Training—\$7,050

Community Engagement Project—\$38,800

If you have a project idea, our staff is available to help you develop your project and prepare your funding proposal.

For more information on Neighbourhoods Alive! and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund please visit the Neighbourhoods Alive! website :

[neighbourhoodsalive.mb.ca](http://neighbourhoodsalive.mb.ca)



**The Tupper Street Family Resource Centre received funds for furnishing their new location**

*Community input is very important in ensuring that the Social Plan reflects the wants and needs of the community.”*

## Share your opinion to revitalize Portage

The Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation is pleased to be a partner in the Portage Community Network’s Social Planning Initiative. This Initiative will create a Social Plan for Portage la Prairie and will guide the community in planning activities and allocating funding for community development projects.

Community input is very important

in ensuring that the Social Plan reflects the wants and needs of the community!

We would like to see as many community members out as possible to provide your voice in identifying the strengths of our community and the direction we need to take to improve our community.

Please join us:

**Thursday October 16th**

**7:00—9:00 pm**

**Herman Prior Centre (40 Royal Road North)**

Refreshments will be provided and transportation may be arranged if required.

For more information contact Elicia at 871-0220.

## Become a Member of the PLPCRC

If you live, work or volunteer in the City of Portage la Prairie and are at least 15 years of age we invite you to become a member of the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation.

As a member you will:

- Receive our quarterly newsletter
- Receive notice of special meetings including our annual gen-

eral meeting.

- Be entitled to vote on important community issues at special meetings and our annual general meeting.
- Be entitled to participate on committees of the PLPCRC to address community issues such as housing, crime and safety, and physical improvements.

**If you are interested in becoming a member please provide the following information to our office:**

Name:

Organization (if applicable):

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

# Our Interim Advisory Committee

The establishment of the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation is due to the commitment and hard work of the 10 member Neighbourhoods Alive Initiative, Interim Advisory Committee.

We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the members of the Neighbourhoods Alive Interim Advisory Committee, who have become the founding members of the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation.

## **Guy Moffat—Chair**

*Guy has been living in the community of Portage la Prairie for five years having been transferred with the Royal Bank. He, his wife and children are happy to call Portage la Prairie their home and it did not take them long after relocating to Portage la Prairie to start putting down solid roots. When the opportunity came up to be involved in the Interim Advisory Committee, Guy could not think of a better way to have some small impact on improving his home community.*

## **Glenn Carlson—Vice Chair**

*Glenn is a retired Junior High teacher and former Mayor of Portage la Prairie. He is a long time volunteer with groups representing ages from children to seniors. Glenn has a strong, positive belief in this community and a wish to be part of the excitement of making life even better.*

## **Janet Shindle—Secretary**

*Janet is a long time resident of Portage la Prairie and surrounding area. She is married with three children and five grandchildren. She retired in 2006 as Executive Director of Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba, and is presently a City Councillor and*

*the Chair of the Portage Community Network. Janet has a long history of involvement in social issues in the community and thinks the arrival of NA! in Portage la Prairie is one of the most important things that has happened in the community in many years. She looks forward to the many positive changes that are certain to result from it.*

## **Hazen Barrett—Treasurer**

*Hazen has been an educator since 1984, having served as a classroom teacher, resource teacher, special classroom teacher, and principal. He is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Portage la Prairie School Division. Portage la Prairie has been his home since 1999. He has 2 children who have both attended Portage schools. He strongly supports community development because he believes that making the neighbourhood stronger for everyone will make it a better place to live for his own children.*

## **Stuart Alcorn**

*Stuart has been a part of the community of Portage la Prairie for the past 10 years. He became involved with the Committee as he could see the good that it could do in meeting the needs of the community.*

## **Don Boddy**

*Don has lived in the community for ten years and has volunteered in the community in several different capacities. Don enjoys the idea of individuals, community groups and agencies working together to help make Portage la Prairie a better place to live in for all. He works with Employment Development and Placement (EDAP) Services as an employment facilitator. Don, his wife Heather, and their daughter Emma, all enjoy living in Portage la Prairie.*

## **Allison Briggs**

*Allison is a long term resident of Portage. He joined the Committee due to a desire to help improve the area in looks and economics for all residents. He feels that we have a good start and hopes to help much more.*

## **Owen McKenzie**

*One of Owen's motivators over many years has been working with others on enriching community to strengthen our well being and provide opportunity for all citizens. The involvements are numerous each making a difference externally and internally. He feels that he receives energy from facilitating and this connection with Neighbourhoods Alive!, with its creative and abstract vision; has been a natural fit.*

## **Sherri Morgan**

*Sherri has worked and lived in Portage la Prairie for many years. It was mainly through her work in the community that she became focused on the social issues for the residents of Portage. This in turn attracted her to become involved on this committee when the opportunity presented itself. She sees her involvement on the committee as a way to be a part of enhancing the community and quality of life for all living here.*

## **Kerri Vandenberg**

*Kerri has lived in Portage since 1988 and in the same house. She and her husband have raised 3 children here. Kerri has been an active volunteer including Block Parent, Girl Guide leader, a member of Portage Neighborhood Connections, member of the United Way and volunteered in her children's school until they moved into high school.*

## **Contact us**

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.

**Portage la Prairie Community  
Revitalization Corporation  
c/o North Memorial School  
410—6th Avenue NE  
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0B4  
Phone: 871-0220  
efunk@plpsd.mb.ca**

We are very interested in hearing from all members of the community and working together to make Portage la Prairie the best place to live, work and play!