



Portage la Prairie
Community
Revitalization
Corporation

Revitalize Portage!

Your community revitalization news

SPRING 2010

Sharing Our World

Celebrate Portage la Prairie's cultural diversity on May 8!

If everyone thought and acted the same, life would be so dull, wouldn't it? That's why it's great that Portage la Prairie is blessed with a such a range of cultural and social diversity!

Sharing Our World is an exciting event May 8th at the William Glesby Centre to acknowledge and celebrate that diversity. It is an opportunity to share information and build awareness about the many groups that make up our wonderful community. We will learn about the different traditions, customs and beliefs present in our community while enjoying local talent.

The event will also provide participants of all ages the opportunity to enjoy "Tastes of the World" as they sample foods from different cultures and maybe even learn some new recipes!

We will celebrate our differences, share our common interests and showcase our local talents.

The afternoon program is FREE for everyone to enjoy some fantastic local talent, browse the displays, enjoy food samplings and participate in activities for all ages. It is an excellent opportunity for the whole family to spend together! Please stop by the William Glesby Centre anytime in the afternoon as activities are ongoing.

Tickets for the evening portion are \$20 and are available at the PCRC office (234 Princess Ave in the Portage Sport & Cultural Assoc. Bingo Hall), Royal Bank and the Portage Co-op Food Market's customer service desk.

Come Share Our World on May 8th!

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Afternoon program

1:00 to 4:30 pm

FREE for all ages

Afternoon activities are all provided by the generous support and talents of local Portage area residents!

- Local entertainment (music, dance, comedy and more!)
- Cultural Displays & Crafts
- Demonstrations
- "Tastes of the World" food samples
- Fun and interactive activities for all ages!

Evening Program

5:30 to 9:30

Tickets \$20

Prairie Fish Fry with ethnic desserts

Evening of cultural entertainment:

- Johnny Dietrich & the Silver Dollar Band
- Kalem & Kelsey McLennan—Métis jigging and fiddling
- Ruth Wiebe - comedian
- Josh Harris - guitar music from around the world
- Ching Wu, Chinese Lion Dance
- Sikaran-Arnis, Filipino Dance Team
- Cultural displays & activities

More Activities for Mentors

Thanks in part to a Revitalize Portage! grant, Big Brothers and Big Sister of Portage will have new activities for their “Bigs” and “Littles” to use for their time together. The grant will be used to buy games and craft supplies for their In School Mentoring and afterschool programs.

The In-School Mentoring program which operates in all elementary schools in Portage as well as afterschool programs at the Big Brothers and Big Sisters office and Lion’s Prairie Manor provide an opportunity for matches to get together and participate in fun activities. New puzzles, board games, skipping ropes and craft kits will provide more options for their time together.

Teens in the program are especially looking forward to the purchase of a Wii Fit for an afterschool health club. This will not only provide a fun opportunity to get active but will provide support for them getting their gym credit!

If you or a community group you belong to are planning a community project that improves Portage la Prairie, you may be eligible for a Revitalize Portage! Grant. Contact our office to learn more.



Participants of the afterschool mentoring program enjoy an activity together.

Home Improvement Programs

The application deadline for this year’s Revitalize Portage! Home Beautification Program has now passed and grants will soon be awarded. Keep an eye out for improvements in your neighbourhood!

Even if you did not receive a grant this year other programs are available to improve your home.

The **Homeowner RRAP (Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program)** provides financial assistance to low-income homeowners by providing a forgivable loan to pay for eligible repairs to their home.

The **RRAP for Persons with Disabilities** offers financial assistance to homeowners and landlords by providing a forgivable loan to pay for

modifications to meet the needs of occupants with disabilities.

Call Manitoba Housing and Community Development at 1-866-689-5566 or visit www.gov.mb.ca for more information on the RRAP programs.

Manitoba Hydro offers a number of energy efficiency programs including the **Power Smart Home Insulation Program**. This program offers information and rebates to homeowners who add insulation to their existing home. Eligible homeowners may receive up to 100% of the insulation cost.

For more information on programs through Manitoba Hydro contact 1-888-MB HYDRO (1-888-624-9376) or visit www.hydro.mb.ca

Making Safer Neighbourhoods

The PCRC is kicking off a new safety program this May. Teams of community volunteers will conduct Neighbourhood Safety Audits in Portage la Prairie neighbourhoods.

Safety audits are used to examine an area of the community and identify potential crime and safety risks. The audits will include physical safety issues such as lighting, dangerous sidewalks, dark recesses, landscaping issues for visibility for pedestrian and vehicle traffic. It will also focus on perceptions of how safe an area feels and what opportunity exists for crime.

Volunteers will receive a two day training course based on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). This highly recognized approach

usually costs a user hundreds of dollars but will be offered free of charge to safety audit team members.

The outcomes of the audit will be shared with residents, businesses, community groups and the City. Based on these results, follow up actions will be taken to make our community more safe.

If you would like to be a member of the Safety Audit team please contact our office. Training will take place May 28th and 29th. Volunteers must be able to commit to taking the training as well as two additional days between June and September to conduct the safety audits.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information contact Mary Lynn at 240-4043 or m.moffat@PortageCRC.com.

Not too Late to Share Your Culture!

Organizers of Sharing Our World want to find out more about all cultures in our community, however big or small the group!

If you, or someone you know, can provide information or display items from your family's home country or items or information showcasing special aspects of your culture such as celebrations, dress or food, we urge you to contact Mary Lynn Moffat at the PCRC office.

You can get as involved as you would like, whether it is just providing information about your

culture or providing items for display, to providing demonstrations or activities on May 8th.

General volunteers are needed as well to make sure the whole day runs smoothly. Please help us "Share Our World" and learn about the diversity in our community!

Call Mary Lynn Moffat at 240-4043 or email m.moffat@PortageCRC.com for more information or to get involved.

Culture is the way of life of a group of people - behaviours, beliefs, values and symbols passed from one generation to the next.

PCRC is a proud sponsor of:

Beyond Traditional Job Development Workshop

Strategies and Tools to Help Everyone Think Outside the Box when it comes to Employment and Job Development

May 14, 2010

William Glesby Centre

Includes a special session on self-employment options for people with disabilities

For more information visit www.msen.mb.ca

Fire Extinguisher Training

Fire education and hands on learning in the proper use of fire extinguishers provided by the Portage Fire Department

May 6, 2010

Tupper Street Family Resource Centre

Space is limited—pre-registration required.

To register contact Tupper Street Family Resource Centre at 857-9011

Revitalize Portage! Block Parties

If you would like to plan a Block Party in your neighbourhood you can apply for a grant of up to \$200 to help with event costs.

Any event that would help to build relationships within your neighbourhood and includes all residents in the area could qualify for the funds.

Funding is limited so please apply early. The event must take place before June 15, 2010 to qualify for this year's program.

Application forms are available on our website www.PortageCRC.com or at our office.



What Makes Your Neighbourhood Special?

The PCRC sent out a challenge to Portage la Prairie residents to tell us what makes your neighbourhood special. This month's winner of a Portage CRC T-shirt is Wilma Shirriff.

Our home faces Crescent Lake and ever since the lakeside path was created, walking on it, and watching young and old enjoying it, have been a pleasure. The view is beautiful, every season of the year.

In years past I would worry about the safety of people rollerblading or walking on Crescent Road, but now the path makes road-walking unnecessary.

Happily, the path leads to Island Park, another of our points of pride, and now we have the PCU Centre also on the route. There's no excuse now to avoid exercise!

Last week I joined up with someone who was already on the path and she remarked, "I have lived in a lot of places, but never anywhere with such a wonderful place to walk." There it is in a nutshell: a great attraction, available to all Portagers, and it's free! I hope to see you on the walkway soon.

Wilma Shirriff

Tell us what makes your community special and we may print your story in our next newsletter. You will also be entered to win a special prize!

Send your submissions to info@PortageCRC.com or by mail to our office.

Contact Us

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