



Portage la Prairie
Community
Revitalization
Corporation

Revitalize Portage!

Your community revitalization news

WINTER 2010

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Home Beautification Grant Applications Now Available!

Spring is coming and so is the Home Beautification Grant program! Grants are awarded for exterior repairs that provide a visual improvement to the home and neighbourhood.



Before and after

For **Homeowner Grants**, the homeowner must own and live in the home for which they are applying for a grant, the home must be located within the boundaries of the City of Portage la Prairie and the gross household income must be less than \$50,000.

Homeowners can apply for a grant to a maximum of \$2500 and are expected to complete the labour for the project where possible.

For **Rental Property Grants**, the property must be located within the boundaries of the City of Portage la Prairie and the rent charged for the units must not exceed Median Market Rents. The rental program offers a grant of up to \$1,000 per unit (maximum of 3 units per property owner) and the property owner is required to match the grant amount.

Home Beautification Grant application forms and more details on this program are available from our office or online at www.PortageCRC.com.

Applications will be accepted until 4:30 pm on April 9, 2010.

Greetings from the PCRC Staff

With winter soon coming to an end we are looking forward to our upcoming spring programs. Our Home Beautification Grant is bound to be a success again this year and we are looking forward to seeing some amazing changes.

Planning is underway for the “**Sharing Our World**” event in May, as well as an exciting new safety program. We are looking for community involvement for

both of these projects and encourage you to get involved!

We are also keeping busy with our ongoing projects such as the Revitalize Portage! Grants and proving help to local groups in planning projects and preparing proposals.

We welcome your ideas on how to Revitalize Portage and would love to hear from you!

Elicia & Mary Lynn

Community Groups Benefit

The new Revitalize Portage! Grants program is already making a difference in the community! To date six projects have been funded for a total of \$13,500. We will be highlighting some of these projects in each of our newsletters.

- A very successful **Halloween Bash** by Time 4 Kids brought together the community in a fun family-friendly low cost event. Over 350 children participated in the event enjoying games, entertainment and treats.
- The Tupper Street Family Resource Centre "**Connecting Parents**" project replaced unreliable computer equipment with new computers and a printer to provide parents with access to the internet and printer for job searches, applications and resumes.
- The Canadian Mental Health Association used their Revitalize Portage! Grant to distribute hundreds of green ribbons throughout the community to raise awareness about mental illness during **Mental Illness Awareness Week**.



Fun and games at the Time 4 Kids Halloween Bash



New computer station at the Tupper Street Family Resource Centre

The Portage CRC is pleased with the great start to our program and look forward to providing more grants to local projects!

Funding for Your Community Project

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.

These grants provide funding up to \$2,500 for short-term projects to assist with costs such as project supplies, equipment and advertising.

Types of projects could include festivals, cultural awareness programs, neighbourhood clean-ups,

after-school programs, park development, community gardens or needs assessments just to provide some examples.

Eligible groups include non-profit organizations, parent councils, youth groups, neighbourhood associations and service clubs.

For more information on eligible types of projects and costs or to get an application form please visit our website www.PortageCRC.com or contact Elicia at 240-6471.

Revitalize Portage! Block Parties

The first two Revitalize Portage! Block Parties were held this fall. Two hundred neighbours participated in the events, allowing them to get to know others on their block and talk about neighbourhood issues.

If you would like to plan a Block Party or other "Get to Know Your Neighbour" activity you can apply for a grant of up to \$200 to help with event costs.

Some ideas for a Block Party include having a barbecue, festival, holiday party, ice cream party, spaghetti

dinner or a wiener / marshmallow roast to name a few.

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.



Neighbours enjoy activities at their Revitalize Portage! Block Party



Community Involvement Needed!

To Revitalize Portage we need the enthusiasm of every Portager working together! If you are looking for a way to give back to the community we have several opportunities for you.

"Sharing Our World" Event

"Sharing our World" is an exciting event being planned for May 8, 2010 to acknowledge and celebrate the social and cultural diversity of people in Portage la Prairie.

We are looking for people from all ethnic, cultural and social groups to join in creating this celebration.

We are looking for people with an interest in the following areas:

- Planning and fundraising
- Entertainment
- Cultural Food / Refreshments
- Displays: cultural, educational or crafts / artwork

Neighbourhood Safety

If you are interested in neighbourhood safety, we are looking for members for our Safety Audit team. Safety audits are used to examine an area of the community and identify potential crime and safety risks.

Volunteers must be able to commit four days a year to complete a weekend training session and participate in conducting a safety audit.

The training for the Audit Team will take place in May with safety audits being conducted from June to September.

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

To Revitalize Portage we need the enthusiasm of all Portagers!

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 Andrew Cosway.

My wife and I and three kids moved to Portage la Prairie because I wasn't enjoying living in Winnipeg because of crime always worried about this and that and about our safety. We like living in Portage because everything is close. We can go for walks and don't have to worry about crime. We also like living in Portage because the people in Portage are friendly.

We love the Island of lights. Every year our kids look forward to go in the vehicle to see them. We drive around afterward to see houses that are all decorated. In the summer time we frequent Island Park to take the kids and dogs to have fun playing and walking around the park.

We like our pizza from Bozzy's Pizza. We also like the unique shops that Portage has to give us a unique shopping experience. We like that Portage is a clean city. Rarely have we seen garbage laying around on street.

We have also gone to many events that have happened at Island Park and have gone strawberry picking. We never have to worry about things to do because in Portage there is always something to do. - Andrew Cosway

Andrew and his wife Alice live in Portage with their children Kevin (6), Arianna (5) and Felaina (2)

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.



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Become a Member

If you would like to become a member of the Portage CRC please return this form or sign up on our website www.PortageCRC.com.

Members receive notices of Portage CRC activities, vote on important community issues and help revitalize Portage la Prairie. **Membership is FREE!**

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

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.