



Portage la Prairie
Community
Revitalization
Corporation

Revitalize Portage!

Your community revitalization news

WINTER 2011

Inside this issue:

Murder on the Menu Fundraiser 2

Neighbourhood Safety 2

Share Your Culture 3

Pace Car Project 3

Funds for Block Parties 3

On the Job Learning 4

Funding Deadline 4

Groups work to Revitalize Portage!

The music is playing loud and clear at the Centennial Community Club, thanks in part to a Revitalize Portage! Grant which allowed the Club to purchase a new sound system.

The Centennial Community Club was one of the 15 projects funded last year through the grant which provides up to \$2,500 to local projects.

Less than \$250 was required to make a visible difference in our downtown thanks to the 19th Portage Army Cadet Corp. A group of 30 youth cleaned-up the area, picking up garbage and painting over graffiti.

“As part of the community service for army cadets, they decided to help make Portage a safer community for everyone

with the clean up project” said Captain Terry Henry, Commanding Officer.

The William Glesby Centre received support for a performance from the Royal

Winnipeg Ballet School. “Our Revitalize Portage! Grant allowed us to provide free tickets to lower-income families,” says Jerry Maksymk of the William Glesby Centre. “Most of these families had never seen anything like this high caliber performance before. It was a wonderful opportunity to expose a new audience to the many

different styles of dance.”

“Community revitalization requires everyone to work together” notes Dale Brownlee, Chair of the PCRC, “these grants allow us to provide the seed money needed to help groups get their projects off the ground.”



PCRC Board Chair Dale Brownlee with Joanne Clark-Gillespie of the Centennial Community Club Inc.

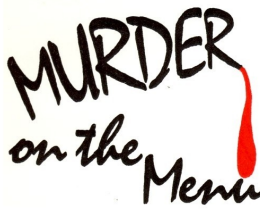
Greetings from the PCRC Staff

2010 was a great year for the PCRC! We had another successful season of Home Beautification Grants, helped a number of organizations through our Revitalize Portage! Grants and brought neighbours together to host block parties. We launched our Safety Audit program, hosted our first annual Sharing Our World event to celebrate Portage’s cultures and had so much fun playing alongside the community and our emergency services at our community sports evenings.

We are proud to have been able to bring people and organizations together to share information and plan how to best work together to meet our community’s needs.

2011 is going to be another great year. We have many plans on how to improve and expand our programs. We can’t do it alone. We always welcome your ideas on how to Revitalize Portage and would love to hear from you!

Elicia, Mary Lynn, Jean & Mario



Dinner Theater Fundraiser

"Rehearsal for Murder" is the theme of the Murder Mystery Dinner PCRC is holding on February 12, 2011 at the Canad Inns. This is a first time fundraising event for the PCRC and all proceeds will go towards community revitalization projects.

We are very excited about the event. The whole evening will be based on the premise of producing a Hollywood movie as a film director is shooting his latest killer feature, *"The Life of Gloria Swanson, Mistress to the Mob"*.

Of course, being the weekend before Valentine's Day, you can be sure there will be a romantic influence in the production. You don't want to miss this evening, you will get a chance to help solve the mystery and interact with the different characters. There will also be a chance to win some great prizes. We are delighted to have Canad Inns as a partner for this event. We are going to have a lot of fun turning the evening into an experience to remember.

Tickets are \$75 each and are available from the PCRC Office at 56 Royal Road N, the Royal Bank at 140 Saskatchewan Ave E or the Portage Co-op Customer Service Desk. For telephone orders or Group Rates call 240-7272.



The cast of *Rehearsal for Murder* will keep you on the edge of your seat wondering "who dun it?"

Neighbourhood Safety

Neighbourhood Safety is a concern for everyone. Our pilot Safety Audit Project was completed in the fall of 2010. A safety audit is an inventory or checklist of the features in an area which you feel affects your safety. Our trained volunteer safety audit team audited the area from Saskatchewan Ave to Fisher Ave and Tupper Street to 3rd Street NE. Teams of volunteers surveyed the area at different times of the day and identified safety issues following the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.

Some of the issues identified in the area were:

- Trees, bushes & shrubs needing trimming;
- Lighting needed or lights requiring repair;
- Graffiti cleanup;
- Missing building numbers;
- Unightly or unsafe abandoned buildings;
- Yard maintenance;

- Garbage cleanup in some areas;
- Live electrical cords hanging in reach of children; and
- Unsecured ladders to roofs of buildings.

The results and recommendations from the audit have been shared with the Public Safety Task Force and the stakeholders involved in solving some of these issues. This will ensure a coordinated effort to resolve the identified issues. One response was the 19th Portage Army Cadets cleanup and graffiti removal in the area for their community service project.

A second training session for volunteers took place in November and we will be working on more audits in the near future.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Community Safety Audit Team or would like more information please contact Mary Lynn at 240-4043.

We want you to Share your Culture!

If you were able to attend last year's "Sharing Our World" event in May, you know how much fun it can be to learn about the many cultural groups in Portage la Prairie.

Due to popular demand, we will be hosting this event once again this year and are looking for your help! We are seeking people from all ethnic, cultural and social groups to join in creating this celebration.

Do you have cultural items such as artwork, books or traditional clothing for a display? Do you have a hidden talent to share in a cultural demon-

stration? Are you an entertainer? Can you cook a traditional food? If so we would love to hear from you!

"I had fun doing origami at the Japanese display, said Miriam Mazor, an attendee of last year's event. "Getting to know about other cultures might stop racism."

"The event helps us see similarities between different cultures and helps to bring a community together" notes volunteer Christina Trandafir.

If you would like to be involved or would like more information contact Mary Lynn at 240-4043.



Funds Remain for Block Parties

It's not too late to apply for a block party grant! Your neighbourhood could qualify for up to \$200 for an event that will bring everyone in your neighbourhood together.

Studies show that knowing your neighbours can increase your own well-being and sense of safety!

While the traditional BBQ is popular, block parties have also included a popcorn party with entertainment, a winter festival and tree lighting, a neighbourhood clean-up and potluck. Do what works for your unique community!

If you would like to apply, please contact our office or visit our website for an application form. Block parties must be held before June 30, 2011.



Slow Down for Our Kids

Speeding cars and children don't mix. The Portage Pace Car Program asks residents to keep our kids safe by slowing down in school zones and stopping for pedestrians.

The program is simple. To make your car a "Pace Car" you simply pledge to drive the speed limit, be respectful of pedestrians and cyclists, and follow the rules of the road in our community. By following the rules of the road, you help set the "pace" for other drivers.

"Having the sticker on my truck has raised my awareness of my own driving habits" says Irvine Ferris. "I'm looking at my speedometer more often and keeping a better eye out for pedestrians."



Sign up today! Pace Car window clings and pledge forms are available at the PCRC office or the RCMP Detachment.

Pace Car is a joint project of the PCRC, RCMP, City of Portage, Central Regional Health Authority and Portage la Prairie School Division.

On the Job Learning

PCRC welcomes Mario Gordon to our team! Mario is 3 months into his 6 month placement as our Community Resource Coordinator thanks to an



Internship opportunity from the Canadian Community Economic Development Network.

Mario is a recent graduate of the University of Winnipeg's Urban Policy and the Environment program. The internship will allow Mario to further develop his skills, while contributing to community development in Portage la Prairie.

"As a young person with only a small amount of professional work experience, this opportunity has been a wonderful experience" says Mario. "My time here will be fundamental in my personal and career development and I am sure will make me a more active and engaged citizen. I am continually impressed by the opportunities and support that PCRC provides to the community."

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Deadline - March 1st

If you are planning a project that will strengthen local capacity or revitalize our community, the Neighbourhoods Alive! Neighbourhood Renewal Fund may be able to help.

The fund has two intakes a year, March 1st and October 15th, and will provide funds to non-profit groups in Portage la Prairie for amounts above \$5,000. For more information on the fund visit www.gov.mb.ca/housing/neighbourhoods.

Our staff is available to help you free of charge with project planning and proposal writing. If you have a project idea call Elicia at 240-7272.

Want to improve the appearance of your home? Application forms for our Home Beautification Grant will be available in March. Visit our website or call our office for more information!

Meet the PCRC Board of Directors & Staff

Board of Directors

Dale Brownlee - Chair

Lori Judson – Vice-Chair

Hazen Barrett - Treasurer

Janet Shindle – Secretary

Don Boddy

John Friesen

Karly Friesen

Lori Grenkow

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Guy Moffat

Ryan Muirhead

Jean-Marc Nadeau

Staff

Elicia Funk, Executive Director

Mary Lynn Moffat, Community Facilitator

Jean Spiller, Administrative Assistant

Mario Gordon, Community Resource Coordinator / Intern

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.