



Portage la Prairie
Community
Revitalization
Corporation

Revitalize Portage!

Your community revitalization news

WINTER 2012

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2012 Greetings from the PCRC!

2011 was another great year for the PCRC. Over 200 people came out to help us clean up our neighbourhoods over the summer! Added to that was the work of our two summer students and the Aggassiz Youth groups and together we cleaned up 95% of Portage la Prairie. Over 100 bags of trash taken off our streets!



Volunteers help clean up Portage!

We had a successful season of Home Beautification Grants, with 19 properties getting a makeover this summer. That brings the total to 78 homes improved. Great job to all of the homeowners who put many hours of labour into their projects. We are getting ready to accept applications for this summer's program; details are on Page 2.

We helped 16 community group projects through our Revitalize Portage! Grants this year, bringing our total to 39 projects supported. If you have a project you would

like see happen, read our article on Page 2 for more information.

Our Safety Audit program is going strong, identifying and addressing safety issues in our neighbourhoods. Thanks to our volunteers, four areas of the community have been audited to date. We will be planning more community clean ups once the snow disappears and we are also getting ready to launch a new graffiti removal program in the spring!

The Sharing Our World multicultural event was a huge success with over 700 people visiting the displays, food and entertainment showcasing 23 of the cultures in our community. Over 100 volunteers worked hard to make the day happen. Mark your calendars for May 12th to attend this year's event.

We are pleased to be involved with so many residents and organizations working together to meet Portage's needs. Thank you for building a strong Portage la Prairie!

Tell us what is important to you!

The PCRC is a community development organization driven by the needs and wants of you, the residents of Portage la Prairie. Our Board of Directors will soon be setting the strategic direction for our next operating year (April – March).

Before we do so, we would like to know what you feel would be most valuable for the PCRC to focus on in the next year.

Visit our website www.PortageCRC.com and fill out a short survey to help guide our activities over the next year.

No computer? No problem! Just give our office a call at 240-7272 and we will send you a paper copy of the survey with a stamped return envelope. Or you can pick up a copy at our office or at the library!

Home Beautification applications available

It's that time of year again! We are now accepting Home Beautification Grant applications!

The grants are awarded for exterior repairs that provide a visual improvement to the home and neighbourhood.

For **Homeowner Grants of up to \$2,500**, the homeowner must own and live in the home for which they are applying for a grant and their gross household income must be less than \$50,000.

For **Rental Property Grants of up to \$1000 per unit**, the rent charged for the units must not exceed Median Market Rents and the property owner must match the grant amount.

For both programs, the property must be located within the City of Portage.

Application forms and more details on this program are available from our office or online at www.PortageCRC.com.



Taking Your Project Idea to Reality

Do you have a great idea to help strengthen our community but don't know what to do next?

PCRC can help you with that! We have a number of grants available to help get your project started.

Our new Neighbourhood Action Grants provide residents with up to \$200 to start or complete a small project.

How could \$200 improve your neighbourhood? Perhaps a community clean-up? A community garden? Adding outdoor art to a green space? Sharing local knowledge like home repair or cooking skills? A meeting to set up Neighbourhood Watch? Or maybe just a fun gathering to discuss neighbourhood issues and connect? Whatever it is your neighbourhood needs, we would like to help!

Is your project a little bigger than that? Revitalize Portage! Grants provide funding up to \$5,000 for short-term projects. Types of projects could include festivals, community gardens, cultural awareness activities,

recreation programs or training courses just to provide some examples.

Eligible groups include incorporated or non-incorporated groups or organizations. The grant can assist with costs such as project supplies, equipment and advertising.

Applications for these programs are available on our website or at our office.

If your project is even bigger than that, the Neighbourhoods Alive! Neighbourhood Renewal Fund may be able to help.

The Fund has two intakes a year, March 15th 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.

Not sure how to apply for these grants? Our staff is available to help you free of charge with project planning and proposal writing. Just give our office a call at 240-7272 to set up a meeting time!

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!

Many people have commented on how much they learned and how much fun they had last year. Make sure you mark **May 12** on your calendar now. Come and be a part of exploring the cultural diversity in your community.

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



Want to know more about the PCRC?

Visit www.PortageCRC.com
and become a member.

Or check us out on Facebook
www.facebook.com/PortageCRC

Network of Non Profits

Are you an employee or volunteer of a local non-profit or social service organization? Do you wish you were more connected with other services in Portage la Prairie? If so, the Network of Non-Profits is for you!

We host quarterly meetings with presentations on topics of interest to our community and time for sharing of activities by network members.

We also coordinate a network e-mail listing for all members to share information on programs, events and funding opportunities.

If you are interested in joining the Network of Non-Profits please contact our office or e-mail network@portageCRC.com.

Jail and Bail

The Portage Rotary Club and PCRC have joined forces in a Jail & Bail fundraiser to raise money to expand the Bike / Walking Paths in the community. The fundraiser will take place on **Thursday, February 23 at the PCU Centre from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.**

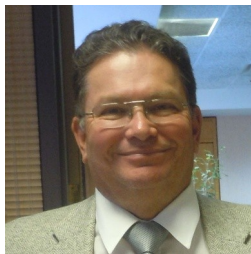
Many community members have agreed to help with the project—we will be "arresting" suspects who will have to raise "bail" to get out of "jail". They will go before a judge at the PCU Centre to determine their bail. They will then be calling upon their family, friends, colleagues and the public to help get them out of jail.

If you want to raise the stakes you can also donate to keep the "suspects" in jail longer and have them raise more money. Whatever amount you pay to keep them in jail they have to raise in addition to their bail amount.

Come out to the PCU Center to see who is in "trouble" and needs help getting out of jail.

Who is the PCRC? Profiles of Our Board Members

The PCRC is guided by a strong Board of Directors, made up of local residents. We will be introducing all of them to you through our newsletters. In this issue we invite you to meet two of our new Board members, Brad Poole and Bill Ghostkeeper.



My name is Bill Ghostkeeper. I volunteered to sit on the PCRC Board because it is an organization that helps and encourages people to help themselves. I have been a program manager in the social services field for over 30 years and

have a strong personal commitment to developing community capacity to meet the needs of the community as seen by the community. In my daily work I encounter many service gaps that Government cannot respond to, as well where community can take ownership in resolving their own issues without the need for outside intervention. I have been involved with many nonprofit organizations as a Board member at the local, provincial and national levels for most of my adult life. I am looking forward to my involvement with PCRC.



My name is Brad Poole and my wife Barb and I moved to Portage la Prairie just over 4 years ago, returning to the community in which Barb was raised. Having myself been raised in a small rural community in southwestern

Manitoba prior to living in Winnipeg for nearly 20 years we were both looking for an opportunity to settle our lives down and become members of a community. I work as a mortgage specialist and I chose to become a member of PCRC primarily because I have fallen in love with my new home town and want to do my part to help the community grow and thrive.

REMEMBER!

Please visit www.PortageCRC.com to fill out a community priorities survey or call our office at 240-PCRC (7272) for a paper copy !

PCRC Board of Directors

Dale Brownlee - Chair	Holly Leost
Lori Judson – Vice-Chair	Luis Luna
Scott Lawrence - Treasurer	Guy Moffat
Karly Friesen – Secretary	Ryan Muirhead
Graciela Arkell	Jean-Marc Nadeau
Bill Ghostkeeper	Brad Poole
Lori Grenkow	Jolene Smoke

You can contact our Board Chair by e-mailing Board@PortageCRC.com

PCRC Staff

Elicia Funk , Executive Director e.funk@PortageCRC.com
Mary Lynn Moffat , Community Facilitator m.moffat@PortageCRC.com
Heather Patterson , Administrative Assistant h.patterson@PortageCRC.com
Neighbourhood Safety Coordinator info@PortageCRC.com , 240-7272

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