



Portage la Prairie
Community
Revitalization
Corporation

Community News

"Your community revitalization news"

Spring 2009

Special points of interest:

- **Homeowner Small Grants program 2009 expanded to include Rental Properties**
- **New Office for PLPCRC at 234 Princess Avenue**

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Homeowner Small Grants 2009

Once again, the ever popular Homeowner Small Grants program will be offered in Portage la Prairie. Last year we saw 13 homes renovated and with the expansion of this program to include Rental Properties we could see even more properties revitalized this summer.

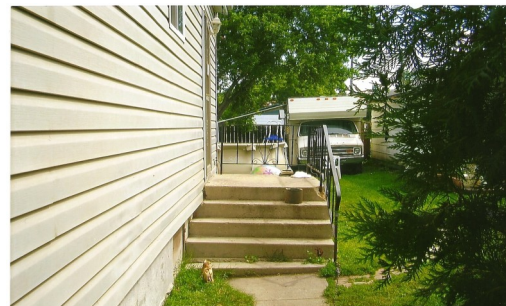
This program is funded by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation to encourage housing improvements in the City of Portage la Prairie. The maximum grant for an individual homeowner is \$2,500. To be eligible for the grant, the property must be located in the City of Portage la Prairie and total gross family income must not exceed \$49,999. Owners of rental property are eligible to receive a \$1,000 grant with the property owner required to match the grant. Owners of rental property are invited to call to get further information on eligibility criteria.

Types of projects that may be considered include but are not limited to: exterior painting, siding repair or replacement, cleaning of brick or stone, exterior front steps, handrails, and sidewalks, windows and door repair / replacement, shingle repair / replacement, architectural detail repair / replacement, and front yard landscaping (sod, shrubs, trees and plants). Applications are available at the PLPCRC Office and at some of the local building stores. For more information on this program call: Jennifer Janzen at 240-4043 or email jennifer.janzen@shawbiz.ca.

Community Interview

In speaking with Cathy, one of the 2008 Homeowner Small Grant Recipients she was very quick to say "the program was very rewarding and the process was easy." When asked if she would recommend the program to others her response was a resounding "Yes".

Cathy and her family removed and replaced the sagging steps to the entrance of their home, painted the garage to cover the graffiti, painted and repaired fencing. They have had comments from neighbors, friends and family about how good the place looks. All of the labour provided was done by Cathy and her husband. Her comment on the hard work she and her husband put in was that it was "well worth it".



Before Homeowner Small Grant application



After Homeowner Small Grant—stairs were removed and a deck built



Guy Moffat, Chair

Neighbourhoods Alive! is Manitoba's long-term strategy to support and encourage community-driven revitalization efforts in designated urban neighbourhoods. The goal of Neighbourhoods Alive! is to address some of the issues identified in a neighbourhood by building on the strengths of the community.

Message from the Chair

As Chair of the PLPCRC one of my jobs is to keep the community informed of the activities of the organization. I would like to invite you to stop by and visit the new office location at the Portage Sport and Cultural Association, 234 Princess Avenue.

The Board and staff have been busy preparing the 5 Year Plan to guide our work and securing funding from the Province of Manitoba and other funders to support community activities and initiatives. Ideas from the residents of Portage obtained from our discussions with community members are being included as we prepare the plan.

One program that any community organization or individuals can access is the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF). This fund assists neighbourhood groups by providing the funding required to support a broad range of locally planned initiatives or projects. If you have a project that you would like to submit the intake deadlines throughout the year are May 1, 2009, October 1, 2009 and January 1, 2010. Our staff are also able to assist anyone with their project and I encourage you to give them a call.

Once again, we will be offering the Housing Small Grants program and will also be opening it up to Rental Property Owners. If you would like to receive an application please call the Office at 240-4043.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank two volunteers who due to other commitments have given up their role on the PLPCRC Board. Glenn Carlson and Sherri Morgan were instrumental in the founding of this corporation and have dedicated many hours of their time over the last year to the PLPCRC. Without their work and dedication we would not be where we are today---**Thank you** to both of you for all of your efforts!

Guy Moffat, Chair

Neighbourhoods Alive! in Portage

Neighbourhoods Alive! is a Manitoba government program to support and encourage community-driven plans to make neighbourhoods stronger and safer. The goal of Neighbourhoods Alive! is to address some of the issues identified in a neighbourhood by building on the strengths of the community. The focus is on key areas such as housing and physical improvements, employment and training, education and recreation, safety and crime prevention.

To date the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation helped bring in over \$105,000 of funds into our community, through the Neighbourhoods Alive and Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. The projects that have been supported include the Portage Community Network—Social Planning Initiative, Tupper Street Family Resource Centre, the Potato Festival, Canadian Mental Health Association—Mental Health First Aid, and North Memorial Community Supper. In addition, 13 homes were refinished from the street. Look for more of these kinds of projects and partnerships in 2009.

Key Priorities for PLPCRC

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

How are we going to do this you ask? The Board of Directors has been busy planning strategies to address the following:

1. Housing
2. Poverty Reduction
3. Community Engagement
4. Affordable Recreation and Leisure
5. Capacity Building

The PLPCRC will be hosting a Community Meeting in the future and look forward to your input at this gathering.

North Memorial Community Supper

Residents of the North Memorial Area were invited to attend a Community Supper on January 28. Fifty five residents attended the supper provided by Boston Pizza.

This gathering was designed for neighbours to meet and to gather information from the community about living in the City of Portage.

This information will form a part of the research Social Plan being gathered by the University of Winnipeg, Institute of Urban Studies on behalf of the Portage Community Network—Social Planning Initiative.

Thank you to North Memorial School and Staff for assisting with the evening, Boston Pizza for providing the dinner, and to all who attended the evening. We look forward to doing another event in the future!



Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Recipient

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) is a community grant offered to Neighbourhoods Alive designated communities. This fund assists neighbourhood organizations representing residents and local interests, in strengthening local capacity and revitalizing Portage la Prairie through a broad range of locally planned and supported initiatives.

The Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation assists individuals and groups

with applying to the NRF for local initiatives.

In 2008, the Potato Festival was a recipient to expand their children's activities. In talking with Nicole Nichols about her experience she said "the application process was new to me, as I had never requested funding from a government program before, however with the support that was given, the process was not difficult." When asked "as a community organization what would you tell other community groups

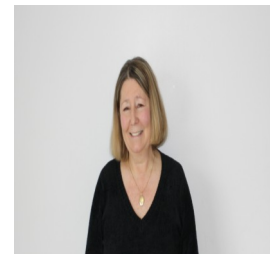
thinking about applying?" Her response to this question was "the grant not only provides you with support for you initiative, but also moves you in the right direction by promoting sustainability."

If you want more information about this and other programs please call Jennifer at 240-4043 or visit the Neighbourhoods Alive website at www.neighbourhoodsalive.mb.ca.

**Next intake
Deadline to
submit an
application for
review by the
PLPCRC Board
for the
Neighbourhood
Renewal Fund
is APRIL 1,
2009.**

Volunteer Corner

The Board of the PLPCRC would like to introduce the newest member of our Board of Directors. Dale Brownlee has recently joined the PLPCRC and has stated that she is "excited about being part of the work of the PLPCRC and the great tools that Neighbourhoods Alive brings to Portage la Prairie". Dale has lived in Portage for most of her life and has two sons. She and her husband Rod enjoy spending time with their two grandsons. Dale is recently retired from the Provincial Government from the Health and Healthy Living Department. She is looking forward to giving back to Portage la Prairie some of what the community has given to her and her family.



Dale Brownlee, Vice-Chair

Members of the Board

Chair ~	Guy Moffat
Vice Chair ~	Dale Brownlee
Secretary ~	Janet Shindle
Treasurer ~	Hazen Barrett
Members ~	Stuart Alcorn
	Don Boddy
	Allison Briggs
	Lori Judson
	Owen McKenzie
	Kerri Vandenberg

Become a Member

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 General 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, poverty reduction, community engagement, affordable recreation and leisure, and capacity building for community organizations .

If you would like to get involved in your community and become a member, call Jennifer at 240-4043 or speak to anyone of the Board Members.

Visit our New Location at:

The **Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation** has a new office space to call home. We have relocated in the Portage Sport and Cultural Association located at **234 Princess Avenue** (behind Cinema Centre). Office hours are 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, **Phone Number: 240-4043** or by **Email:** Executive Director: elicia.funk@shawbiz.ca or Community Facilitator: jennifer.janzen@shawbiz.ca



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