



NIAGARA  
REGIONAL  
HOUSING



# Housing Herald



The Voice of Niagara Regional Housing Communities

Issue 6

Fall / Winter 2005

[www.nrh.ca](http://www.nrh.ca)

**Inside this issue:**

Niagara Regional Housing News	2
Pit Bull Legislation	3
Public Service Information	4
Reporting Changes	6
Community News	7
Tenant News	8
Garden Competition Results	11
PRO Kids	12



**211 HAS  
ARRIVED!**

***NO MENUS, NO BUTTONS, JUST PRESS 211***

211 is an easy-to-remember three digit phone number providing Niagara Residents with free, confidential access to information about the full range of community, social, health and government services.

Call 211 to reach Information Niagara's trained and certified Information and Referral Specialists.

\* 211 is available at this time to Niagara Residents with the exception of Wainfleet, West Lincoln and a few exchanges in Grimsby.

Residents of these areas can still reach Information Niagara at 905-682-9911 or 1-800-263-3695.

## ***Dr. Albert Rose Bursary***

Anyone wishing to apply next year they may call in and we will begin a waiting list of people that the information will be sent to as soon as NRH receives it. Also, interested tenants can check [www.nrh.ca](http://www.nrh.ca) in the spring for more information. We will post application guidelines and the application on the website.



*Are You  
Calling NRH?*

If so, please remember to use the local number when calling from areas other than Grimsby. The 1-800 number is only for use by tenants living in Grimsby or for applicants outside of the local calling areas.

**NRH Numbers:**

<b>Housing Operations &amp; Community Programs:</b>	905-682-9201
	800-232-3292
<b>Housing Access:</b>	905-935-7645
	800-391-4644
<b>Maintenance:</b>	905-682-1755

**Tips for Preparing your Home for  
the Fall and Winter Seasons...**

- Shut off all outside water taps from the inside. Open them on the outside to drain and avoid freezing pipes.
- If your windows are cracked, get them fixed as soon as possible.
- Any leaves collected from your yard should be put in clear garbage bags for collection.
- Replace your furnace filter before you turn the heat on. Buy a few spare filters so that you are prepared to change them during the winter months, recommended every 2 months.
- Have a shovel ready to remove the snow from your unit's walkway. Also, salt the walkway to remove any ice. Post office employees will not deliver your mail if snow and ice aren't removed from your walkway.
- Remove any unlicensed vehicles from parking lots. If they are not removed they will be towed to allow easy access to parking lots for snow removal.

**Adopt a Garden**

Would you like to be a part of making your community beautiful next Spring & Summer?

Niagara Regional Housing is currently exploring the opportunity to develop an "Adopt a Garden" program and is looking for gardening volunteers!!!

Many of our buildings have beautiful gardens that require someone to take care of them. If you are interested in taking care of gardens in your community, or already take care of gardens, we would like to hear from you.

Please contact your Community Programs Coordinator at 905-682-9201.

Notice to Tenants  
Re: the Ontario legislation on Pit Bulls under the  
**Dog Owners Liability Act - Pit Bull Controls**

The legislation restraining pit bulls has now been passed by the provincial government. Niagara Regional Housing has adopted a zero tolerance policy for tenants who violate this legislation.

The legislation impacts our tenants in the following ways:

- 1) Tenants who currently own a pit bull are required to provide written documentation that the pit bull has been sterilized by a veterinarian on, or before 60 days, following the date the legislation became law. The 60 day period expired October 28, 2005. **If you are asked for this documentation and cannot produce it immediately you will not be given an extension of time to have the sterilization procedure completed.**
- 2) Where a dog, that is a pit bull by definition of the legislation, bites, attacks a person, attacks an animal, or behaves in a menacing manner, an order for the dog's removal can be applied for through the courts. The owner may be prohibited from owning another dog.
- 3) All pit bulls must be muzzled and on a leash not exceeding 1.8 metres when it is outside an enclosure occupied by the owner. **Niagara Regional Housing has taken the position that the back yard and/or patio of your unit is not an enclosure as defined in the legislation.**
- 4) The dog collar and leash must be of sufficient strength to be able to prevent the pit bull from breaking it. The pit bull shall be controlled by a person by means of the leash. **Niagara Regional Housing has taken the position that a small child with a pit bull on a leash does not have control of the pit bull.**
- 5) If an animal is alleged to be a pit bull, the onus of proving the dog is not a pit bull lies with the owner. The owner will be required to prove to a court or tribunal that the dog is not a pit bull if Niagara Regional Housing makes the determination that the dog is a pit bull. All costs will be the responsibility of the dog owner. The presiding judge or adjudicator will make the determination as to what evidence will be required. **Niagara Regional Housing will not be required to offer proof that the dog is a pit bull.**
- 6) A person who owned a pit bull on the date the legislation took effect shall not acquire another pit bull that would cause the number of pit bulls owned to be more than the number owned on the date the legislation came into effect.

Tenants wishing more information can access the Government of Ontario website at:  
[www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Source/Statutes/English](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Source/Statutes/English)  
or order a copy of the legislation through the Queens Printer by calling the general inquiry information line of the Ontario Government at 1-800-267-8097

This legislation was passed by the government of Ontario to ensure the safety of citizens.  
**Niagara Regional Housing is committed to providing all tenants with a safe environment in which to live. We request your cooperation in respecting the new laws regarding pit bull ownership.**

## **INSURANCE: CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO HAVE IT?**

Your possessions are worth insuring. If you were to add up the cost of replacing your clothes, furniture and other personal property, you would find that your personal possessions carry a lot of value. Tenant insurance exists to protect that value from loss due to theft, fire or other disasters. It also protects you from claims should your home be the source of damage to other units.

Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) highly recommends that you obtain a tenant insurance package which would protect you and your belongings. NRH does not provide insurance coverage for any insurance claims where the tenant is responsible for damage or losses as a result of negligence on the part of the tenant. NRH is not liable for any claim that you make which could have been covered by your own insurance. A standard tenant insurance package

can cost anywhere from \$250.00 to \$350.00 per year or if paid monthly, \$20.00 to \$30.00 per month.

If you are in receipt of Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Plan, please talk to your caseworker or client services representative about receiving some assistance to cover the cost of tenant insurance. The insurance can be covered under the shelter portion of your assistance if you have not reached the maximum of your shelter allowance. Please see your caseworker or client services representative for more information.

There are a wide variety of options when it comes to tenant insurance, so please contact a number of insurance companies to get estimates on a package that best meets your needs.

### **ARE YOU BETWEEN 55-70?**

**Are you a smoker?**

**Are you concerned about...**

- ~ dementia
- ~ cataracts
- ~ slips and falls leading to broken bones
- ~ heart disease

If you smoke your risks are increased.



Thinking of quitting? Watch for future updates from the Niagara Region Public Health Department.

Questions? Call the Tobacco Hotline at 905-688-8248, ext. 7393 or 1-888-505-6074, ext. 7393

## **50 or Over?**

### **Breast Screening Could Save Your Life!**

**The Ontario Breast Screening Program**, from Cancer Care Ontario, provides quality breast screening to women aged 50 and over. In addition to a high quality mammogram, this **FREE** program offers:

- a woman friendly environment where questions are welcomed
- a thorough clinical breast examination by a trained nurse examiner
- instruction in breast self-examination on request
- a result letter mailed to you, as well as your doctor, within two weeks
- a reminder letter every one to two years to return for screening

If an abnormality is detected, an appointment for further tests is scheduled within two weeks of the initial visit to minimize the wait time.

Most abnormalities are not cancer.

Be proactive about your health by calling one of the phone numbers below to schedule an appointment. A doctor's referral is not necessary. Please note that to be eligible for screening, twelve months must have passed since the date of a previous mammogram.

**Niagara Falls: 905-358-4952**

**Port Colborne: 905-835-5842**

**St. Catharines: 905-684-7271 ext. 6345**

**Welland: 905-732-5434**

***October was Breast Health Month!***

Please share this information with  
women you care about!

For more information, please visit [www.cancercare.on.ca](http://www.cancercare.on.ca)

Niagara Region Public Health Department  
Phone: 905-688-3762 or 1-800-263-7248

## ***Tenant Responsibility to report changes in household income***

**Misrepresentation is the failure to report changes in household income that would require a change in the rent-geared-to-income (RGI) rent.**

All tenants are reminded that it is their responsibility to report changes in their household income **within 30 days** of the change occurring.

**Legislation requires that eligibility for RGI assistance be terminated for tenants who fail to report these changes.**

Changes in household income can result for many reasons including: an increase or decrease in the number of hours worked, a wage increase, obtaining a new job or a second job or a change in family structure.



If you are unsure as to whether you are required to report a change, please call your Property Management Clerk, at 905-682-9201 and they will give you information as to what you are required to report. If you are unable to reach either of the Property Management Clerks, call your Property Manager.

**DO NOT TAKE A CHANCE ON  
LOSING YOUR SUBSIDY;  
REPORT ALL CHANGES IN  
INCOME IMMEDIATELY.**

# DOOR CLOSERS ARE LIFESAVERS

If you have a fire in your apartment, the door closer will shut the door behind you.  
This limits the spread of smoke & fire throughout the building.

**Do not remove it!**

FIRE MARSHAL'S TOWN  
PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL

### **Just a Reminder**

Don't forget to include your eight-digit tenant number on rent payments.



# Community



## Community Funding!

Guess what? There is still a chance for your community to receive Community Funding to run activities in 2005!

Applications are available in the blue binders in the common rooms of senior buildings or through your Community Programs Coordinators at 905-682-9201.

## Summer Fun

The John Howard Society in partnership with Niagara Regional Housing, Big Brothers, PRO-Kids and the YMCA of Niagara ran a basketball program in our St. Catharines communities including Rykert, Manchester and Old Pine Trail.



The season was completed with a scrimmage at the Optimist Hall which included a barbeque. Each child received a trophy and children were given basketballs to take home. The day was focused on fun and a great time was had by all.

Niagara Regional Housing was fortunate to receive a summer student who traveled to both Niagara Falls and St. Catharines offering craft programs. The children judged the garden competition and created the lovely prizes that were given to the winners.

Thanks for the hard work Ernest.

## Nutrition Tours

If you are living in a senior building with a bus that takes you for groceries, then this program is for you!

You will learn all about the prevention of nutrition related chronic disease, navigating through a grocery store, understanding food labels, eating on a budget and cooking for one or two.

A Grocery Store tour with a dietitian from Niagara Region's Public Health Department can be scheduled to take place on your usual grocery days. If you are interested in a tour and presentation in your building, please contact your Community Programs Coordinator at 905-682-9201 at extension 335 or 336.



# Tenant News...

## 3874 Portage

Hi everyone! Let's see, where did we leave off? Oh yes, it was June.

At the end of June, in place of our monthly Tenant Meeting, we had our annual Canada Day party. We were blessed with a beautiful day and many showed up to help celebrate.

The patio area was decorated with red and white balloons. The usual games were played, including a water balloon toss which culminated in broken balloons and wet people. Many laughs were heard from the participants as well as the watchers.

Later on, inside, we enjoyed guitar and fiddle music along with a wonderful supper consisting of beef on a bun and an assortment of salads. Each person received a present.

We purchased 2 new benches for the front in June and they look great out there with our flowers. They are being frequently used and enjoyed.

July started off with our very successful yard sale. Many tenants turned out to help transport the merchandise to the outside and many stayed to help sell. Fred had a B-B-Q with hamburgers, hot dogs and pop.

An ad was put on the freecycle site advising of our sale. At 12:00 noon we closed and gave away free items.

We enjoyed a "bring your own picnic" evening in July and a hot dog and corn evening after that.

A "make your own sundae" evening along with beautiful piano music was enjoyed.

September brought back bingo and potluck suppers. We hosted a very successful clothes party. Darts started flying again on Friday nights.

Beautiful baskets of goodies were raffled at each Tenant meeting.

We offered KFC on Labour Day for those who were left in the building.

And of course, cards and puzzles are ongoing. Books and movies are available to all.

We also enjoyed 2 day trips by bus.



### 5130 Portage Road

The residents of Portage Manor had a busy summer. Our vegetable garden had one of its best years. Carole, Ida and Bea kept the communal flower beds blooming and there were many charming patio and balcony gardens. We enjoyed barbeques and a feast of corn on the cob. The highlight of the summer was a potluck picnic in Port Dalhousie. We rode the merry-go-round, swam, ate and played bingo. We tried our hands at frisbee, water balloons and a scavenger hunt. Hanny was crowned Queen of the Picnic. Our residents also found time to travel this summer, going across Canada to places like Newfoundland and New Brunswick. One couple even went as far as England to visit family.

September marks the start of our winter scheduling. We serve lunch every Thursday and there is a dinner once a month. This provides a chance to join friends and neighbours for a bit of socializing. Morning coffee in the Common Room is growing in popularity and on Saturday afternoon the Coffee, Tea and Conversation group is always well attended.

The Wednesday Bible Study Group meets regularly under the direction of John Webster. Bingo is very popular and we show a movie once a week and meet for cards or games on Friday.

At Thanksgiving and Christmas we will have catered dinners, which will give our kitchen staff a break from cooking.

Our annual Manor Magic Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale will be in early December and on November 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be a bus trip to Dixie Outlet Mall.

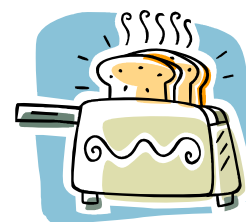


### 15 Gale Crescent

We here at 15 Gale Crescent have had a very busy Spring and Summer, holding many activities that were well attended.

We served a variety of lunches once a month and had a Spring Pot Luck, Mother's Day Tea, Father's Day BBQ and a Summer BBQ.

Gale's Café, which opened February 1<sup>st</sup>, has been serving breakfast three times a week with many tenants enjoying a home cooked meal with their neighbours.



We also served the workers who did such a great job renovating our bathrooms. Since we were so financially successful, the Social Club will be able to pay half the cost of our catered Christmas Dinner.

Some of the tenants will be traveling by bus to St. Jacob's Country Market on October 1<sup>st</sup> to spend the day among all that Fall has to offer.

Our flower gardens looked beautiful this year thanks to Niagara Regional Housing, Bob, Joan and Peppi. Our many thanks for a job well done.

As Fall approaches we are planning a collection for the Children's Centre during the month of October, a Thanksgiving Pot Luck Supper, a Halloween Party, a Games Night and a special Christmas Dinner.

All of us here at 15 Gale Crescent wish everyone Happy Holidays and a healthy and happy 2006.

## **14 Centre Street**

Remembering the year...

September started our year with a B.B.Q

In October, we hosted a Halloween party for the children from the neighbourhood and our grandchildren. A games night was held for the adults.

For Remembrance Day donuts and coffee were served. Our flag was replaced with a new one from the MP's office. In Flanders Field was read and a moment of silence observed.

Our annual Bazaar was a great success.

December as always was busy. A catered dinner for 63 people was great fun! New Year's Eve gave us a chance to welcome 2005 in style with pot & pan banging and singing.

January started lunches twice monthly and breakfast once a month. February produced a Valentines tea with cake, cookies and surprise gifts. March was St. Patrick's Day with live music. April brought spring planting in our gardens and Earth Day.

In May we hosted our second Bazaar with homemade chicken and beef pies, cabbage rolls and other goodies.

June was a quiet month. On July 1<sup>st</sup> we held a steak BBQ with no cost to the tenants. The odd get together impromptu dinners made July a great month to live at 14 Centre Street. In August the Civic Holiday BBQ was great, our gardens were beautiful.

Three times a year 14 Centre Street donates money and food to Community Care of St Catharines. We have darts 2 nights a week and Tai Chi every Wednesday morning. Everyone is welcome.

We hope to have a great 2005/06, thanks to Niagara Regional Housing for all their help with the gardens and the Tenant Association!



### **VOLUNTEERS** **NEEDED!**

The Niagara Regional Housing Tenant Advisory Group is looking for volunteers!

Each month the committee travels to a different housing community. The role of the committee is to provide feedback on new & current Niagara Regional Housing policies. The committee discusses policy changes and the impact on tenants.

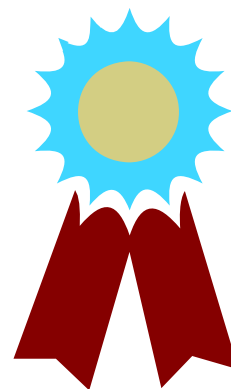
Childcare costs and transportation costs are provided to voting members.

If you live in Welland, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake or Port Colborne and are interested in obtaining more information or an application, please contact Tina Wiley at 905-682-9201, ext. 320.

## ***Congratulations to the 2005 Garden Competition Winners!***

### ***Individual in a family community:***

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Douglas Williams (6165 McLeod Road, Niagara Falls)  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** Dorothy & Cheryl Gurman (Wallace Street, St. Catharines)  
 Richard Buckingham & Roger Carson  
 (Rykert Street, St. Catharines)  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** Roy & Judy Phillips (Victory Avenue, Welland)



### ***Individual in a seniors building:***

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Aiko Sherlock (Kiwanis Crescent)  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** Mary Janish (5130 Portage Road)  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** Walter Ramey (Scott Street)

### ***Family community:***

- 1<sup>st</sup>** 59 Rykert Street, St. Catharines  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** 6165 McLeod Road, Niagara Falls



### ***Senior community:***

- 1<sup>st</sup>** 211 King Street, Welland  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** 5130 Portage Road, Niagara Falls  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** 30 Robinson Street, Grimsby

### ***We would also like to acknowledge all of those who were nominated:***

Jessie Benham  
 Alma Clemens  
 Darlene McGaw  
 Percy Hoyle  
 Wilhelmina O'Donnell  
 Nina Dyck

Linda Gervais  
 Jennifer Warner  
 Susan Bell  
 Stamford Court  
 Verroll Meisner  
 Friends and Neighbours  
 of 557 Steele

Monica Ruttan  
 John Carpenter  
 Allan Gurman  
 Mary Janish  
 Paul Koteles

Providing Recreational Opportunities  
**PRO**  


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**K i d s**

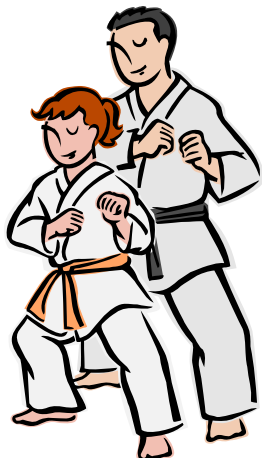
Are you applying for PRO-Kids  
in 2006?

Niagara Regional Housing would like to remind  
tenants of this wonderful program!

This program is a chance for children to choose  
the recreational/cultural program that they would  
like to participate in.

It's simple to apply: just complete the form and  
send it to NRH through the drop box or mail to:

3340 Schmon Parkway  
Box 344  
Thorold, ON L2V 3Z3



Someone from PRO-Kids will contact you to discuss the cultural or recreational activ-  
ity that your child is interested in attending. You could be granted up to \$100.00 for  
enrollment in the program of your child's choice.

Children from birth to 12 and youth from 13-18 years of age who are currently living in

<i>Name:</i>	
<i>Address:</i>	
<i>Phone:</i>	
<i>Income Source:</i>	
<i>Child's Name &amp; Date of Birth:</i>	
<i>Child's Name &amp; Date of Birth:</i>	
<i>Child's Name &amp; Date of Birth:</i>	
<i>Child's Name &amp; Date of Birth:</i>	