



NIAGARA
REGIONAL
HOUSING



NRH

Housing Herald



The Voice of Niagara Regional Housing Communities

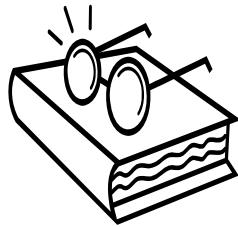
Issue 5

Spring / Summer 2005

www.nrh.ca

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Niagara Regional Housing is pleased to announce that the **Dr. Albert Rose Bursary Program** is being offered to students who are tenants in rent-geared-to-income housing.

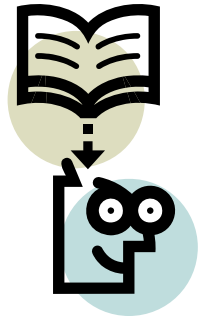
Bursaries will be available to tenants graduating from high school in 2005 who intend to enroll in a full time post secondary education program (1st or 2nd year). These bursaries will be up to \$3000.00.

There will also be awards available to tenants planning to enroll in short term academic, trade or skills based training. These awards will be up to \$1000.00. Also eligible for the bursary amounts are mature students.

The amount of the bursary awarded will depend on the number of qualified applicants.

Applications can be received by phoning 905-682-9201 ext. 335 or 336 or e-mail at bursary@mah.gov.on.ca.

The deadline for application submission is July 8, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.



Included with your newsletter, you will find a Tenant Welcome Package. Please review the package for new information on Niagara Regional Housing policies and procedures. Tenants should keep their welcome packages in a safe place so that they can refer to them in the future.



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:

Housing Operations & Community Programs:	905-682-9201 800-232-3292
Housing Access:	905-935-7645 800-391-4644
Maintenance:	905-682-1755

Pool Policy Reminder

Niagara Regional Housing would like to remind tenants that swimming pools that can hold more than 11 inches of water are not allowed in the communities.

The loss of life is significant with pools holding over 11 inches of water. Safety is NRH's number one concern. Also, the by-laws from city to city vary, but all cities require a permit for installing a pool. Also, the tenant lease states you require permission to make changes to the premises.

This policy also covers inflatable pools that are deeper than 11 inches.



Adopt a Garden

Would you like to be a part of making your community beautiful?

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.

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 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. We are also 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 to obtain approval.

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.

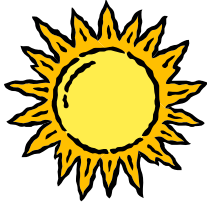
Just a Reminder.

You should include your ten-digit tenant number on rent payments .



The Board & Staff of
Niagara Regional Housing
wishes everyone a safe
and happy Summer!!!





It's Garden Time!!!



Niagara Regional Housing is holding their annual competition for the nicest community and their gardens. This part of the competition will include the overall appearance of the community as well as any and all gardens in the complex. All NRH family complexes in the region of Niagara will be included.

We are also holding a competition for the nicest senior building and their gardens. This part of the competition will include the overall appearance of the community as well as any and all gardens in and around the building. All NRH senior communities in the region of Niagara will be included.

All tenants are encouraged to participate.

Niagara Regional Housing staff will perform judging during the month of August.

Shape, design, colour, well maintained...it all counts.

The winning communities will receive a *special gift* from Niagara Regional Housing.

So, join the fun and help create a beautiful community!



Garden Competition – Nomination Form

Please return by July 31, 2005



Name of person/community nominated:

Address:

Why is this garden/community (overall appearance) the best?

Signature of person nominating:

Address & phone #:

Mail completed form to your Community Programs Coordinator at:
3340 Schmon Parkway, PO Box 344, Thorold, ON L2V 3Z3 or place in your community drop box

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 charge of \$10.00 or more per month.

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, Catherine Milsap at (905) 682-9201 ext. 311 or Marilyn Fraser (905) 682-9201 ext. 319, 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!

Community



Tenant Associations...

We want you to tell us about the wonderful speakers and educators that you have enjoyed in your building or communities. We would like share the information with other communities.



Contact your
Community Programs Coordinator
at 905-682-9201.

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 (family units) at 905-682-9201.



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.

Freecycle Niagara

Freecycle Niagara is a website where people can post descriptions of items they want to give away or that they may need. Through a security protected e-mail exchange, items can be collected. There are Freecycle sites all over Ontario. The website address is:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FreecycleNiagara/>

Check it Out!!!



Tenant News...

7

STAMFORD COURT

October saw the rebirth of our Friday Night Darts, Monday Night Movies & Dinner, once a month Progressive Euchre, Swedish Weaving and Plastic Canvas.

Along with the Ghosts & Goblins, this Halloween we enjoyed a few games of Beetle.

In November, we held a Christmas Bazaar complete with a bake table, craft table and lunch. Once again, we contributed to Project Share at Christmas. We held raffles to raise money.

In December, the Project Share baskets continued. We held a Christmas Bingo dinner complete with a visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus. The Singing Saints entertained us with wonderful Christmas music.

In January, cribbage & scrabble games and our morning exercise began.

We began bridge lessons in February. We also held a Tea to welcome the new tenants. A decision was made to donate some of our Tenant meeting funds to the community kitchen.

We have started knitting for "Out of the Cold". The first delivery of toques and scarves was made in February. Many more have been knit-

ted since. We are also making squares for blankets. Delivery will be made in November of this year.

After reading in our Housing Herald about FreeCycle, an ad was submitted for wool, puzzles & books. Enough books were collected to fill our recently purchased second hand bookcase. Approximately 50 puzzles and a small amount of wool was given to us. We also came by a few videos and now have a small collection.

We have been holding monthly raffles for a surprise basket made up by one of our ladies.

During the last tenants' meeting, it was a sign of the times when Bunnie took her first minutes on a laptop computer. Wonder what another 50 years will bring.

Once again, the flowers are being worked on and we look forward to enjoying them. Thanks to our ladies who put their time and energy into this project.

We are looking forward to summer, our weekly barbeques and all that comes with it!

Talk to you again next newsletter!



Presentation of two cheques to the Community Kitchen by Stamford Court

From left to right:
Staff member , Community kitchen
Donna, Stamford Court
Verna, Community Kitchen
Lois, Stamford Court

30 Robinson Street

At 30 Robinson, we started up our Bingo Club again. This time we have regular Bingo Tuesday evenings and Card Bingo on Saturday evenings for the enjoyment of everyone.

Three of the women have been putting on dinners and lunches along with decorating for each occasion. They have been doing a wonderful job. For St. Patrick's Day, we had wonderful Irish stew and desserts.



Some of the tenants have been coming down in the afternoons to put together puzzles and we are starting up a Euchre club on

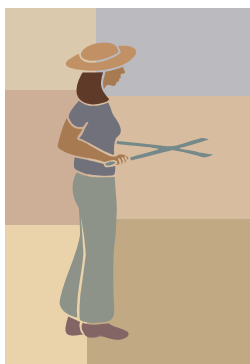
Wednesday afternoons.

Our monthly calendar has started again to keep tenants informed of what's going on in our community.

Thanks Mary!

Spring will soon be here and we will be getting the gardens ready again.

As usual, we will be quite active soon.



15 Gale Crescent

Here at 15 Gale Crescent, we celebrated the end of 2004 with a catered roast chicken dinner, a 50/50 draw, door prizes and a raffle. A great time was had by everyone that attended.

On February 2, 2005, we opened Gale's Café and served our first breakfast. It was so well attended that we are now serving breakfast three times a week. We served a pancake lunch on Shrove Tuesday followed by a Valentine's tea and a bake table; all a great success.



March began with a flea market, bake table and a beef on a bun luncheon.

At the luncheon we honoured Isabelle for her many years of volunteering here at 15 Gale Crescent with a flower arrangement, a plaque and a card signed by many tenants with much love.

We also held a St. Patrick's Day and Easter pot luck supper including door prizes and a ham roll. So much delicious food and fabulous desserts were enjoyed. On Good Friday we served pancakes along with our regular breakfast.

Other weekly activities include Bingo, Cards and Darts. We are looking forward to a spring pot luck, a Mother's Day tea and summer BBQ's.

All of these activities have given us a chance to renew old acquaintances and meet new neighbours. We look forward to more of the same.

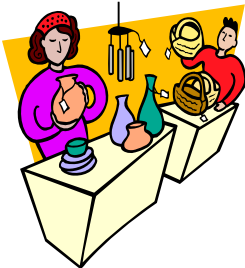
**5130 Portage Road
Portage Manor**

The Portage Manor Social Club has had a busy fall and winter season. The executive, President – Ruth, Vice-President – Helen, Secretary – Rhonda, Treasurer – Joyce and Social Convener – Susie try to provide a variety of activities, hoping that there will be something for everyone.

Wednesday afternoon, the Bible Study Group meets with John Webster and Wednesday evening is reserved for Bingo, called by Willie. On Thursday, Sue and her helpers, Senga, Joyce and Tina serve lunch and on Thursday evenings, movies are shown in the Common Room. On Friday evening, the Common Room is host to the cribbage and euchre players. The Saturday afternoon get-togethers offer an opportunity for visiting with no particular goal, other than friendship. The pool room is used almost every night.

We have three catered dinners throughout the season at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. There are also monthly dinners, which are among the best attended functions of the club.

Our Christmas Bazaar this year was one of our most successful. We used some of the profits to purchase new dishes and tables for the common room. We also purchased a DVD player and a new television, both much appreciated by the Thursday movie crowd.



There is a bus trip to St. Jacobs Market being planned for May, as well as the annual Spring Bazaar and Yard Sale.



**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.

Providing Recreational Opportunities
PRO

K i d s

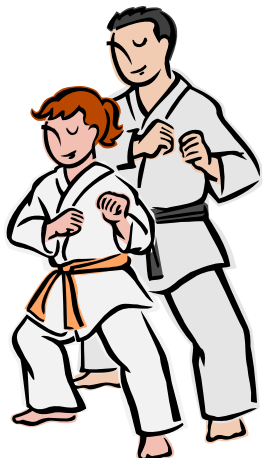
Have you applied for PRO-Kids
in 2005?

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



A PRO-Kids worker will contact you to discuss the cultural or recreational activity that
your child is interested in attending. You will 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
a Niagara Regional Housing unit are eligible to apply.

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