



On the Home Front

Volume 5, No 1

February 2015

2015 Scholarship Program

This year Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation (NLHC) will award a total of twelve scholarships valued at \$1000 each.

This will include nine Youth Scholarships (three in each of the following regions: Avalon/East, Central, Western/Labrador), and three Adult Scholarships (one in each of the three regions). The deadline for applications for the Youth Scholarship program is August 31, 2015. For the Adult Scholarship Program, the deadline is September 30, 2015.

Check out our website at www.nlhc.nl.ca for more information. ■

Volunteer Week

Volunteer week is April 12-18. Take time to celebrate all of the amazing work that you do in your neighbourhoods.

"Volunteers are not paid... not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

We want to hear all about what's happening in your neighborhood. The deadline for submissions for the next On The Home Front newsletter is Monday, April 27, 2015. Please submit your photos, consent forms to use photos and stories to Danette at drfox@nlhc.nl.ca



A Salute to Former Tenant Margie Howell

Margie Howell is proud of her roots and excited about the future. After 30 years a tenant of Brophy Place, two years ago she fulfilled her dream of buying her own home; she loves her job, hopes to travel the globe and write some novels. However, no matter what the future holds, she says, at the end of the day her crowning achievement will be learning to be the best mom that she can to her two children. "I'm proud of the years that I called Brophy Place my home and grateful for the opportunities that the neighbourhood and MacMorran Community Centre gave me to improve my life situation," she said.

Margie is an executive assistant with the Community Centre Alliance. The non-profit group provides programs and services to support employment, literacy, education, and social and economic development in our community centre neighbourhoods. She started there in 2009, filling in for a maternity leave then got hired on full-time when the position became vacant.

She says the skills she stockpiled while volunteering and working at MacMorran over the years in various capacities, in addition to serving on the boards of both the community centre and the Brophy Place area tenants' association, groomed her well for her job. All these experience gave her valuable knowledge in office and program management and fundraising. She's also studied at the College of the North Atlantic, Memorial University's Division of Lifelong Learning, and is currently enrolled at the Gardiner Centre.

"I will continue to learn as much as I can for as long as I can. In 2000, I was a single mother with no high school and I have learned so much since that time. Completing high school and continuing to educate myself is another big accomplishment for me."

Margie witnessed the community centre grow from its former "Little Blue House" location into the modern facility it is today, providing recreational, educational, pre-employment and social programs for youth to seniors. She says the best thing about her job is it keeps her in touch with the community centre neighbourhoods, "the people I know best." And while she has no family living in Brophy Place now, she and her children and partner, Shawn, still visit for holiday and family events.

This past September Margie visited New York City for the first time. She's been to Los Angeles, roved much of Alberta and Ontario and hopes to travel abroad. A voracious reader, she's also been writing stories and hopes to publish a book of fiction—perhaps an historical romance with a twist of sci-fi. "I love historical romance, time travel, The Highlanders series of novels by Melissa Mayhue are my favourites; they're romance novels with magic and happy endings. "It may seem silly, but I see and hear enough sadness in the real world so when I read, I read stories with happy endings that go to a place of magic and love. It gives me a great source of hope and inspiration. Hey, I should write my own romance," she said with a laugh.

Margie and Shawn met as teenagers shortly before he moved with his family to Ontario and they lost touch for 15 years. A couple of years ago they reconnected on Facebook and Shawn moved back to pursue a relationship with her. "At the end of the day I trust the Universe," said Margie, "I trust that I am where I'm supposed to be and that all my dreams will come true if I believe in myself and work towards them. And I am grateful for every single day that I am given."



Newfoundland
Labrador

Housing

Free Drop-in Tax Preparation Clinic

The WestRock Community Centre will be offering a Community Volunteer Income Tax Program on March 18th and 24th, from 7:00 pm—9:00 pm. Please ensure that you bring along all required information to complete your taxes (all T4 forms, Social Insurance Number, etc.). Please contact WestRock Community Centre for further details.

Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush!

~Doug Larson

Seniors Resource Centre

*Have a question?
Need a Service?
Don't know where to turn
for help?*

Telephone: 737-2333

Toll-Free: 1-800-563-5599

Email: info@seniorsresource.ca

Website: www.seniorsresource.ca

Crisis Phone Lines

Mental Health Crisis Line

Telephone: 1-888-737-4668

Toll-Free: 1-877-753-8550

Website: www.cmhanl.ca/

Kids Help Line

Telephone: 1-800-668-6868

Financial Information Help Line

Telephone: 855-723-8140

Monday to Thursday
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Island time

Website:
www.creditanddebtsolutions.ca

Community Sector Council

Website:
www.communitysector.nl.ca

Office of the Citizens Representative

Telephone: 1-800 559-0079

Email: citrep@gov.nl.ca

West Heights Tenant Association

West Heights TA had a great Christmas filled with festive events and activities. The group had a bowling party at the Plaza Bowl for the children. The kids had a great time, staying physically active while waiting for Santa to arrive. Santa had lots of great gifts for all the good girls and boys. The event was such a hit



that the group plans on holding their Christmas party at the Plaza Bowl again next year!

West Heights also had a party for the adults at their neighbourhood centre. It was well attended with 20 adults. They enjoyed entertainment by Michael Conway, a local magician! There were a lot of laughs that evening! West Heights is now enjoying a well needed and deserved break and soon will be planning their Easter and spring events. ■



Wishingwell Road Algerine Tenant Association

Some very special volunteers within the Wishingwell Road Algerine Tenant Association were recently recognized in the House of Assembly. Seventeen years ago, a small group of volunteers wanted to help their neighbours during the Christmas season. Initially the group started with only two Hampers which included a turkey and quickly discovered this was not enough. The group expanded their efforts and offered hampers with turkeys and vegetables, a traditional Christmas meal to families in the neighbourhood. The group presently offers 30 hampers, with turkey, vegetables and gifts for the children. Wow! Thank you Lillian Parmenter, Helen Caines, Sharon Clarke and Carol Clarke for all your hard work and dedication.

Loyal Reader Contest!

Are you a loyal reader of the 'On the Home Front' newsletter?
Would you like a chance to win a \$50 Grocery Gift Card?

All you have to do is send us your name, mailing address, email address and telephone number. You can **email** it to newsletter@nlhc.nl.ca or **mail** it to:

Loyal Reader Contest
Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation
P.O. Box 220, 2 Canada Drive, St. John's, NL A1C 5J2

All entries will be placed in a hat for the draw on April 10th. Good luck!
(one entry per household please)



Education Incentive Program

Any NLHC leaseholder with a child or dependent attending grade seven through high school (levels 1, 2, 3, or 4) or any household with an adult or dependent attending a post-secondary institution or enrolled in an Adult Basic Education Program is eligible for this program. Eligible tenants will receive \$50 for every month that each child and/or adult student is in school. This is issued by cheque to the leaseholder. For those with children in high school, payments are made twice a year. NLHC starts accepting requests for payment at the end of the normal school terms, which would be January and June. For those in post-secondary institutions, NLHC starts accepting requests for payment at the end of each semester. To qualify, NLHC will need a letter from the school for each child and/or adult stating the student was in full-time attendance and the exact date of the school term for which you are requesting the incentive funding. Contact your Housing Administration Officer (HAO) to find out more about this program. Please note, payments can take eight (8) weeks. ■