



On the Home Front

Volume 7, No 1

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Did you know ...

For your convenience, you can pay your rent at your bank, online, via pre authorized payment or telephone banking, instead of having to come into the office.

Please call us at 724-3000, if you have any questions. ■



National Volunteer Week

April 23-29, 2017

Reasons to Volunteer

- Do your part
- Meet new people
- Join the excitement
- Be a positive Influence
- Raise Awareness
- Develop new talents
- Grow from the experience
- Learn and Serve
- Personal satisfaction
- Work for a cause
- Be part of a Team
- Face new challenges
- Pass along Wisdom
- Preserve the environment
- Keep Active
- Raise Awareness
- Share your vision

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, May 15, 2017. Please submit your photos and consent forms to use photos and stories to Danette at drfox@nlhc.nl.ca.



Housing



Rabbittown Community Centre

Rabbittown Community Centre participated in the Downtown Santa Claus Parade with 45 community members attending the event. They also held their annual cookie baking



event where community members work together in groups to bake various types of yummy cookies which are then shared amongst all community members (pictured above).

The Rabbittown Community Centre's annual turkey dinner was held December 20th at St. Augustine's Church. This year there were 175 community members in attendance. Each year the staff and volunteers cook the meal and serve it to the

community members. Santa made a visit to give gifts to everyone. Once they finished eating the family-setting dinner and dessert, everyone helped clean up the church. Looks like everyone had a great time!

The group also offers a Youth Program; and over the holidays, the group hosted a paint night for the youth. Lilly Lush, Executive Director, facilitated this event. The youth did an awesome job! Some great looking Snowmen! ■



Highlights of NLHC's Tenant Survey

As a result of "The Way Forward" (a Government document which outlines Government's vision for sustainability and growth in Newfoundland and Labrador), NLHC recently launched a tenant survey province-wide giving NLHC tenants the opportunity to share their ideas on how NLHC programs and services can be improved. Following are the highlights of the survey:

- As of February 28, 2017, 481 responses have been received. Nearly 50% of respondents were from rural Newfoundland and Labrador and 28% of respondents were over the age of 55.
- 69% of respondents were highly satisfied (7 or higher) with NLHC's programs and services. Only 8.5% of respondents gave NLHC a rating of 3 or lower.
- 76% of respondents indicated that their current home is meeting their needs.
- Common areas of concern that were raised by tenants included maintenance and repair issues; unit configuration; health and safety concerns; as well as accessibility.

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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

Tips for storing batteries

1. Keep batteries in the original packaging until ready to use.
2. Separate batteries by make and age. Batteries of different types or from different manufacturers can react with each other, causing leakage or other damage.
3. Store your batteries at room temperature or below. In most cases, any cool room away from direct sun is fine.
4. Keep your batteries in a vapour-proof container if they are in a high-humidity environment or if there is risk of condensation.
5. Prevent electrical conduction. Your batteries may start conducting electricity if they come into contact with metal. This will drain your batteries quickly and create heat. Take steps to prevent this problem and reduce fire risk:
 - Do not store batteries in a metal container. Use a sealed plastic container or a specialized battery storage box.
 - Do not store coins or other metal objects in the same container.
 - Align batteries so the positive terminals cannot contact the negative terminals of other batteries. Cover the terminals with masking tape or plastic caps if you cannot guarantee this.



We Want You!!!

National Volunteer Week — April 23-29, 2017

By Maureen Murphy



NLHC has a history of having incredible volunteers who work hard in making their communities better places to live. These volunteers do many things including community clean-ups, keeping our neighbourhoods safe places to live and grow, and organizing and promoting special events.

Some neighbourhoods have Community Centres – an awesome place to volunteer. Some have Neighborhood Centres – again, opportunities galore. Then there are the neighbourhoods who, while they don't have a physical structure, they have tenant volunteers who do amazing things with, and for, their neighborhood families. Why do they do it? Because they want our communities to be a better place to live.

We here at NLHC know our volunteers rock and are grateful to those who take on this work. We'd love to have more of our tenants, and their friends, involved in this amazing work. What are the benefits of volunteering? Volunteers have an opportunity to:

- share your talents
- increase your skill level
- build up your resume
- make a difference for you and your neighbours
- meet new people
- keep active
- build opportunities for your family
- make your community a better place to live – for you, your family and neighbours.

How can you volunteer? I thought you'd never ask! There are oodles of opportunities!

- **Tenant Associations:** You and your neighbours work together to have events and activities in your communities. There is funding available for events. Call your NLHC Social Worker and ask how you can become involved.
- **Neighborhood Centres and Community Centres:** These centres are always looking for help for events and programs. Pop in and see what's on the go.

Look around your community and see what you would like to see changed. How would you like to make the change? What are your ideas? We'd love to hear from you.

Here are the folks you need to contact with your questions around volunteer opportunities:

NLHC

Avalon Regional Office, Jennifer Tarrant, Social Worker, 709-724-3261

Central Regional Office, Laura Wellman, Social Worker, 709-292-1009 or 709-651-5363

Western Regional Office, Jacqueline Carey, Social Worker, 709-639-5224

Happy Valley/Goose Bay, Danette Fox, Social Worker, 709-896-1933

Labrador City, Elaine Condon, Social Worker, 709-944-7474

Community Centres:

Froude Avenue Community Centre, St. John's, 709-579-0763

Buckmaster's Circle Community Centre, St. John's, 709-579-0718

Rabbittown Community Centre, St. John's, 709-739-8482

Virginia Park Community Centre, St. John's, 709-579-4534

MacMorran Community Centre, St. John's, 709-722-1168

Smallwood Crescent Community Centre, Marystown, 709-279-3643

Vine Place Community Centre, Corner Brook, 709-634-0006

Exploits Community Centre, Grand Falls-Windsor, 709-489-2141

(Tenant Survey continued)

- Programs that were frequently mentioned positively included:
 - Rent-Geared to Income/Affordable Rents;
 - Heat Subsidy Program;
 - Education Incentive;
 - Community Centre offerings.
- Just over 10% of tenants indicated that there are gaps in supports, services or programs, including:
 - better supports for transitions between units (transfers);
 - more social supports for tenants (financial, health, lifestyle, etc), and;
 - better mental health supports from frontline staff.
- 45% of respondents have a community centre in their neighbourhood. Among these respondents, over 55% indicated that they do not participate in the programs offered by their community centre.