



**Durham Region Non-Profit  
Housing Corporation**

# Community News

*For Tenants of Durham Region Non-Profit Housing*

*Summer 2015*

The next few months will deliver some much anticipated sun, encouraging us to enjoy the outdoors and the warmth of community. With this in mind, we will be hosting two summer BBQ's where you can meet your neighbours along with our dedicated staff and Board members. Please join in the fun (dinner is on us!) at either location below.

- Bowmanville Heights on Thursday, July 23, 2015 at 5:00 pm
- Dryden Heights on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 5:00 pm

At Old School Apartments in Cannington folks had a different, more lasting menu in mind. They joined together and planted a community garden enabling tenants to share fresh, healthy food for an entire season.

Our amazing superintendent staff who live on site do a fantastic job throughout the year, but summertime brings cause for a special note. They too are entitled to some rest and relaxation in this all too short season, so anytime they are on their scheduled "time off" you can lend a hand by recognizing they are actually off duty. If you need help, fee free to contact the alternate person named for assistance.

Earlier in June our Board members had the opportunity to tour many of our sites, and learn firsthand how tenants contribute to the great quality of life in our community. This experience offered our Board a broader understanding of the unique strengths and challenges at each location, and built organizational capacity to advocate for safe affordable housing in Durham Region. Your generous hospitality was remarkable, and the gracious invitations into your homes was appreciated.

Patti Bell

Director of Operations



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## Booking a Common Room

Common rooms can be used for parties, special events, tenant associations and community partnerships. If you are interested in booking a common room for an event, please call the Customer Service Officer at 905-436-6610 for details. An application will need to be completed and you are encouraged to book rooms as far in advance as possible

(Rooms are not available for booking on statutory holidays or long weekends)

## Ways to Pay Rent

Many of our tenants already pay their rent by pre-authorized payment, internet and telephone banking because it is convenient for them...No more trips to our office (unless you want to see our smiling faces!). Internet and telephone banking is available through most banks except CIBC and Scotiabank. If you are interested in setting up pre-authorized withdrawals, telephone or internet banking, please contact our office at 905-436-6610.

*Remember* that payments made by telephone or internet may take up to four business days to process by your bank, so please ensure DRNPHC will receive your payment by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

In addition you can pay your rent by cash, money order, Interac direct payment and post-dated cheques at our Head Office.

## Rent Geared Income Quick Tips...

### All Rent Geared to Income Tenants

It is important that your Annual Reviews and Quarterly Reporting Statements are handed in on time. If you miss the deadlines for handing in your documents you could be subject to receiving a termination of subsidy letter and this could be quite overwhelming. Please be sure to attach all the requested information. For example when we are asking for your paystubs please attach all the paystubs for the entire period. If we are asking for your paystubs until the end of May and you do not get your paystub until May 29<sup>th</sup>, it is ok if you hand the documents in the following Monday.

- ❖ Just a reminder to all rent-geared-to-income tenants receiving CPP, OAS and GIS please send in new statements for your July 2015 increases. You can get a statement by calling Service Canada at 1 (800) 277-9914
- ❖ Once you have filed your Income Tax Return and you have received your Notice of Assessment from Service Canada you should submit a copy to our office
- ❖ Tenants are reminded to report any changes in their income or occupancy as soon as the change occurs
- ❖ If you need assistance completing your documentation, we are happy to come out to your community to help
- ❖ If we are requesting a Schedule A from the Family Responsibility Office to verify the child support payments received or not, please note that the Family Responsibility Office does not charge for a Schedule A. If the Family Responsibility Office is advising you that there is a \$25 cost, tell them that you do **not** want a certified copy and there will not be a cost.

## When it's time to celebrate!!!



Fireworks can add great excitement for kids of all ages in celebrating our holidays like Canada Day. We encourage one and all to attend local authorized fireworks displays in your area.

Please be reminded that fireworks are not permitted to be set off anywhere on the property at any of our sites. Unauthorized fireworks are a safety hazard, as well as a breach of local by-laws and your tenancy agreement.

We hope you will enjoy participation of the many publicly sponsored events throughout the Region. And above all, KEEP SAFE AND HAVE FUN!

## Tenant Insurance

It is a lease requirement that you have a Tenant Insurance Policy to protect your belongings. In the unfortunate circumstance of fire, theft, flood and damage, Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation would not cover these costs. Please contact a local insurance company to get a quote. Insurance should include Personal Contents, Liability and Property Damage.

\*If you are receiving OW or ODSP benefits, speak with your worker to inquire if Insurance and Utility costs can be covered by your benefits

## Repairs

If there is a maintenance item in your unit that needs repair, you must complete a Request for Repair form, which is available at your site or can be downloaded from our website. If it is an emergency situation, please advise us immediately and fill out a form after. Repairs may be completed by the Superintendent, one of our maintenance staff or by an external specialist. 24 hour Notice of Entry will be issued to you, unless the situation warrants emergency service, and we ask that you have the work area cleared and cleaned.

## West Nile Virus – Standing Water

**West Nile Virus (WNV)** is a mosquito-borne illness that can be transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. Reducing mosquito populations helps reduce the spread of WNV and other infections spread by mosquitos.

### Concerns about Stagnant Water?

It can take only 4 days for stagnant water to become the perfect breeding grounds for misquitos. This is why eliminating these potential breeding sites is the primary control measure in reducing mosiquitos.

### Things you can do to eliminate mosquitoes around your home:

- Remove unused objects, garbage or items that may collect water such as flower pots.
- When not in use, turn over items such as wading pools, recycling boxes
- Weekly changing of water in bird baths, pet food/water dishes
- Ensure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens and are in good repair

## Playground supervision

Playgrounds and outdoor play equipment offer children fresh air, friends, and exercise. So it's important for parents to make sure careless behavior doesn't ruin the fun.

Teaching children how to play safely is important: If they know the rules of the playground, they're less likely to get hurt.

Adult supervision can help prevent injuries by making sure children properly use playground equipment and don't engage in unsafe behavior around it



Children should always have adult supervision on the playground. Young children (and sometimes older ones) can't always gauge distances properly and aren't capable of foreseeing dangerous situations by themselves. Older children like to test their limits on the playground, so it's important for an adult to be there to keep them in check.

## Sun Safety Tips

### Did you know?

The Corporation currently owns and manages 18 sites throughout the Durham Region. Our sites range from townhouses to apartment buildings, with 1-4 bedroom units. A description of our sites and their locations can be found on our website at <http://durham-housing.com>. There is a mix of market rent units and subsidized units for individuals requiring rent geared to their income. Applications for subsidized units are obtained from the centralized waiting list through Durham Region <http://www.durham.ca>. Market Rent Housing Applications can be downloaded from our website or picked up at the office. Sites are managed by Property Managers with the assistance of on-site Superintendents at the majority of locations

### Tenant Involvement

Stay tuned for upcoming events in your neighbourhood! We want you to become involved in activities in your area. Please feel free to contact the Coordinator of Tenant and Housing Services if you have ideas and suggestions to make your community a better place to live.



Protection from ultraviolet (UV) radiation is important all year round, not just during the summer. UV rays can cause skin damage during any season or temperature (CDC, 2014).

You can lower your risk of overexposure to UV radiation and still have fun outdoors by using the following sun safety tips:

- Check the daily UV index before going outdoors and take precautions when the UV index is 3 or higher. The UV index indicates how strong the sun is and what precautions to take. Check out today's UV index.
- If possible, plan outdoor activities before 11 am and/or after 4 pm to avoid the sun's strongest rays.
- Find shade or create your own.
- Cover up by wearing a wide-brimmed hat, long-sleeved shirt and long pants. If you are an outdoor worker attach a back flap to a hard hat construction helmet to cover the back of the neck.
- Wear sunglasses or goggles with 100% UV ray protection.
- Apply a broad spectrum, waterproof sunscreen and lip balm with an SPF of 30 or higher 20 minutes before going outside. Reapply every 2 hours and after getting wet or sweating.
- Keep babies less than 1 year of age out of direct sunlight. Sunscreen should not be used on babies under 6 months of age.
- Avoid sunbathing or the use of tanning beds.

If you have a question & would like it answered in the Summer newsletter, please email [DRNPHC@durham-housing.com](mailto:DRNPHC@durham-housing.com) & you'll be entered in a draw for a gift card if it appears in the newsletter!!!!



# Summer Camps & Programs in Durham Region

## Parking and Vehicles

Most of our sites have parking spots for tenants and visitors. If you wish to have a parking spot, please contact us. Tenants can park in designated areas as directed by the landlord and cannot park in visitor's parking spaces or designated fire routes (interior roadways) at any time.

All vehicles parked on Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation property must be in working order and have an up-to-date license plate, or it may be tagged or towed at your expense.

If someone else parks in your spot, please contact the superintendent.

## Garbage Disposal

We want your home and its surroundings to be clean and safe. Please ensure that garbage and recycling is disposed in appropriate containers. Speak with your Superintendent about proper garbage disposal in your neighborhood.

## **Access Program**

The Access Program provides funding for Town of Whitby recreation programs. Eligibility is based on financial need, and applicants must be Whitby residents. For further information, contact 905.430.4310, [subsidy@whitby.ca](mailto:subsidy@whitby.ca), download the Access Application Form or complete our online form. Please note that you must submit your most recent income tax notice of assessment and proof of Whitby residency with your application. If you are including your children on your application, please submit your most recent Canada Child Tax Benefit statement listing your eligible children.

## **Canadian Tire Jumpstart**

The Town of Whitby is a proud partner with the Canadian Tire Foundation for Families. The Canadian Tire Jumpstart program gives financially disadvantaged children in Canada, 4 to 18 years of age, the opportunity to participate in sports and active recreational activities. For further information, contact 905.430.4310, [subsidy@whitby.ca](mailto:subsidy@whitby.ca), download the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Application or complete our online form. Please note that you must first be approved for the Access Program in order to apply for Canadian Tire Jumpstart funding.

## **Oshawa Community Health Centre**

Oshawa Community Health Centre offers a wide range of programs including groups focusing on health issues such as early childhood development, youth recreation, and women's wellness. All of our programs are free, and staffed by a qualified team of professionals. Camps are also provided. Please visit [www.ochc.ca](http://www.ochc.ca) or call Phone: 905-723-0036.

## **Girls Inc.**

Girls Inc. Summer Camp offers a unique "minds-on/hands-on" experience designed just for girls! Fun-filled and engaging activities, games, sports, field trips, crafts, experiments, role playing, and discussions address topics including: bullying, body image & self-esteem, sports, physical activity & nutrition, stress management, and leadership & community action. Girls Inc. provides girls with a safe nurturing environment with a high ratio of professionally trained program staff to girls daily from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Affordable pricing and convenient locations in Pickering, and Whitby. \*Subsidies are available to families in financial need.

## **The City of Oshawa**

The city of Oshawa offers a variety of camps throughout the summer months. Please see the link below for their Summer 2015 Camp flyer

[https://www.oshawa.ca/things-to-do/resources/2015\\_Summer\\_Camps.pdf](https://www.oshawa.ca/things-to-do/resources/2015_Summer_Camps.pdf)

## MISSION STATEMENT



**Durham Region Non-Profit  
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The mission of Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation is to help meet the housing needs of the Region's diverse population through the provision of a practical, well-maintained and affordable housing portfolio integrated within the community. The Corporation assists with related services to support residents in their housing.



## Recipe – JELLO ORANGES!



First, wash 9 oranges and cut them in half. You can scoop them out and use the orange sections for a salad, or do it the cheater's way with an electric juicer:

Voila! The orange cups are ready in just a couple minutes -- and you get some freshly squeezed orange juice to boot! Put the orange cups into muffin tins so they sit upright and behave for you when you fill them with liquid Jello.

Then start making the Jello. Use whatever brand you want, but for rainbow wedges just like in the picture, you'll need six flavors -- lemon, orange, strawberry, lime, blueberry and grape. Rainbow-licious!

I made the Jello two colors at a time and it was a piece of cake. Using 9 oranges (so 18 orange cups), you will have a lot of leftover Jello.

Place orange cups in fridge for a few hours to set!

