



**Durham Region Non-Profit  
Housing Corporation**

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**Durham Region Non-Profit  
Housing Corp.**

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# Community News

*For Tenants of Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation*

## Note from the Executive Director & President

We are both excited about the new leadership responsibilities we have assumed this year, and have been busy integrating communication as a key priority into our daily work together. This will receive our full attention as we focus the agenda on communication at an upcoming staff training day in November. We are also eager to hear more from residents throughout our region.

We want to learn about your unique housing needs and encourage you to share ideas and suggestions during local conversations. Building on the success of the warm weather community BBQ's held recently, we will move indoors with the colder days by welcoming you to a series of convenient "coffee breaks" in your neighbourhood. We'll provide the snacks, you provide the chat. Listening to a wide variety of perspectives will help build our responsiveness and accountability.

With your participation, we will strengthen our role as advocates for affordable housing in Durham Region.

Dan Carter  
President, Board of Director

Patti Bell  
Executive Director



**Join Dan and Patti  
Tuesday, November 17, 2015  
9:00-10:00 am at Garrard Heights  
123 Eric Clarke Drive, Whitby ON**

## Office Hours

## Closures

Regular office hours are  
from 8:30am - 4:30pm  
Monday-Friday

November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 –  
Office is closed for  
Remembrance Day

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 –  
12:00pm-4:30pm

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 –  
Closed

December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 –  
Closed

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 –  
12:00pm – 4:30pm

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 -  
Closed

## Community in Bloom

A community garden with raised beds was built and planted at Old Schoolhouse Apartments in Cannington in the Spring of 2015. What a success this was!! Thanks to some wonderful donations of supplies from Brock Township, this garden project was very successful where tenants had access to fresh vegetables for the season. Thank you to all the tenants, the superintendent and the property manager who helped plant, weed and build



## Air Conditioners

If you have a window air conditioner installed in your home, please remove it for the winter season.



## **Santa Claus Parade Schedule**

### **Bowmanville**

Sat Nov 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to  
-noon in downtown  
Bowmanville

### **Newcastle**

Sun Nov 15<sup>th</sup>  
Starts at 5:30 pm with  
fireworks followed by a  
parade

### **Port Perry**

Sat. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 to 7:00  
For more information, go to  
[www.scugogchamber.ca](http://www.scugogchamber.ca)

### **Oshawa**

Sat. Nov 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm  
Starts at King & Stevenson  
and ends at Bond &  
Stevenson. For more  
information, go to:  
<http://www.oshawasantaclausparade.org/>

### **Whitby**

Sat Dec 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to  
Noon. Visit  
[www.whitby.ca/en/residents/santaclausparade.asp](http://www.whitby.ca/en/residents/santaclausparade.asp) for  
registration and additional  
details.

### **Pickering**

Sat. Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm –  
9:00 pm  
For more information go to  
<https://www.ajax.ca/en/Calendar>

### **Uxbridge**

Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>,  
2015 from 11:00 am to 1:00  
pm. For more information,  
go to  
<http://www.uxbridgesantaclausparade.com/>

## **For Townhouse Tenants:**

### **Maintaining Heat in your unit**

It's hard to believe that November is here – where did the summer go?

The team at DRNPHC is gearing up for the for the Fall and Winter seasons, the cooler temperatures outside means it's time to heat the inside.

It's tough to predict how the outside temperatures may drop, and if there is not enough heat in your unit, the pipes may freeze and eventually burst, flooding your unit and potentially other units as well.

Cost incurred for restoration will be at the expense of the tenant if it is found that the cause for the burst pipe is due to lack of heat in the unit.

The December holiday break is a time where people may spend an extended period away from their units. Should you be away from your unit, please ensure to:

- Have someone check up on the unit every day.
- Ensure the heat remains on and at an adequate temperature in the unit (taking into consideration the outside temperature).

Following these tips will help you avoid unexpected expenses caused by burst pipes, providing you with peace of mind to fully enjoy the winter months.

### **Townhouse Tenants and Ground Floor Apartment Tenants: Preparations for the Winter**

With the winter season approaching, we request the tenants make the following preparations to their units:

All exterior water lines **including water lines to the garage** must be turned off.

This is completed from inside your unit by:

- Disconnecting all hoses to water lines and store them in the garage or unit. Once water is turned off, please drain exterior line by opening the shut-off valve. Leave the valve in an "open" position to prevent freeze up.
- If there is a vacuum breaker/back flow preventer on the outside faucet, pull the centre knob in the brass fitting to release any trapped water.

**Please contact your Superintendent should you require assistance.** The superintendent will be checking the outside taps in November to ensure this has been completed. Do not turn on the tap after it has been inspected to avoid being held responsible for any damage caused by frozen pipes.

**Winter Safety -  
Prevention of Slips, Trips  
& Falls**

- Wear Proper Foot Gear
- Take smaller steps when walking
- Walk slowly and never run on icy ground
- Keep both hands free for balance rather than in your pockets
- Use handrails from start to finish
- Avoid carrying loads
- Keep your eyes on where you are going
- Test potentially slick areas by tapping your foot on them
- Step-don't jump from vehicles or equipment
- Keep walkways clear of debris, water, ice and slippery materials

***Think Safety!***

**Townhouse Tenants and Ground Floor Apartment Tenants:**

**Snow Removal**

We remind tenants that it is their responsibility to clear snow and/or ice from their driveway and walkway, (unless you live in a designated wheelchair accessible unit.) Please help prevent damages sustained to the concrete, all tenants should use *Ice Melt* on concrete steps and walkways when icy conditions warrant. PLEASE DO NOT APPLY SALT, AS IT WILL DETERIORATE THE CONCRETE.



**Insurance**

**Are you protected?**

Every year there are DRNPHC Tenants who experience a fire or flood that is severe enough that they lose their personal belongings and are liable for damages. However, Tenant Insurance can protect you from these costs. It is a lease requirement that tenants have a Tenant Insurance Policy that covers fire, theft, flood, damage and liability. If you, your family or guests cause damages to your unit or a neighbour's unit, liability insurance may cover these costs. Tenant in receipt of Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Plan, may be eligible to have their Insurance costs covered through these benefits. Please speak with your worker about this option. The Housing Services Corporation (HSC) provides tenant insurance to Ontarians living in social housing. For more information and to apply online, visit <http://tenant.hscorp.ca> or call 1-866-940-5111. HSC provides tenant insurance at reasonable rates and several payment options. Get protected before an unfortunate circumstance happens to you. Discounts may apply for smoke-free units.



## Tenant Association

A tenant association was recently formed at Dryden Heights in Whitby. Way to go!!

A tenant association is a group of tenants who have come together to improve their situation as tenants, often sharing a common goal. A tenant association can include: planning social and recreation activities for the tenants, fundraising for events or BBQ and to bring the tenant community together.

## Health Tips during Flu Season

- Avoid close contact
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your mouth and nose during coughing or sneezing
- Clean your hands
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Practice other good health habits – clean and disinfect surfaces, get plenty of sleep, drink plenty of fluids and eat a nutritious diet.

## Recipe

### Curried Brussels Sprouts



## Ingredients

About 12 Brussels sprouts  
2 cloves finely minced garlic  
2 shallots or ½ medium chopped onion  
3 tablespoons grape seed oil (or any vegetable oil)  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon soy sauce  
1 tablespoon curry powder  
3 tablespoons cream or coconut milk (*Optional*)

## Directions

1. Cut Brussels sprouts into quarters or halves. Separate cut sections from loose leaves. Prepare bowl of ice water. Bring pot of water to boil, add larger sections of Brussels sprouts first. Blanch in hot water for just about 3-5 sections then immediately toss in loose leaves. Stir once, then immediately drain Brussels sprouts, and add to ice bath. Once cooled, remove Brussels Sprouts and blot dry with paper towels.
2. Heat pan, add oil then minced garlic and shallots. Add Brussels sprouts, soy sauce, salt and curry powder, cook for a minute or so. Remember to not over cook. Remove from heat and enjoy!
3. For a creamier option, add about 3 table spoons of coconut milk and cook for an additional 30 seconds.

### **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.

- Please let us know if you need assistance completing your documentation. We are happy to come out to your community to help
- Tenants are reminded to report any changes in their income or occupancy as soon as the change occurs
- If you prefer to send us your documentation electronically, please e-mail them to Debbie Craig at [Debbie.craig@durham-housing.com](mailto:Debbie.craig@durham-housing.com)
- 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.

### **Holiday Assistance**

### **Holiday Hamper Information**

December can be a difficult time for individuals and families. The following are some resources in your community that can assist with food, gift and donations during the holiday season.

#### **SALVATION ARMY**

Major Donette Percy  
75 Liberty St. S.  
Bowmanville, ON L1C 2N8  
Tel: 905-623-2185

Over 300 hampers donated in 2014. Accepting donations Oct 1<sup>st</sup> till Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>, M-T 8-4, Applications require proof of address and income. Servicing Courtice, Bowmanville and Newcastle.

#### **SALVATION ARMY, WHITBY FAMILY SERVICES**

Emily Newbury  
607 Palace St., Unit#1, #2  
Whitby, ON L1N 4H5  
Tel: 905-430-3454

Registration by appointment only starting on Nov 2nd. ID and proof of income required. Accepting food and toy donations anytime 9:30-3:30 M-F.

#### **SIMCOE HALL SETTLEMENT HOUSE**

Lindsay Fryer  
387 Simcoe St. S.  
Oshawa, ON L1H 4J2  
Tel: 905-728-7525

1,100 families supported annually. Registration opened on Nov. 2 and continues until Dec. 4, hours 9:30 – 11:30 and 1:00-3:00 M-F. Non-perishable food and gifts accepted until Christmas Eve.

#### **SALVATION ARMY – HOUSE OF HOPE – AJAX/PICKERING**

37 King's Cres  
Ajax, ON L1S 2L8  
905-427-7123

**Christmas Assistance** registration begins November 2 for month of November Mon-Thu 10 am-12 pm, 1 pm-2:30 pm \* bring ID for each family member, receipt of rent or mortgage, proof of income

## Fun & Games

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Word Search!

To solve, simply complete the Word Search and mail it to 28A Albert Street, Oshawa, ONT L1H8S5 or E-mail to

[drnphc@durham-](mailto:drnphc@durham-housing.com)

[housing.com](mailto:drnphc@durham-housing.com) or deliver in

person to our office for your chance to win a **\$25**

**gift card from Toys R**

**Us.** Winner will be

selected at random on

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 and

named in our next

newsletter.

## Fall Word Search



ACORN  
APPLE  
AUTUMN  
CHESTNUTS  
CHILLY  
CIDER  
COBWEB  
FALL  
FOOTBALL  
GOURD

HALLOWEEN  
HARVEST  
HAY BALE  
HAYRIDE  
LEAVES  
MAIZE  
NOVEMBER  
NUTS  
OCTOBER  
PUMPKIN

QUILT  
RAKE  
SCARECROW  
SEPTEMBER  
SLEET  
THANKSGIVING





## **Raising Our Spirits**

