



**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*

## *Message from the Executive Director*

Canada's long awaited first ever National Housing Strategy was announced on November 22, 2017 and marks the welcome return of the federal government to housing leadership. Highlights included:

- A \$40 billion multi-year strategy.
- The Right to Housing embedded through legislation
- A National Housing Council to guide implementation
- A commitment to repair 300,000 units of social housing
- A commitment to build 100,000 units of new affordable housing
- A commitment to protect 385,000 households living in social housing facing loss of subsidy
- An 11 year, \$2.3 billion renewal of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy.
- A \$4 billion Canada Housing Benefit program to support up to 300,000 Canadians facing housing affordability challenges



At our Dryden Heights apartment site in Whitby, MP Celina Caesar-Chavannes shared details of the National Housing Strategy with a variety of community partners and local elected officials. The many participants are a testament to our collective commitment to improving the housing situation for residents in Durham Region. Stay tuned for news on the delivery on these vital investments to affordable housing.

May you and your loved ones enjoy a safe and happy holiday season!

**Patti Bell**  
Executive Director

**Dan Carter**  
President, Board of Directors

2014-2018 Board  
of Directors



President  
Dan Carter

Regional Chair  
Roger Anderson

Vice President  
Bob Chapman

Councillor  
Nester Pidwerbecki

Councillor  
Joe Neal

Mayor of Uxbridge  
Gerri Lynn O'Connor

Councillor  
David Pickles

**Holiday Office Hours**

Friday, December 22 – **Open 8:30-12:00 Noon**

Monday, December 25 – **CLOSED**

Tuesday, December 26 – **CLOSED**

Wednesday, December 27 – **Open 8:30am - 4:30pm**

Thursday, December 28 – **Open 8:30am – 4:30pm**

**Winter Safety Tips**

**Stay safe indoors**

Winter is a busy season for fires in Canada. That's why it's important to be mindful of fire prevention and safety. Make sure you have working smoke alarms

**Check your family emergency kit**

You likely have some basic emergency kit items already in your home, such as a flashlight, battery-operated radio, food, water and blankets. The key is to make sure they are organized, easy to find and easy to carry (in a suitcase with wheels or in a backpack) in case you need to evacuate your home.

**Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle**

Prepare an emergency kit and keep it in your vehicle. Refresh the supplies for winter. For example, add an extra blanket or new food items



## Life Hacks

- When travelling place a bar of scented soap in your luggage to keep your clothes fresh. You can also do this at home by placing it in your drawers and closets.
- Wrap a wet paper towel around your beverage and put it in the freezer. In about 15 minutes it will almost be completely ice cold.
- Use nail polish to identify different keys.
- Put old newspaper at the bottom of your garbage to absorb juices.
- Cut open toilet paper rolls and use as a cuff to save your wrapping paper and keep it from unrolling.
- Place your phone in a glass to amplify the speaker. Use for music or for you alarm.
- Got a headache? Take a lime, cut it in half and rub it on your forehead. The throbbing should go away.

### Helpful Tip

Bees can't see you if you aren't moving!

## Friendly Neighbour Tips & Advice

There's no question that most of us would prefer to live in a friendly, peaceful neighbourhood where everybody gets along with each other and goes out of their way to one another. It doesn't take too much effort on your part to ensure that your experience of living within your own neighbourhood is more pleasurable than miserable. Most of us are already carrying out some of the tips below and often without even knowing it.

### Noise levels

Excessive noise of all types is always one of the biggest sources of complaints and grumbling about a particular neighbour. Therefore be sensitive to the noise you generate within your own household and respectful of neighbours nearby. Things like Barking Dogs, loud music and TV systems, parties, DIY projects and the like all need to be considered. Try to keep home entertainment systems away from partitioned walls and bear in mind your noise levels at certain times of the day and, of course, at night, when people are more sensitive about excessive noise levels.

### You Get Back What You Give Out

Everybody needs a little help now and again. It may be a car engine which has stalled and the owner needs a little push to get it started, or you're asked to take in a parcel on behalf of a neighbour who's out at work. It could be any kind of small favour actually. However, the more you give out, the more you'll get back. If people find you friendly, helpful, considerate and approachable, you're far more likely to receive a similar response from them. Don't forget the old adage "the more you look out for people, the more they'll look out for you."



## Holiday Hangers

### Material:

Popsicle sticks  
Paint (Colours of your choice)  
Glue  
Buttons/Sparkles/Gems  
Yarn/Twine

### Instructions:

Paint popsicle sticks and glue together. Glue popsicle sticks together to make a star or snowman. Glue on buttons, sparkles, gems if you are making a star. Glue twine or yarn to the top of the star. Hang and enjoy!



## DIY Holiday Crafts

### Instructions:

1. Cut off and discard foot portion of white tube sock. Turn the tube inside out and wrap a rubber band tightly around the bottom (where foot portion was attached). Turn the tube right side out so rubber band is inside the sock.
2. Fill sock with rice, pushing it down into sock as you fill. Fill sock until it stretches and is plump. Wrap a rubber band around the open end.
3. Cut off heel and toe from one decorative ankle sock. Cut off heel of other ankle sock. Pull the sock without the heel and toe over the snowman; center it on snowman for a sweater. Squeeze the snowman body at the lower edge of sweater, pushing the rice down to create a solid base. Tie a piece of twine or ribbon around the bottom of the sweater. Repeat, squeezing snowman and tying with twine at the top of the sweater if desired.
4. Place the sock without the heel on top of snowman for a hat. Tie a twine bow around the toe end of sock. Hot-glue a button or other embellishment to the hat if desired. Hot-glue small buttons on head for eyes and, if desired, on sweater.
5. Cut off the pointed end of a wooden skewer and paint it orange; let dry. Hot-glue point to the head for a nose.



## Holiday Dressing

### Ingredients

- 3/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1 pound day old bread
- 2 1/2 cups chopped onions
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 2 1/2 cups chicken broth (low sodium) divided
- 2 large eggs

### Directions

Preheat oven to 250°F. Scatter bread in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet. Bake, stirring occasionally. Let cool; transfer to a very large bowl. Meanwhile, melt 3/4 cup butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat; add onions and celery. Stir often until just beginning to brown, about 10 minutes. Add to bowl with bread; stir in herbs, salt, and pepper. Drizzle in 1 1/4 cups broth and toss gently. Let cool. Preheat oven to 350°F. Whisk 1 1/4 cups broth and eggs in a small bowl. Add to bread mixture; fold gently until thoroughly combined. Transfer to prepared dish, cover with foil, and bake until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the center of dressing registers 160°F, about 40 minutes. DO add 10-15 minutes).



## Magic Bars

### Ingredients

- 3/4 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- 2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon fine salt
- 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting
- One 11-ounce bag caramels, pieces unwrapped
- Nonstick cooking spray, for spraying the spoon
- 1 cup mini semisweet chocolate chips



### Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line a 9-inch square baking pan with aluminum foil, leaving about a 2-inch overhang on 2 sides. Spread the coconut in a single layer on a baking sheet and set aside. Beat the butter, vanilla and salt with an electric mixer on medium speed in a large bowl until smooth and creamy. Add the confectioners' sugar and mix on low until just incorporated. Beat in the flour in 2 batches to make a smooth dough. Lightly flour your hands and press the dough into the prepared baking pan. Bake the shortbread until the edges are firm and the top is dry, 28 to 30 minutes. Top the shortbread with the caramels in an even layer. Return to the oven along with the baking sheet of coconut and cook, tossing the coconut once, until the caramels are melted and the coconut is golden, about 10 minutes. Spray the back of a spoon with cooking spray and use it to spread the caramel all over the shortbread. Sprinkle with the chocolate and let sit until the chips are melted, about 5 minutes. Sprinkle with the toasted coconut and let cool completely, about 1 hour. Using the foil overhang as handles, lift the shortbread out of the pan and cut into 12 pieces. Serve and Enjoy!!

## Fun & Games

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### Word Search!

To solve, simply complete the Word Search and mail it to 28A Albert Street, Oshawa, ON L1H8S5 or E-mail to [drnphc@durham-housing.com](mailto:drnphc@durham-housing.com) or deliver in person to our office for your chance to win a **\$25 gift card**. The Winner will be announced in our next newsletter!



**Congratulations to Sonya M. the winner from our last newsletter!!**

## WINTER WORD SEARCH



### WORDS TO FIND:

- |          |           |              |
|----------|-----------|--------------|
| BLIZZARD | BOOTS     | CHILLY       |
| COLD     | FIREPLACE | FROSTY       |
| FROZEN   | GIVING    | GLOVES       |
| HAT      | HOLIDAYS  | HOTCHOCOLATE |
| ICE      | ICESKATE  | ICICLE       |
| MITTENS  | PINETREE  | SCARF        |
| SNOW     | SNOWBALL  | SNOWFLAKE    |
| SNOWMAN  | SNOWSUIT  | WIND         |
| WINTER   |           |              |

**Good Luck!!!**