



Chalmers
Neighbourhood
Renewal CORPORATION


Neighbourhood Celebration & 3rd Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, September 23rd, 2015

5:30 pm -7:30 pm

Elmwood EK Active Living Centre,
180 Poplar Ave.

“Dedicated to connecting people and
opportunity to build a safe, welcoming,
and supportive community.”



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Message from the CNRC Chairperson

September 2015

I am excited to say that today marks our 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (CNRC). We are proud of CNRC's role in continuously making Chalmers area a growing and vibrant community.

We are half way into our 5 year plan in the Chalmers community. Some of our initiatives that have been implemented and very successful include: strengthening several area partnerships, Better Access to Groceries (BAG), Farmer's Market, and various special events such as Happy Days on Henderson!

In this past year, our Chalmers Housing Plan also got its feet off the ground with surveys, collected data, working with landlords, homeowners and renters. We will continue to work toward a better Housing Plan in the upcoming years.

Chalmers Community Renewal Initiative (CCRI) has been created by CNRC to administer its programs that are considered non-charitable in nature such as grants. The CCRI partnership with Neighbourhoods Alive! has established a Small Grant Fund (SGF) with maximum project amount of \$2500.00. In this past year CCRI helped support 12 SGF projects. Deadline for this year's project applications is October 15, 2015. Please feel free to call if you have any ideas you would like to discuss.

A very special thanks to the commitment and contributions of our board members: Stormie, Lorraine, Leilani, Holly, Cath, Dee, Liz, John, Con, Nina, Edgar and Becky. We also enjoyed having two Elmwood students who attended our meetings. Bonnie and Sara gave us great input on the neighbourhood.

It has been truly an honour to chair the CNRC board once again this past year. I continue to learn so much!

Kindest Regards,

*Theresa Tougas
Chairperson, Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation*



CNRC & Neighbourhood Renewal Overview

Neighbourhoods Alive! (“NA!”) is Manitoba’s long-term, social and economic strategy launched in 2000 to support and encourage community-driven revitalization efforts in designated neighbourhoods and communities within Manitoba.

NA!’s designated communities generally have common issues, including high rates of poverty, unemployment and crime, and often, a lack of family support, recreation, affordable housing and economic opportunities. The Chalmers neighbourhood in the broader Winnipeg community of Elmwood is one of NA!’s designated communities.



As a primary funder, NA! has worked with CNRC to identify specific objectives that are designed to revitalize the Chalmers neighbourhood and foster a healthy community through the creation of a 5 Year Neighbourhood Plan for Chalmers (the “5 Year Plan”).

The planning objectives in the 5 Year Plan provide a focus on efforts to:

- Improve neighbourhood capacity/ empowerment - as measured by:
 - increased participation of local stakeholders in renewal efforts
 - complimentary funding leveraged
 - greater residential stability
- Improve housing conditions - as measured by:
 - physical improvements to housing in the area
 - development of affordable housing units
 - increased housing values/ investment and promotion of homeownership
- Increase economic development activity - as measured by:
 - labour market participation rates
 - job creation, training/ employment preparation
 - adult education opportunities
 - sustaining or development of small business and/or social enterprise
- Improve safety conditions - as measured by:
 - reductions in crime including fires/arson
 - improved security measures such as street lighting and home security
 - greater perception of safety
- Increase access to recreation and wellness opportunities - as measured by:
 - improvements to parks and green space, play structures and other community recreation facilities
 - increased recreational programming and affordability including equipment and transportation









Background - Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation ("CNRC")

Since 2010, extensive planning efforts dedicated to 'renewal and revitalization' have been fully underway with residents and stakeholders in the Chalmers neighbourhood located within the community of Elmwood.

Initially, steps were put in place by Neighbourhoods Alive! representatives and members of the Neighbourhood Advisory Committee in Chalmers (NACC). In September 2013, the transition was completed to NA! renewal corporation status with the creation of the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (CNRC) and confirmation of the CNRC Board and 5 Year Neighbourhood Plan.

Citizen engagement and public participation has represented a primary focus in the wide range of engagement strategies that were utilized in both developing and implementing the 5 Year Plan.

As of the 2011 Census, the neighbourhood of Chalmers consists of over 9,500 residents which is highlighted by a significant percentage of Newcomer Canadian, Aboriginal populations and residents under the age of 30 years old. In addressing the development of 5 Year Plan, the various objectives and priorities have been guided by a series of 'neighbourhood lenses' as identified by residents and stakeholders and interpreted with the following descriptions:

-  **IDENTITY** : changing the perceptions of a unique Chalmers neighbourhood in the broader community of Elmwood
-  **OPPORTUNITY**: addressing issues related to poverty with innovative solutions
-  **INCREASING EXPECTATIONS**: raising the baseline for basic standard of services
-  **COMMUNITY PROFILE**: a focus on children, youth, young families, Newcomer Canadian and Aboriginal populations
-  **A FEELING OF SAFETY**: throughout all aspects of living within the neighbourhood
-  **CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT**: connecting to people, places and services

In addressing the implementation of our 5 Year Plan for Chalmers we will continue to seek commentary from the community and stakeholders. Our two-way communication efforts include ongoing 'face to face' dialogue at a number of neighbourhood meetings/special events and on-line at chalmersrenewal.org along with the Facebook page Chalmersrenewal.

CNRC also has an Annual Action Plan that is a working document that is intended to provide guidance and direction on a day to day basis for CNRC as an organization in supporting the implementation of the 5 Year Plan. The 5 Year Plan for Chalmers and CNRC Annual Action Plan are both presented in detail at chalmersrenewal.org



CNRC ACTIVITIES

The six priority areas confirmed by the neighbourhood are: Safety, Recreation/Greening, Community Services, Community Connections, Health/Wellness and Housing.

The following is a general description of current CNRC's activities and programs that relate to the 5 Year Neighbourhood and Annual Action Plan.

PRIORITY: Community Services/Connections

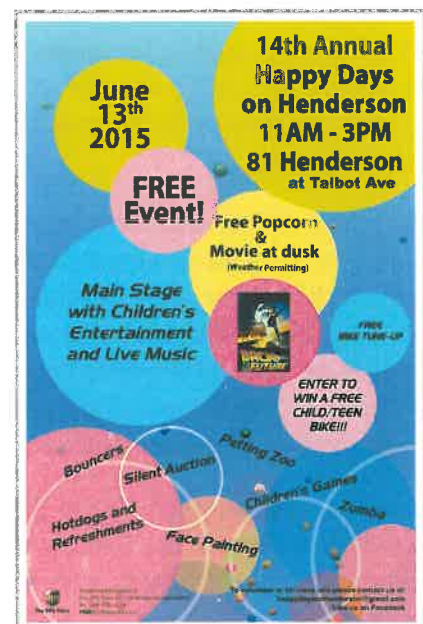
Many families within the Chalmers neighbourhood and broader Elmwood community benefit from the provision of special events throughout the year. These special events include access to food, refreshments, social experiences, valuable community resources and enhanced mental wellness.

Various special event examples include: Happy Days on Henderson; Take Pride Canada; Holiday Season dinners/breakfasts; Elmwood Winter Carnival; Community Barbeques.

CNRC plays primary leadership roles in planning and implementing special events. For many other events where the organizational leadership is provided by individual schools, parent councils, faith community representatives and community organizations, CNRC is also included on the planning and organizing committee because of our interest, community connections and ongoing involvement with events.

The special events provided in our community of Chalmers are loads of free, family fun, well received and extremely well attended! Because of these successes, it is anticipated that these special events will be carried on indefinitely.

The events represent both tremendous opportunities for developing neighbourhood connections and improving community image and pride. The events are also viewed as providing the potential for residents to contribute to their neighbourhood and enhance employment readiness and personal skills.



Working in close partnership with the Kildonan MCC Thrift Shop (KMTS), CNRC is helping to provide better access to nutritious food including fresh, quality and low cost fruits and vegetables for neighbourhood residents by coordinating the bi-weekly Farmers Market Experience in Chalmers.

The Market supports healthy nutrition while promoting community development and healthy eating alternatives. Vendors are not charged a fee for their table access at the market and in return they have all agreed to align with guiding principles around affordability. This ensures that low income residents benefit from product prices that are below regular retail and other Farmers Market price points.

The seasonal Farmers Market Experience was established with the hosting of two events on Saturday, September 13 and Saturday, September 20, 2014. The success of these events resulted in a spring indoor event on May 24, 2015 and a schedule of outdoor markets for June - September 2015.

Each Farmers Market is coordinated primarily by CNRC and KTMS representatives and supported by various agencies and organizations.

KTMS is responsible for overall market leadership, organization and direction including vendor administration and product approval. CNRC is primary responsible for coordinating community leadership, interest and involvement.

Together, KTMS and CNRC chair the planning meetings which involve partners such as Chalmers Community Center, Elmwood Community Resource Center, City of Winnipeg, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Elmwood East Kildonan Active Living Center and Together in Elmwood Coalition. Shared leadership is provided on a variety of operational tasks including: Site preparation and clean-up, community promotions, volunteer recruitment, vendor relations, safety and evaluation.

The two trial markets from September 2014, the May 24th pre-season indoor event and the six market events conducted so far in 2015 have been well received and attended. A strong demand and desire to have fresh fruits and vegetables available in the Chalmers neighbourhood has been clearly demonstrated. As a result, it is anticipated that the initiative will continue to grow indefinitely.



Kildonan MCC
Farmers Market



The Chalmers neighbourhood benefits from the opportunity to participate within skill building or employment readiness training experiences supported by CNRC which include: First Aid, CPR, Mental Wellness, Food Handlers Certification, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (training to address personal or group crisis situations where safety is an issue), Automated External Defibrillation, Diversity and Inter Cultural Training, Disability Awareness or Triple P Family Education.

CNRC is involved in partner promotion and delivery of workshops in collaboration with various partners including Chalmers CC, Together In Elmwood Parent & Child Coalition, Elmwood EK Active Living Center, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and others. Training opportunities are scheduled on a quarterly basis at different locations within the Chalmers community.

It is intended that these training opportunities will continue to be offered indefinitely as it provides people with life and employment skills. Training opportunities are offered at low cost or no cost to neighbourhood residents and stakeholder members.

CNRC is proud to work closely with Frontier College and other community partners to offer a wide variety of literacy programs, including family literacy workshops, afterschool homework clubs, 1to1 and smallgroup tutoring (for children, youth and adults), reading circles, reading tents, and summer literacy camps. Frontier College programs are free and open to everyone in working with families, children, youth, adults, Newcomers and Aboriginal communities.



Literacy:
Learning for Life.

L'alphabétisation,
Une leçon pour la vie.

Working with CNRC and other supports, Frontier College is working to sustain community-based literacy programming for vulnerable populations in Chalmers. This is being accomplished through the presence of a local literacy catalyst who recruits and train volunteers, maintains consistency in the community and builds trust with local residents and networks.

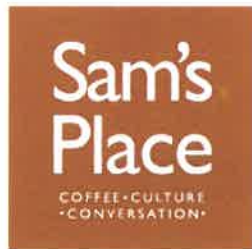
Over the past three years, in partnership with local schools (Lord Selkirk, Polson and Elmwood High) and service providers such as Elmwood EK Active Living Center, Chalmers Community Center and Elmwood Community Resource Center, Frontier College and CNRC have developed a structure of literacy support that addresses the needs and interests of participating learners and partners, as well as the strategic priorities of the Chalmers neighbourhood.

Overall, Frontier College has piloted summer literacy camps, year-round literacy programming, and family literacy workshops in Chalmers since 2012 with assistance from the NA! Neighbourhood



Renewal Fund. During the first three years, Frontier College's literacy initiatives in Chalmers, developed with local schools and partner organizations, have generated positive relations with the support of CNRC. After-school programming has reached 131 children. Family literacy workshops have reached 202 parents and 145 children. Summer literacy camps have been attended by over 150 children. Overall, 992 books have been distributed in the community through after-school programs, 973 through workshops, and 740 through summer literacy camps.

Frontier College works with CNRC representatives, volunteers and community partners to give people the skills and confidence they need to reach their potential and contribute to society. Frontier College is a national leader in the field of literacy founded in 1899 and they have developed the organizational capacity to successfully deliver literacy supports in Chalmers. Due to the successes to-date, it is anticipated that the programs and partner relations will continue indefinitely between CNRC and Frontier College. Frontier College's organizational capacity and community-based philosophy is strengthened by the strong partnership network fostered by CNRC. The positive results to-date, support the successful continuation of this valued partnership.



Sam's Place, located at the corner of Henderson Highway and Gordon Ave coordinates 'The Youth Engagement and Skills Development' program for youth and young adults between the ages of 14 and 24.

The program focus is particularly with those of Aboriginal descent, newly immigrated to Canada, or of a low socio-economic status from within Chalmers. The purpose of this program is to assist youth and young adults in addressing socio-economic barriers to employment.

Through vocational training, mentoring, and relationship building, the program helps youth gain skills and confidence so as to successfully transition into the workforce. The Youth Engagement and Skills Development Coordinator, along with other volunteer mentors, works alongside youth volunteers to help them improve on work-related skills, while also increasing their sense of self-worth and confidence.

Sam's Place is a well-known local venue providing services within the Chalmers neighbourhood including a socially conscious bookstore, café and venue for local musicians and artists. Sam's Place aims to be a positive and encouraging environment that provides a place of belonging and community for youth and young adults.

'The Youth Engagement and Skills Development' program is conducted by Sam's Place and receives financial support from Neighbourhoods Alive! (NA!) Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. NA! is the primary funding body in support of all Manitoba Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations including Chalmers. Over the last few years, NA! have helped to foster this working relationship between CNRC and Sam's Place.



The relationship with CNRC and representatives/program participants from Sam's Place includes the following:

- ❖ serving as a host venue for informal and scheduled meetings, focus groups, consultations and presentations
- ❖ providing food services for meetings and community sessions
- ❖ actively promoting community initiatives
- ❖ representation at various local special events such as Happy Days on Henderson, Farmers Market and Take Pride Canada
- ❖ recruitment/provision of local musicians and entertainment for special events
- ❖ partnering on initiatives such as the installation of neighbourhood bike racks unique to the Chalmers neighbourhood

It is anticipated that the working relationships between CNRC, Sam's Place and the community will continue to grow and develop in support of Chalmers.



The Together in Elmwood: Parent & Child Coalition (TIE) is a network of organizations and individuals working together towards the best possible outcomes for children. This is accomplished by supporting families in the diverse areas of the Elmwood community including Chalmers. TIE provides active leadership in offering community members a wide range of free workshops, training, seminars and programs such as TIE TYKES. The Guiding Principles for all services are: Nutrition and Healthy Living, Learning Literacy and Language, Positive Parenting and Community Capacity Building.

Under the Guiding Principles, TIE provides extensive services in partnership with various agencies. Many of their programs and services take place at central neighbourhood locations including Elmwood EK Active Living Center and Chalmers Community Center. TIE currently has a list of over 350 families and it continues to grow every year.

TIE's highest priority is to ensure that all programs are provided at no cost and are accessible to all. TIE and the CNRC have established a very strong and sustainable working relationship which includes:

- Representation from CNRC on the TIE Coalition Executive
- TIE and CNRC collaboration along with other area partners in the delivery of specific initiatives including Happy Days on Henderson, MPI Car Seat Clinics, Elmwood Winter Carnival at Clara Hughes Park, Community Training, Better Access to Groceries and the Farmers Market experience to name a few.



•TIE representing an important platform for communicating initiatives and services that the CNRC provides to the Chalmers community.



TIE is currently sustainable through the extensive partnerships which are in place with the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres, Healthy Child Manitoba, Neighbourhood's Alive! and the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation.

PRIORITY: Housing Activities

As part of the Winnipeg Rental Network (WRN) Outreach Worker program, CNRC is addressing the need to strengthen tenancies and relations for both landlords and renters. WRN is a network of public, private and community based organizations that address issues related to poverty by improving accessibility to affordable rental accommodations. The ability to secure affordable housing is a primary issue for many Chalmers residents looking to rent.

CNRC has established a strong partner relationship with WRN in support of the Chalmers residents. The CNRC involvement with the WRN Outreach worker program involves:

- ❖ the establishment of a landlord data base for Chalmers which provides a valuable means for ongoing communication
- ❖ maintenance and update of landlord data base within the Chalmers community
- ❖ effective use of the compiled landlord information to promote available programs, resources and the landlord listing service
- ❖ distributing material that promotes best practices for both landlords and tenants.



Both the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation and the Winnipeg Rental Network are guided by similar mandates and interests in addressing issues related to housing. All community members will be eligible to participate within these valuable opportunities at no cost and are provided with the invitation to register and be included.

In 2015, CNRC was successful in receiving funding supports from the City of Winnipeg to enable the organization to realize the creation of a Chalmers Neighbourhood Housing Plan. Supported by Bridgman Architecture as our housing specialists, the associated community consultation process between spring and fall 2015, has increased the awareness and helped identify solutions concerning housing issues and resources.

The result will be the creation of a 1-3-5 year Chalmers Housing Plan that is being reviewed as part of the CNRC annual general meeting. Final CNRC Board adoption of the Chalmers Housing Plan will take place in October 2015 and work will continue locally on the various goals and recommended actions.



CNRC will be the primary steward of the Chalmers Housing Plan but it remains confident in the supports that will be provided by many local partners. Similar to the experiences in other neighbourhood renewal corporation areas, CNRC will propose to hire a Housing Coordinator who will work with the neighbourhood guided by the Housing

Plan goals and action items. The Housing Plan will be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis.

CHALMERS NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING PLAN

"Nourishing Potential"



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Following the completion of the Chalmers Housing Plan, CNRC plans to offer home maintenance workshops within the neighbourhood in combination with the Community Home Improvement Initiative process.

The program would be featured exclusively within the boundaries of the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation. Basic housing repair and maintenance workshops would be provided to interested residents. Providing educational based training would be a priority for establishing this program. It is anticipated that CNRC will be



able to secure home hardware business supports to assist in the delivery of this initiative. The program will be piloted on a two year basis and evaluated annually to determine the duration of this initiative.

PRIORITY: Safety



‘The Refuge’ is a collection of programs that respond to the needs of women in the community of Elmwood. Coordinated by Riverwood Community Church in the Chalmers neighbourhood, it is a mentor based program that provides both open and closed support groups based on different circumstances and needs.

‘The Refuge’ offers general support to young moms and specific group supports to women dealing with domestic violence and addiction issues.

‘The Refuge’ programming opportunities are carried out at various locations operated by Riverwood Church within the Chalmers neighbourhood including 257 Riverton Ave and 325 Talbot Ave. The Refuge programming is primarily designed to assist women in the Chalmers neighbourhood and broader community of Elmwood in meeting basic needs, providing advocacy, crisis counselling and safety planning. The focus is women in domestic violent relationships and providing resources for women who have addiction issues. Programs are coordinated by staff and volunteers from Riverwood Church and include a variety of resource specialists. Examples of particular programming include:

- ❖ Mom’s Crisis Support Group, Beyond Abuse, Addictions Support, The Recovering Body and Education Study Group

‘The Refuge’ program is conducted by Riverwood Church and receives financial support from Neighbourhoods Alive! (NA!) through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. NA! is the primary funding body in support of all neighbourhood based Manitoba Renewal Corporations including Chalmers. Over the last few years, NA! supports have helped to foster this working relationship between CNRC and Riverwood Church.

The relationship with CNRC and representatives/program participants from Riverwood Church includes the following:

- ❖ Ongoing dialogue related to shared mandates and plans for the community to determine where partnership opportunities exist
- ❖ Input from organization and Riverwood participants with Chalmers Housing Plan development
- ❖ shared promotions of activities which benefit residents within the Chalmers neighbourhood
- ❖ promotions and referrals to ‘The Refuge’ opportunities with Chalmers agencies and residents



The Refuge and other Riverwood sponsored programs respond directly to many Chalmers Neighbourhood Plan priority objectives such as improved neighbourhood capacity and empowerment and improved safety conditions including a greater perception of safety for individuals and families. As a result, the ongoing working relations between Riverwood, CNRC and other community partners will continue to provide tremendous benefits for Chalmers area residents.

Beautify Elmwood is a local neighbourhood initiative comprised of area stakeholders, residents and business interests which continue to meet regularly: To improve the physical appearance/perceptions related to the Chalmers area; To work collaboratively for the enhancement and safety of the neighbourhood *and* To identify community based issues and strategies that are reflective of the CNRC 5 Year Plan.

Signature bike rack installations were completed, area flower box developments continued in 2015 & interests remain in a potential Fruit Orchard development in Ernie O'Dowda Park. Light Up Elmwood signs were distributed to about 40 neighbourhood businesses and stakeholders and support remains extensive for the potential of addressing abandoned local properties such as the former Petro Canada location at 243 Henderson.

PRIORITY: Recreation and Greening

The Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club after school program in Chalmers at Polson School is well known in the neighbourhood and has extensive community support. The importance of after school programming for the children in Chalmers remains of vital importance.

The program is scheduled during the school year at Polson School as an after school program three times per week. The Polson After School program is a free neighbourhood initiative that engages children and youth, ages 8-18, in positive, supervised recreation activities. The program provides a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers associated with poverty, develop confidence and build positive relationships.

Boys and Girls Club are the primary delivery mechanism for the programs. CNRC provides in-kind support through promotions, awareness and education. CNRC maintains its primary contacts through the Polson school administration and parent council. CNRC works directly with Polson School in providing equipment and supplies for participation within the annual barbeque and to promote other special event opportunities within the Chalmers neighbourhood.

It is anticipated that the programming provided by Winnipeg Boys and Girls Clubs will remain sustainable for the Chalmers community with the assistance of Neighbourhoods Alive! Funding supports.



The various Urban Green Teams were actively involved with support from CNRC in making “greening” contributions to the community again this past year. Watering the Beautify Elmwood flower boxes, installing sod in the first phase of site renewal at 180 Poplar, maintaining area yards, keeping the Community Gardens area tidy, supporting special events and preparing the grounds for the outdoor Farmer’s Markets are just a few examples where the Urban Green Team members are really working together with organizations to make a difference in our community!



The Elmwood Community Gardens committee continues to be supported by CNRC in both improving the existing gardens and creating new opportunities. An exciting development in 2015 was the involvement of the Urban Eatin’s “Green Thumb” Program in our community. Urban Eatin’ was a winner of The Co-operators’ \$25,000 National Co-op Challenge which allowed them to invest in neighbourhood gardens in 2015 - Chalmers was one of the four selected neighbourhoods! Partnering with CNRC, Urban Eatin’ was able to offer numerous gardening workshops, skill sharing activities and community garden developments and maintenance at six different neighbourhood locations. Sharing knowledge and expertise at area special events, providing full service rain barrels including installation and composters as prize giveaways and offering design tips were also a big part of Urban Eatin’s contributions this year. CNRC looks forward to continuing this relationship in 2016 and beyond.

Areas of the Elmwood community such as Chalmers “have significantly higher rates of recent immigrants (43%) compared to the overall Winnipeg average”. CNRC is actively promoting opportunities for social inclusion and newcomer community involvement by partnering with several agencies and initiatives.

The programs, special events and services are carried out in a variety of facilities throughout the Chalmers neighbourhood including Riverwood Church, parks locations, Elmwood EK Active Living Center, Elmwood Community Resource Center, East End Leisure and Cultural Center, Elmwood Winter Club, Clara Hughes Recreation Park, Elmwood High School, Lord Selkirk school, Chalmers Community Center, Kildonan MCC Thrift Shop, Christian Family Center and Community of Hope.

CNRC will continue its role in promoting various recreation and wellness based activities for children, youth and families going forward.



A sampling and summary of various other initiatives which include CNRC supports are outlined below:

STATUS4 - conducted by the Status4 organization and hosted at a community recreation center on Larsen Ave. The initiative has a primary target age group of 10 to 17 years and offers after school programming that includes group guitar lessons, tae kwon do, song writing and studio recording. CNRC has worked directly with this organization in providing promotions and presentations to advertise the program in Chalmers and has supported the approval of funding assistance from the NA! Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

TIE TYKES - TIE Tykes is an extremely successful program coordinated by the Together in Elmwood Parent and Child Coalition. The program meets the need of providing free pre school services for community caregivers and children in the Chalmers neighbourhood. Participant statistics and demographics indicate a significant involvement of newcomer Canadian residents. CNRC works in a strong partner relationship with TIE Tykes and supports the NA! assistance provided through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

FAMILY SPORTS NIGHT - Chalmers CC offers the Family Sports Night opportunity twice weekly at a facility in the centre of the Chalmers neighbourhood. Participation levels are reflective of the large newcomer Canadian populations who reside in the extensive apartment block and Manitoba Housing locations in close proximity to Chalmers CC.

SALNAM - This local neighbourhood group representing the Sierra Leone community has had a local involvement in the Chalmers neighbourhood. CNRC has provided support for workshops, focus groups, food and facilitators to conduct consultations with their participants. Next to the community of St. Vital, it is reported that Elmwood is the second largest community with newcomer Canadian participants from Sierra Leone.

GOAL - An adult literacy program which is offered at 75 Brazier by the Elmwood Community Resource Center. CNRC has engaged this programming group, which highlights many new Canadian participants in training sessions, consultations/focus groups, special events and cooking experiences at other nearby sites and facilities.

YEAR - The Youth in Elmwood Art and Recreation program is another important Elmwood Community Resource Centre program that is viewed as vital to the neighbourhood by CNRC. Strong working relations exist with the supervisors, leaders and youth participants of the YEAR program as CNRC encourages an awareness and involvement with special events, leadership opportunities and various programs, services or initiatives in Chalmers.

ORQUIDANZAS - A South American based dance and drama group who have utilized the facility at 180 Poplar for regular practice sessions and Elmwood High School for hosting family productions twice a year. The children, youth, parents of participants and other extended family members have been proud to promote their South American heritage in song, drama and dance productions. CNRC has been an active sponsor of the Orquidanza group in providing practice space, shared promotions, food supplies, permits, access and awareness to funding opportunities and rental space for hosting special event productions.



PRIORITY: Health & Wellness

The Elmwood Community Recreation Review (completed in 2012-13) continues to be utilized as a planning resource document to guide development and represents input and involvement from area residents, stakeholders, the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centers, individual Centers and numerous service providers.

The primary strategy relates to increased opportunities for children, youth, families and older active residents in terms of innovative programming, assessment of activities to maximize participation levels, providing input on site improvements at existing facilities, creating safe, unstructured play experiences and identifying potential green space enhancements. In 2015, the proposed Chalmers Community Centre master plan for development was shared for neighbourhood feedback and dialogue continued with the City in terms of improvements at East End Cultural and Leisure Centre.

The Elmwood EK Active Living Center (EEKALC) is a non-profit organization that serves seniors in Chalmers and the overall Elmwood community. Over 40 years the organization has evolved from its early beginnings as a Retired Citizens Association and then a Seniors Association before moving to its current broader approach as an active living centre with a multi-generational and community focus.

EEKALC is working directly with CNRC on developing programs and services for residents within the Chalmers neighbourhood. Part of this work includes the development of a 1-3-5 year Strategic Plan that will involve all partners in an exciting new community model and approach to daily operations. CNRC supports the three main Strategic Priorities which are: Forward - Looking Accountable Governance; Managed Growth and Enhanced Neighbourhood Engagement and Outreach.

As the primary facility partner at 180 Poplar, CNRC has developed a strong and effective working relationship with EEKALC. This includes: Hosting sessions, consultations and focus groups, Advocating on behalf of seniors and the organization, Providing expertise, guidance and direction, Acting as part of steering committee for developing facility leadership, Shared promotions, advertising, resource sharing, Helping secure other partners and assistance, Assisting with scheduling and operations, Partnering on various initiatives including the Strategic Plan.

The working relationship has continued to grow and expand between CNRC and EEKALC. As the Strategic Plan and new operational model becomes established it is anticipated that the partnership will carry on indefinitely in support of the Chalmers neighbourhood.

Elmwood - East Kildonan Active Living Center



Seniors Helping Seniors and their Community



CNRC supports and values the promotion and implementation of Active Transportation programming initiatives and infrastructure developments connected to the North East Pioneer Greenway (NPG) which represents the eastern boundary of our Chalmers neighbourhood.

CNRC remains dedicated to foster active relations and encourage Active Transportation benefits for the community. These relations include the River East Network Trails Committee, Bike Winnipeg, Manitoba Public Insurance, the Cycle program, Headingly Jail bike repair program, Winnipeg Bike Valet, the Plenary Group, Sport for Life and City of Winnipeg.

At the 2015 Happy Days on Henderson event 26 bikes for Happy Days on Henderson were donated by the Headingly Correctional Centre and the new helmets were donated by the Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council. The Elmwood High School CYCLE program donated 6 bikes. The CYCLE program is part of the River East Neighbourhood Network (RENN) and supported by WRENCH. They receive funding from a number of organization including Neighbourhoods Alive!

Existing breakfast clubs and lunch programs in the schools within the Chalmers community are highly valued by CNRC. Schools such as Polson, Lord Selkirk and River Elm offer breakfast clubs that provide before school nutrition to children in need and also offer supervised lunch programming at the school.

These programs are conducted and coordinated by school representatives but feature a wide range of partner supports from area stakeholders including parent councils, non-profit agencies, businesses and the faith community.

CNRC has members involved in the operation of the breakfast clubs and lunch programs. Although CNRC has no direct expenditures involved with operating the breakfast clubs and lunch programs, in-kind supports are provided as follows:

- Providing promotions that increase awareness within the community about the availability of these services
- Encouraging volunteer supports from CNRC resident members and Board representatives

Breakfast Clubs and School lunch programs have been a standard part of operations for many years within the Chalmers neighbourhood. This service will remain an important part of the neighbourhood requirements when one considers the area demographics.



CNRC provides representation on the Healthy Together Now (HTN) Winnipeg Regional Health Authority committee for promoting the benefits of healthy nutrition and eating alternatives.

Healthy Together Now (HTN) is a community-led, regionally coordinated, grass roots program designed to help prevent chronic disease in Manitoba. River East based community initiatives (including Chalmers) are focused on preventative activities within four pillars: healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco reduction and mental well being.

HTN strives to engage the highest need populations, families and communities such as Chalmers by utilizing a community development approach for increasing skills, knowledge and individual capacity.

Each HTN program initiative takes place at a variety of neighbourhood locations including schools, community centers & facilities, agencies and faith based locations. Leadership for particular initiatives is provided by community planning groups.

CNRC provides a variety of significant leadership to HTN as follows:

- ❖ As one of the community representatives on the organizing committee responsible for reviewing all submissions, setting project eligibility, criteria, terms of reference and determining promotional requirements including presentations and brochures
- ❖ CNRC representative involvement on the planning committees as part of the community based partnership teams. An example of this would be the Elmwood Winter Carnival held at Clara Hughes Recreation Park. This CNRC involvement can include chairing meetings, recruiting resident volunteers, providing promotional supports, securing facility and grounds access or facilitating relationships and partnerships for assisting the project initiatives.

In other HTN supported activities such as the HAPPY DAYS ON HENDERSON annual special event, CNRC assumes a primary leadership role in delivering the initiative. While encouraging and including the input/involvement of many community partners, the CNRC role includes:

- Co-chairing the event, monthly meetings and co-host of entertainment stage
- Providing equipment and supplies like tents, tables, chairs, sound systems and stages
- Securing partnerships for assisting with the project
- Coordinating promotions such as posters, advertisements and signage
- Recruiting and Coordinating volunteers



- o **Assisting with funding proposal requests for supporting the free family fun activities**

Overall, the CNRC contributions in support of HTN initiatives are extremely beneficial for Chalmers residents and stakeholders. CNRC may assist HTN initiatives with a variety of support services that will be first time-pilot projects and the vast majority have proven to be successful and will continue on indefinitely as long as the partner supports and participant interest continues to be strong.

The Chalmers neighbourhood is host to existing Food Bank opportunities at the Community of Hope on Talbot Ave and the Adventist Church on Stadacona St. At the same time, there is growing interest in providing these types of services in support of low-income families in the neighbourhood. Although each service is provided in a slightly different manner, the basic approach may include some combination of the following: the provision of Food Bank groceries, free meals, drop-in socialization experiences and the sharing of valuable community resources with participants.

CNRC will continue to play an active role with researching potential, new sites in the Chalmers neighbourhood. These efforts will be based on overall census information for our community and the recent data from Food Banks Canada which recently highlighted that, "Food Bank use is 25% higher in Canada now than during the 2008-2009 global economic crisis".

Regardless of existing services or potential neighbourhood developments, CNRC involvement is designed to be supportive and offer leadership. It is anticipated that these programs will not be short term in duration and will continue on indefinitely based on the participation levels and demonstrated resident needs.



Better Access to Groceries (BAG) program is a primary component within the Essential Foods in Elmwood approach as sponsored by CNRC.

BAG's mission is to provide the Chalmers neighbourhood and broader Elmwood community with improved access to fresh/low cost fruits and vegetables.

Various community partners including Chalmers CC, Kildonan MCC Thrift Shop, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Healthy Aging Resource Team, Manitoba Housing, Together in Elmwood, Healthy Together Now and others are involved in the promotion, implementation and development of this CNRC led initiative.

On the first and third Tuesday of each month, interested residents are invited to order their choice of a Produce BAG (\$10) and/or Recipe BAG (\$3-\$6). Bulk buying is completed with support from the wholesale producers early on Tuesday mornings. Volunteers



assist CNRC representatives in the counting and sorting of vegetables/fruit during the morning at the Chalmers Community Club multi-purpose room.

Participants who have placed an order, come to Chalmers Community Club between 2:30 and 6:30 to load their Bag with an assortment of fruits and vegetables. Recipe BAGs (for families of up to 6) which include all staple/canned products to prepare a dinner are also available for purchase.

CNRC is primarily responsible for the implementation of the BAG program. The positive program response (300+ orders) has resulted in a maximum order limit of 400 being established. The overall success could not be accomplished without the valuable contributions of our local partners!



In partnership with



UPDATING THE “CHALMERS COMMUNITY RENEWAL INITIATIVE INC.”

The purpose of Chalmers Community Renewal Initiative Inc. (CCRI) is to support community development initiatives, strategies, projects and programs that address poverty related issues in the Winnipeg neighbourhood of Chalmers.

CCRI is a non-share capital corporation created by the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (CNRC) to administer its programs that are considered non-charitable in nature and which CNRC therefore is unable administer.



- The CCRI in partnership with Neighbourhoods Alive! Manitoba established a successful Small Grants Fund for this past year with 12 different projects approved with a maximum project amount of \$2,500.

- The Small Grant Fund (SGF) will continue to be administered by the CCRI and the brochure and application are now available for distribution (<http://chalmersrenewal.org/ccri/>).

- Deadline date for project applications this year is October 19, 2015 and further information is available by contacting chalmersrenewal@mymts.net or (204)669-0750

Other CCRI related initiatives intended for development over the next while include:

Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (Housing Improvement Grants)

- The purpose of the housing improvement grants process is to contribute to the revitalization of housing in declining neighbourhoods. This takes place by supporting homeownership and renovation initiatives through the provision of housing improvement grants.
- CCRI was successful in receiving funding from the Manitoba Housing Delivery Branch. These home fix-up grant supports of \$23,500 annually will be able for promotion and project submission in winter/spring 2016.

Accessing Financial Services

Like many NA!’s designated communities, some Chalmers residents have limited access to basic, traditional and affordable financial services. For many it can be a barrier to employment and it also limits their ability to participate in the community. Without proper ID requirements or the proper funds to maintain an active account, many individuals are faced with the prospect of using (costly) cheque cashing options. CCRI continues to review opportunities for improvements from a banking perspective.

Over time, CCRI will be dedicated to removing the barriers so that the low income individuals have access to the financial services that they require.



