



Community and Health Services Department  
Housing York Inc.

## Memorandum

TO: Members of the Housing York Inc. Board of Directors  
FROM: Rick Farrell, General Manager  
DATE: September 7, 2017  
RE: **Housing Operations – Monthly Activity Update**

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This Housing Operations update provides highlights of this summer's Site Activities and Tenant Engagement Events as well as Community Partner and Program initiatives. It also includes current and future Capital Work and information on Housing York's upcoming Tenant Recognition Event.

### SITE ACTIVITIES

#### Housing York Annual Unit Inspections

Staff are completing Housing York's annual inspections of all apartments and townhouses. These inspections are multi-purpose. Staff ensure that Housing York's compliance obligations are met, inspecting life safety elements such as fire safety equipment and window restriction devices. Staff also assess whether the unit is being appropriately maintained. If staff note safety concerns, for example, flammable items being stored on the stove, staff work with the tenant to resolve the issue. In cases where mental health related issues, such as hoarding, are identified, staff work closely with community partners to assist the tenant with addressing the safety issues.

#### Fairy Lake Gardens – Elevator Service Issues

Fairy Lake Gardens is made up of two properties located in Newmarket. The property at 474 Eagle Street has one elevator which was refurbished in December, 2016. The property at 468 Eagle Street has two elevators which are scheduled for refurbishment in 2018.

Since the elevator refurbishment at 474 Eagle there have been no service issues with this elevator. However, there have been intermittent issues with both elevators going down at the same time at 468 Eagle Street.

The service disruptions are related to power supply fluctuations, as the elevators shut down automatically to protect electrical components from damage. If the power

disruption is sustained, the building's emergency generator activates, providing power to activate one elevator. If the generator is not required, the elevators have to be manually reset, resulting in a temporary loss of service for residents.

The elevator disruptions have increased over the summer. The transformer to the building has been checked by Newmarket Hydro and is working properly. The modernization will include power surge protectors that should resolve this issue. Housing York is working with the elevator contractor to identify whether there is an interim solution.

### Tom Taylor Place and Founders Place - Parking Lot Replacement

The contracts for the replacement of asphalt at both Tom Taylor Place and Founders Place located in Newmarket are in the process of being awarded. Once the contract is executed, construction is anticipated to start mid-September and be complete by the end of November. The work will be staged in two phases at each site to minimize the displacement of tenants.

Staff, in collaboration with the Town of Newmarket, have already made arrangements for alternate parking spaces for the residents of Founders Place. Seniors at this location will be permitted to park along Doug Duncan Drive and in the larger parking lot located northwest to Founders Place. Similarly, alternative parking spaces have been arranged at the Magna Centre for residents of Tom Taylor Place. Tenants are aware and support the upgrades to their parking lots.

### Tenant Engagement and Events

#### **Good Neighbour Award Gazebo Installation at Blue Willow Terrace**

The Good Neighbour Awards grand prize winner is a resident of Blue Willow Terrace in Vaughan. The grand prize was an enhancement for the winner's community. A new gazebo has been installed at Blue Willow, complete with seating and a barbeque for outdoor resident events. Residents are enjoying their new social space.



## Gardens at Pineview Terrace, Georgina

Over the past year residents have participated in an energy savings initiative with the aim of reducing energy consumption in their units and decreasing their carbon footprint. This initiative is the result of a partnership between Housing York and the Housing Services Corporation's community champions program. After gaining conservation tips through energy savings workshops residents began working to reduce their use of energy and water.

This spring residents joined together over some refreshments to hear the results of their efforts. Residents' conservation efforts resulted in approximately \$2,200 in savings. In recognition of their hard work and to encourage continued conservation, Housing York reinvested the savings in the community by building a raised garden bed on the patio of Pineview Terrace. The raised bed replaces ground level beds that had become too difficult for resident gardeners to maintain. The raised bed enables these seniors to remain active in gardening now that the plants are easier to reach. The tenants are thrilled with the improvement to the patio and are already enjoying it daily!



## Seniors Online Workshop Session at Nobleview Pines

A Seniors Online Workshop session was held on July 18, 2017 at Nobleview Pines in King Township. The workshop is a 1.5 hour session designed to help seniors to understand the basics of using a computer, tablets/smartphones and the internet to search the web, connect to Wi-Fi and use social media accounts.

## Engaging Youth

### **YOUTHink You Know Me**

Housing York's "YOUTHink You Know Me" campaign will ask our youth to submit a one minute video that highlights who they are and where they want to go. The campaign goal is to celebrate Housing York's diverse youth residents, de-stigmatize youth and showcase and encourage youth's unique contributions to their community.

Submissions will be eligible for entertainment and educational electronics prizes. In addition, all those who enter, along with guests, will be invited to attend a screening of their videos and a first run movie at a local theater.

## Supporting Education

At Mulock Village, the After School Program helps youth and families to consider their post-secondary options. Specifically, this includes planning and applying for college or university, applying for financial support and preparing for that transition. Mulock Village has two youth starting university in fall 2017, and the Program is supporting them with preparing for this transition.

At their headquarters at the Richmond Hill Hub, 360°kids have a high school program designed for at-risk homeless youth called iGrads. They had their first full class graduate in June and they held their prom at the Richmond Hill Hub's 6<sup>th</sup> floor lounge. Two youths from this program were also awarded scholarships at the 360°kids summer barbeque.

## Summer Programs for Children at Trinity Square

A community barbeque was hosted at Trinity Square in Markham in partnership with 360°kids, York Region's children's programs and Kin Village, a neighbouring non-profit housing provider. The event launched the summer activity program for children and introduced a summer camp opportunity. This one-week summer camp for kids aged 6 – 12 was held at Trinity Square and delivered in partnership with 360°kids, York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and the nonprofit agency One Child One World L.I.G.H.T.

## Partnerships and Programs

### **New Recycling Programs at Hadley Grange and Orchard Heights Place**

At the end of June, York Region and the Town of Aurora held a resident information session to introduce three new streams of recycling, textiles, e-waste and batteries. Residents learned about the new recycling processes and received take-home information. Residents are participating in the in the new recycling program and provided lots of positive feedback.

## Food Security Programs at Mulock Village

LifeCorps Food Share is a charitable refrigerated collection and delivery service in York Region. They collect and deliver food for community food pantries, agencies and non-profit housing cooperatives throughout the nine municipalities in York Region. This food security initiative at Mulock Village was established at the request of a resident at Mulock Village who identified a need for the program in her community. Currently, there are 34 families registered in the program receiving regular food deliveries.

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