



Festival of Neighbourhoods  
\* Kitchener \*

# thE-neighbour

July/August, 2019

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1 & 2 - Narrow & intimate streets, front porches, mature trees, and walkability are some of the features valued in Schneider Creek Neighbourhood

3 - Neighbours share their ideas for improvement in the neighbourhood.

4 - New historical plaques capture the history of this small neighbourhood and offer interesting tidbits to those on a leisurely walk.

### Dream Big for your Neighbourhood



Kitchener's Festival of Neighbourhoods encourages everyone to organize inclusive activities in their immediate neighbourhood. Contact us for tips and resources in Kitchener to help bring your neighbours together and to ensure that your activity qualifies your neighbourhood for the \$20,000 capital improvement grant draws. **Register** your inclusive neighbourhood gathering (held between October 1st, 2018 and September 30th, 2019) with the Festival before October 5th, 2019 and join us at the Festival Celebration at Kitchener City Hall on Sunday, November 17th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. when the draws for the \$20,000 neighbourhood grants will be held and the winners announced.

## Event in a Trailer

What equipment would make it easier and more affordable to host a neighbourhood event?

A City of Kitchener Love My Hood survey seeks your input about the kind of equipment that you would like for your neighbourhood gatherings. The City is working with the Social Development Centre, who already provides the Neighbourhood Activity Trunk, to expand this fun service. Feedback deadline is July 14. Your input will help the City determine what equipment and items are needed and how residents can access them.

## What Would Make your Neighbourhood Great?

Schneider Creek neighbours got together and wrote down what they value and what they need for their neighbourhood

We can't help but notice places near our homes that could be improved with a small change, or how our growing city could potentially impact our neighbourhoods. How to harness all the great ideas is best done by sharing and recording them through neighbourhood gatherings.

Neighbours in Schneider Creek did just that, and have benefitted with a sense of empowerment that wasn't there before. A Jane's Walk helped neighbours meet and talk about the neighbourhood and ask questions about the impact of new development spurred by the LRT. They followed up with an idea to tell the City what they valued and wanted for their neighbourhood.

Jane Pellar, who participated in this initiative, describes what happened: "Members of our community came together to define, not only our character and what makes our neighbourhood a great place to live in, but what we envisioned for our future. We wanted to find out what we valued. What were our strengths and what could we add to our little corner of the city? How could we help shape harmonious, respectful future development that would complement our community?"

To find out how our neighbours felt about all these things we needed to gather people together and provide an opportunity for them to express their hopes, dreams and ideas. Festival of Neighbourhoods was an invaluable tool in our journey! We were happy to be able to access so many games, supplies and activity ideas from them! They provide a wonderfully stocked Tickle Trunk! Through simple planned activities, such as a BBQ Potluck, Halloween Party, Porch Party, providing a Listening Post or meetings with plenty of pens and paper, we were able to begin to see what was of importance to us as a thriving community.

In the end we achieved so much more than just ideas or information. We made connections with people we may have never met. We identified ourselves and gave our community a name! Amazing! We have happily discovered the many creative, and caring people who call Schneider Creek home!"

In 2015, "Schneider Creek: Making our Neighbourhood Great!" was presented to the city. By coming together with a common voice, the neighbourhood has been able to affect the shape of development, to make it known that this is a very special place, and to give direction for future improvements.

Get together with your neighbours to think about how your neighbourhood can be even greater. In the process, you will discover much about your neighbourhood, you will help define its character to the broader city, and meet great neighbours.

## Inclusion and Resiliency in Victoria Park

Victoria Park Neighbourhood Association tackles current challenges

VPNA was the 2018 recipient of the FoN Trudy Beaulne Award. In conversation with the Social Development Centre, they are thinking about how best to deal with change and how to make the neighbourhood stronger. Victoria Park is a heritage district, facing the pressure of downtown intensification. Tackling the issue of affordable housing and how to connect with neighbours at risk of displacement are challenges that they seek to understand better in the spirit of neighbourhood resiliency and inclusion.

## Quick Links

- [Useful Contacts & Resources](#)
- [Neighbourhood Activity Guide](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Reach! Challenge](#)
- [Neighbourhood Activity Trunk](#)
- [Registration Form - Mail & Fax](#)
- [Online Registration Form](#)
- [Grant Opportunities](#)
- [Becoming a Sponsor](#)