

Festival of Neighbourhoods * Kitchener *

Kitchener Festival of Neighbourhoods QUESTIONS & ANSWERS







1. What is the Festival of Neighbourhoods?

The initiative started in 1994 to encourage Kitchener residents to build stronger relationships with each other through gatherings, activities and events. The Festival of Neighbourhoods founding partners are the City of Kitchener, Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo, and John MacDonald Architect. They have been rallying support, resources and champions to sustain this unique project.

The coordination of this initiative is done by the Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo and is supported through committees with participation from all three partners. It used to be a summer project. Currently it is run all year round - from October 1 to September 30 every year. The neighbourhoods register their events organized in that period to be eligible for annual prizes and awards at the Finale.

All registrations must be received by October 5th 2016 by 5 pm for this year!

Festival of Neighbourhoods does not organize activities in the neighbourhoods! You find ways to connect your neighbours and we find ways to support you with:

- Tips and resources how to bring neighbourhoods together
- Guides and tools about activity organizing
- Awards and prizes, gifts and donations
- Neighbourhood Activity Trunk
- Promoting your activities on social media and web pages we run, in our E-Neighbour newsletter and articles in local media
- Producing Festival Activities' Maps
- Outreach activities in your neighbourhood
- Share stories about your neighbourhood
- Annual Festival Finale Awards
- Capital Investment Grant
- Connections to other initiatives such as Jane's Walk or Earth Day Celebrations
- Building a Festival of Neighbourhoods family across Kitchener

2. How can I contact the Festival of Neighbourhoods?

You can get in touch with us in many ways. Visit us at 300-151 Frederick St in Kitchener! We would love to show you around and learn more about your neighbourhood.

Call us, email us, write us a letter!

Phone: 519-579-3800

E-mail: entries@festivalofneighbourhoods.ca

Fax: 519-578-9185

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Mailing Address:

Festival of Neighbourhoods

c/o Social Planning Council Kitchener-Waterloo

300-151 Frederick St.

We never stop sharing on social media:

Follow Us! <u>@FONKitchener</u> on Twitter
Like our page! <u>Kitchener's Festival of Neighbourhoods</u> on Facebook

3. How will Festival of Neighbourhoods benefit my community?

By bringing your community together, you help build relationships with your neighbours which will help foster a healthier, safer, and more fun neighbourhood for everyone! It is proven that the closer the relationships between neighbours are, the greater the wellbeing is for everyone.

The City of Kitchener has been offering capital investment grants for improvement of the physical infrastructure. The Festival also recognizes neighbourhoods through awards and makes sure your generous and spirited initiatives are known and recognized across the city. The Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo can offer planning and engagement support if your neighbours want to work on improvement of social conditions.

These supports are designed to celebrate some of the many ways neighbours contribute to a safe and healthy community, and to inspire us to think about how we can continue to improve our neighbourhoods together.

4. How do I define my neighbourhood?

Neighbourhoods are the focus of the Festival and each of us is in the centre of our neighbourhood.

Start by defining **your** *neighbourhood*. A common way to do this is by choosing street boundaries, or, if you live in an apartment, your *neighbourhood* could be your building. The main thing to remember is that once you choose your *neighbourhood* boundaries, your activity must be promoted to and be open to all who live within those boundaries.

As there are many ways to define neighbourhoods, we expect there to be nesting and overlapping neighbourhood areas all across Kitchener.

5. What activities are eligible?

To be eligible for registration with the Festival of Neighbourhoods, a *neighbourhood* must hold a gathering that:

- 1. brings ALL the neighbours together
- 2. in a direct, face-to-face way and
- 3. is open to all who live in that *neighbourhood*.

If an activity is led by an organization such as a church, a school, or a community group, it is eligible if hosted for people who live within the geographical area defined as the

neighbourhood and there is an effort to advertise the activity directly to them. Some activities may be advertised more widely as long as the immediate area is being defined and all the residents invited.

Businesses can host festival activities when they invite other neighbouring businesses to come together in a building or on a street, organize a gathering and get to know each other while promoting their products and services.

6. How can my neighbourhood be eligible to enter the draw for the \$20,000 Neighbourhood Improvement Grant?

Your neighbourhood must complete **two steps** in order to receive **one** ballot for the draw:

- 1. Register an eligible gathering (or gatherings) by October 5th:
- 2. Attend the Festival Finale, this year taking place on October 18th, and receive a ballot for the draw. There is only one ballot per neighbourhood. The winning ballot will be drawn from all qualifying neighbourhoods at the end of the Finale. A neighbourhood must have a representative in attendance to be included.

The Capital Improvement Grant goes to a neighbourhood, rather than an individual or a gathering. Winners establish a committee representing an area of at least fifty (50) houses for consultation with the City of Kitchener in order to decide on a neighbourhood improvement project.

Neighbourhoods who remain in talks with the City of Kitchener in regards to their capital project are not eligible for the award. Once their project is completed, they are eligible again.

7. If we win the \$20,000 Capital Improvement Grant, what do we have to do?

The draw winner does not receive a cheque for \$20,000. Instead, the winning neighbourhood works with the City of Kitchener to develop a capital project (i.e. a physical object built on public property) costing the City of Kitchener no more than \$20,000. Additional grants may be pursued.

Your neighbourhood would develop a committee representing an area of at least 50 households in and around your neighbourhood to work in conjunction with the City and receive approval from City Council for your project.

8. What has been done with the Capital Improvement Grants in the past?

- **1994** Mt. Hope-Breithaupt Park Neighbourhood: Duke St. Playground re-design & upgrades
- 1995 Courtland Shelley Neighbourhood: Vanier Park bridge, playground upgrades & planting
- 1996 Cedar Hills Neighbourhood: Residential Façade Improvement Loan Fund (no specific location all over the neighbourhood)
- **1997** College St. Neighbourhood: safety audit and streetscape improvements
- **1998** Kilkerran Crescent Neighbourhood: accessible nature trail in neighbourhood woodlot
- 1999 Doon Pioneer Community Association: Doon Skatium mobile skateboard park (Community Centre)

- **2000** Brubacher St: park upgrades (Brubacher Park)
- 2001 Asgard Green/Cherry St.: green space improvements and accessible walking trail
- **2002** Huron Park Community Garden: improvements to Huron Park (Weber and Louisa St)
- **2003** Country Hills: accessible playground and park upgrades (at the Country Hills Community Centre)
- 2004 Breithaupt Park Neighbourhood: upgrade to park area with soccer field, winter rink, storage shed and outdoor performance area with hydro, also expected is new LCD projector for Movie (at Breithaupt Centre)
- **2005** Chandler-Mowat Neighbourhood: spray pad (at Chandler-Mowat Community Centre)
- **2006** Margaret / Guelph / Weber / Erb: park landscaping (Hartwood Green):
- **2007** Auditorium Neighbourhhood Association: renovation of Knollwood park
- 2008 Chandler-Mowat Neighbourhood: park up-grades, benches etc. (at community centre)
- **2009** Topper Woods/Doon: playground and park up-grades (Marigold Park)
- **2010** Robert Ferrie Dr-Southridge St.- Monarch Woods Dr.: playground and park up-grades (Marigold Park)
- 2011 Olde Berlin Towne Neighbourhood: Heritage banners & walking tour information posts (all around the neighbourhood)
- **2012** Valleyview Neighbourhood area: park renovation (Windale Park)
- **2013** Chandler-Mowat Neighbourhood: in consultation
- **2014** Brock Street Neighbourhood: in consultation
- **2015** Ward 6 in consultation

9. What other awards could my neighbourhood be eligible for?

Awards of recognition are presented at the Finale based on the criteria found below. For each award, recipients will be chosen from a list of eligible entries by either the Awards Committee or the Award Sponsor. The details about your event from the registration form will determine your eligibility for these awards, and you must be present at the Finale to receive them.

- Neighbourhood Newcomer Award: Given to a neighbourhood that has registered for the first time.
- **Neighbourhood Pillar Award:** Given to a neighbourhood that has registered for five or more consecutive years (the activity itself need not be the same each year).
- Arts & Culture Award: Given to a neighbourhood group who has included the arts in their activity as a central aspect of the gathering to bring people together.
- Youth Award: Given to an activity in which one or more youth under the age of 21 have taken a leadership role.
- Inclusion Award: Given to a group who has specifically designed a gathering to be inclusive of diversity, for example in culture, age, ability, economic level and/or identity.
- Safer Neighbourhood Award: Given to a group who has registered a gathering or activity
 with the purpose of building a stronger, safer neighbourhood by encouraging community
 engagement and participation.
- Green Neighbourhood Award: Given to a group whose project or activity includes or is centred on environmental action, such as a community cleanup, conservation or beautification.
- Heritage Award: Given to a group that organized an event in order to celebrate the history and heritage of their neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood Connections Award: Given to a neighbourhood that expresses a desire
to do more to improve their neighbourhood or the quality of life for its residents. It is
awarded to a group that demonstrates a need and indicates a desire to participate in such
a process with the Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo.

10. What is the Ward Challenge?

<u>The Ward Challenge</u> encourages city councillors to get involved in the Festival of Neighbourhoods. The Ward Challenge Award recognizes the City of Kitchener Ward that has the most registered gatherings. Your gathering will automatically be counted towards this award when your completed registration form is received.

11. How many times can we register?

<u>A neighbourhood can register many activities</u> – the more ways we bring neighbours together the more connected our neighbourhoods will be. Each registered activity or gathering will be included in the awards for which they qualify.

Each distinctly defined neighbourhood area that has registered multiple activities will qualify for only **one** ballot in the \$20,000 capital grant draw, regardless of who has registered the activities. When planning an activity, be very clear to define the neighbourhood area that is intended for that activity.

12. What is Early Bird Prize?

We encourage all neighbourhoods to register early and often—and we organize <u>four Early Bird Draws</u> through the year so that all activities registered within the Early Bird deadlines can win prizes to help them with their next activity.

Neighbourhoods can register activities held from October 1 before the four deadlines throughout the year: January 31, March 31, May 31, August 31.

13. What is the Festival of Neighbourhoods Map?

The <u>interactive map of neighbourhood activities</u> is online now and your activities will appear on the map of Kitchener Wards as you register! Each activity is a new star in your neighbourhood. We are mapping all the neighbourhood activities you tell us about – even before they get registered (the yellow dots)! This way, you can see all the richness of neighbourhood life and get inspired by what others are doing.

- Great way to see who else is doing great stuff in your neighbourhood and in Kitchener.
- Great way to see which Kitchener Ward is the most active. You can always help your Ward win the Ward Challenge by registering your own neighbourhood activity with the Festival of Neighbourhoods.
- The map is about telling the story of the Kitchener Neighbourhoods and how diverse and creative they are.
- Click on the star to find out more information or read a testimonial.
- The flowers mark the neighbourhood improvement projects.

14. What is E-Neighbour?

<u>E-Neighbour</u> is a bimonthly newsletter where we publish all the updates, upcoming Early Bird deadlines, stories from neighbourhoods, surveys, and important tips and resources. We tell you as well about other neighbourhood initiatives throughout the year, such as Jane's Walk, Earth Month and Neighbours Day!

You can subscribe and never miss a thing!



