



Festival of Neighbourhoods
Kitchener

thE-neighbour

January, 2016

phone (519) 579 3800 - fax (519) 578 9185

entries@festivalofneighbourhoods.ca

www.kitchener.ca/fon

www.waterlooregion.org/neighbourhoods



Let's have FUN!

This year's Festival of Neighbourhood's theme puts fun at the centre of neighbourhood gatherings!

As we were cleaning up at my neighbourhood barbeque and potluck, people were saying how much fun they had, and wouldn't it be nice if we could do this next year, and if we could do more fun activities throughout the year. We had fun organizing the bbq, and had fun at it, chatting & mingling with neighbours and eating hot dogs and the usual potluck fare, on this warm July afternoon. Even during the clean-up, as the sun was setting, feeling happily exhausted, we were having a great time. It dawned on me that fun for everyone is at the heart of neighbourhood gatherings. Here are some tips that we learned to make sure that everyone, even the organizers, have fun at your neighbourhood gathering:

For organizers,

- Make it a priority for yourself and fellow organizers to have fun at every stage of your neighbourhood get-together, from conception to conclusion:

- Give yourself enough time to plan and keep it manageable. No need to shoot for the moon. After all, it's really about meeting one another, regardless of the activity.

- Don't try to do it all yourself! Involve as many neighbours as you can to organize the activity. Start by talking to a neighbour you know who would be excited about helping out. Approach him or her as soon as possible. Getting others involved can help create excitement and spread the word. Don't forget the teenagers. They can be enthusiastic helpers and they can use the experience for their school volunteer hours.

- See if you can get other neighbours involved by asking them to

1. Make and deliver invitations and posters?
2. Gather supplies, such as food, games, music, etc.?
3. Set up on the day of the get-together?
4. Clean up and return borrowed items?
5. Run a barbecue, organize games, or be the D.J.?

Planning ahead smooths the way & turns tasks into accomplishments, so everyone has fun! Even You.

For those who will just show up for the neighbourhood gathering,

- Ensure the activity is inclusive of everyone, people of all ages, backgrounds & abilities. (Check out the Festival of Neighbourhoods Activity Guide for some great suggestions on how to be inclusive).

- Think about how everyone is invited. It is easier in smaller neighbourhoods to deliver invitations door to door, and to talk to neighbours to encourage them to come. Organize an invitation pyramid scheme. Everyone in the neighbourhood who is told about the the neighbourhood activity is also asked to tell their neighbours, and anyone else they see when go out for a walk.

- Make invitations & posters with the activity, date (and rain date if appropriate), time, an outline of what the activity is all about, and a list of things that attendees should bring, such as food, a chair, a blanket, some money, etc.

- Greet everyone as they arrive at the neighbourhood gathering & help them feel at home. You will recognize many faces, even though you might not know their names, so striking a conversation shouldn't be too difficult... "Aren't you the one that keeps the garden looking so nice with the most spectacular flowers?"

By bringing your neighbours together, even if it is just once, you help build a healthier, safer, and more fun neighbourhood for everyone year round!

At your next neighbourhood gathering, don't forget about the fun.

To ensure that your activity qualifies your neighbourhood for the \$21,000 capital improvement grant draw- just give us a call or email. Register qualifying neighbourhood activities held between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016 with the Festival of Neighbourhoods before October 5, 2016. Join us at the Festival Finale at Kitchener City Hall on October 16 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, when the draw for the \$21,000 neighbourhood improvement grant will be held and the winner announced.



Snow Day Neighbourhood gathering at Activa Under the Trees, January, 2015



Earth Day Clean-up at the Auditorium Neighbourhood. April 2015



Neighbours celebrate at their 400th weekly neighbourhood potluck on Duke Street E.

FoN BILLBOARD

- Win a prize for your next neighbourhood get-together! The March early bird draw is for neighbourhood activities held between October 1st, 2015 and February 29th, 2016 and registered before March 15th, 2016.

- The next early bird draw will be held at the end of January for neighbourhood activities held between October 1st and December 31st, 2015 and registered before January 15th, 2016.

- Share information on upcoming events in your neighbourhood on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, or by adding us to your [mailing list](#).

FoN QUICK LINKS

- [Useful Contacts and Local Resources](#)
- [Neighbourhood Activity Guide](#)
- [Registration Form - Mail/Fax](#)
- [Full Registration](#)
- [Neighbourhood Activity Trunk](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Grant Opportunities from the City of Kitchener](#)