



Festival of Neighbourhoods
Kitchener

thE-neighbour

May, 2015

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FoN BILLBOARD

- Win a prize for your next neighbourhood get-together. The next early bird draw of the season is for neighbourhood activities held after October 1st, 2014. Register before May 31st, 2015 to be eligible for a neighbourhood prize!

- Congratulations to the Cherry Park Neighbourhood! - Winners of the April Early Bird Draw. The prize: A swimming pool party at a City of Kitchener indoor pool for their next neighbourhood activity. Sponsored by the City of Kitchener.

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

- To help make your ideas a reality, financial help is available through city grants for neighbourhood and/or place-based projects or events, and for projects, initiatives or events that support inclusion and/or belonging.



Over the years we have seen many neighbourhood gatherings that have ensured that they are inclusive of all their neighbours, removing physical, cultural and age barriers and ensuring that there is something for everyone. Cherry Park - 2009, Caryndale - 2012 Longest Day of Play - 2011 Ron's Grant BBQ- 2007

Make your next neighbourhood gathering inclusive of all your neighbours!

Ensure that everyone can participate, and feel like they belong.

It is easy in the summer to make sure that all your neighbours can participate at neighbourhood gatherings. Inclusive gatherings value everyone in the neighbourhood, are respectful of differences, ensure everyone's basic needs are met and welcome and enable full participation. Neighbourhoods that purposefully design a gathering to be inclusive of diversity are eligible to win the Inclusion Award at the Festival Finale in October. This award is sponsored by the Independent Living Centre (ILC). Paula Saunders of the ILC shared with us how she chooses the winner for the Inclusion Award: "When I am reviewing an application, I am looking for a venue that is barrier free, promotion and signage that is done in a readable font and plain language and that an effort is made to ensure that anyone can participate in the activities or event." To ensure inclusion, the Auditorium Neighbourhood Musical Front Porch encouraged performances from children and seniors, amateurs and professionals from all walks of life, religions, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Sometimes, invitations are written in several languages spoken in the neighbourhood. If there is food involved, organizers will ensure that there are several options beyond your standard fare, such as vegetarian, vegan or halal. Think about having a place to sit, and rest for tired legs. Neighbourhood gatherings in community centres and city parks are barrier free, so they are a popular choice to ensure inclusion. Whatever you do to be inclusive in your neighbourhood gathering, first think about the makeup of your neighbourhood to ensure that barriers to participation are removed.

NEIGHBOURS TALK

How can we better support your neighbourhood gathering?

Respond with this survey and be included in a draw to win a prize that you can use toward your next neighbourhood get-together.

Thanks for participating!

FoN QUICK LINKS

- Contact us for information for your next neighbourhood activity including all about permits or road closures
- Registration Form - Mail/Fax
- Full Online Registration
- Short Online Registration - finalized by phone

Get involved in your neighbourhood and contact us for ideas, resources and support. Receive helpful tips and make sure that your activity qualifies your neighbourhood for the \$21,000 capital improvement grant draw.

Register qualifying neighbourhood activities held between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015 with the Festival of Neighbourhoods before October 5, 2015. Join us at the Festival Finale at Kitchener City Hall on October 18, when the draw for the \$21,000 neighbourhood improvement grant will be held and the winner announced.

Neighbour to Neighbour

People share thoughts that reflect the value of gathering with their neighbours

"A number of years ago a few of us were talking and realized that on our short block of 21 houses, we didn't really know each other at all - in some cases not knowing names and in others not even recognizing our neighbours. We have a number of single elderly people on the street, young families who have just moved in and long term residents (45 years). We felt the need to connect and form 'community'. So we held a block party!"

Participate in the City of Kitchener first-ever Neighbours Day

The city's community centres, pools, golf courses and other neighbourhood organizations will provide activities and entertainment for all ages!

Join the fun on Neighbours Day Saturday, June 13 and check out some city facilities, programs and services and meet some of your neighbours!

This day is a wonderful opportunity to host a neighbourhood event that could qualify as a Festival of Neighbourhoods gathering!

