



Festival of Neighbourhoods
Kitchener

thE-neighbour

September, 2015

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Neighbours from all over the Kitchener to gather at the Festival of Neighbourhoods Finale

Join us to celebrate the achievements of many and to share your experience bringing neighbours together

The annual and ever popular scrap booking activity will be back this year at the Festival Finale, to collect everyone's stories about how they brought their neighbours together. You will be able to browse scrap books from previous years, and see what neighbourhoods in the Kitchener have been doing to bring neighbours together. If you have registered a neighbourhood activity with the FoN, you and your neighbours are invited to enjoy a fun afternoon with neighbourly people like you. There will also be snacks, a kids' corner, prizes, and the random draw for the much coveted \$21,000 City of Kitchener grant for a neighbourhood improvement project. In the past this grant has gone towards neighbourhood-led projects, such as park rehabilitation, playground improvements, and streetscape enhancements. You will come out of this event knowing that your efforts to bring neighbours together are well appreciated and with the good feeling that comes from being connected, being part of a tradition, being part of a community and being a leader in building a stronger community.

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, 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 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, when the draw for the \$21,000 neighbourhood improvement grant will be held and the winner announced.



Brock St. neighbours meet to discuss what neighbourhood improvement project that they want to put the \$21,000 grant from the City of Kitchener towards.



Kids at their Traynor-Vanier neighbourhood soccer game. Summer 2015

Traynor-Vanier Neighbours Keep on Connecting

After a few years of winning the Neighbourhood Connections Award, the neighbours continue to reap the benefits of their efforts

In the Traynor-Vanier area, tenants, property management staff, youth and many other volunteers have patiently and persistently been building trust and connections since they won the Neighbourhood Connections Award from the Festival of Neighbourhoods in October 2013. The award offers the winning neighbourhood support to strengthen their social connections and Traynor-Vanier has certainly seen some changes over the years. The property is cleaner and more beautiful and repairs are being done. A tenant group is meeting regularly and tenants are coming together for activities such as March Break Fun, Soccer Club, Community Cleanup, Mobile Computer Lab and Family Drop-in. This February, the property management opened a recreation room for the tenants and they collected donations to make a cozy community space. And their own words demonstrate the impact - "My kid has found friends", "I had nowhere to go in my wheelchair before you started with the outdoor activities", "Life's better working together", "We can plan for the future of our children". If you would like to volunteer or donate some furniture or toys, get in touch with KWTenantGroup@gmail.com.

Neighbour to Neighbour

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

"It has brought a sense of family & community to the people especially those who are homeless or on the streets. It provided a time and place for the people to relax & enjoy good, clean, safe fun together"

FoN QUICK LINKS

- [Be a Volunteer on Oct. 18 at the Finale](#)
- [Useful Contacts and Local Resources](#)
- [Neighbourhood Activity Guide](#)
- [Registration Form - Mail/Fax](#)
- [Full Registration](#)
- [Short Registration - finalized by phone](#)
- [Neighbourhood Activity Trunk](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

FoN BILLBOARD

- **Congratulations to the Bridgeport Neighbourhood, coming together for a Spring Fling Dance!** Winners of the August Early Bird Prize: \$50 of food supplies towards their next neighbourhood gathering from the City of Kitchener's Volunteer Resources.

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

- For useful ideas, tips, tools, contact numbers, grant information and games/activities to rent/borrow, check out our list of [Useful Contacts and Local Resources](#) and [Grant Opportunities](#) from the City of Kitchener.

WARD CHALLENGE

With the Ward Challenge, we encourage Kitchener's ten councillors to be supportive of neighbourhood gatherings in their ward. Register your activity and help your ward win the challenge! Check out the [Festival Map](#), to see what neighbourhoods in Kitchener are doing to bring their neighbours together.

