



Festival of Neighbourhoods
* Kitchener *

thE-neighbour

March/April, 2019

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Neighbours get the Tools to Connect across Diversity

The Neighbourhood Connections Award has had a Deep Impact in Neighbourhoods across Kitchener

The Neighbourhood Connections Award was introduced in 2000 by the **Social Development Centre** to inspire neighbours to improve social cohesion and the quality of life for everyone. This award is presented annually at the Festival Celebration in November to a neighbourhood that expresses a clear wish to connect people of different backgrounds and involve neighbours across diversity.

With this award, the Social Development Centre facilitates an engagement process and addresses neighbourhood concerns about equity and community capacity. The solutions that arise are as varied as the neighbourhoods themselves.

Valley View neighbours connected youth and adults in a photo-voice exploration of their community. Cherry Park built connections between long-standing residents and families new to the neighbourhood. Traynor-Vanier neighbours worked to build solidarity across culture and language to improve safety and property standards in their buildings. This is just a small sample of the sorts of solutions that have emerged over the years in other neighbourhoods. Victoria Park Neighbourhood is this year's winner of the Neighbourhood Connections Award. They are exploring ways to strengthen the social cohesion in their neighbourhood around equity 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](#)

Successful neighbourhood gatherings from previous springs



Garage Sale & BBQ- Prosperity Drive- June 2013



Clean Up - Traynor Vanier - April 2015



Central Frederick Jane's Walk - May 2017



Plant Swap - Duke East- May 2018

Spring has sprung... Stop Hibernating!!!

Take advantage of all the special occasions that sprout in the spring to bring your neighbours together.

The next few months have a myriad of special days to help us welcome spring. April Fools' Day, Earth Week, Mother's Day or Victoria Day can inspire you to organize an activity. Neighbourhood clean-ups, Easter egg hunts, plant swaps, pancake breakfasts, cob oven cook-offs, garage sales and **Jane's Walks** are activities that can bring neighbours together in the spring. Combine different types of activities at the same event so more people can participate. For example, combine a plant swap with spring themed crafts. Check out the **Inclusion Challenge** guide for ways to reach more neighbours and make sure they all fell welcome.



*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.*

Billboard

• Register your neighbourhood activities held between Oct. 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019 no later than April 15, 2019 to enter the next Early Bird Draw for a prize that you can use at your next neighbourhood gathering.

• Congratulations to Huron Community, winners of the February Early Bird Draw. They held a Fun Fall Day on October 14, 2018.

Neighbour to Neighbour

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

"People felt a sense of community by working together to make the park cleaner. Children were thrilled to find interesting/strange things in the park and were encouraged to show us what they had found. People had a chance to chat and meet members of the VPNA, as well as other neighbours.

The Clean Up increased awareness of how much garbage is in the park, especially cigarette butts and plastic straws. This is dangerous for the wildlife, pets, small children and our water supply - we believe that some people were not aware of how much litter there is". - Victoria Park - Earth Day Clean Up