



Festival of Neighbourhoods  
\* Kitchener \*

# thE-neighbour

March, 2018

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## Spring is the Time to Break the Ice Among Our Neighbours

*As we look forward to warmer weather, let's think of the many opportunities available to meet our neighbours and have fun!*

Spring is just around the corner and with it come great opportunities to bring your neighbours together. Special days such as 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.

Break the ice so you and your neighbours can connect with each other and grow a stronger sense of belonging. Enlist the help of neighbours, not just to lighten your load, but also to include your neighbours as you organize the event. Invite everyone in your neighbourhood, and reduce barriers to participation to make your neighbourhood gathering as inclusive as possible. Think of ways to make sure that there is something for everyone. For example, combine a pancake breakfast with an Easter Egg Hunt to engage children and adults for a fun time. Check out the **Reach! Challenge** for tips on how to make your neighbourhood gathering more inclusive.

*Festival of Neighbourhoods encourages people to come together with their neighbours. You might feel your neighbourhood is just your street, or several surrounding streets, or even the apartment building where you live. Just be sure to include everyone. If you have any questions, [contact us](#). Take the time to browse at our **Neighbourhood Activity Trunk** which has a great selection of toys and games suitable for larger groups. Check out the **Neighbourhood Activity Guide** for tips on how to organize a neighbourhood gathering.*

*Remember to register your inclusive neighbourhood gathering (held between Oct. 1st, 2017 and Sept. 30th, 2018) with the Festival of Neighbourhoods before October 5th, 2018. Join us at Kitchener City Hall at the Festival Celebration on Sunday, November 18th, when the draw for two \$20,000 neighbourhood capital improvement grants will be held and the winners announced.*

### 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](#)

### Billboard

- Register your neighbourhood activity held between October 1, 2017 and March 15, 2018 before March 31, 2018 to enter the next early bird draw for a gift that you can use on your next neighbourhood gathering.
- The new [registration form](#) now asks for information on how your neighbourhood gathering was more inclusive of all your neighbours. Be sure to report all that was done to reduce barriers to participation and be more welcoming to everyone.

## Neighbour to Neighbour

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

In a growing city, like Kitchener, it is nice to still have a small town feel. Getting to know our neighbours through events like this will naturally make it a better place to live and for our kids to play. Our kids love going outside and playing with all the other kids. The more friends they know on the street the better sense of community we will have! As parents we are all so busy, it's nice to make a point of coming together at events like this, so we really know who our neighbours are. - Riverwood Neighbourhood

## Neighbourhood Activities Spring 2017



*Hohner Porch Party*



*Williamsburg Country Hills Plant Swap*



*Settler's Grove Garage Sale*



*Traynor Vanier Clean-sUp*



*Traynor Vanier BBQ & Nature Play Activities*