



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Festival of Neighbourhoods?

A Kitchener tradition since 1994, the Festival of Neighbourhoods encourages neighbours to connect with each other through gatherings, activities and projects. Although it is supported by the City and by various other organizations, it is run by an independent steering committee and it depends upon community volunteers.

2. When does it occur?

Activities and projects that occur between March 29 and October 5, 2009 can be included in the festival.

3. How will Festival of Neighbourhoods benefit my community?

By bringing your community together, you help build relationships with your neighbours which will help to foster a healthier, safer, and more fun neighbourhood for everyone!

The Festival also recognizes neighbourhoods through a variety of awards distributed at the Festival Finale in October. They are:

- a. **Arts & Culture Award** for arts focused events;
- b. **Youth Award** for youth led events;
- c. **Pillar Award** for events that have been registered 5 years or more;
- d. **Newcomer Award** for first time registered events;
- e. **Inclusion Award** for events that are consciously planned to include all neighbours of different abilities, ages, cultures, family definition etc.
- f. **Neighbourhood Connections Award** for neighbourhoods wanting to do more to improve the quality of life in their community
- g. **Green Neighbourhood Award** for environmentally conscious events
- h. **Safer Neighbourhood Award** for events creating safer communities
- i. **\$10,000 Neighbourhood Improvement Grant** randomly drawn from among all participating neighbourhoods at the Finale.

4. What activities are eligible?

Any event or activity is eligible if neighbours are brought together in a direct, face-to-face way, and it is open to all people living in the geographic area defined as that neighbourhood.

If the activity is led by organizations such as churches, schools or agencies, it is eligible if the activity is advertised to individuals outside of their organizations within the local neighbourhood (i.e. flyers, ads in local newspaper, website, bulletin boards).

In the past, activities have included barbeques, street parties, festivals, outdoor cinema, campfires, community garden tours, cleanups, park building days, tree plantings, fun fairs and nature walks.

How do I define my neighbourhood?

A common way to define your neighbourhood is by choosing street boundaries or, if you live in an apartment, your neighbourhood could be your building. The main thing to remember is that once you choose your neighbourhood boundaries, your activity must be promoted to and open to all who live within those boundaries.

5. How does my neighbourhood win the \$10,000 Neighbourhood Improvement Grant?

Your neighbourhood must complete 3 steps in order to receive a ballot for the Neighbourhood Improvement Grant Draw (one ballot per neighbourhood only):

- a. Register your event by October 5, 2009.
- b. Complete the Neighbourhood Questionnaire included in this package and return it after your event, no later than October 5, 2009.
- c. Attend the Festival Finale on October 25, 2009 and register for a ballot for inclusion in the draw. The winning ballot will be drawn at random during the Finale.

6. If we win the \$10,000 Neighbourhood Improvement Grant, what do we get?

The draw winner does not receive a cheque for \$10,000. Instead, the winning neighbourhood works with the City of Kitchener to develop a capital project (i.e. a physical object built on public property) costing the City of Kitchener no more than \$10,000. Your neighbourhood would need to develop a committee representing an area of at least 50 households in and around your neighbourhood to work in conjunction with the City and receive approval from City Council for your project.

7. What has been done with the \$10,000 Neighbourhood Improvement Grants in the past?

These 14 projects have either been implemented or are in progress:

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| 1994 | Mt. Hope-Breithaupt Park Neighbourhood: Duke St Playground re-design and upgrades. |
| 1995 | Courtland Shelley Neighbourhood: Vanier Park bridge, playground upgrades and planting. |
| 1996 | Cedar Hills Neighbourhood: Residential Façade Improvement Loan Fund. |
| 1997 | College St Neighbourhood: safety audit and streetscape improvements. |
| 1998 | Kilkerran Crescent Neighbourhood: accessible nature trail in neighbourhood woodlot. |
| 1999 | Doon Pioneer Community Association: Skatium mobile skateboard park. |
| 2000 | Brubacher St: park upgrades. |
| 2001 | Asgard Green/Cherry St: green space improvements and accessible walking trail. |
| 2002 | Huron Park Community Garden: improvements to Huron Park (Weber and Louisa Sts). |
| 2003 | Country Hills: accessible playground and park upgrades. |
| 2004 | Breithaupt Park Neighbourhood: upgrade to park area with soccer field, winter rink, storage shed and outdoor performance area with hydro, also expected is new LCD projector for Movie Night. |
| 2005 | Chandler-Mowat Neighbourhood: |
| 2006 | Margaret / Guelph / Weber / Erb: |
| 2007 | Auditorium Neighbourhood Association |
| 2008 | Chandler-Mowat Neighbourhood |