



Festival of Neighbourhoods
✿ Kitchener ✿

thE-neighbour

May/June, 2019

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Moorlands Meet and Greet - May 2018 - A neighbourhood potluck with the Kitchener Fire Department as a special guest.

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.

Bring your Neighbours Together to Be Better Prepared in an Emergency

Build trust among your neighbours for a safer neighbourhood

Natural disasters, such as floods and fires, hitting communities far and near have been featuring prominently in the media. What, as neighbourhoods, can we do to be more resilient in the case that we are hit by such an event?

The **Waterloo Regional Police Service** and the **Kitchener Fire Department** have tips on what we can do ahead to better protect ourselves.

Your own neighbourhood is a great place to start building a safety and support network. The basic unit of this network is trust. Trust among neighbours is something that grows over time, with small interactions that happen throughout our daily activities. In moments of chaos, we will feel the rewards of having built good relations with our neighbours. Some of us remember how in 2003, during the Eastern Seaboard Blackout, neighbours came together with improvised potlucks where they prepared the most perishable foods first. It is well known that people will help their neighbours when events happen. The trust built ahead of time might speed up the needed assistance.

Steve LaRoche, from Emergency Management, City of Kitchener, has some practical advice. "It is extremely important that you get to know your neighbours beforehand so that you know who is elderly, who has young children, pets, may have a disability, etc. This way you can, as a neighbourhood, begin to look at supporting each other". He also suggests identifying risks and hazards as well as the safe meeting places in the neighbourhood and the skill sets of your neighbours, such as who has a portable generator, a chainsaw, first aid skills, or construction knowledge.

What a better way to answer all these questions than with a neighbourhood gathering? Get your neighbours together, and take steps towards knowing your neighbours and building trust. You can also consider inviting the Kitchener Fire Department to join your get-together by visiting their **webpage** and use the **online request form** to book your event. If you do not have access to the website, you can contact the Fire Department at 519-741-2200. Please book at least 30 days in advance. Just be aware that emergency calls take priority.

Billboard

•Register your neighbourhood activities held between Oct. 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 no later than July 15, 2019 to enter the next Early Bird Draw for a prize that you can use at your next neighbourhood gathering.

•Congratulations to Victoria Hills, winners of the May Early Bird Draw. They held a Diwali Festival in November, 2018.

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

Neighbour to Neighbour

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

"Our gathering encourages people to start by checking in with a new neighbour or with sick or elderly neighbours right from the start in the invite. This helps us include as many people as we can and helps us learn more about our neighbours. Even when delivering invites door to door or putting up a sign gives the opportunity to catch someone at home and have a wee chat!

We know that interaction with the community helps with longevity, loneliness, mental health, and builds a sense of belonging and connection. This makes us a more caring community and it makes us feel like a safe community! Having a laugh and a chat, sharing ideas and food all makes for a lively, invigorated, atmosphere in which we can connect and thrive."

Schneider Creek Neighbourhood



Schneider Creek Porch Party
July 2018