



Festival of Neighbourhoods
* Kitchener *

thE-neighbour

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Whacky Festivities to Celebrate with your Neighbours

If you need a reason to bring your neighbours together, just about everyday there is a cause or activity to celebrate.

Break the winter doldrums with a neighbourhood get-together. What about celebrating Tin Can Day on January 19th with a canned goods pot luck & fundraiser for the Food Bank, or Random Acts of Kindness Day on February the 17th, or Day of Awesome on March 10th, or Pillow Fight Day on April 6th, and of course, the ever popular Earth Day on April 22nd? Look for a calendar of celebrations. They are full of ideas that you can use to bring your neighbours together.

Remember to **register** your neighbourhood gatherings, and participate in the January Early Bird Draw.

If you have held an activity between October 1st, and December 31st, 2013, please send in your registration by Monday, January 13th to include your entry in the first **Early Bird Draw** of the year for a prize that you can use at your next neighbourhood gathering.

The Neighbourhood Activity Trunk has a New Look!

Bring even more fun to your next neighbourhood activity: Browse and choose great toys and games suitable for larger groups through images.



Neighbour to Neighbour

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

"Social equity has increased. We now talk/walk together. Neighbours go across the street and interact more. We understand each other better. Just one small peace keeping event of sharing a meal together makes my 'Hood' feel more comfortable - we all belong. Over the last 10 years, we have broken the language barrier and now feel very comfortable sharing news and family events freely. The biggest conversation is around the ground hog in the 'Hood'."

Building a Better Neighbourhood, from the Bottom Up

Anyone can bring neighbours together for a day of fun and simultaneously increase everyone's sense of well-being, and improve the quality of life in their neighbourhood

The best things in life cannot be quantified. The benefits of living in a cohesive neighbourhood, regardless of the value of its real estate, is one of those things... and it is a job best done by the people who live in it. It could be anyone of us. These are some of the benefits that you can come to enjoy when you know your neighbours.

- 1. Live in a safer neighbourhood.** When neighbours know each other, it is easier to notice what belongs, and what is out of place, as well as offering and receiving help from our neighbours. It helps us have peace of mind, and our lives can be a little easier.
- 2. Have a greater sense of belonging.** When we know our neighbours, we don't feel like strangers. We say "hi" to each other, and we might strike a conversation. We might share details about our lives, our families or our homes. Inevitably, our lives become somewhat intertwined.
- 3. Solve problems before they happen.** When neighbours know each other, they become stronger and more resourceful to make their neighbourhood a better place to live.
- 4. Be more connected to your community.** When neighbours know each other, they feel connected and contribute to helping others feel connected, just by being there, saying a friendly "hi" and sharing a smile.
- 5. Live in a cohesive neighbourhood.** If we feel reasonably safe, with a sense of belonging, and a good sense of self worth, there is a good chance that we are not going to move looking for a better neighbourhood. Over time, we can come to enjoy the neighbourhood cohesion that makes us all more resilient to the challenges of life.
- 6. Have more fun.** So you have done all the work to improve your sense of well being. Now it's time to relax, and enjoy the daily goings of your neighbourhood!



2012 Fairview Park Mall Neighbourhood Halloween Party, included a reptile show, face painting, crafts, and a visit from the firefighters and the regional police force.

QUICK LINKS to FoN Resources

- Registration Form for mail or fax
- Full Online Registration
- Short Online Registration, to be completed by phone
- Online Booking Neighbourhood Activity Trunk
- Winter Ice Rinks in Kitchener