



Festival of Neighbourhoods  
Kitchener

# thE-neighbour

May, 2014

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## FoN BILLBOARD

- **Win a prize for your next neighbourhood get-together** - The June Early Bird Draw is open to any registered neighbourhood activities held after October 31, 2013. Registrations must have been received between April 1 to May 31.
- **Congratulations to Cherry Park Neighbourhood!** - Winners of the April Early Bird Draw. The prize: A swimming pool party at a City of Kitchener indoor pool for their next neighbourhood activity. Sponsored by the City of Kitchener.
- Join a **Jane's Walk** activity on the first weekend of May. To learn where the walks are held this year locally go to the Jane's Walk website at [www.janeswalk.org/canada/waterloo/](http://www.janeswalk.org/canada/waterloo/)

Topper Woods opening ceremony of Marigold Park with councillor Yvonne Fernandes cutting the ribbon with the help of neighbourhood kids.



With the Neighbourhood Improvement Grant, neighbours succeeded in turning a patch of weeds and shrubs into a lively area for people of all ages. Congratulations!

## QUICK LINKS to FoN Resources

- Registration Form for mail or fax
- Full Online Registration
- Short Online Registration - finalized by phone
- Neighbourhood Activity Trunk Online Booking
- Earth Day Resources
- 2014 Festival Map
- Jane's Walk

## Do you Have an Idea for a Project to Improve your Neighbourhood?

*It is now easier to turn your idea into reality with an increase of the Neighbourhood Improvement Grant*

For the last 20 years, Festival of Neighbourhoods has awarded a \$10,000 capital improvement grant every year to a winning neighbourhood. This year the City of Kitchener increased the grant to \$21,000. The grant provides a chance for neighbours to complete a project of their choice that best meets their neighbourhood's unique needs.

The Festival of Neighbourhoods capital improvement grant is designed to provide opportunities for community members to connect with their neighbours, to determine communal interests and needs, to decide together on a project that will benefit their area and to work with municipal staff to bring their project to fruition. The process itself creates opportunities for leadership and engagement. It addresses the community priority of inclusion and diversity, requiring all neighbours to be offered an opportunity for input and to be part of the decision-making. The resulting projects and connections made through the process can have a powerful impact on the quality of life in that neighbourhood.

Over the past years, capital grant winners have mostly chosen to make improvements to their playgrounds, trails, streets and parks. The exciting prospect of winning the grant encourages everyone to imagine how their neighbourhood can become a better place. Is there a place in your neighbourhood that can become a great gathering area? Can improvements turn an isolated area into one that becomes well used and loved in the neighbourhood? Each neighbourhood has its own unique needs, and the grant can help meet them.

*Get involved in your neighbourhood and contact us for ideas, resources and support. Receive helpful tips and make sure that your activity qualifies your neighbourhood for the \$21,000 capital improvement grant draw.*

*Register qualifying neighbourhood activities held between October 1st, 2013 and September 30th, 2014 with the Festival of Neighbourhoods before October 5th, 2014. Join us at the Festival Finale at Kitchener City Hall on Sunday, November 2nd, when the draw for the \$21,000 neighbourhood improvement grant will be held and the winner announced.*

## Neighbour to Neighbour

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

"Events like this encourage people to think outside of their family circle. Urban life conditions us to look after ourselves sometimes all too often at the expense of others. In a rural setting people were (are) more dependent on neighbors and looked forward to getting together. Hopefully we bring that rural communal thinking to our neighbors here in the concrete jungle and once in a while, not all the time, but every so often, someone will say to themselves "hey that was nice getting together with neighbors. I'd like to do that again. How can I do that" And if we keep trying to connect perhaps we will tap into that, moment of clarity when they realize that helping and sharing with others not only makes a better community, a better life for others, but also enhances our own life experience.."