



Festival of Neighbourhoods
Kitchener

thE-neighbour

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“Creating Connections, Growing Traditions”

Embrace this year's theme and make it part of your neighbourhood gatherings

Festival of Neighbourhoods, with this year's theme, encourages everyone to come together with their neighbours, to connect with each other and to grow traditions.

Think of the value of creating memories and traditions for you, your family and your neighbourhood. They can truly give us a stronger sense of belonging, help us feel safer, break social barriers, bring people together for the simple purpose of building community and of course, they are fun. The children come to expect them, and when they grow, they too will want to lead and participate in similar enterprises. They are an accessible doorway into the neighbourhood for everyone, regardless of how long they have been living there.

If you want to do something in your neighbourhood but you don't know where to begin, start by talking to your neighbours. A few minds together will always come up with something that can be successful in your neighbourhood. Once you have an activity, a date and a location, invite everyone in your neighbourhood by placing invitations in their mailboxes, or putting up posters.

Many neighbours in Kitchener come together regularly, either weekly, monthly or yearly for potlucks, barbecues, clean-ups, nature walks, and many other activities. They have built strong traditions that are meaningful to their neighbourhoods, and they can attest to their value as they impact their families and their community. For example, [Colin's Annual Toy Drive](#) brings the neighbours of Tremaine Park together to collect toys for Anselma House. Colin has grown over the years a long list of fans and supporters in the community, including Waterloo Region Police Chief Brian Larkin, Kitchener Mayor Berry Urbanovic, Councillor Schneider and Astronaut Chris Hadfield.

We encourage you to jump on the “traditions bandwagon” to get on your way to building a stronger community!



FoN BILLBOARD

- **Win a prize for your next neighbourhood get-together.** The first early bird draw of the season is for neighbourhood activities held after October 1st, 2014. Register before January 13th, 2015 to be eligible for a prize!
- Share information on upcoming events in your neighbourhood on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, or simply by adding us to your [mailing list](#).
- To help make your ideas a reality, financial help is available through [city grants](#) for neighbourhood and/or place-based projects or events, and for projects, initiatives or events that support inclusion and/or belonging.



FoN QUICK LINKS

- [Registration Form - Mail/Fax](#)
- [Full Online Registration](#)
- [Short Online Registration - finalized by phone](#)
- [Neighbourhood Activity Trunk Online Booking](#)

2014 Annual Lantern Walk in the Breithaupt neighbourhood, held on the shortest day of the year, bringing together neighbours for a walk and songs. On Dec. 10th, they held a Lantern Making Workshop, to prepare for the walk.

Neighbour to Neighbour Award Highlights and Ideas

Youth have skills and talents and a desire to be involved in the community. The Festival of Neighbourhoods Youth Award celebrates those neighbourhoods that recognize this and support their leadership and involvement. Support your youth in taking on organizing a gathering, or ask them to be involved and to take on a leadership role in decision-making, advertising or organizing a part of the fun for the day. Youth have had success organizing skating parties, spring clean-ups or leading activities for younger children.

This year the Youth Award was given to the Chicopee neighbourhood Lemonade and Rainbow Loom Sale, organized by two girls, aged 9 and 10. They came up with the idea, made and distributed the posters, made the lemonade and crafts to sell and decided on what charity to donate the money. The girls raised, and proudly delivered personally, the grand sum of \$114.97 for the Humane Society of KW.

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 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015 with the Festival of Neighbourhoods before October 5, 2015. Join us at the Festival Finale at Kitchener City Hall on October 18, when the draw for the \$21,000 neighbourhood improvement grant will be held and the winner announced.