



Festival of Neighbourhoods  
Kitchener

# thE-neighbour

July, 2015

phone (519) 579 3800 - fax (519) 578 9185

entries@festivalofneighbourhoods.ca

www.kitchener.ca/fon

www.waterlooregion.org/neighbourhoods



Neighbours of Weber Park gathered to plant an edible forest on June 6. Mansion Greens Community Garden provides constant opportunities for neighbours to meet each other.

## Does Your Neighbourhood Hold an Annual Gathering?

*The first step towards creating connections and growing traditions in your neighbourhood is done by bringing your neighbours together for the first time.*

This year's theme for the Festival of Neighbourhoods, "Creating Connections, Growing Traditions" acquired a special significance this morning on my walk to work. Ron, who lives around the corner from my house, peeked out of his front door when he saw me coming to let me know that this year the annual barbecue had been postponed to September. He has been holding this barbecue for three years in the summer on his small driveway and the narrow sidewalk in front of his house. The part that made me smile was that the kids in the neighbourhood have been asking him when he will have his next barbecue. They are already excited with anticipation.

It doesn't take many years to turn annual neighbourhood gatherings into solid traditions, especially in the minds of the youngest in our communities. These gatherings are fun and very special; they help us feel connected to our community; allow us to experience the joy of knowing our neighbours; and most importantly the young ones will take these great experiences into their adult lives, having learned some basic skills from people like Ron on how to grow community.

Festival of Neighbourhoods celebrates neighbourhoods that register their neighbourhood gatherings for the first time, with the Newcomer Award, sponsored by [Happenate](#). Neighbourhoods that have participated for five or more years also get the spotlight shone upon them with the Pillar Award, sponsored by [Hammond Plumbing and Heating](#). Festival of Neighbourhoods recognizes the value of coming together with your neighbours on a regular basis, whether it is weekly, monthly or yearly, as this is a great way to connect with your neighbours and grow traditions that everyone, regardless of age, can enjoy for years to come.

### FoN BILLBOARD

- **Win a prize for your next neighbourhood get-together.** The next and last early bird draw of the season is for neighbourhood activities held after October 1st, 2014 and registered before July 31st, 2015!

- **Congratulations to the Chicopee/Deer Ridge Neighbourhood!** Winners of the April Early Bird Draw. The prize: A free demonstration & playtime of Pickleball, a sport for all ages, with an experienced team from the [KW Pickleball Association](#).

- Share information on upcoming events in your neighbourhood on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, or by adding us to your [mailing list](#).

- For useful ideas, tips, tools, contact numbers, grant information and games/activities to rent/borrow, check out our list of [Useful Contacts and Local Resources](#) and [Grant Opportunities](#) from the City of Kitchener.

If you need help to make sure that your activity qualifies your neighbourhood for the \$21,000 capital improvement grant draw- just give us a call or email.

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.

### NEIGHBOURS TALK

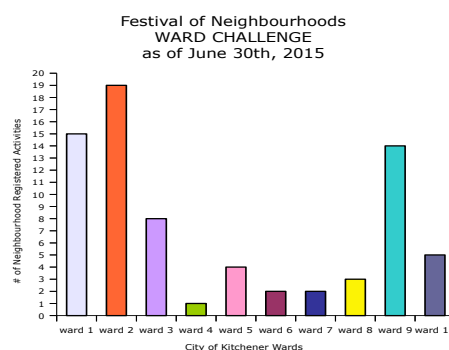
See Page 2 for helpful tips from other neighbours. Share your ideas for a chance to win a prize!

### FoN QUICK LINKS

[Useful Contacts and Local Resources](#)  
[Neighbourhood Activity Guide](#)  
[Registration Form - Mail/Fax](#)  
[Full Registration](#)  
[Short Registration - finalized by phone](#)  
[Neighbourhood Activity Trunk](#)

### WARD CHALLENGE

With the Ward Challenge, we encourage Kitchener's ten councillors to be supportive of neighbourhood gatherings in their ward. Register your activity and help your ward win the challenge! Check out the [Festival Map](#), to see what and how other neighbourhoods are gathering.



### Neighbour to Neighbour

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

"We have been doing this for 6 years. We have given the kids some great memories as well as show them what a neighbourhood can do together!"



# NEIGHBOURS TALK

thE-neighbour - July, 2015

Respond with this [survey](#) and be included in a draw to win a prize that you can use toward your next neighbourhood get-together.

The May 2015 E-Neighbour included our first “Neighbours Talk” survey, we asked:  
A. What item(s) would you like to be able to borrow for your next gatherings?  
B. What resources would be helpful to you in planning a neighbourhood gathering?

## Here is what we heard so far....

1. Tent canopies – having 10 x 10 canopies to borrow
2. A guide on how to organize different activities
3. Information on permits and licenses required (please see our [Useful Contacts and Local Resources](#))
4. Ideas on ways to get the word out and advertise the gathering (please see the [Neighbourhood Activity Guide](#) for ideas and poster and invitation templates)

Share your answers by posting on [our facebook page](#) or by [email](#) and we will repost!

## Questions your neighbours have....

1. What types of events seem to be best for engaging neighbours in long-term connections?
2. How to organize fun, inclusive activities in the colder months, since we don't really have access to a community room, a park or sports fields?

Help your neighbours out by posting your thoughts on [our facebook page](#) or by [email](#) and we will repost!

## Here are some of our thoughts....

Creating long-term connections-- When people are able to follow their passion and feel valued, when they are able to do things for others, at the same time benefiting from the generosity of others, they keep coming back. Activities that nurture a sense of ownership and pride!

Some activities that have been going on for a long time- potlucks, annual street parties, annual music concerts with local talent.

## Winter activities

Unexpected snow days are a chance to have snowman building competitions followed by hot chocolate; invite others to help in a snow removal brigade, helping neighbours who need a hand; tobogganing or skating party at the nearest hill or rink. Planned activities could include tree trimming, carols singing or winter walks! Indoor gatherings for smaller neighbourhoods could include movie nights, gameboard evenings, or pancake breakfasts. Even outings to a family restaurant were registered before! Making sure everyone can come out to play is crucial like removing snow for wheelchair access or sharing toboggans to pull small kids in instead of strollers.

## Recruiting new helpers or starting new activities

Young people like to do things in groups and to have some freedom to make their own decisions. They have good ideas of their own- ask them, encourage them, offer support to get them started.

Listen to people and find out what they are interested in and bring like-minded people together to organize with others.