



Festival of Neighbourhoods
✿ Kitchener ✿

thE-neighbour

March, 2015

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Get ready to welcome the spring with activities that show your appreciation for the environment!

How previous winners of the Green Neighbourhood Award have brought their neighbours together.

Spring is just around the corner and with it, come great opportunities to participate in your neighbourhood and bring your neighbours together. Celebrations such as **Earth Day**, on April 22nd and Mother's Day, on May 10th, bring to mind the environment and flowers. The Green Neighbourhood Award celebrates the gathering of neighbours for environmental action, conservation or beautification. In the past, recipients of the Green Neighbourhood Award have brought neighbours together to do community clean-ups, nature walks, bird counts, plant sales and gardening events, often combined with potlucks or barbecues.

The Great Backyard Bird Count, held in conjunction with the K-W Field Naturalists, consisted of a tour within the neighbourhood and stops at neighbourhood homes with backyard feeders. The Nature Walks of Bechtel Park were enhanced with help of a neighbourhood ecologist. These activities do a great job of raising awareness of the environment and how to protect it.

The Perennial Plant Sale, around Mother's Day was made possible with the help of neighbours who donated plants, pots and earth, as well as their labour to repot the plants and help out with the sale.

In another neighbourhood, the community clean up was a chance to meet new neighbours, with the added benefit of enjoying a very clean looking neighbourhood for the remainder of the year. Neighbours were very appreciative of all the good things that came out of this event.

Contact the **City of Kitchener** for supplies, resources and information to hold your neighbourhood clean-up. The City of Kitchener works with Tim Hortons to distribute supplies and prizes that are made available.

FoN BILLBOARD

- *Win a prize for your next neighbourhood get-together. The next early bird draw of the season is for neighbourhood activities held after October 1st, 2014. Register before March 31st, 2015 to be eligible for a neighbourhood prize!*

- *Congratulations to the Williamsburg Community Association and the Southwest Church of Christ for the Williamsburg Family Fun Day Pre-registration!*

- *Winners of the January Early Bird Draw. The prize: A \$50 gift card for their next neighbourhood activity. Sponsored by Alejandra & Vladimir Ivic of Remax - Twin City Realty.*

- *Share information on upcoming events in your neighbourhood on our Facebook and Twitter accounts, or 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](#)

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.



Neighbours help out at a plant sale during "Animate the Trail - 2013" where different groups and neighbourhoods participated to bring people out for an enjoyable walk along the Iron Horse Trail.

Neighbour to Neighbour

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

I live in the Mt Hope-Breithaupt Park neighbourhood and, since moving here 29 years ago, my family has participated in many different neighbourhood activities and in the Festival of Neighbourhoods since it began. I am proud of the tradition of participation that has existed in this neighbourhood long before we arrived. There has been something organized most years, to my knowledge, since at least 1984. Some events had become annual traditions in different parts of the neighbourhood, some continuing for 10 years or more. New activities are being organized that I am certain will become important traditions. These activities have enriched the neighbourhood and been the basis of meeting neighbours and dealing with serious neighbourhood issues. These connections have enriched our lives. My children have grown up knowing a sense of community and wanting to find those types of connections as they make their own way in the world.