

# A Neighbours Guide to Making your *Neighbourhood a Community*

## Get to Know Your Neighbours!

- If you can't name more than a neighbour or two, it's time to introduce yourself! Stop and say hello when you pass on the street or when you're out in the yard. It really is that simple!
- Having a block directory is a great way to organize events or to ensure that your block is prepared in case of an emergency. This can be as simple as dropping a sign-up sheet at every door and having your neighbours fill it out and return it to you. Once all the forms have been returned you can deliver, mail or e-mail everyone a final version.
- Start a community newsletter, website or Facebook page to make sure that everyone knows about local garage sales, neighbourhood events, notices or any odd jobs people need help with.
- Start small! Rather than a street wide block party, why not invite your neighbours to coffee on the porch? Grab some donuts or bagels and have everyone bring their favourite mug.
- Shop locally. If you live near a business district this is a great way to support local business and get to know your neighbours who also shop locally, not to mention the business owners and employees!
- Nominate your neighbours for the [FCSS Good Neighbour Award](#) to let them know how awesome they are!

## Start a Neighbourhood "Care Team"

- Find a few neighbours who are willing to lend a helping hand when someone on your street is going through a tough time or in need of a little extra support. Take turns helping with yard work, running errands or bringing meals over.
- Shovel your neighbour's sidewalk when it snows. If your neighbours are older or perhaps just going through a hard time with a new baby spend a few extra minutes to clear their sidewalk too.
- Welcome new families to the neighborhood with baked goods or (if you want to get a bit creative) recommend the best near-by restaurants and businesses by offering a stack of your favorite take-out menus wrapped up in a ribbon.

## Plan a Neighbourhood Event!

- Celebrate neighbourhood milestones like graduations, birthdays, and holidays with an informal get together. This can be done on a front porch, local park or anywhere you chose! How you celebrate is up to you!
- Enjoy the summer weather with a block wide water fight!
- Try hosting a block pot luck! Have everyone make their favourite foods or pick a cuisine and have some fun trying something new. You can also try going door to door to sample each dish and house hop until everyone is contentedly full.
- Organize some fun street activities for the kids in the neighbourhood such as a snow castle or snow man building competition or use sidewalk chalk to decorate your street from end to end. If you'd like to encourage some friendly competition, a kids vs. adults street hockey game is also a great way to get active and have some fun!
- Contact a food truck to set up on your block and take the time to visit with your neighbours as you snack.
- Host movie nights using a garage door as the movie screen. Alternate which family gets to pick the movie and don't forget the popcorn!

## Start a Neighbourhood Lending Project or Club

- Love to read? Build a Little Free Library for your front yard or start a neighbourhood book club.
- Tool share programs are a great way to save garage space, build community and save money! They make it possible for dozens of people to share tools instead of each person having to buy their own. They also encourage DIY-ers to share their skills and knowledge.
- Are you tech savvy? Perhaps you can sew or like to tinker with cars? Your neighbours would love for you to share these skills with them! Set up a time to get together and teach your neighbours a skill or help them out when they need a hand. They may also teach you something in exchange!
- Neighbourhood Watch programs are a great way to increase safety in your neighbourhood.

## Create Community Gathering Spaces

- Plant a colourful perennial border between your sidewalk and the street.
- Put a chair or bench in your front yard or hang a swing and then say hi to your neighbours when they pass by. To encourage more people to sit, share, and socialize, upcycle old patio furniture and set it up on empty sidewalks. Your neighbours will thank you!
- Take advantage of a cul-de-sac and make your own playground by devising a play area with a tree swing, basketball court, and plenty of room for riding bikes or skating. Just make sure to put out pylons or other warning signs to ensure vehicles know that there are kids at play
- Put a fire pit or temporary stove out in the front yard and on cooler nights, throw down some beach blankets, and invite the neighbours over for s'mores.

Check out the [Shape your Community Grant](#) or contact the Community Social Planning Coordinator at 780-992-6267 to get started!



Have an idea to improve your neighbourhood but don't know where to start? FCSS has funding available to make it happen!