



Neighbour Week 2025



Sustaining neighbourhood connections year-round

It's easy to connect during events like Neighbour Week but lasting relationships are built over time. Sustaining connections year-round helps create a neighbourhood where people feel safe, supported and like they belong — every season, not just once a year.

Here are ways to keep the momentum going and grow a stronger, more connected neighbourhood all year long:

Tip 1 — Create seasonal traditions everyone can look forward to:

Mark your calendars with low-pressure, recurring events that bring neighbours together naturally. Here are some examples:

Spring:

- garden planting days or seed swaps
- neighbourhood cleanups or tree planting
- meet your neighbour coffee mornings as the weather warms up

Summer:

- barbecues, ice cream socials or block parties
- outdoor movie nights or music in the park
- sidewalk chalk art contests or yard games afternoons

Fall:

- harvest potlucks or soup swaps
- pumpkin carving contests
- fall walks or scavenger hunts

Winter:

- hot chocolate or cider meet-ups
- winter light walks or snowman competitions
- Holiday card or cookie exchange

Pro tip: keep it casual — open invite, come-and-go style — to avoid event burnout

Tip 2 — Keep communication flowing

Regular communication helps maintain relationships and builds a habit of connection.

- Start a quarterly email or group chat update — share community news, events or photos
- Create a sense of ownership by rotate who sends the update
 - Ideas to share: community events , local resources or news, requests for help or offers (i.e. tools, childcare, errands) or welcoming new neighbours

Tip 3 — Celebrate neighbourhood milestones and small wins

Taking time to recognize important moments — big or small — helps create a caring, supportive neighbourhood where people feel noticed and appreciated.

- Acknowledge life events like birthdays, retirements, new babies, graduations or anniversaries. A simple card, group message or quick visit goes a long way
- Thank neighbours for everyday kindnesses, like shoveling a walkway, sharing tools or helping with yard work. Let people know their efforts are seen and appreciated
- Share good news and accomplishments:
"Congrats to the [Name] family on their new garden!"
"Thanks to everyone who helped with the park clean-up — it looks fantastic!"

Tip 4 — Create shared projects or resources

Shared projects give neighbours a reason to stay connected:

- Tool library or lending closet (e.g. ladders, lawnmowers, books, board games, etc.)
- Community garden or planter boxes
- Bulletin board or mini newsletter for updates, birthdays and helpful info
- Organize skill shares (e.g. cooking, bike repair, knitting, snow-clearing teams, etc.)



Tip 5 — Involve different people in leading activities

Sustainable connection happens when it's not always the same person organizing.

- rotate event hosts or organizers
- encourage new ideas: *"What's something you've always wanted to try here?"*
- give small leadership roles: *"Would you like to help organize a walk?"*

Tip 6 — Check in and reflect annually

Make space each year to ask: *"How are we doing as a neighbourhood?"*

- What's working?
- What events or traditions do people love?
- What could we try next year?

This reflection keeps things fresh, prevents burnout and ensures everyone feels heard.

Final tip

Neighbourhood connections don't need to be big or formal. Small, regular moments — a wave, a quick text, a shared project — build the foundation of a community where people feel like they belong, every day of the year.

Keep showing up. Keep making space. That's how neighbourhoods grow strong.

