



GREAT IDEAS FOR GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

Curious to learn what's happening in your neighbourhood and other neighbourhoods in Victoria? Looking for some local and global inspiration for community building and placemaking ideas? Here are some ideas, resources and updates to help you create a vibrant neighbourhood.

See an idea you like? Please feel free to share and post as you wish.

Ideas from Around the City

Recycle Saturdays

Did you know that for over 15 years the South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association has operated a monthly recycling depot? They take plastics, styrofoam, mixed paper etc. that the CRD Blue Bin program doesn't accept. The depot is open on the 2nd Saturday of every month, from 10am – noon, at the Bank Street Art School, on the corner of Leighton and Bank streets. An average month sees about 50-60 bags of recyclables diverted from the landfill. Donations help pay for the cost of this program and generate on average \$300/month profit. What a great way to raise funds for the many projects they have on the go at the same time supporting the City's Zero Waste goals. This monthly event has also become a bit of a community gathering space, with regulars taking time to visit with their neighbours after they've dropped off their recycling. SJNA has compiled a **How to Get Started Guide** for other neighbourhood organizations who might want to start their own monthly recycling depot. Last year they helped the James Bay Neighborhood Association get a monthly recycle depot running with start-up costs covered by a **My Great Neighbourhood Grant**. If you are interested in starting a Recycle Saturday in your neighbourhood, reach out to [SJNA](#) for their guide and talk to your neighbourhood liaison about the possibility of a start-up grant.



Opening Spring 2023



Are you interested in making a difference on your block, neighbourhood or beyond and have no idea how to get started? Building community is incredibly fulfilling work and it starts here!

Offered by the Neighbourhood Team at the City of Victoria, **Local Champions** is a community-based leadership development program for Victoria residents to gain foundational skills, confidence and relationships to become more active and engaged "local champions" in their neighbourhood or community. Through developing collaborative grassroots leadership skills, local champions can apply their learnings to initiate community-building activities

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or projects, become “connectors” in their neighbourhoods, and engage in community life through local initiatives or groups. Are you a budding local champion? Do you know someone who might want to become one? Check our [website](#) soon for updates on the starting date for the 2023 program and an application form. Feel free to email neighbourhoods@victoria.ca for details.

Ideas from Further Abroad

Lending Libraries – More than just books

Does your community centre have room for a library of things? What a great idea to be able to lend out items that people might need only occasionally and not have the money or space to store them. Contact your neighbourhood liaison to see how we might support you with a **My Great Neighbourhood Grant** to get started. Photo Via Reddit u/TumainiTiger

My local library has a "library of things" for residents to borrow useful household items like toolkits and power washers



Assessing Your Social Health



We have a multitude of ways to evaluate our physical health, but have you ever wondered how your social health measures up? Researchers at Simon Fraser University have created *The GenWell Social Health Assessment* in collaboration with data from the Canadian Social Connection Survey. It provides a numeric score to help you understand your **social health and wellbeing** compared to other Canadians. Think of it as a 12-question, wake-up call to pay greater attention to your social health and to help you live a happier, healthier and more connected life. Once you finish, you'll get your score, show how you compare to other Canadians, and share some information to help you take the next steps to improving your health, happiness, and wellbeing. Take the quiz [here](#). For more information about community social health, reach out to the [GenWell Project team](#).

Making it Happen

PAPER | What Is Community?



The Deepening Community at Tamarack Institute believes all place-based work should centre community. This work cannot be done alone, however, and it can be a challenge to help people understand why this work is important. In our experience, sharing knowledge and stories of what is possible are two effective approaches to building a case for anything. This paper is the first of eight foundational papers written as part of a series titled ***Building the Case for Deepening Community***. Read the paper [here](#)

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Food – The Ultimate Community Builder

We've all experienced long boring meetings when our minds wander to thinking about our next meal or maybe our long to-do list waiting for us. Long-time community builder Jim Diers believes that community building happens faster and more effectively when you host a party instead of a meeting. Sometimes a party isn't always possible but a meeting with a bit of food always goes down a bit easier. Coffee cake is an old favourite that pleases a crowd and this [recipe](#) is one that anyone can make quickly and easily in your kitchen. Add a cup of coffee and you've got the perfect accompaniment to your agenda.



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