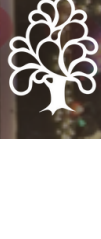


2025 Year In Review

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



It's been an incredible year for the Neighbourhood Development Office, and we couldn't have achieved it without the vision of our residents and your ongoing support!

29
PROJECTS APPROVED

7
EVENTS

3
PROGRAMS

19
CAPITAL PLACEMAKING PROJECTS

Love My Hood has provided over \$1.5 million in funding for more than 250 resident-led projects. This year, we reached an exciting milestone: **a record \$287,000 in funding released**, thanks in part to the support of the Waterloo Region Community Foundation. Together, we're creating stronger communities that foster connection, belonging, and neighbourhood pride!

Stories from our Neighbourhoods



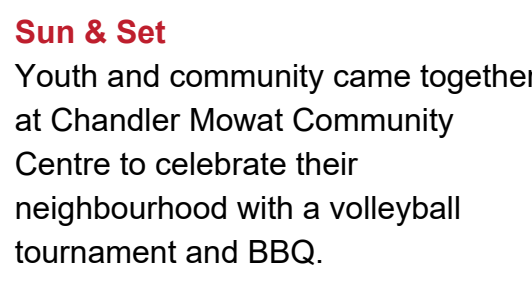
Admiral Park Winter Lights

This initiative brought warmth and beauty to the winter season. It was honored with the **Urban Design – Placemaking Award** at the City of Kitchener's Great Places Awards, recognizing it as a successful community-led initiative that brought festive lights and community spirit to the park!



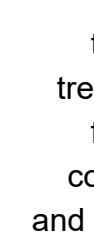
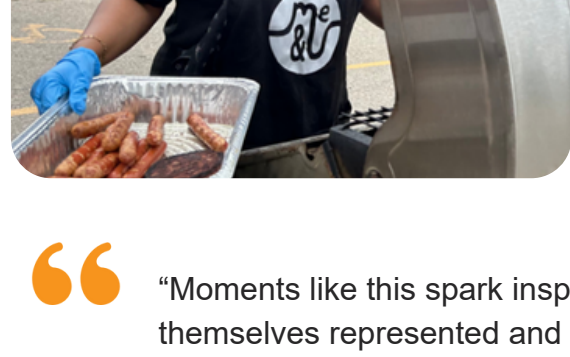
The Walking Bird Neighbourhood Café

A new project idea to bring neighbours in Stanley Park together through resident-hosted pop-up cafes designed to spark conversation, build friendships, and strengthen the neighbourhood.



Sun & Set

Youth and community came together at Chandler Mowat Community Centre to celebrate their neighbourhood with a volleyball tournament and BBQ.



"Moments like this spark inspiration in youth to see themselves represented and celebrated." -Sun & Set BBQ Project Group Member



Vera's Garden

Olde Berlin neighbours came together to weave a living willow trellis and create a sensory garden filled with native plants. Through collaborative planting, workshops, and ongoing care, they've built more than a garden, they've built a sense of belonging.



Steckle Community Garden

Neighbours from diverse cultures grew food, friendships, and community in the garden's first growing season.



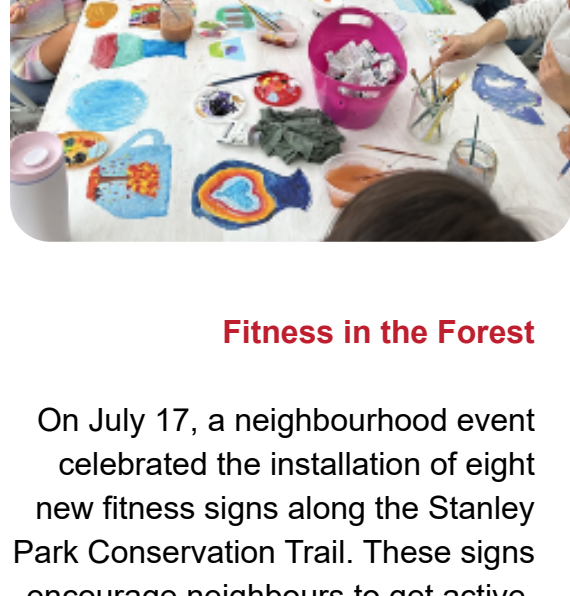
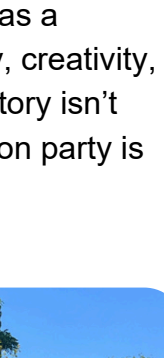
Westheights Greening Project

An underused patch of land behind the school has been transformed into a vibrant natural space along the community walking trail.



Neighbourhood Mosaic: Stories of Belonging

Installed this October, the Neighbourhood Mosaic is a freestanding mural, created to tell the stories of the residents of the Brybeck Community. The artist met with residents of all ages to hear stories and ideas about what makes the neighbourhood special.



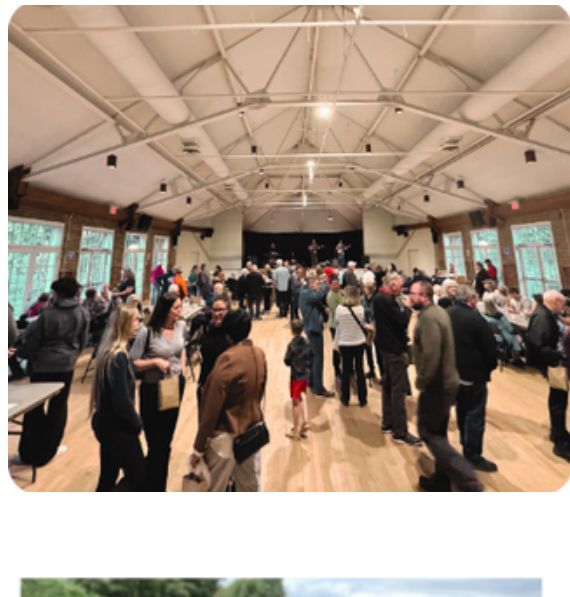
Fitness in the Forest

On July 17, a neighbourhood event celebrated the installation of eight new fitness signs along the Stanley Park Conservation Trail. These signs encourage neighbours to get active, enjoy nature, and come together as a neighbourhood.



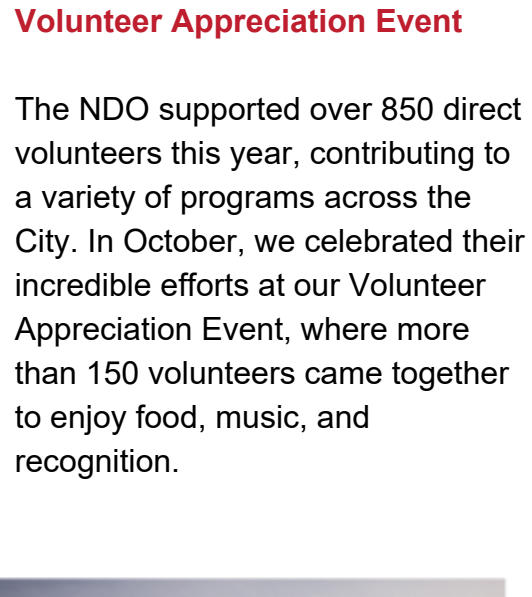
Volunteer Appreciation Event

The NDO supported over 850 direct volunteers this year, contributing to a variety of programs across the City. In October, we celebrated their incredible efforts at our Volunteer Appreciation Event, where more than 150 volunteers came together to enjoy food, music, and recognition.



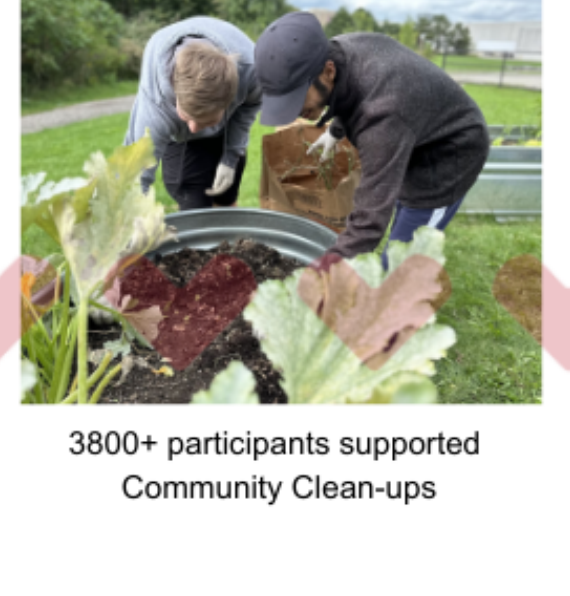
Community Clean-ups

3800+ participants supported Community Clean-ups



Winter Rinks

More than 100 volunteers supported 25 Winter Rinks



Kitchener in Bloom

Over 800 nominations this year showed an incredible display of community pride and creativity!



Community Gardens

This year, 21 City-supported community gardens were celebrated across Kitchener, bringing neighbours together to share food, fun, and gardening!

This year's **wrap-up event** celebrated these efforts, bringing together gardeners, volunteers, and neighbours. Beyond the awards, the program is creating relationships among gardeners and helping make our city a greener, more vibrant, and more sustainable place to live!

Community Gardens: This year, 21 City-supported community gardens were celebrated across Kitchener, bringing neighbours together to share food, fun, and gardening!

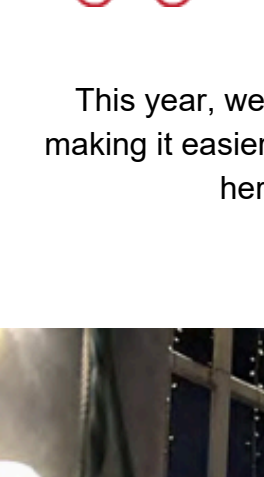


The Lyle S. Hallman Fund

Thank you to the Waterloo Region Community Foundation and the Lyle S. Hallman Fund

This year, we secured an additional \$87,600 in grant funding, enabling us to approve 7 impactful projects across our neighborhoods. These initiatives focused on capital improvements designed to benefit children and youth up to 13 years of age. These projects represent a commitment to creating safe, engaging, and accessible spaces that foster healthy development and community connection for young residents.

Projects that were funded included shade structures, a community garden, a ping pong table, a little library, and outdoor fitness equipment.



The NDO has been busy cutting red tape, making it easier for residents to bring their ideas to life! We know leading an event, program, or project can be challenging, and that's why we work hard to remove barriers so residents can focus on what matters: building great neighbourhoods!

This year, we worked with 25+ staff teams across all 5 departments, making it easier for residents to lead creative and unique projects. We're here to support residents every step of the way!

