



## 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.

### Ideas from Around the City

#### Community Celebrations Season

Annual community festivals can be a signature event for neighbourhood associations. It's a great opportunity to show residents how creative you are when putting on a fun, engaging event. And if you are going to go to all the effort and expense, make sure you are getting everything you can out of your event! What is your goal with the event? What assets does the neighbourhood have that can contribute to its interest and success? Are you getting your association's message out now that you have the community's attention? At the end of your event, you could conduct an evaluation to assess how successful you were. Maybe a survey during the event would help inform any changes you want to make for next year! Richmond Hill put together a [Community Festivals and Events Planning Guide](#) that includes the fundamentals ingredients of event planning.



Speaking of community celebrations, **Fall Fairfield is back**. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 25, 12 noon - 5pm** and join in the fun in Porter Park! Live performances, foods trucks, workshops, vendors, and a beer garden! More information can be found on the [Fairfield Gonzales Community Association](#) webpage.

As well, the **Gorge Waterway Cleanup** is taking place **Saturday, September 24th, 10am – 12 noon** at Selkirk Green Park (350 Waterfront Crescent). Every year, volunteers pitch in to clean up the water and shoreline along the Gorge. This improves the habitat for local wildlife and the look of the area for residents and visitors. We invite everyone to participate and make a difference in our local environment! If you are interested in participating in this great event as a volunteer, a participating group or a community sponsor, contact the Burnside Gorge Community Centre at 250-388-5251 or email [vanessa@burnsidegorge.ca](mailto:vanessa@burnsidegorge.ca)

# MY GREAT Neighbourhood

## Humans of Your Neighbourhood

What better way to capture the diversity in your neighbourhood than to go out and photograph it. North Park has recently completed the first stage of a [project](#) modelled after the Humans of New York. Professional photos were taken at their spring multicultural festival. The subjects received a digital copy of their photograph, and the community association can use the photos for promoting diversity and inclusion in the neighbourhood. Contact the [North Park Neighborhood Association](#) if you would like to know more (photos courtesy of NPNA).



## Street Murals Make Great Community Art

A new street mural is complete in Vic West. The garden-themed mural was painted by community members during a paint-in guided by mural designer Kay Gallivan in collaboration with the [Greater Victoria Placemaking Network](#). The mural and crosswalk enhancements are part of the City's Greenway Enhancement Program. Check it out along the William Street Greenway, at the Langford Street crosswalk, next to Vic West Elementary. Further down the greenway you can explore playground stencils, installed by Vic West Elementary students.



## Burnside Gorge Graffiti Fighters - Own Your Block



Graffiti isn't just ugly. Left unaddressed, it invites more graffiti until eventually the neighbourhood looks uncared for and residents in the area feel less secure on their streets. The Burnside Gorge Graffiti Fighters are a small team of neighbours working to make the neighbourhood a better place by removing graffiti from our neighbourhood. We're looking for new recruits! In just a few weeks, a remarkable change on the streets has taken place. Residents doing the graffiti removal are also having fun while making the streets look better! If you would like to join us, contact our group [graffitifighters@burnsidegorge.ca](mailto:graffitifighters@burnsidegorge.ca) and

we'll provide you with the kit, a partner and the information you need to get your block graffiti free. If you would like to start your own neighbourhood clean-up, reach out to the Neighbourhood Team at the City and we'll get you set up.



Your Neighbourhood Liaison  
Kimberley Stratford: [kstratford@victoria.ca](mailto:kstratford@victoria.ca)

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt people.

MY GREAT *Neighbourhood*

Ideas from Further Abroad

**Little Free Rock Library**



Here's a fun take on the Little Free Library trend. In an attempt to redress social bias and elite preference for books over rocks, Pierre Jardin has added the first Little Free Library to his neighborhood in Los Angeles dedicated to the sharing of pebbles. Every rock tells a story; it hides nothing of its history, leaving it traced on its surface. Library patrons have a rich array of rocks to choose from, and instructions for selection are provided. Click [here](#) for the full story and details.

**Umbrella Alleys**

What a way to make a statement out of a traditionally negative space in most cities. Umbrellas draw people into your placemaking space and offer shade as well. [Louisville OH](#) lays claim to the original umbrella alley and makes theirs a multi-purpose, multi-use space, all year long with different décor, music, murals, vendors, food, and festivals. They've even got a line of merchandise. Many umbrella alleys have been popping up around North America in the last few years. Take a trip out to Sidney (off Beacon Ave) to see one up close and personal!



Making it Happen



**The My Great Neighbourhood Grant program** is still accepting applications until October. If you have an idea, reach out and talk to us about how to proceed. We've got lots of helpful information on our [webpage](#). Your idea + City funding = great projects!



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# MY GREAT Neighbourhood

You're invited to the  
**NeighbourHub Open House!**

**Thursday, September 15, 2–6 p.m.** | Light refreshments available  
 Crystal Garden, 711 Douglas Street

**Discover how this NeighbourHub creates community!**

The City created the NeighbourHub as a gathering and meeting space to foster community involvement. Organizations and non-profits that work with residents and their neighbourhoods can book the space for events and meetings. It's a welcoming place where residents can connect and learn from different neighbourhoods, or discover a program or initiative to support their community.



Amenities include a boardroom for meetings and a lounge area with casual seating for talks, workshops and small events. On the street-level patio, there's fun outside seating to gather with neighbours and a free lending library.

Discover the NeighbourHub and all its possibilities, meet the Neighbourhood Team and learn more about the City's My Great Neighbourhood Grant program and all the other programs that can support residents.



[victoria.ca/neighbourhoods](http://victoria.ca/neighbourhoods)



**Looking for more ways to stay in touch?** Sign up for our [City e-newsletter](#) for monthly updates on City programs and initiatives.

**Looking to stay engaged?** Register with our [Have Your Say Engagement Portal](#). You'll get a monthly update about current engagement opportunities to participate in surveys and other online engagement opportunities.



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