



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.

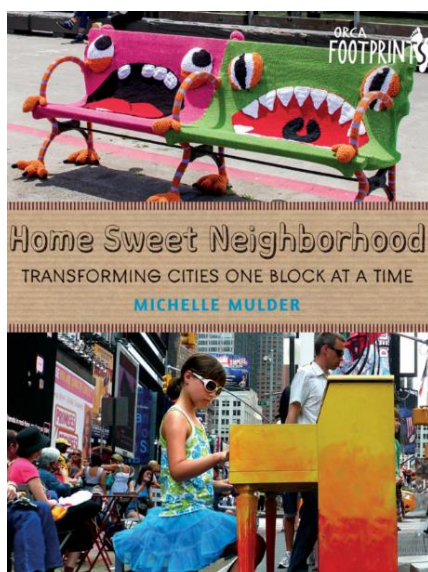
IDEAS FROM AROUND THE CITY

Neighbour Day is Sunday May 7

Neighbour Day is an opportunity to connect with your neighbours in fun and creative ways. When neighbours know each other, they are more engaged in their neighbourhoods, share a sense of belonging and increase safety in your neighbourhood. In celebration of Neighbour Day, we invite you to take a few moments to reach out to a neighbour to offer a helping hand, share a few backyard flowers or invite them over for a cup of tea. What will you do to strengthen your neighbour-to-neighbour relationships? Let us know in a quick email to neighbourhoods@victoria.ca.



Celebrating Local Placemaking Author



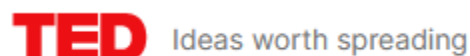
Placemaking—personalizing public and semi-private spaces like front yards—is a growing trend in cities and suburbs around the world, drawing people out of their homes and into conversation with one another. Kids are natural placemakers, building tree forts, drawing on sidewalks and setting up lemonade stands, but people of all ages can enjoy creative placemaking activities. From Dutch families who drag couches and tables onto sidewalks for outdoor suppers to Canadians who build little lending libraries to share books with neighbors, people can do things that make life more fun and strengthen neighborhoods. In ***Home Sweet Neighborhood*** local author Michelle Mulder combines upbeat text, fun facts and colorful photos to intrigue and inspire readers. Michelle was the lead for her neighbourhood on the street mural on Collinson Rd @ Cook St a few years ago. That project was funded through a ***My Great Neighbourhood*** grant. You can meet Michelle at their latest book launch of another youth oriented story ***Up for Grabs***. The launch is being held at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (1040 Moss Street) on Saturday, May 20, 3-5pm. You are most welcome to attend and encouraged to invite any young people ages 9-12 who might be interested in their new novel that takes place right here in Victoria.



IDEAS FROM FURTHER ABROAD

The surprising climate benefits of sharing your stuff

There's something simple we can all do to help the planet -- and it's probably not what you think. With one-third of all the food we produce globally each year being thrown away, entrepreneur Tessa Clarke believes that sharing more and wasting less is an underrated solution to the climate crisis. Learn more through her short [TED Talk](#) about how you can join the growing movement reducing waste and building community worldwide.



Pop Up Dance Mat



In response to New Zealand's massive earthquake in September 2010, an organization called [Gap Filler](#), based in Christchurch, implemented an impressive and impressively cheap project. Since the earthquake left Christchurch with a glut of vacant spaces this local group organized a DIY dance party in one of the city's vacant lots. By fashioning a "jukebox" out of an old washing machine and an MP3 player, and then setting up speakers around a makeshift stage, they created "Dance-o-Mat"—a public venue for spontaneous dance parties. The site quickly became a popular destination for city residents, and soon local salsa troupes and dance instructors began gathering there to practice and hold classes. Anyone could pay \$2 to play music on the jukebox, and based on these coin-box revenues, Dance-o-Mat supplied over 600 hours of entertainment in its first three months of operation (that's almost seven hours of activity per day!).

MAKING IT HAPPEN

NeighbourSpace Lending Library

In addition to the little free library outside of our NeighbourSpace at 711 Douglas St, the Neighbourhood Team is developing a community development reference lending library inside the Space. Community members are welcome to borrow these books for up to a month at a time. New books are being added regularly and we would happily take recommendations for additions. Please contact your neighbourhood liaison to see if we have the book you are looking for, and to arrange for pick up.



Social Isolation Documentary now widely available

We are living in a time that has been described as the age of loneliness. Despite Western advances in technology, living conditions, education and healthcare, we, as a society, are isolating ourselves from one another, and because of this, facing a health crisis that affects all ages, genders, races, and cultures. How have we become so disconnected? And what can we do to change the status quo and fulfill our potential for health and well-being? Wellness expert Tamer Soliman journeyed through North American cities to meet with local citizens,



Your Neighbourhood Liaison
Kimberley Stratford: kstratford@victoria.ca

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



community activists, and leading authorities on social, economic, and urban planning to discover the true factors that have profound and lasting impacts, not only on our health, but the health of the communities in which we live. This timely documentary invites us to reflect on the relationships we have with those around us and raises the question: is it possible to overcome our modern culture of disconnectedness and rediscover how truly essential we are to one other? The Great Disconnect is now available for streaming through Films For Action! You can now rent for \$5 or buy the film for \$10. What a great opportunity to host a community gathering to watch the film and discuss ideas on how you can combat social isolation and loneliness in your community. The Neighbourhood Team hosted this documentary and conversation with the director in late 2021 as part of our Community Virtuals program.

Looking for more ways to stay in touch? Sign up for our [City e-newsletter](#) for monthly updates on City programs and initiatives. Register with our [Have Your Say Engagement Portal](#) for a monthly notice to participate in surveys and other online engagement opportunities.