



22 NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECTS

BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AT THE ROOTS

In 2024, with a \$5,000 investment from the City of Penticton, 22 households in Penticton received Neighbourhood Small Grants of up to \$500, empowering residents to foster stronger connections and celebrate the places they call home.

These microgrants inspire grassroots action, cultivating collaboration, belonging, and vibrant community life.

Grant recipients hosted inclusive events, extended warm invitations, and shared their experiences, sparking inspiration for others to create opportunities for connection in their neighbourhoods. Projects ranged from cultural celebrations to creative workshops and environmental initiatives, showcasing the diversity and vibrancy of Penticton's neighbourhoods.

These small but impactful efforts contribute to a safer, more resilient city by strengthening relationships, promoting accessibility, and celebrating the unique character of our communities. Events like these make Penticton a more livable, vibrant, and connected place for everyone.

We invite you to explore the stories and photos shared by passionate NSG project leaders, celebrating the remarkable ways small actions can build stronger, more connected communities.

Enjoy the snapshots of how Penticton is growing together, one small grant at a time!



The Neighbourhood Small Grants program is grateful to unlearn and learn on the sacred and unceded homelands of the snpintktn and syilx peoples.

PENTICTON AVENUE Our Seed Library: Growing Community and Resilience

Our little seed library is a sidewalk-accessible cabinet where neighbours can borrow and share seeds, fostering a sense of community and sustainability. We focus on Indigenous seeds, drought-tolerant varieties, and education about invasive plants, alongside seeds for fruits, vegetables, and herbs.

Thanks to the NSG program, this dream came to life! Built with reclaimed materials from ReStore and support from the local high school's woodworking class, the library embodies resourcefulness. The remaining budget was spent on bulk seeds, prizes, and snacks for the grand opening.

Penticton's semi-arid climate and low annual precipitation (just 346 mm) make water conservation critical. By prioritizing native and xeric-friendly seeds, the library encourages sustainable gardening while helping neighbours grow their own food.

Sourcing and germinating native perennial seeds can be overwhelming if you're a beginner, so the library is now a community hub for us to figure it out together. I delivered flyers for the grand opening the old fashioned way by going door-to-door.

The grand opening was a hit!

Despite the chilly November weather, neighbours arrived with seed donations and plenty of enthusiasm. We can't wait to see the growth that stems from these connections!

Thank you, City of Penticton and the Community Foundation.



WOODLAND PLACE BLOCK PARTY

"On Saturday, July 6th, we celebrated our block party, and it was a huge success!

The weather was perfect—warm, but with plenty of shade in our backyard. We had a great turnout with 30 people, including a few children.

My husband and I, both former musicians, entertained our guests with a few songs and encouraged everyone to join in with shakers and tambourines. It was a delightful time for all, and we are grateful to NSG for the opportunity and inspiration to connect with our neighbours. Thank you!"



STEWART PLACE FIESTA

"Our Block Party was We had 30 neighbours joining the festivities. A delicious taco bar from Bar Burrito, paired with watermelon and ice cream, fueled meaningful connections.

New neighbours mingled with longtime residents, and we even welcomed a special guest—George, a former resident of over 40 years, who returned for the day to reconnect.

At 95, George showed his spirited side, playing a lively game of cornhole with a teen neighbour. As he departed, he left us with a heartfelt promise: **"See you at next year's party!"**

Thanks to the funding support, everyone participated without barriers, creating an inclusive and vibrant gathering that has strengthened relationships across our street. We're grateful for the opportunity to build these connections and look forward to many more moments like this!"



ALYSEN PLACE SUMMER SOCIAL

"Our Summer Social brought together 21 participants, including new residents, for an afternoon of connection and fun despite the 36°C heat. Guests enjoyed games like bocce, lawn darts, and corn hole, though socializing was the highlight of the day.

A mini wine tasting featured local wines, with non alcoholic options, and everyone enjoyed the wraps, hotdogs, and desserts. The event transitioned into the Amentias room for a cooler setting, extending the fun.

Now an annual tradition, the Summer Social has deepened community connections and created lasting friendships—a truly successful gathering!

Thank you for the NSG!"

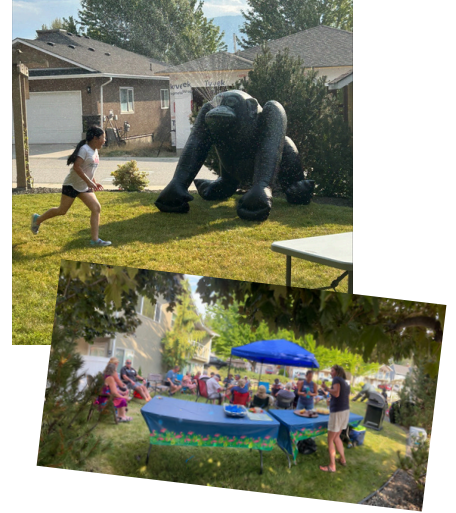


PINEVIEW ROAD BLOCK PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

Our block party brought 50 neighbours together for food, music, crafts, and connection. Conversations sparked action to refresh our entrance landscaping, leading to volunteers organizing a work party.

Ten neighbours joined, including new faces, to pull weeds, lay fabric, and spread rock. A volunteer even repaired the entrance lighting.

The event inspired collaboration, with neighbours donating time, skills, and funds. Colorful perennials now brighten our park, thanks to a fantastic turnout and shared effort!



ABBOTT TOWERS BBQ

The Abbott Towers BBQ, held on July 18, exceeded all expectations! With help from three amazing volunteers, we served 47 burgers and several plates of salad, reaching about 50% of our tenants—more than ever before. For those unable to attend due to physical or age restrictions, we delivered plates, ensuring everyone could participate in some way.

Entertainment was a highlight, encouraging people to stay on the patio rather than retreating to their apartments. Singing, clapping, and laughter filled the air as neighbours—both new and familiar—connected and enjoyed the music. This was a big change from previous gatherings, where only about 25 would attend and many would leave with their food without socializing.

Many have expressed gratitude and hope this becomes an annual tradition. Thanks to the support of the Community Foundation and the City of Penticton, this BBQ turned into a wonderful day of fun and connections.



PONDEROSA PLACE BLOCK PARTY

Our 2024 block party took an unexpected turn! Initially planned for September, the date was shifted to October.

Posters were designed, printed, and distributed to notify the neighbourhood, but strong winds on the morning of the event forced a cancellation—or so we thought.

One determined band member made quick calls, and The Hub generously offered their space, equipment, and support. By evening, "Ponderosa Place 2.0" was in full swing!

While we hope to return to our outdoor, fall gathering next year, this event proved how adaptability and community spirit can create something truly special. Thank you to the NSG program for making this possible. That \$500 is a powerful catalyst for connection, music, and meaningful impact in our neighbourhood!



HERITAGE GARDEN PARTY

“Our Heritage Home Garden Party and Info Session attracted over 50 attendees, with more than 30 expressing interest in protecting Penticton’s heritage buildings by leaving their contact details.

Motivated by concern over the loss of heritage buildings, our group aimed to inform residents about preservation resources, including Heritage BC and the City of Penticton’s Planning Department. The event also created an opportunity for neighbours to connect, share their passion for local heritage, and build a sense of community around preserving Penticton’s history.

We hosted two speakers: local historian Randy Manuel, who shared Penticton’s history, and Blake Laven, the City’s Director of Development Services, who discussed federal and provincial Heritage Registers, listing processes, protections, and the distinctions between covenants and bylaws.

Neighbours enjoyed teatime treats, informative handouts from Heritage BC, and resources about the Okanagan Historical Society.

We deeply appreciate the support of the Neighbourhood Small Grant, the City of Penticton, and the South Okanagan Similkameen Community Foundation for making this community-building event possible.”



City of Penticton

Return on Investment:

- \$5,000 - City Grant
- \$5,000 - Matching Contribution from CFSOS
- \$7,000 - In-kind support (administration, coordination, advertising, celebration, learning opportunities, and more)

Total NSG Program Budget: \$17,000

For every \$1 invested by the City, \$3.40 in program value was delivered, maximizing impact. NSG strengthened neighbourhood connections, increased inclusivity, and empowered residents to lead community-driven initiatives, ensuring a lasting return on investment.

