



Neighbourhood Small Grants

Newsletter, Fall '23

Neighbours, side by side
we stand,
In this close-knit, caring
land.
In laughter, in times of
need,
Together, we plant the
friendship seed.
Through joy and sorrow,
thick and thin,
In our hearts, the ties
begin.
In the tapestry of life we
weave,
Neighbours, in each other,
we believe.

Shared by a project leader
as part of their story.

SIMILKAMEEN VALLEY

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The NSG (Neighborhood Small Grants) program allows everyone to nurture their ideas, foster stronger community bonds, and take pride in their neighbourhood and community.

Through small grants of up to \$500, individuals can make meaningful changes within their neighbourhoods from the ground up. They reach out, extend warm invitations, and share their personal experiences, inspiring and motivating others to embark on similar journeys of connectivity.

In this newsletter, we'll showcase a selection of events hosted within the communities of the Similkameen Valley.

The Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen and the NSG program respectfully acknowledges that our work takes place on the homelands of the syilx and sməlqmix peoples.



SKATEPARK PAINT UP BROUGHT OUT THE ARTISTS

"I had this idea to spruce up the skateboard park and bring our community closer.

A while back, some youth tagged my son's name on the skate park and sent him a pic of it - my son was pretty upset and wanted it gone.



The Town tried to patch up the graffiti with grey paint, but it was clear it needed some real TLC.

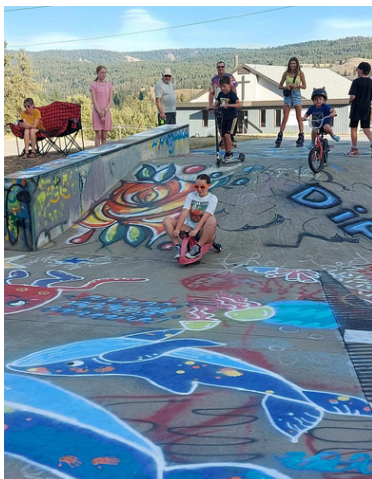
So, I reached out on Facebook, asking for artists and anyone who wanted to help out. Can you believe it? Almost 20 people, kids and grown-ups, were ready to paint the town... well, the park, anyway!

We didn't set any rules on what to paint, except that it had to be friendly for everyone. The youth were excited when they received their spray cans, giving them a chance to add their flair. Together, we covered up the tags with creativity, colour and a lot of fun.

Loads of local folks and groups chipped in, like the Princeton Dental Clinic, First Valley Credit Union, Save on Foods, Fletchers Home Hardware, Bridge Street Home Hardware, Princeton Paint and Decorating, and the Town of Princeton. Their support meant everything.

We hit some bumps along the way, like underestimating how much spray paint we'd need. But we made it work, thanks to the grant and the extra help from Save on Foods, who provided water chips and freezies for a big reveal party.

More than the colorful park facelift, I loved that my family and I got to create something awesome for our community. It's all about giving back and making our neighbourhoods a better place. Thanks for the Neighbourhood Small Grant!



SIMILKAMEEM HIGHLIGHTS

RIVERSIDE SHOWCASES TALENT

Artistry shone at Riverside RV Park community as 23 talents took the spotlight!

From pottery and glass bead making to woodcutting, sewing, and beyond—our residents showcased their incredible creativity. Handbags, cutting boards, paintings, and more amazed us. Showing that for a small community, we have a LOT of talent!

Later that evening, we gathered for an Italian-themed dinner to encourage neighbours to come out and socialize. Over 50 joined in for lasagna, Caesar salad, and cheesy garlic bread, followed by delightful Tiramisu and Sorbet. Gluten-free options were a hit too. Amid music and chats under the trees, prizes brought smiles.

A resounding success, indeed! Thank you for the NSG, it helped make the event even better than imagined.



CAWSTON GOLF DISK

“The Cawston Kobau Park Disc Golf course was upgraded successfully on Saturday, September 2nd. As a result of the NSG, the course now boasts regulation baskets and well-constructed tee pads.

Before the upgrade day, some preliminary work had already been completed, allowing us to focus our efforts on installing the tee pads and baskets during the event. The grant funds were put to good use, being used to acquire necessary equipment and provide lunch, drinks, and refreshments for all volunteers. This thoughtful gesture was greatly appreciated by everyone involved.

We were fortunate to have volunteers from our local community and individuals from Princeton and Penticton who came to lend their support and expertise. Kobau Park serves as a central gathering and activity hub for our community, and this disc golf adds another dimension to its significance within our community.

Disc golf is a game that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and skill levels. The cost of purchasing discs is quite reasonable, and the best part is that the course is free to play. This makes it an accessible and inclusive activity for everyone in our community to enjoy.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this project a reality.”

SUNCATCHERS, A DAY OF GRATITUDE

In August, our community united for the Neighborhood Small Grant supported dinner, a gathering after enduring COVID-19, floods, and wildfires. We aimed to honour our dedicated First Responders despite an unfortunate overlap with a severe wildfire season.

We invited our Lucky R Park neighbours, extending a warm welcome to share experiences and support each other. We hand-delivered notices, emailed, and went door to door to spread the word. It was a warm welcome to some neighbours from the Lucky R Park, two on-duty EMS workers, and Director Tim Roberts (who is also a paramedic). Neighbours contributed door prizes and one played Santa, delighting the winners. The menu featured pork on a bun, diverse salads, and non-alcoholic drinks, with fresh peaches and ice cream for dessert.

The evening resonated with laughter and togetherness, a testament to our resilient community spirit. We thank all who attended, contributed, and made this dinner heartwarming. Let's continue supporting one another and strengthening our neighbourhood bonds.



ABBEY ROAD CONNECTIONS IN PRINCETON

Our NSG outdoor party was a great success! About 40 people attended.

The family helped with the BBQ, and our 13-year-old helped with the scavenger hunt and games for the children.

Although it was a sweltering afternoon, our prior prep was helpful. We used two canopies over the live musical band and one over the crowd for shade. Next time a few more canopies would be useful!

Since our neighbourhood is only about two years old, we chose a "Name tag scavenger hunt" for our theme.

We had a separate scavenger hunt for the children. This worked perfectly toward "breaking the ice" between neighbours. Local, live music and socializing were our main focuses.

The NSG grant covered most of the band's cost, small prizes for everyone and an excellent supply of hotdogs and buns for our potluck luncheon.

The blues/rock music was supplied by Princeton's own "Highway 40" (which is the road from Princeton to Summerland).



We reached out to local businesses for support, and they did! Our local grocery store, "Save on Foods," provided a discount on hotdogs and buns. We received discounts for the prizes Princeton "Fields," "Loonie Bin & Bakery," and "Mac's Auto Parts". The road blockade sandwich board and cones were provided by the nearby "Erris Firehall". All neighbours brought their own lawn chairs and potluck dishes. Fun was had by all!

A FENCHURCH WELCOMING

The neighbours of Fenchurch Ave want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the NSG to support our Block Party. With the invaluable help of 8 hosts and helpers, making the event smoother, over sixty people came out!

We promoted it across three Facebook groups and posted flyers on town message boards. Thankfully, the weather was great which allowed us to enjoy the games we had set up.

It was great to see many neighbours we rarely encounter coming together for food and refreshments. We had an abundance of food and decided to share the extra with deserving individuals by the end of the day.

Next year, we plan to move the event up by one week. Our out-of-town helpers have already committed to the task! We also have access to a large-scale outdoor movie screen, projectors, and a sound system, and we will explore more options!

Each year, we see new faces that haven't attended before, expanding our reach. Thank you for helping us weave our community together and make a positive impact.



TGIF: MOCKTAIL EXTRAVAGANZA

The TGIF Mocktail Extravaganza was held in the heart of Princeton's Veteran Square in August. A vibrant crowd of more than 200 people gathered for the free event, which featured a delightful array of alcohol-free beverages and delectable snacks.

The atmosphere was set aglow by the performance of "The Contractors," a local band and the Princeton Community Arts Council set up a balloon painting table where budding artists could craft their unique works of art.

Adding a touch of substance, the Princeton Alcohol Use Disorder Society made its presence felt, offering valuable insights into alcohol use disorder (AUD) and sharing information. Their participation was a reminder of the importance of fostering awareness and support for those dealing with AUD.

"A heartfelt gratitude to the Community Foundation and the NSG for their support in making this event a reality; it was pivotal in creating a memorable and an inclusive evening that brought the community together to celebrate life, art, and the strength of unity in sobriety."



This TGIF Mocktail Extravaganza was not just a party but a testament to the power of community, resilience, and the beauty of coming together to embrace a healthier way of celebrating life.

RIDGEWOOD BLOCK PARTY

The Ridgewood's second annual block party, orchestrated with the help of the (NSG), was a neighbourhood spectacle to remember. A chili cook-off, hot dip showdown, cake decorating competition, cake walk, BBQ, craft table, face painting, street hockey with local players, a neighbourhood DJ, and a mesmerizing magic show set the stage for a day filled with fun and connection. We plan to do this soon next year and indefinitely.



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