

# When was the last time you...

Went to your neighbour's for a cup of sugar? Met someone new or made a new friend?  
Went to a community event? Asked your neighbour about the weather?  
Joined a community group or club?

LET US KNOW!

## Connecting Beaconsfield: Building climate resilience through social connection



### What is this project?

Social connection means happy, healthy, and resilient communities. The Connecting Beaconsfield project aims to increase the sense of belonging and closeness in the community, which in turn increases resilience. By resilience, we mean being prepared to face the impacts of climate change such as heavy rains, flash floods, severe winds, and ice storms.

### We need to act NOW

Climate change is an urgent and complex challenge. In Beaconsfield, climate change means warmer summers and more frequent storms. Everyone has a part to play in the face of these challenges. Together, we can better understand how climate change affects our neighbourhoods and use this knowledge to build resilience in Beaconsfield.

### Connecting with our neighbours matters

Social connections are important all the time, especially during emergencies. Communities that are connected, caring, and strong have a better quality of life and also thrive in the face of climate change. Connecting with neighbours helps us bounce back from extreme weather events.

Learn how to get involved by visiting:

[connectons-connecting.ca](https://connectons-connecting.ca)

### Why is this important?

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. By building social connections, this project supports at risk people who are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change.

The impacts of climate change in Beaconsfield show up in a number of ways. For example, during extreme storms, which are more frequent because of climate change, branches and entire trees can break. These can block off streets and damage homes, vehicles, and important infrastructure.

When people are better equipped to cope with climate change impacts, like trees breaking, we become stronger as a community. Research shows that people in connected communities are more likely to help each other out by sharing resources and important information during extreme weather events.

*Damages caused by the 2023 ice storm in the City of Beaconsfield.*





## So what are the negative impacts of climate change?

The impacts of climate change are felt at every scale. Climate change means more extreme weather events like heat waves, ice storms, intense rain, and more frequent thunderstorms. These types of events can cause power outages, damage properties, and prevent people from safely leaving their homes. The Connecting Beaconsfield project aims to fortify communities against these weather events.

## Why should I care about climate impacts?

Climate change impacts affect everyone, and at risk individuals are subjected to an even greater threat. We must adopt an “all hands on deck” approach to address climate change impacts as a community. Together, we can create greather change than on an individual scale.

## What does climate change have to do with social connection?

In a community with a sense of belonging, trust and reciprocity can flourish. Both of these components are key to building solidarity networks that are essential in times of extreme weather events. For example, if a socially connected community has a power outage event, people will check on those most at risk, share scarce resources like power generators, and help coordinate relief efforts with the City.

## Do I have to be friends with my neighbours?

The City of Beaconsfield is not asking anyone to become friends, but simply helping neighbours meet neighbours. Many people are eager to introduce themselves to others in their neighbourhood but don't know where to start. The purpose of this project is to help people meet each other and exchange.

