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Engage!

The Solution is in our Backyard

In contrast to the NIMBY phenomenon, YIMBY stands for Yes In My Backyard – a platform for neighbourhood groups to share strategies and ideas with policy makers, other groups and the public about issues that face the community.

With our neighbourhoods growing larger and more complex, the YIMBY Festival seeks to bring about galvanized energy and ideas by focusing on positive and decisive change.

This October, the Gladstone in Toronto is hosting this one day gathering of neighbourhood groups and associations to inform and educate the general public.

The belief is that neighbourhood associations and groups have the power and the knowledge to make a difference.

And, with the anticipated media exposure that the YIMBY Festival is expected to generate, a voice for community support is guaranteed to be heard.



To learn more about the YIMBY movement and its participants, [click here](#).

Related Links:

- [Spacing Magazine – Understanding Toronto's Urban Landscape](#)
- [Niagara Neighbourhood Now – Preserving the value of neighbourhoods in Niagara](#)

By: Rachel Veira Gainer

Making Connections for Families & Children

What is it about neighbourhoods that generate so much interest among community builders around the world?

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, based in Baltimore, has long been a pioneer in neighbourhood development. Its Making Connections Initiative, established in 1999, works with neighbourhoods where children and families are particularly at risk.

The Foundation sets out to connect families to three things: economic opportunity, social networks, and services and support. They believe that “children do well when their families do well, and families do better when they live in supportive neighbourhoods.”

Tamarack’s Paul Born recently spoke with Ira Barbell, Senior Associate of the Annie E. Casey Foundation about the learnings and challenges of the Making Connections Initiative. They also discussed ways to achieve maximum impact in neighbourhood revitalization efforts.



To learn more about Paul and Ira’s dialogue, [click here](#).

Related Links:

- [Read more about the Annie E. Casey Foundation.](#)
- [Click here to learn more about the Making Connections Initiative.](#)

By: Anne Blayney

Making a Comeback in Surrey

Project Comeback is an innovative pilot project that is turning the tide on homelessness in Surrey. Targeting homeless day labourers, the Project enables participants to achieve and maintain full-time, sustainable employment and independent housing.

The Project is the first of its kind in Canada, combining employment assistance and placement, community referrals, counseling, life skills training and assistance in finding rental housing.



Saira Khan, Project Coordinator, stated, "Providing a continuum of support is key, as most participants face multiple barriers."

Of the 39 participants impacted by Project Comeback to date, 31 are employed, with 13 having achieved at least 12 weeks of continuous employment.

Other benefits are also becoming apparent:

- The publicity surrounding the project is helping to erode negative stereotypes about the homeless.
- The business community is engaging in active partnerships with service providers to address homelessness.
- There has been a reduction in visible homelessness and the demand for homelessness services.



To learn more about Surrey's Project Comeback, [click here](#).

Related Links:

- [Project Comeback Vision Document](#)
- [Vibrant Surrey](#)

By: Susan Eckerle Curwood

Vibrant Communities Update

Saskatoon, SK – The Community Development Society of Saskatchewan will be organizing the Community Development Society 2008 International Conference in Saskatoon. Abstracts are now being accepted for the 2007 conference in Appleton, Wisconsin. Learn more [here](#).

Hamilton, ON – The Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Prevention is hosting two briefing sessions for municipal candidates. A forum on housing and tenant issues will take place on Friday, October 6, and a forum on poverty and income security on Friday, October 13. Learn more [here](#).

Abbotsford, BC – What is it like to be homeless in Abbotsford? Get the first-hand report by checking out James W. B.'s blog [here](#).

Are you likeable?

I used to love the Saturday Night Live skit that featured Stuart Smalley. Stuart, to psych himself up, would look in the mirror and say, "I'm good enough. I'm smart enough. And doggone it, people like me!"

I thought of Stuart recently. I saw Tim Sanders, an ex-executive at Yahoo, and author of the best-seller, *Love is the Killer App*, speak at a conference. He spoke about likeability and how important a skill it is to have in life.

People who are emotionally attractive are more apt to get what they want out of life than those who are disliked. That may not be revolutionary thinking, but how often have you considered your "L" factor?

In his new book, *The Likeability Factor*, Sanders offers a valuable look at the four personality traits he says contribute to a person's likeability: friendliness, relevance, empathy and "realness".

I find the book helpful in thinking about the way I work – do I encourage collaboration? How do I respond to my colleagues? What do those responses say about me?

I'm working on my L-factor to increase my ability to get things done and to live a good life. Maybe Stuart Smalley had it right.



[Visit Tim Sander's blog](#)

Related Links:

- [Test your likeability using this self-assessment](#)
- [Visit Tim Sander's website](#)

By: Louise Kearney

Pie for Thought

Pie, especially apple pie, has been a long standing Thanksgiving tradition in my family.

My Mom makes an amazing traditional, double crust Dutch apple pie – a secret family recipe passed on to her by my Grandmother, a mother of 13 children, who was one of the best bakers I have ever known.

My family also passes along something else – the inability to write down our recipes because we always cook from our head. My Dad's mom has her own version of Dutch apple pie, which I've enjoyed at a number of family feasts. She, too, never wrote down recipes and I've tried for years to capture its essence.

One day, I stumbled across this Dutch apple pie recipe, which is as close as I have ever come to recreating this delicious, warm Thanksgiving dessert. From my family's "conceptual" recipe book to yours - Enjoy!



[Click here for Leisa's Dutch Apple Pie recipe.](#)

Related Links:

- [Visit our *Soup's On* page for more Tamarack Recipes](#)

By: Leisa Nichol

Featured Resources

Building Community Wealth - Fully revised after extensive field testing, this manual from the Centre for Community Enterprise, is packed with the information your non-profit or charitable organization needs to launch and maintain a viable social enterprise. What does "ready" look like? How do we get there? What should we do now, next year and the year after that? Learn more [here](#). [Source: CEDworks!]

Corporate Citizenship and Urban Problem-Solving - Business-led civic organizations have historically played an important role in urban policy making, planning and renewal. However, shifting economic forces - including corporate consolidation, industrial decline and the suburbanization of many businesses - have diminished the capacity of these organizations, potentially stripping cities of a significant advocate. Learn more from this Brookings Institution study [here](#). [Source: HandsNet WebClipper & the Brookings Institution]