



FACILITATION GUIDE:

NEIGHBOURHOOD HISTORY TIMELINE

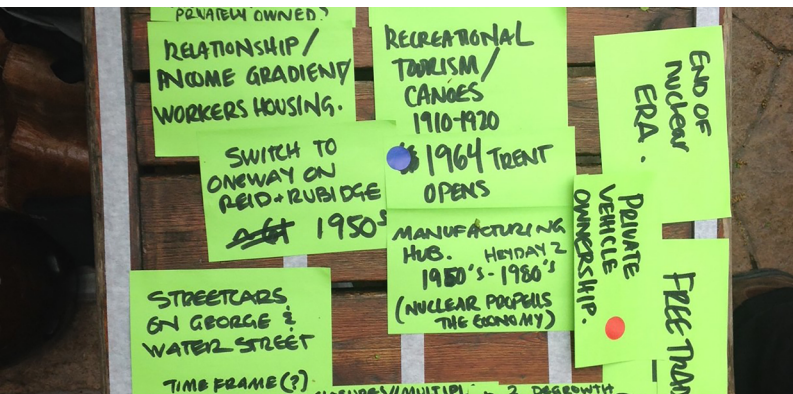
UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND CITY

Activity Type: Understand

Participant Audience: Residents, Organizational Partners

Objectives

The opportunity for residents to share their knowledge about the history of their neighbourhood will give you a fuller understanding of the neighbourhood, and how its history relates to the broader context of the city and region.



Using the Tool

Materials needed

1. Sticky notes
2. Markers
3. Tape
4. Optional: Background research to pre-populate timeline with a few key dates

Facilitation Process

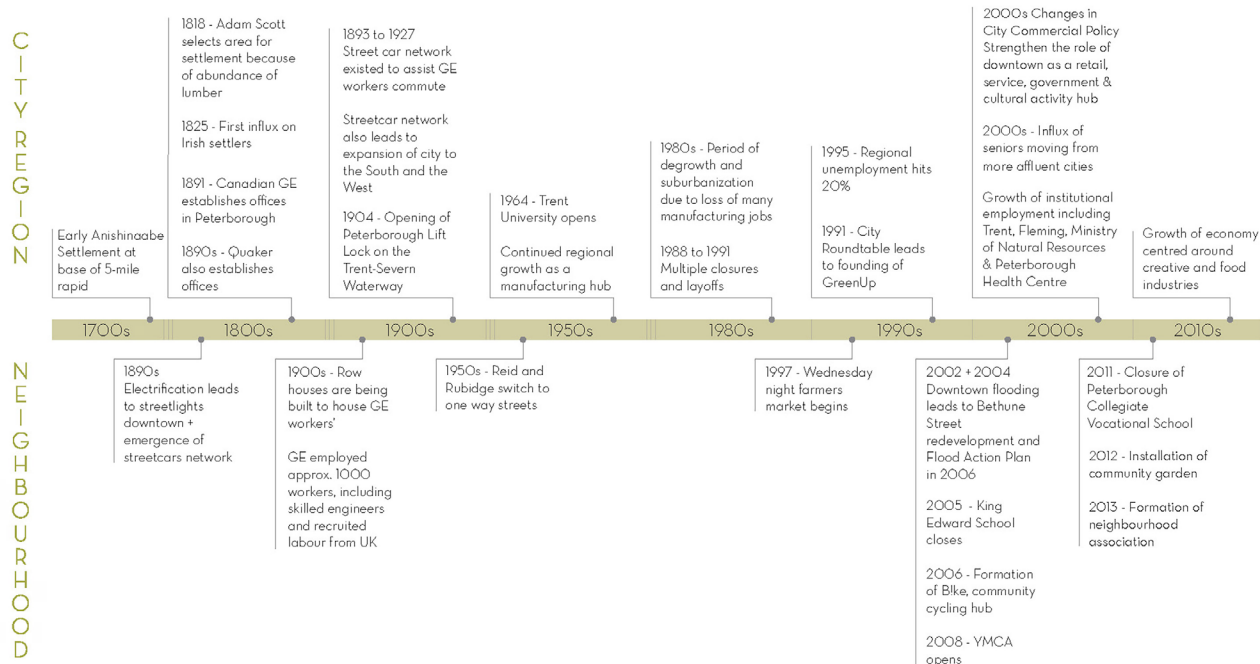
1. On a wall or table, tape out a series of three long horizontal lines.
 - Label one line “Cty/Region”, one line “Neighbourhood”, and the third line “personal and familial stories”.
 - Break up the line into time periods, starting generally around the 1700s to present.
2. If you have conducted some advance research, pre-populate the timeline with some key moments, such as the city’s incorporation date. Write these dates on sticky notes and add them to the timeline.
3. You may select to facilitate this as a group discussion (works best for 2-10 participants), or an open house-style drop in. In either instance, invite participants to use sticky notes to place key historical moments on the timeline. You can use the three lines to break up information geographically into regional, neighbourhood-specific, and personal/familial stories.



Tip: Acknowledge the region’s history before colonial contact, and use this activity as an opportunity to remind people about the First Peoples’ whose land their city sits upon, and learn about which treaties (if any) exist in the area.

Sample Materials

1. Neighbourhood and city history timeline of Stewart Street neighbourhood in Peterborough (via TCAT and GreenUP)



Historical context

This timeline, created collectively by the local partners of this project, tracks the history of the neighbourhood as it relates to larger regional trends.

The story began in the 1700's as an Anishinaabe settlement, making use of the access to the lake and river. From there we can follow the later development first as an area rich in lumber and later as a manufacturing hub. The 'golden' manufacturing era lasted about 60 years with General Electric as one of the primary employers in the area. Much of the housing stock in this

neighbourhood was built for workers or executives of these plants. By the 1980's the neighbourhood showed signs of degrowth and population loss due to both the loss of manufacturing jobs and due to trends towards suburbanization.

In the last decade, the neighbourhood has seen a more grassroots type of revitalization with the growth of community organizations and a successful farmers' market. Changes in commercial policy in the downtown area have also led to a regrowth of independent businesses--all of which contribute to a more walkable and vibrant community.



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