

## Canada Celebrates Fifth Anniversary of Jane's Walk Urban Festival

### Jane Jacobs' best-seller *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* turns 50

**Toronto, ON – April 28, 2011** – On the May 7 and 8 weekend, thousands of Canadians will take to the streets to mark the fifth annual [Jane's Walk](#), in a series of 362 free, urban neighbourhood tours that inspire citizens to get to know their city and each other by getting out and walking. The homegrown innovation will stroll through 35 cities across Canada and [68 cities](#) worldwide in celebration of Jane Jacobs's birthday (May 4).

In total, more than 12,000 walkers will take part in 449 tours – a 30 per cent increase over last year - led by passionate and friendly locals who want to share their inside tips on great places to walk, hang out, shop, eat and explore in their own neighbourhoods. New international Jane's Walk partnerships this year include Sao Paulo (Brazil), Wuhan (China), Tel Aviv, (Israel), Colchester and Hereford (England), Berlin (Germany), Guadalajara (Mexico), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Carcar (Philippines).

"Jane Jacobs is the foremost urban thinker of our time," says Jane Farrow, executive director of Jane's Walk. "She encouraged people to familiarize themselves with the places where they live, work and play – believing in the importance of local residents having input on how their neighbourhoods develop."

2011 is also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, the best-selling book that introduced Jane Jacobs' ground-breaking ideas about how cities function, evolve and fail. Her community-centred vision started with the idea that local residents know best how to shape and improve their neighbourhoods. Foremost is her simple yet revolutionary idea that dense, mixed use neighborhoods are the key to the health and survival of a city. Decades later, it has become a model for generations of architects, planners, politicians and activists.

A new [Jane's Walk iPhone® app](#) allows users across Canada to sort the walks by date, neighbourhood and location for free. This year's tours walk the gamut with everything from the historical to the controversial:

- Explore the changing face of Edmonton's Original Warehouse District;
- Stroll Calgary's Chinatown, one of the city's oldest and much loved neighbourhoods;
- Experience the University of Saskatchewan's century-old tradition of architectural quality and hear some of the stories told in stone;
- Wander through Beacon Hill Park and learn about how this part of Victoria has been used in the past by first nations, early settlers, current residents;
- Bring your binoculars to see the birds and bees in Guelph, a walking tour about urban wildlife;
- Wheel your way from Ottawa's Rideau Centre to the Byward Market and back as you discuss issues of mobility access in the capital city's downtown core;
- Learn about food production in Montreal's Villeray community and how to reduce our dependence on oil by eating local and delicious dishes;
- Discover the fascinating cultural history and award-winning murals of the West End, Winnipeg's most diverse community;
- Walk the harbour and Water St. area of St. John's as you discuss the historical city's transition from a compact, walkable, harbour-focused city to a widely dispersed city dependent on automobile transportation.

Jane's Walk is made possible with the support of TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, AVANA Capital, Metcalf Foundation, Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Toronto Community Foundation, Department of Canadian Heritage, Context, Library District Condominiums, Daniels Homes, GE Canada, Streetcar Developments with Dundee Realty Corporation, Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Real Estate Board, Cement Association of Canada, Concord Adex Inc., Dialog, Kirkor Architects & Planners, Urbanspace Property Group, Digital Lunch, McMillan, Tides Canada, University of Toronto Cities Centre, University of Toronto Geography and Program in Planning, Urban Capital, and media partners CBC/Radio-Canada and Toronto Star.

**About Jane's Walk**

Jane's Walk cultivates a broad understanding of how cities – their economies, neighbourhoods, communities, and institutions – organically develop and thrive. It works to advance walkable neighbourhoods, to increase urban literacy and promote neighbourhood cohesion, civic engagement and leadership.

**Twitter:** [@janeswalk](https://twitter.com/janeswalk)

**Hash tag:** #jwalk

**Facebook:** [Jane's Walk](https://www.facebook.com/janeswalk)

**PHOTOS** of last year's Jane's Walk are available upon request or at

<http://janeswalk.net/about/press>

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