

Welcome new Jane's Walk leaders!



Jane's
walk

DIGITAL WALKSHOP 2023



**Many thanks to
Jane's Walk Toronto
for allowing us to use some
of their slides.**



**Of course, we've added our
own local touches, too.**





Jane's Walk is a movement of free, community-led walking tours inspired by Jane Jacobs. The walks get people to tell stories about their communities, explore their cities, and connect with neighbours.

*"Cities have the capability of providing something **for everybody**, only because, and only when, they are created **by everybody**."*



Link to the TVO documentary film, "Citizen Jane: Battle for the City" -
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3h9ou6at1s&ab_channel=TVOTodayDocs

In the beginning...



Jane's Walk was founded in 2006 as a living, walking commemoration of Jane Jacobs and her legacy.

The first year, there were 27 walks in Toronto on the first weekend in May.

jane's
walk

**In
2022,
there
were...**



Here in Nova Scotia...

We've got 6 years of Jane's Walks under our belts, and tons of room to grow:

- **Stories to share**
- **Ideas to discuss**
- **History to learn**
- **Status quo to challenge**
- **Neighbours to get to know!**



A bit about Jane's Walk Halifax

- **Small core team of volunteers.**
- **We're active fall to spring.**
- **Everyone is welcome; let one of us know if you want to join us!**

- **We seek funding from various sources to cover bare-minimum expenses.**
- **We're looking into registering as a non-profit society because many funders only fund incorporated societies.**

- **We're keen to support a broad range of walks, including in suburban & rural areas.**



Who has
attended a
Jane's
Walk
before?



**A walking festival needs walk leaders.
Thank you SO MUCH for stepping up!**



Don't worry about being
an "expert".





*Anyone can be a
walk leader, because
everyone is an expert
on the places they
live, work, and play.*



A Jane's Walk is a walking conversation that can be about anything. It holds space for the perspectives of anyone who has a story to tell.

- **Heritage, history, and architecture**
- **Diaspora communities and immigration**
- **Housing affordability and economic displacement**
- **Transportation and mobility**
- **Food, food access, and food security**
- **Public art and performance**
- **Public space**
- **Accessibility**
- **Inclusion**
- **Health and wellbeing**
- **Social justice**
- **Politics and policy**
- **Community development**
- **Neighbourhood quirks and characters**
- **Anything!**



**...Urban
and
parkland
ecology**

**Natural
history**

**Protecting
flora and
fauna...**

We welcome walks that aren't walks.

A run,
a wheel,
an online program...
...a ferry ride!

Extra logistical details
may be required.

Be sure to contact us
ASAP, so we can help with
organizing, and so that
our publicity is accurate.



Your Jane's Walk is partly YOUR take on the topic.

So share information,
but put some of your
own self into it, too:

- Personal stories?
- Family or work connections?
- Burning questions on a topic?
- A favourite something?
- Or... an interesting way that you came to know about this topic?



...Choose some interesting/
relevant things to share!

**...But a Jane's Walk is a conversation.
Be sure to leave space for others to talk, too.**



Planning your Jane's Walk



1. **Build in accessibility**
2. **Land acknowledgement**
3. **Helpers**
4. **Map out your route, and plan what you'll say.**
5. **Do at least one "dry run"**
6. **Visual aids**
7. **Publicity**

1. Build accessibility into all aspects of your planning:

- Route: distances, surfaces, & stops
- Communication during the walk (among everyone)
- Publicity (include accessibility-related details)

This is a learning journey for everyone, requiring both broad & tailored strategies.



2. Plan to start with a land acknowledgement

Suggested wording:

“Before we begin the walk, I want to acknowledge that today we are walking in beautiful Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.”



3. Line up one or more helpers.

Helpers can be...



- Someone to bring up the rear, watch the crosswalks, and make sure people at the back can hear.
- Elders and others who can share their stories and experiences.
- Safety marshals, especially if you expect a big crowd.
- Someone to take photos and post/Tweet them, or send them to Emily.
- Moral support for you as the walk leader.

Please note: Our Jane's Walk team will do our best to have a volunteer at all walks to help support.

4. Map out your route, and plan what will be discussed at different stops.

Each stop should be:

- A large enough space for everyone to gather **safely**, without being in harm's way.
- Relatively **quiet**. Your voice shouldn't have to compete with a lot of noise in the outdoor environment.
- **Accessible** to people using wheelchairs or canes, or pushing strollers.
- **Not a tripping hazard (avoid uneven surfaces)**.
- A place where **people can see** whatever you're talking about.



What to say, how, and how much!

1. Being clear is crucial.

- Use plain language.
- If you have to use jargon or other “insider” language, explain it.

2. You may need to say things in a certain order so people understand what you’re talking about.

3. Be prepared to say (a lot) less than you’d like.

- Your talking time is limited; both the conversation and the walking also need time.
- A group will take longer to walk the route than you by yourself.
- 60 to 90 minutes will be gone before you know it!

**Find safe,
relatively quiet
places to stop
and talk along
your route.**



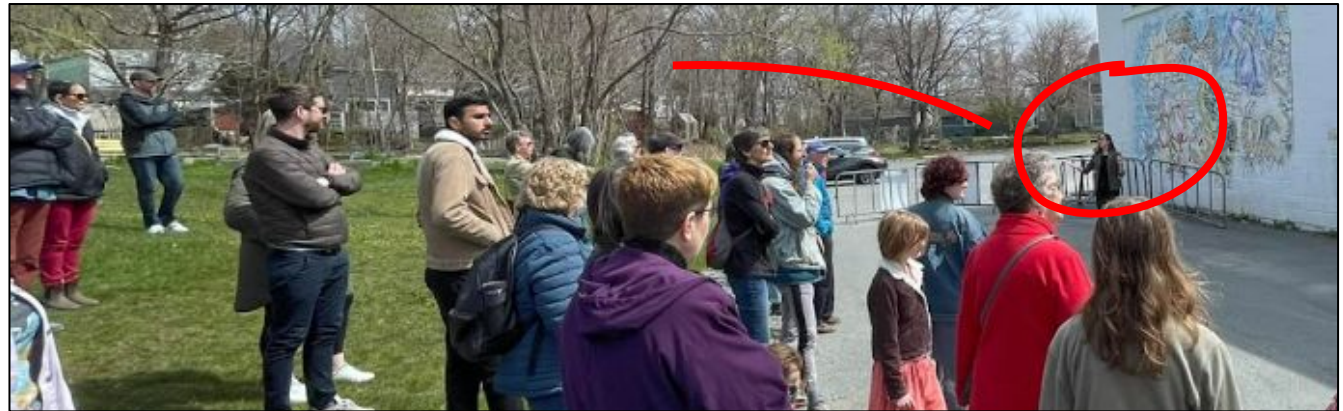
Get up there!



Making yourself heard is your most important task.



- At the start, say: “If you have trouble hearing or seeing, or have children with you, come up to the front at each stop.”
- Get everyone to gather closely at each stop.
- Wait for everyone to arrive at each stop.
- Make sure no one is standing behind you when you talk.



5. Do at least one “dry run” of your walk (bring a friend).

Include:

1. A “welcome/laying the groundwork” segment (slide ____).
2. Walking **slowly** from each stopping place to the next.
3. Time for you to say what you have planned.
4. A couple minutes for questions and stories at each stop.
5. A couple 5-minute delays (example: a large group crossing a busy street).



Important: Time yourself.

6. Visual aids (optional)

- **Not** required or expected.
- Depending on the topic, may be helpful.
- Should be large enough that participants can see them.

Things to know about visual aids:

- Items may get damaged by weather or handling.
- We don't have funds to pay for visual aids; you must cover any costs yourself.
- Describe each prop, so that anyone who cannot see it has a good idea what you're showing.



Visual aids:

Super helpful when describing something that's not in front of the group (like the past, the future, & science!)

Don't ask people to look up anything on their phones.




Nova Scotia Archives Visit Services Genealogy Virtual H

Still Standing

W.G. MacLaughlan photographic albums of buildings damaged by the Halifax Explosion

160 Windmill Road, Dartmouth, MacLaughlan album 2 number 208 [next >](#)

A historical black and white photograph of a severely damaged, two-story wooden building, likely a house, showing extensive structural collapse and debris. The building is surrounded by bare trees and a desolate landscape. The number '208' is visible on the ground in front of the building. The photograph is part of a digital archive page from Nova Scotia Archives, with a red 'X' overlaid on the top portion of the page.

7. Publicity

Get the word out!

Use your networks. Invite your friends, family, coworkers, and community.

Other things you can do to promote your walk:

- List your walk in local event calendars.
- Email your Councillor's office, local BIA, or other neighbourhood organizations and ask if they'll list your walk in their social media and/or newsletter.
- Create a poster and put it up around the neighbourhood.
- If you use social media, promote your event on Facebook, Twitter, and/or Instagram.



Tips for walk day



Be ready for any weather.

- Dress in layers.
- Wear comfortable, waterproof shoes.
- Have an umbrella - but if it's windy, leave it home.
- **Carry a water bottle with you.**
- Bring anything else you may need: sunscreen, tissues, phone, etc.



Important: At your walk start time...

1. **Welcome everyone. Introduce yourself and the topic.**
2. **Ask if everyone can hear you. Tell the group, “At any time, if you can’t hear me, let me know. And if anyone has trouble hearing or seeing, or if you have children with you, please come to the front at each stop.”**
3. **Acknowledge that the walk is taking place on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq people.**
4. **Tell the group a bit about Jane Jacobs ([link to her obituary](#)).**
6. **Say anything important about the route, safety, etc.**
7. **Introduce any walk helpers, if relevant.**
8. **Let people know this is a conversation; their thoughts & questions are welcome.**
9. **Add anything else you think is important. You may want to ask the group a couple of questions.**
10. **Tell the group where you’re headed first, and get walking!**



What this accomplishes:



- Starts the walk on time.
- Provides a few minutes for the final participants to arrive, before the group departs.
- Lays the groundwork for a successful walk, by sharing important info. and making sure everyone can hear you.

- At the start, ask a couple topic-related questions. A show of hands will give you an idea of who's in attendance.
- At each stop, ask if anyone has a question. **Repeat each question nice & loud, so the group can hear it.**
- Be open & positive in your responses, so others feel welcome to ask questions.
- If you don't know something, say so. Throw some questions back to the group.
- While walking, a participant may share info. with you, or ask a question. As appropriate, share that with the assembled participants, while you wait for the full group to arrive.

Making space for conversation



Extending the conversation builds community.

Some options:

- A post-walk social in a coffee shop, library, outdoors, etc.
- Sharing images & stories on social media.
- “Part 2” at a second location.

Keep it in the public realm (don't go to someone's home).

If this segment is planned ahead of time, include it in your publicity.

Thank you for helping create vibrant, healthy communities.

Have fun planning and leading your walk.

Reach out with any questions, or if you need assistance!

