BLDCK PRTY KIT PLANNING GUIDE















BLOCKPART

Introduction

A neighbourhood block party is an opportunity for neighbours to get together, meet each other, have fun and work together on a common activity. Getting together with neighbours for a warm evening of fun and food is not only enjoyable but it also enables a renewed attachment to the people in your area. Friendships amongst neighbours also result in safer more caring neighbourhoods.



Top 10 reasons to have a block party

- 1. To have fun no excuses or reasons are needed to celebrate.
- 2. To meet your neighbours. When you know who lives in your neighbourhood you are more likely to identify strangers or suspicious people.
- 3. To increase your sense of belonging to a community.
- 4. To establish new friendships.
- 5. To learn more about your neighbours including those that might need a little help from time to time.
- 6. To meet some long standing residents in the neighbourhood and learn the neighbourhood's history.
- 7. To strengthen neighourhood spirit and encourage residents to look after the neighbourhood.
- 8. To make additional connections within the community. When you know people, you can exchange skills or resources and perhaps organize a book club, baby-sitting co-op, share walking to school duties or find new friends for your children.
- 9. To have a neighbourhood clean-up day, play some good music and barbecue once all the work is done.
- 10. To start a neigbhourhood tradition of getting together at least once a year!











Planning your block party

1) Getting started:

- The idea of a neighbourhood block party is to bring neighbors together, so the first step is to talk to your neighbours.
- Invite as many neighbours as you can to help out with the planning. One person can create the flyer, someone else can deliver them, etc. Perhaps local youth can help deliver the flyers.
- Social media is a great tool that can be used to start an online group, create a Facebook event and share event photos and memories.
- It is important to include as many interested people as possible in planning and organizing your event.

2) What type of block parties work best in neighbourhoods?

Barbecues

 Organizers purchase all that is needed and neighbours provide the money. Everyone brings their own meat.

Picnics

 Everyone brings their own food and play some fun outdoor games together.

Potluck

• Everyone brings one dish. Hold an international potluck where everyone brings a dish from their part of the world.





3) How big can it be?

- In selecting who to invite, use natural neighbourhood boundaries like the end of the block. If you are planning a street or culde-sac party, you should invite everyone from that area.
- A Special Event Permit is required if you are hosting a larger event (100 or more people) or if you require a road closure. You can find information about Special Events on the City of Camrose Website under Special Event Permits.

4) Location

A block party can be hosted at either:

- Front or Back Yard
- House
- Garage or Driveway
- Common Area in an apartment, townhome or condo complex.
- An existing park, street or common area (must abide by City of Camrose bylaws)









Planning your block party

5) Getting the word out

Here are some ideas to keep neighbours informed:

- Door hangers can be used to announce the party details. They are free and available in your Block Party Kit.
- Information can be shared by going doorto-door. This adds a personal touch and people often offer to help.
- A casual approach can be used to inform neighbours when you see them out and about.

7) Timing to get the event planned

- The more time you give to planning, the better organized you will be. If you will be requesting a Road Closure, you will need to submit permit application at least 2 weeks (minimum) prior to the party.
- A weekend date or holiday is often the best times for the event.
- Have an alternate rainout day planned, just in case.
- If young children or seniors are living near the party area plan to finish by 9 p.m.

6) City of Camrose Road Closure Permit

- We encourage Block Parties to be hosted on private property. However, if you are hosting on your street, you will require a Road Closure Permit.
- Please follow the Special Event Application guidelines or visit the Camrose City Hall.
- https://www.camrose.ca/en/yourgovernment/resources/Documents/Ap plications-Licenses-and-Permits/Special-Event-Permit-Guideline-and-Application.pdf
- When hosting on your street, please ensure one lane is open for emergency vehicle access.
- Upon approval of the street closure, the Block Party Host can pick up barricades at the City of Camrose operations building the Friday prior to the event and return them the Monday following the event.
- City of Camrose Operations Building is located at 4202-51 Avenue (Main Reception). Time of pick up/return between 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.











8) Role of the organizers

- Make decisions about the set up.
- Act as a greeter at the event.
- Introduce new neighbours and help them make connections.
- Make sure the cleanup is done. You may wish to 'inspire' clean up by rewarding the children with a prize.



9) Set-up Suggestions

- Name tags are important. Decide if you want neighbours to write on their name tags (names, house number, a skill they have which can help generate conversations).
- Line up tables for the food and have a few garbage cans available.
- Decide whether you will coordinate the following or if everyone will bring their own:
 - Tables and chairs
 - Plates and cutlery
 - Cups and beverages
- If using barbecues, who will bring them?
- Institute a bathroom policy: "everyone to use his or her own", so that home security is monitored.
- Decide if pets are allowed.
- You may wish to do an evaluation at the end of the event to collect any new ideas.











Some final reminders:

- Neighbours should observe security precautions by keeping back doors locked and equipment in sight.
- Loud music is prohibited.
- Keep emergency vehicles in mind when setting up tables and chairs.
- You may wish to post signs the day before the event to remind everyone to remove their cars for the street closure.
- Have fun and create plenty of memories.















Block Party Bingo

Find someone who fits the description and have THEM write their name in the square.

You will have 12 minutes to complete the task. If you wish to supply a prize all those with completed forms get their form put into a box for a draw.

Speaks a second Language	Plays a musical instrument	Born in the 1950's	Has freckles	Travelled outside of Canada
Likes to exercise	Planted a garden	Wearing sandals	Has a great smile	Likes to play golf
Wears glasses	Plays soccer	Has not seen the 3 rd Lord of the Rings movie	Has brown eyes	Wearing jeans
Has a sister	Born in another country	Is a football fan	Wearing black socks	Born in another province











More Activity Ideas

Here are a few more activities for you to try at your block party.

- Book the Block Party Games Kit at Camrose Public Library or call 780 672-4214.
- Try an outdoor movie—perfect for those warm summer nights.
- Set up a photo booth to create some memories.
- Encourage the talent of your neighbourhood to come forward you may be living next to a musician, artist, or prize winning cook!
- Use a bulletin board/sign-up sheet for special interests.
- See if there are any group interests on your block like a book club, walking or running groups.



Here are some games for kids to try (some organized and some informal):

- Sidewalk chalk
- Bike parade
- Lawn twister
- Scavenger hunt
- · Watermelon seed spitting contest
- Face painting
- Pop bottle glow-stick bowling
- Hula hoops
- Bubble battle using bubble blowers
- Bean bag toss
- Water balloon race
- Basketball
- Street hockey
- Fruit loop necklace











YOU'RE INVITED TO A

Neighbourhood 'BLOCK PARTY

Date: Time: Location:	
Please bring one of the following items:	
lawn chairs salad appetizer chips fruit tray veggie tray	meat for your family buns dessert beverages condiments paper plates/cutlery/napkins
Other items:	
Notes/details:	
RSVP toby	



Questions??? Call:









BLOCK PARTY KIT ITMES

Please check that all items are cleaned with mild soap and water and returned in the kit after use.

- 1 Aerobie Frisbee
- 1 Badminton Net
- 2 Badminton Racquets
- 1 Bocce Set
- 5 Bubble Wands
- 1 Croquet Set
- 1 Deck of Playing Cards
- 1 Deck of Uno Cards
- 1 Frisbee
- 1 Foam Football
- 2 Foam Flying Rocket

- 2 Giant Badminton Racquets & Birdies
- 1 Lawn Darts Set
- 1 Ring Toss Set
- 1 Sidewalk Chalk Bucket
- 2 Scoop Ball Sets
- 1 Skip Ball
- 2 Skipping Ropes
- 1 Soccer Ball
- 1 Velcrow Toss & Catch
- 1 Volleyball













ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM THE CAMROSE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Additional large items can be rented from the library with your library card. There is no limit to how many items can be rented at one time*.

- Disc Golf
- Drumming Circle Drums
- Giant Checkers
- Giant Chess
- Giant Cribbage
- Giant Connect 4
- Giant Jenga
- Giant Scabble
- Giant Snakes & Ladders
- Giant Sorry
- Parachute
- Walking Poles

*Local Pickup Only











