



WINTER
BLOCK
PARTY
KIT
PLANNING GUIDE



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CAMROSE & AREA
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BLOCK PARTY

Top 10 reasons to have a block party

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.



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 neighbourhood 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 neighbourhood 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 cul-de-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, garage or driveway
- House
- Park, outdoor rink or toboggan hill
- 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:

- Invitations can be used to announce the party details. They are free and available in your Block Party Kit.
- Information can be shared by going door-to-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/snowstorm 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.
- 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.



Activity Ideas

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.



Build a mini snowman	Find something that sparkles	Find someone who lives nearby and say hello	Find someone who loves winter	Find something shaped like a star
Find something that is green	Find someone who has a pet	Discover animal tracks	Catch a snowflake on your glove	Find someone who takes dance lessons
Find something that flies	Find someone who baked cookies this week	FREE	Find something that is frosty	Find someone who knows how to ski
Find someone wearing a scarf	Find something that is warm	Make a snow angel	Find someone who can play a musical instrument	Find something that is blue
Find someone who has a January birthday	Find something that is red	Find something that is slippery	Find someone who has more than 2 siblings	Take a selfie with a decorated tree

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.
- Have an outdoor fire.
- Build a snow fort or igloo.
- Have a snow sculpture contest.
- Participate in a neighbourhood hot chocolate walk.
- Snowshoe or winter hike.
- Decorate your front yard.



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

- Snow angel challenge
- Shovel -it-forward
- Scavenger hunt
- Bean bag toss
- Street hockey game
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YOU'RE INVITED TO A

Neighbourhood

BLOCK PARTY

Date:

Time:

Location:

Please bring one of the following items:

___ marshmallows
___ salad
___ appetizer
___ chips
___ fruit tray
___ veggie tray

___ hotdogs for your family
___ buns
___ dessert
___ beverages
___ condiments
___ cup, paper plates
___ cutlery, napkins

Other items:

Notes/details:

RSVP to _____ by _____

Questions??? Call:

BLOCK PARTY KIT ITEMS

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

- Water Proof Bean Bag Toss
- Ice bubbles
- Inflatable Ring Toss
- Scavenger Hunt
- Winter Bingo Game
- Snow mold making kit
- Large Snow brick mold
- Snow markers
- 2 Lanterns
- Hot chocolate
- Hand warmers



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

