

ROCK

YOUR

BLOCK

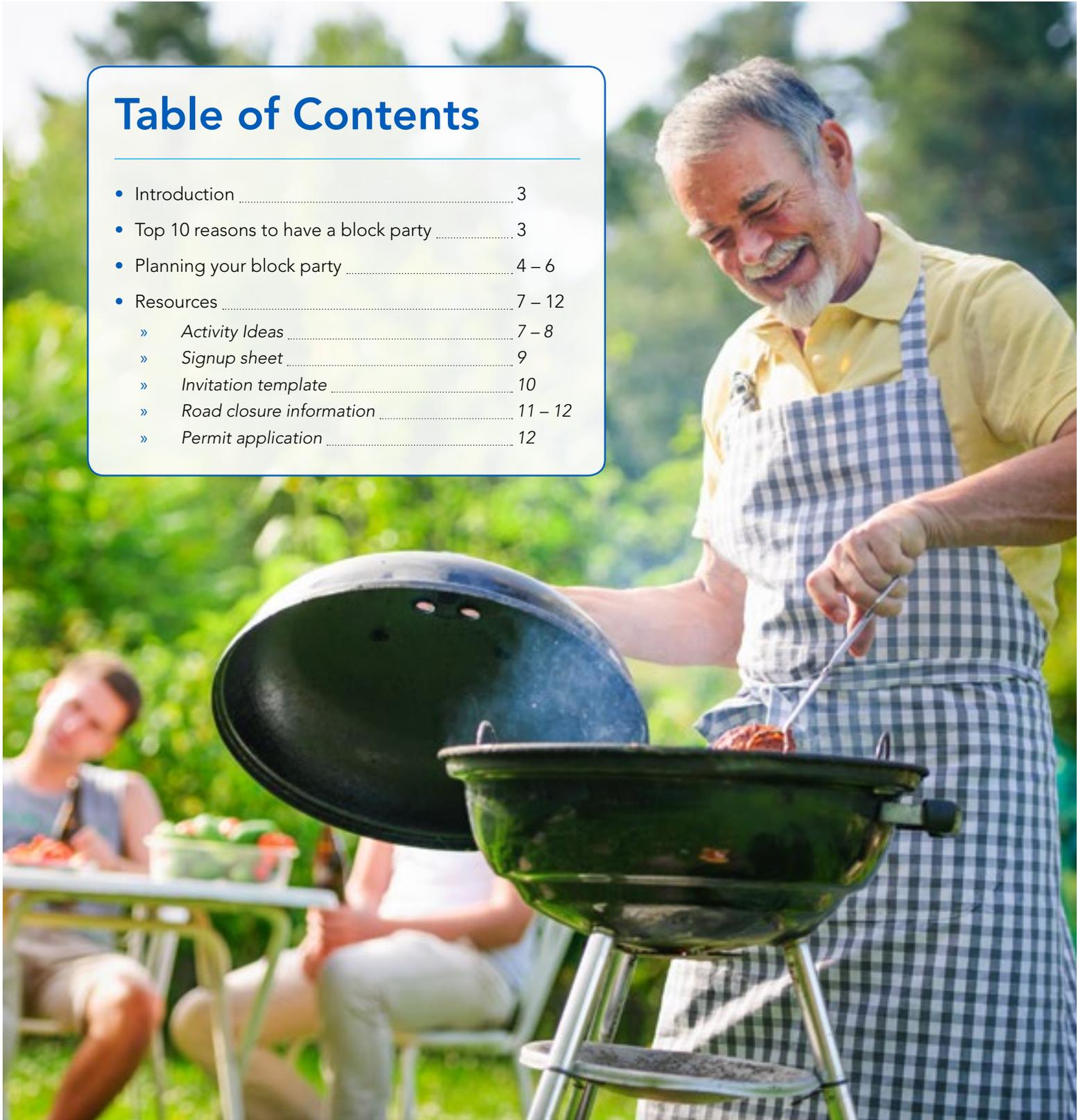


City of Leduc
Block Party Kit



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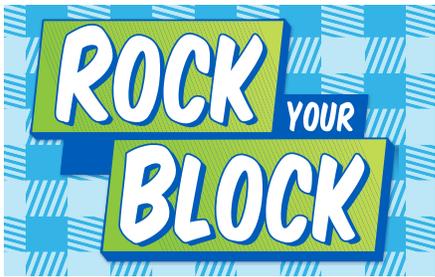
Introduction

A neighborhood block party is the 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 among 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 neighborhood 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 old-time residents in the neighborhood and learn the neighborhood's history.
7. To strengthen neighborhood spirit and encourage residents to look after the neighborhood.
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 neighborhood clean-up day, play some good music and barbeque once all the work is done.
10. To start a neighborhood tradition of getting together at least once a year!





Planning your block party

1) Getting started:

- The idea of a neighborhood block party is to bring neighbors together, so the first step is to talk to your neighbors.
- You may want to send out a flyer to explain what a block party is, to encourage attendance and get feedback on things like food and possible event dates and times.
- Enlist as many neighbors as you can to help out. 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 neighbors provide the money.
 - » Everyone brings his or hers own meat
- **Picnics**
 - » Everyone brings their own meal
- **Pot luck**
 - » Everyone brings one dish

3) How big to make it?

- Start off with a smaller event rather than a larger one. You can always grow your event as needed.
- In selecting who to invite, use natural neighborhood 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.

4) Location

- It is recommended to use a common public space. This will increase the likelihood of shared responsibilities for the event. Options include:
 - » An existing park, street or common area (must abide by City of Leduc bylaws)
 - » A garage in the event of a rainout.
 - » A common room in a condo unit.

5) Getting the word out

- Here are some ideas to keep neighbours informed:
 - » Flyers can be used, including a feedback section.
 - » Information can be gathered from your neighbours by going door-to-door. This adds a personal touch and people often offer to help.
 - » A casual approach can be used to inform neighbors when you see them out and about.

6) City of Leduc road closure permission

- Local roadway closures may be permitted for a Block Party. Road Closures permit approvals are subject to safety and your neighbours approval. As your safety is our priority, some road closures requests may not be accommodated and we will do our best to provide options. Best locations to host a block party are cul-de-sacs, parks and green spaces!

To request a road closure, Block Party Hosts must submit the following to the Events & Booking Department:

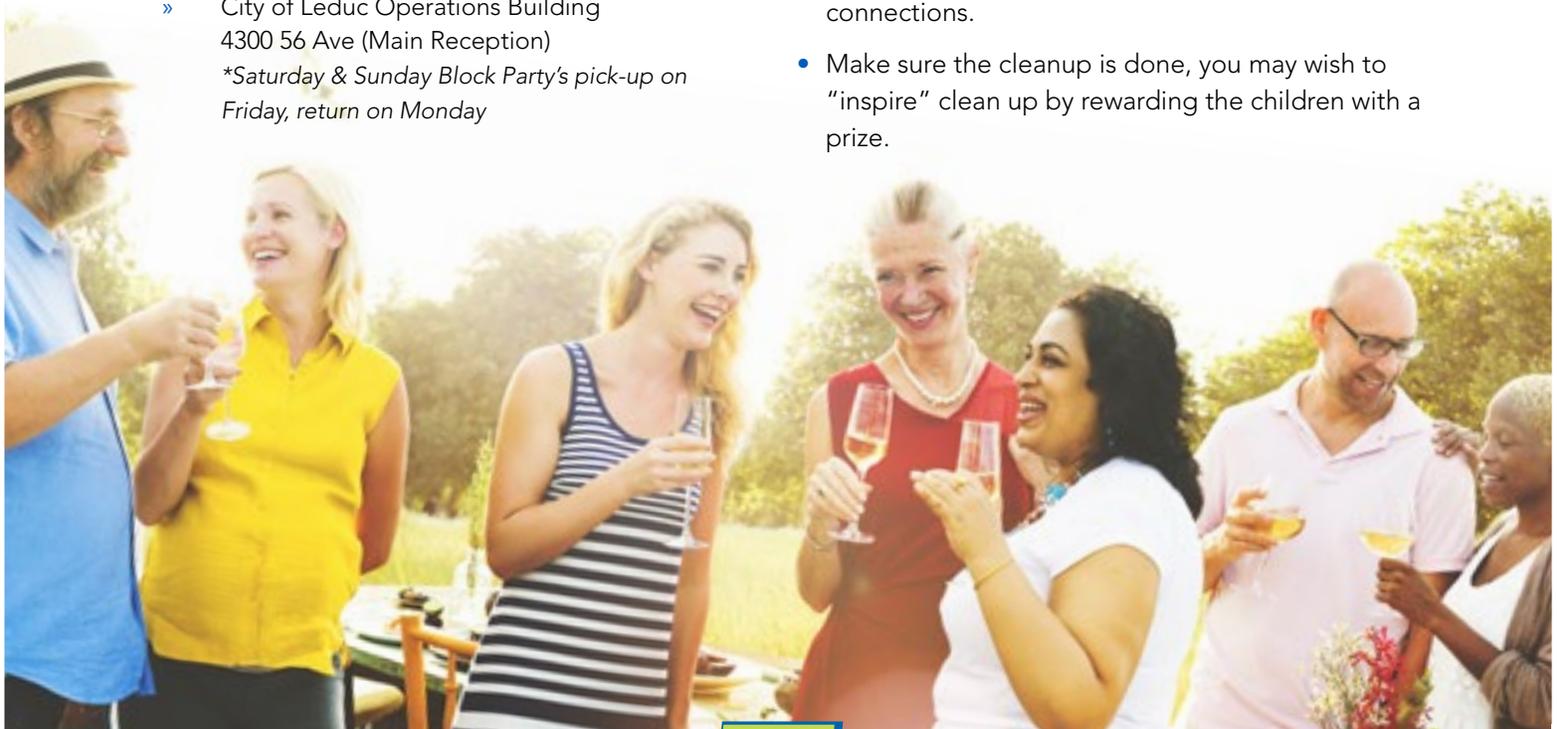
- » Complete a Block Party Request
- » Complete a Temporary Road Closure Permit including a map of the location
- » Submit a completed Neighbour Road Closure Agreement. A minimum 25% of the area blocked must sign-up in agreement
- Upon approval, the organizer can pick-up & return barricades Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm at:
 - » City of Leduc Operations Building
4300 56 Ave (Main Reception)
**Saturday & Sunday Block Party's pick-up on Friday, return on Monday*

7) Timing to get the event planned

- For a first-time block party, distribute the first flyer requesting feedback three to four weeks before the event.
- Once the organizer/committee has looked at all the suggestions, the final flyer with date, time and what to bring should go out 4 weeks before the event.
- 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 9:00 p.m.

8) Role of the organizers

- Make decisions about the set up.
- Act as a greeter at the event.
- Introduce new neighbors 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

- Use a sign-in book to help develop a contact list for next year.
- Name tags are important. Decide if you want neighbors to write on their name tags (first and last names, house numbers).
- 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.

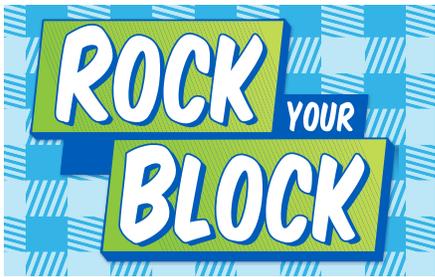
10) Visit Rock Your Block Online

Check out the Rock Your Block webpage: Leduc.ca/rockyourblock to help you plan your next block party:

- Access road closure permits and a map template to close the road for your party.
- Access the online form to inquire about hosting.
- Download your Rock Your Block Kit to help you organize a fun and successful block party.
- Download an invitation template—if you don’t have one of your own.
- Download your sign-up sheet so you can track who will be participating.
- Access a list of fun activities you can add to your event, including icebreakers.

Some final reminders:

- Neighbors 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 Kit



Activity Ideas

Rock Your Block Bingo

Your Name: _____

- Find someone who fits one of the descriptions in the bingo card below and have them write their name in the appropriate square.
- Fill out your entire bingo card in 12 minutes to complete the task.
- All completed cards will get entered into a box for a prize draw.

Speaks a second language	Wearing sandals	Has freckles	Likes to play golf	Traveled outside of Canada in 2015
Born in the 1940's	Likes to exercise	Wears glasses	Has brown eyes	Wearing jeans
Plays a musical instrument	Play soccer	Planted a garden	Is a football fan	Was born in another country
Wearing black socks	Has a great smile	Born in another province	Has a sister	Favourite hockey team is Edmonton Oilers

More Activity Ideas

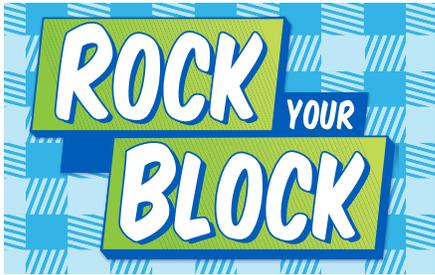
Here are a few more activities for you to try your block party

- Visit and eat! Over centuries, food has always had a very social component in societies.
- Try an outdoor movie—perfect for those warm summer nights.
- Set up a photo booth to create some memories.
- Try the 'Minute It to Win It' game.
- Encourage the talent of your neighbourhood to come forward—you may be living next to a musician, artist, DJ, magician, dancer, singer, radio host 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 necklaces





Block Party Kit



Invitation Idea

You're invited to
Rock Our Block!



Date: _____ Time: _____

Place: _____

We are asking each family to bring:

_____ Chair to sit on

_____ Meat or vegetarian food to barbecue
for your family

Other: _____

_____ One salad and one dessert to share
(coffee and tea will be provided)

_____ Non-breakable plates, cups and cutlery
for your family



PLEASE RETURN BOTTOM HALF OF THIS FLYER TO: _____



Your name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

**In addition, please indicate if you can
provide the following for the party:**

_____ Chairs _____ Tables _____ Coolers

Do you have suggestions for activities you could organize?

Are you able to help with the 'behind the scenes' work?

Road / Sidewalk / Lane Temporary Closure

Road / Sidewalk / Lane temporary closures are requested for different projects such as;

- Parades
- Block Parties
- Run / Walk events
- Water line repairs
- Telephone line repairs
- Cement repairs
- Construction
- General improvements

Visit www.Leduc.ca/temporary-closure to fill out a form 14 days prior to the closure.

Closure process:

1. Fill out a Road / Sidewalk / Lane Temporary Closure Request Form.
2. Send completed form with map to the Temporary Closure Team.
3. Temporary Closure Team will provide a copy of the request and all pertinent information to affected City of Leduc departments by email.
4. Once request have been reviewed and approved by all departments the Temporary Closure Team will email the requester to sign the terms & conditions.
5. Requester is to send a copy of the signed terms & conditions back to the Temporary Closure Team.
6. Upon receipt of the signed terms & conditions the Temporary Closure Team will release the approved permit to the requester.

Barricade Location

Please note that organizers of the Block Party can sign the barricades out at the City of Leduc Operations Building, located at 4300 56 Ave at the front reception for FREE. The barricades will be available to be picked up during business hours, Monday to Friday (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.). If your event is on the weekend, you can pick the barricades up on the Friday and return them the following Monday.

