



BLOCK PARTY



City of Leduc

Block Party Kit

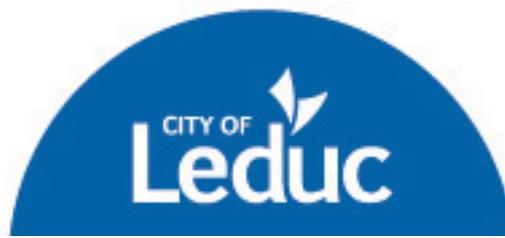
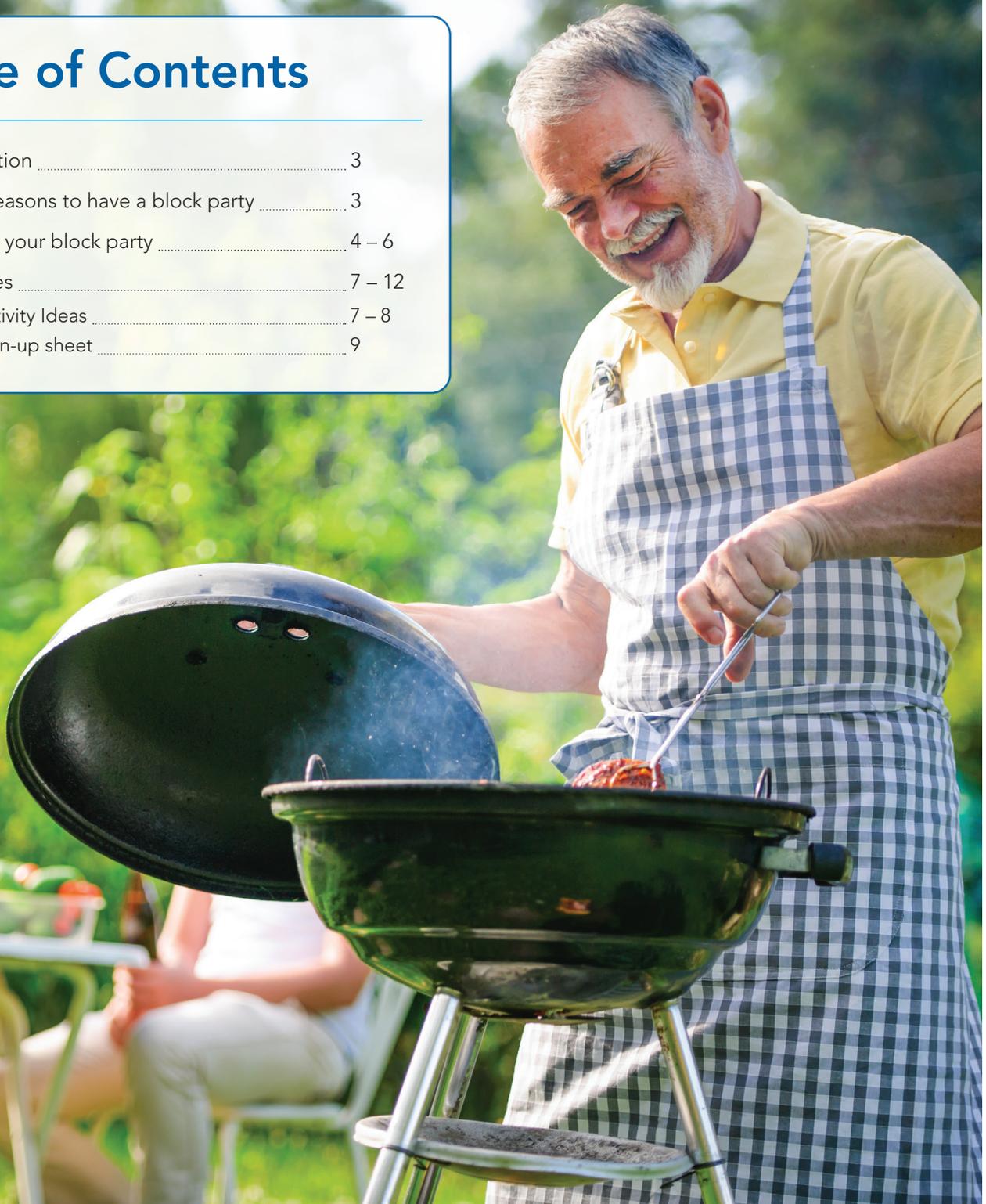


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Introduction

A neighbourhood 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 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 old-time residents in the neighbourhood and learn the neighbourhood's history.
7. To strengthen neighbourhood 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 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.
- 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.
- 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 his or hers own meat
- **Picnics**
 - » Host a picnic at a local green space or park and play some fun outdoor games together.
- **Pot luck**
 - » Everyone brings one dish

3) How big to make it?

- Block parties are small gatherings of 10-20 households on your street. A larger event (20 or more households) is considered a Special Event which follows different guidelines. You can find information about Special Events on the City of Leduc Website for Special Event Permits.
- 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.

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:
 - » Door hangers can be used to announced the party details. There are free and available from the City of Leduc in your Block Party Kit.
 - » 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 neighbours 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 and 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 75 per cent of the area blocked must sign in agreement
- Upon approval of the street closure, the Block Party Host can pick up barricades at the City of Leduc operations building the **Friday** prior to the event, and return them the **Monday** following the event.
 - » City of Leduc Operations Building
4300 56 Ave (Main Reception)
Time of pick up/return between
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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 that at least 2 weeks prior to the party (minimum).
- 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.

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

- Use a sign-in book to help develop a contact list for next year.
- Name tags are important. Decide if you want neighbours 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.

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

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

Here are a few more suggestions:

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

- Visit and eat! Over centuries, food has always had a social component in society. Invite each other to share your favorite recipes or host a backyard barbecue.
- 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



