

CITY OF SURREY



# BLOCK PARTY

## TOOLKIT

SURREY CELEBRATES  
**CANADA 150** 

Learn more about Surrey's celebration  
[www.surrey.ca/canada150](http://www.surrey.ca/canada150) #SurreyCanada150



Block parties are a great way to connect with your neighbours and have fun. Check out [block parties and projects](#) that other Surrey residents have recently done. If you have any questions about hosting a block party, please fill out and email the [Block Party Application Form](#) to the Block Party Committee: **blockparties@surrey.ca**.

There is no "right way" to plan a block party. Here are some tips that will help your event be as successful as possible.



## Getting Started

The idea of a neighbourhood block party is to bring neighbours together. It's a good idea to find 1 or 2 neighbours to help you with the event. Get your neighbours, strata, and property manager involved in the planning of your block party. They can help with invitations, as well as the setup and cleanup of the party.

## How Big to Make It?

Start off with a smaller event rather than a large one. It can always grow, but it is hard to shrink it.

Decide early and make it clear in your flyer if this will be a block party restricted to those on the street/block or whether people can invite friends/relatives (if yes how many).

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## Types of Block Parties

Which type of block party will work best in your neighbourhood? Possible ideas:

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### Barbeques

Organizers purchase all that is needed and neighbours provide the money; everyone brings his or her own meat.



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### Picnics

Everyone brings their own meal.



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### Pot Luck

Everyone brings one dish.



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### Catering

Everyone shares the cost and the food is purchased.



## Pick a Location

Block Parties can take place in a variety of locations. Where you decide to hold your Block Party will determine some of the steps that you need to go through.

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### On a Street

- Suitable for larger gatherings
- Must be on local road or cul de sac and not a busy road
- Permits required

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### In a Park

- Suitable for smaller to larger gatherings
- Permits Required

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### On Private Property

- For smaller gatherings, a lawn party can work well.
- No permits are required.

It is recommended to use a public space, if at all possible. This will increase the likelihood of shared responsibility for the event.

## Pick a Time, Date and Recruit Some Help

Mid-May to end of August is a good time.

A weekend date or holiday is often the best times for the event.

Have an alternate rainout day planned, just in case. For a first time block party, distribute the first flyer requesting feedback 4 to 5 weeks before the event.

## Plan Your Event

A party is no fun if no one shows up. Make a flyer or invitation to send around to your neighbours to let them know about the event.

All sorts of things can happen at a block party!

Ideas include:

- Casual meeting of neighbours
- Lawn games such as bocce or croquet
- Sidewalk art projects such as chalk art
- Potluck food
- Music
- “Get to know you” games
- Include name tags to help with introductions

## Permits

If the party will be at a location where there is traffic (street, back alley or cul-de-sac)...

- A block party permit is required.
- Temporary Health Permit:

Just a reminder that you will need to apply for a [Temporary Health Permit](#) through [Fraser Health](#) if you will be providing food at your block party.

## Get Some Support

Part of the fun of Block Parties is meeting your neighbours and finding out what everyone can bring to the event. The City of Surrey also offers some support which may help your Block Party be successful.

- Apply for [Neighbourhood Enhancement Grant](#) to help cover the costs for food, insurance, and other expenses. This is useful if you are planning a larger event.
- Borrow a tent, table, chairs, road barricades and other equipment free of charge. Check out our [Neighbourhood Event Equipment](#) for a list of items we have available for pick up from City Hall.
- If you’d like to receive some Canada 150 swag to add some cheer to your celebration, send an email to [blockparties@surrey.ca](mailto:blockparties@surrey.ca)

## Let Us Know How It Went

Send an email to the Block Party Committee to [blockparties@surrey.ca](mailto:blockparties@surrey.ca) and let us know how your event went and if you have any suggestions on how we can better support block parties in the future.

For additional resources [visit http://www.surrey.ca/community/19297.aspx](http://www.surrey.ca/community/19297.aspx).

# Block Party Check List

## 6 Weeks Before

- Organizing team
- Task leads
- Date
- Time
- Location
- Budget
- Sponsorship

## 3 Weeks Before

- Apply for City of Surrey Permit *(if necessary)*
- Apply for Fraser Health Temporary Food Permit *(if necessary)*
- Insurance
- Apply for City of Surrey Grant
- Promotion/invitations
- Food
- Drinks
- Seating
- Tables
- Rain-out option

## 2 Weeks Before

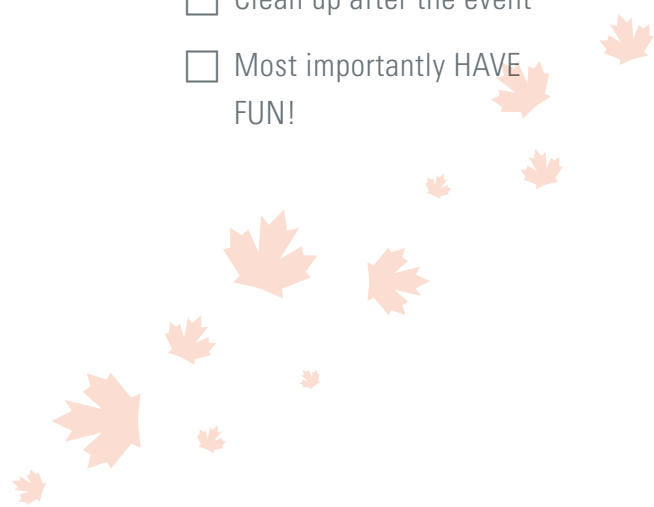
- Party games
- Decorations
- Extra equipment

## 1 Week Before

- Send party reminders
- Confirm numbers for any party rentals/catering

## Day of the Block Party

- Set up/organize tents, tables, chairs and music
- Prepare food and drinks
- Help run games
- Clean up after the event
- Most importantly HAVE FUN!



# Get-to-Know-You BINGO

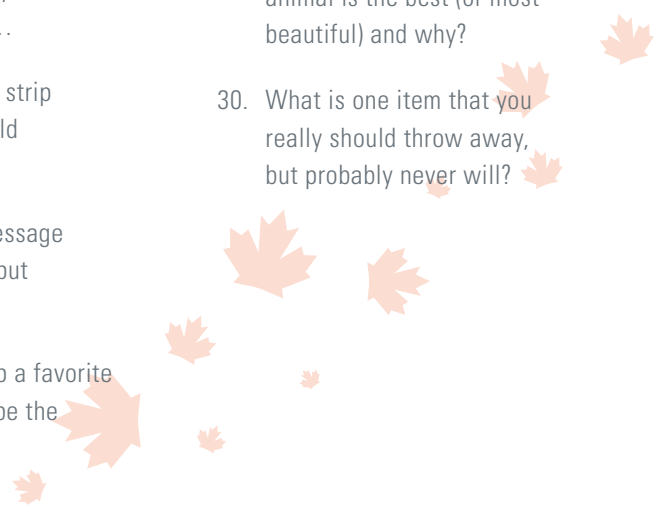
For each of the categories below, find a person in the group who fits the description. Remember to introduce yourself before asking the question to a person you have not yet met. Write the person's name down next to the item that fits them. You can only use each person once. The individual who gets the most matches wins!

Been in a helicopter	Born overseas	Has four or more siblings	Been to the top of the CN Tower
Favourite colour is red	Can speak two or more languages fluently	Ridden on a motorcycle	Been stuck in an elevator
Met a famous Canadian	Has a reptile as a pet	Wearing mismatching socks	Has read all the Harry Potter books
Likes to watch scary movies	Been sailing	Likes to play hockey	Can whistle using two fingers
Been to 3 different provinces	Left handed	Has no middle name	Likes Brussel sprouts

# Icebreaker Questions

A great way to help people open up is to ask them fun questions that allow them to express their personality or interesting things about them. Here is a list of 30 safe, useful icebreaker questions to help break the ice:

1. If you could have an endless supply of any food, what would you get?
2. If you were an animal, what would you be and why?
3. What is one goal you'd like to accomplish during your lifetime?
4. When you were little, who was your favorite super hero and why?
5. Who is your hero? (a parent, a celebrity, an influential person in one's life)
6. What's your favorite thing to do in the summer?
7. If you could meet any Canadian who would want to meet and why?
8. If you were an ice cream flavor, which one would you be and why?
9. What's your favorite cartoon character, and why?
10. If you could visit any place in the world, where would you choose to go and why?
11. What's the ideal dream job for you?
12. Are you a morning or night person?
13. What are your favorite hobbies?
14. What are your pet peeves or interesting things about you that you dislike?
15. What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?
16. Tell us about a unique or quirky habit of yours.
17. If you had to describe yourself using three words, it would be...
18. Can you speak more than two languages? If so, which ones?
19. If I could be anybody besides myself, I would be...
20. If you were a comic strip character, who would you be and why?
21. What thought or message would you want to put in a fortune cookie?
22. If you had to give up a favorite food, which would be the most difficult to give up?
23. What is one food you'd never want to taste again?
24. If you won a lottery ticket and had a million dollars, what would you do with it?
25. You've been given access to a time machine. Where and when would you travel to?
26. If you could be any superhero and have super powers, which one would you like to have and why?
27. Which language would you love to learn?
28. What is your favorite type of food?
29. In your opinion, which animal is the best (or most beautiful) and why?
30. What is one item that you really should throw away, but probably never will?



## Great Wind Blows

Arrange the chairs in a circle, facing the middle. All the children sit down. An adult stands outside the circle and calls out "A great wind blows for everyone who....", fills in the blank with a statement that will affect some of the group (see ideas below). Anyone who is affected must stand up and find another chair which is at least 2 chairs away from their own.

If a large group of children stand up, the adult should quickly remove one of the chairs from the circle as soon as the kids stand up and begin moving. Any child who cannot find a chair moves outside the circle and helps the adult come up with ideas for the next "great wind blows".

Here are some ideas:

- A great wind blows for everyone who has a little brother
- A great wind blows for everyone who has a big sister
- A great wind blows for everyone who has been to Ottawa
- A great wind blows for everyone who has a dog
- A great wind blows for everyone who ate pancakes for breakfast this morning
- A great wind blows for everyone who likes (celebrity)





## Activities for Preschool Aged Children

### Sidewalk Chalk

On sidewalk or fences with homemade cornstarch paints (1/4 cup water, ¼ cup + 2Tbsp cornstarch, food colouring)

### Shaving Cream Paint

Mix food colouring and shaving cream – have fun!

### Bicycle Decorating and Parade

Recycled cardboard boxes - decorate and invent with boxes, duct tape, crayons, and plastic lids Pop bottle bowling - Fill pop bottles with water and food colouring for pins.

### Water Table

Young children love to play in water. You can turn any baby pool, or large shallow Rubbermaid tote into a water table on the ground. Add things that float like boats and cups so children can pour the water and manipulate the water. Supervision required.

### Dinosaur Dig

Plastic toys buried in a sand box.

### Streamer Wands

Tape assorted colored streamers to large sticks or tubes and have the children dance with them to music.

## Activities for School Aged Children

### Potato Sack Race

All you need is a burlap sack or large, sturdy pillow case for each participant (it should reach their waist), and plenty of space for them to hop to the finish line. If you don't have sacks on hand, a three-legged race is a fun and easy alternative. Try pairing kids with adults!

### Hopscotch

Use sidewalk chalk to make a hopscotch grid. Number the squares 1-9. Pick a rock that is good for tossing (small ones bounce too much, larger ones are hard to throw.) Start by tossing the rock onto Square 1. Hop over the rock and hop with a single foot or both feet (to follow the hopscotch pattern) all the way to the end. Turn around and come back, stopping on Square 2. Balancing on one foot, pick up the rock in Square 1 and hop over Square 1 to the start. Continue this pattern with Square 2, and so on. If you toss your rock and miss the correct square, your turn is over.

### Limbo

How low can you go? You can use a long pole or broom, or you can buy a bamboo limbo pole online. Hawaiian tunes or other festive music make this game highly entertaining!

### Tug of War

Grab a rope and draw a line in the dirt. Number off the same amount on each side of the rope. The first team that gets the other team across their side of the line wins.

### Bubble Battles

Bubbles are always a hit with kids, but for this activity everyone is going to blow bubbles all at once until the entire street is full of bubbles floating through the air. Supply bubbles and wands.

### Scavenger Hunt

Plan a scavenger hunt around the neighbourhood.

# Activities for Everyone

1. Road Hockey
2. Baseball
3. Flag football or touch football
4. Soccer
5. Volleyball (water balloon volleyball)
6. Tag and its many variations
7. Water games (slip n slide, sprinkler, water fight)
8. Sidewalk chalk art
9. Skipping rope
10. Frisbee
11. Boccia Ball
12. Ladder Toss
13. Obstacle courses
14. Relay Race
15. Water Balloon Toss
16. Musical Chairs
17. Relay Race
18. Hide and Seek

