

2023



HANDBOOK



BRING THE CELEBRATION TO YOUR BLOCK

Block Parties are a great way to connect with neighbours and celebrate your community.

In this Booklet

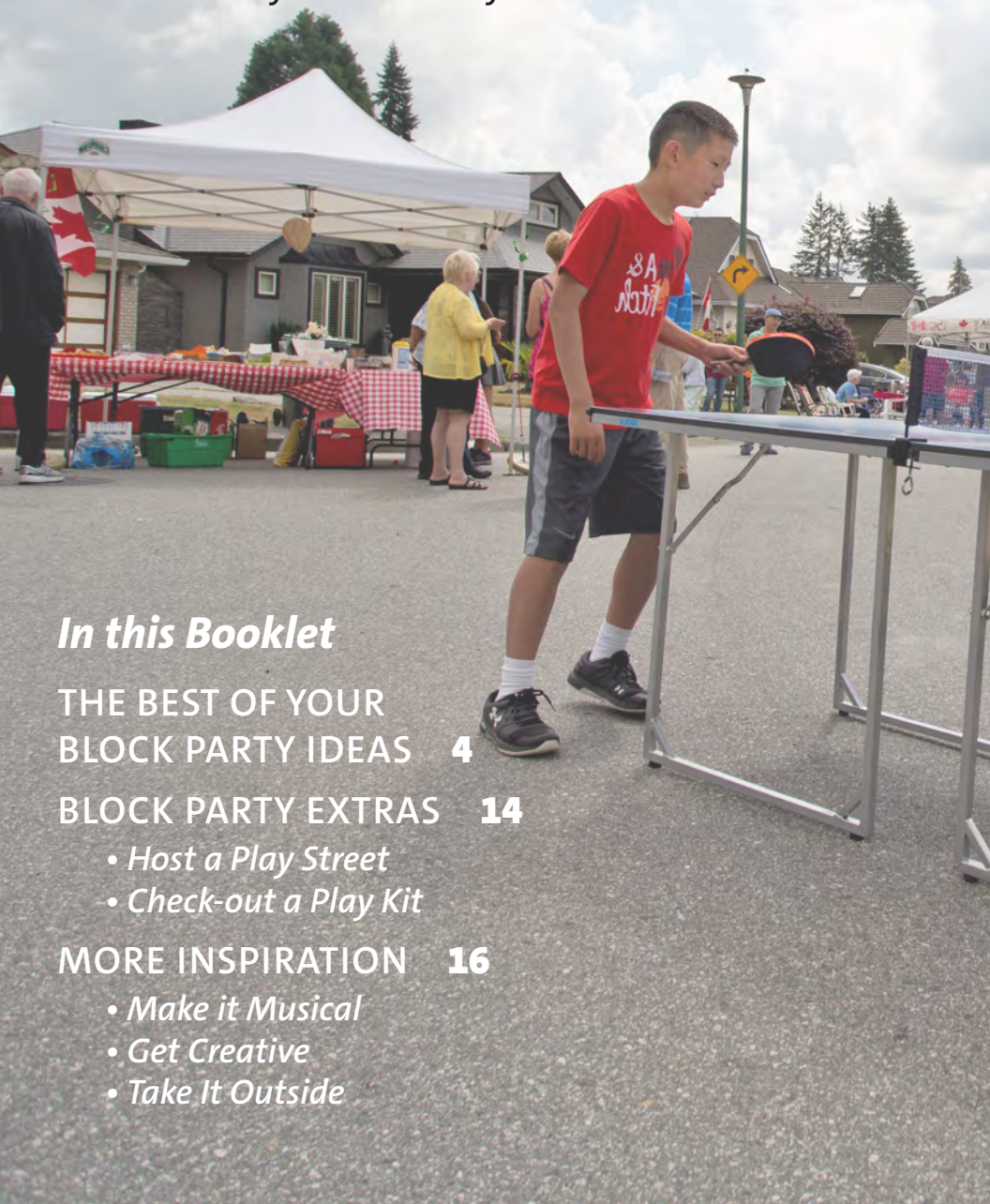
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HELP US BUILD THE HANDBOOK

Share your block party activity ideas with us and they could be featured in the next Block Party Handbook for the entire community to enjoy!

Email blockparties@coquitlam.ca with a description of the activity, a link to a website, if applicable, and photos of the finished activity.



THE BEST OF YOUR BLOCK PARTY IDEAS

Check out these ideas shared by past block party hosts.



Treasure Hunt

Whitesail Place Block Party

Create a box that is filled with treasured items (e.g. Dollar Store toys) and hide it in the neighbourhood.

At the start, all participants gather as a group and are given a clue or a riddle to follow. When they arrive at the correct location another clue or riddle is provided until the treasure is found.

This is a great team activity as everyone is expected to work together to solve each clue or riddle and share the prizes when they finally discover the treasure box.



Nature Scavenger Hunt

The Galloway Avenue Block Party

Recycle those egg cartons!

Create a scavenger hunt kit that includes natural elements from everyone's yard. Then go on a scavenger hunt to find the items.





Neighbourhood Trivia

Kugler Avenue Block Party

How well do you know your neighbourhood? Put your knowledge to the test and be prepared to learn some cool and interesting facts about where you live.

Sample Questions:

- How long is your street?
- Who/what is your street named after?
- When were the houses on the street built?
- How many schools are there in the neighbourhood?
- How many storm drains are there on the street?
- How many fire hydrants are there on the street?

Music Trivia Challenge

The Grover Block Party

Get ready for name that tune! Grab a karaoke machine, laptop or neighbourhood band, and line up some music for a trivia challenge. Create two groups (e.g. odd and even street addresses) and have two microphone stands available. When the music starts, the first one from the team who runs up to the mic and correctly answers the trivia challenge wins that round.

Challenges may include:

- Name that tune
- Name that band
- Sing that song
- First three men or women to sing that song
- First household to sing that song

The first team who achieves 10 points, wins the competition!



Neighbourhood Bingo

The Galloway Avenue Block Party

Challenge your block to a game of neighborhood bingo! Create a bingo sheet similar to the one shown.

At the Block Party get your neighbours mingling and

discovering what names can be assigned to a particular box.

To add to the excitement, this can be a timed activity or completed bingo cards can be entered into a prize draw.



Giant Outdoor Jenga Set

The Galloway Avenue Block Party

A great beginner wood working project and the perfect yard game to play outside.

INSTRUCTIONS

Saw sections of 2' x 3' boards into 7.5" long sections. The total amount for a high tower is 45 pieces of wood. To avoid splinters sand the sides and ends until they are smooth to touch. Then play a game of Jenga!



Moon Ball

The Wallace Court Block Party

This is a great game to get everyone mingling. It's simple with a minimum amount of explanation and it can be played in a large group or in teams. Gather a group and create a circle. The aim of this game is to keep a beach ball in the air for a predetermined number of contacts. For example, the goal could be to keep it aloft for 50 to 75 hits. The game gets more exciting as you get closer to the goal. Tip: Don't set your goal too high to start!



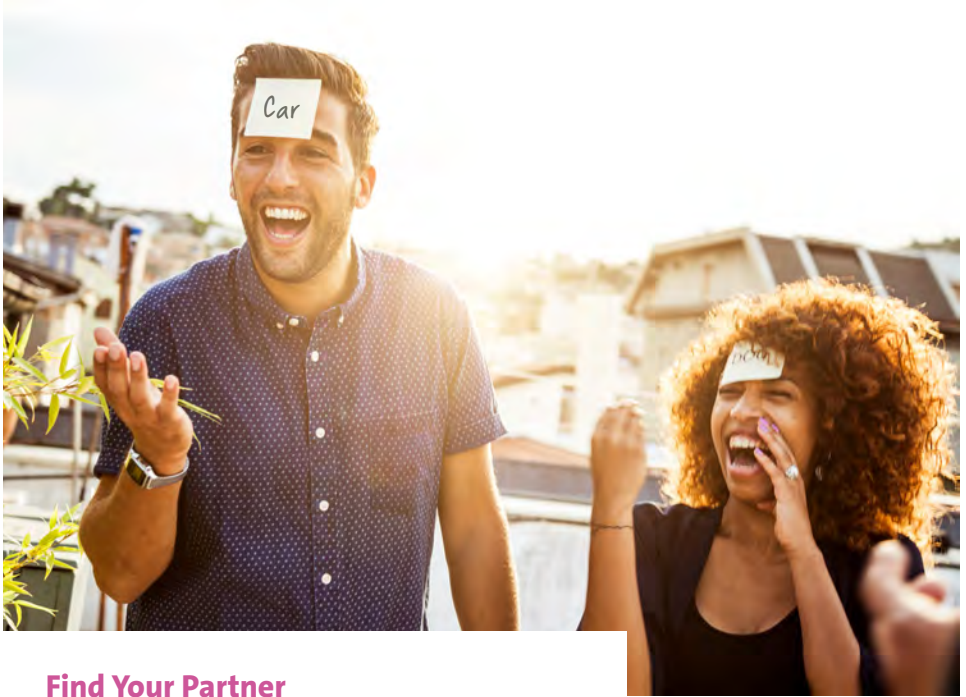
RULES

A player cannot hit the ball twice in a row.

- 1 point if a hand was used
- 2 points if a foot was used

The game continues until the beach ball touches the ground or a player hits the ball twice in a row.





Find Your Partner

Windward Drive Block Party

Create large square tags and add an individual concept word on each tag. Shuffle the tags and tape a tag to each player's back without it being seen.

Using only actions and gestures players have to use the help of other players to figure out the word taped to their back and then find a matching partner.

Think of word concepts that go together well. Some examples could be:

- Fish & bait
- Hollywood & movies
- Mickey Mouse & Disneyland
- Batman & Robin
- Playland & PNE
- Garden & flowers
- Canada & hockey
- Car & Ferrari





Game Stations—The More Games, the Merrier!

The Brewster Drive Block Party

Both adults and kids love to play a variety of games. Set-up your stations to encourage people to move around the party to each game. Here are a variety of game stations that can be set-up:

Ring Toss

Create your own by using pylons, tent stakes etc. And rings made out of thick wire.

Tin Can Toss

Stack six to eight empty tin cans and try to knock them down with a rubber ball.

Fishing Pond

Write a number on the bottom of some floating rubber ducks and place them into a small outdoor pool or large bucket filled with water. Attach a small sieve or net to the end of a long wooden or bamboo stick. A prize is awarded according to the number of the rubber duck that is scooped out.

The younger children will have fun trying to scoop out a rubber duck. You can make the activity more challenging for the older kids by adding a blindfold.





You Rock!

Riley Street Block Party

Gather rocks from around your neighbourhood and use the natural elements as your inspiration to design your own rock masterpiece. For example, butterflies, bees, ladybugs, hummingbirds, flowers etc.

SUPPLIES:

Acrylic paint, paint markers, chalk markers or chalk crayons
Brushes—various sizes
Sealant (e.g. spray varnish)





Obstacle Course

Whitesail Place Block Party

Get the older youth involved to help design and create an obstacle course. Kids are sent through one at a time, youngest first and receive a prize/award when they finish.

Obstacle course ideas:

- Crawling through a maze blindfolded
- Recovering a token from a pool or container full of water, plastic balls, etc.
- Riding a bike or scooter through a course without knocking down the cones
- Solving a problem on a blackboard
- Preschoolers: Getting them to identify their address from a list.



BLOCK PARTY EXTRAS

Check out these activities that you can add to your next Block Party!

HOST A PLAY STREET

Did you know you can apply to close your street for a block party?

Visit coquitlam.ca/BlockParties to learn more and check out these fun ideas to take your party to the street.

Street Hockey Competition

Bring your neighbors together for some friendly competition!

Take over the Street with Hop Scotch Mania

You only need chalk or tape to create these hop scotch challenges.

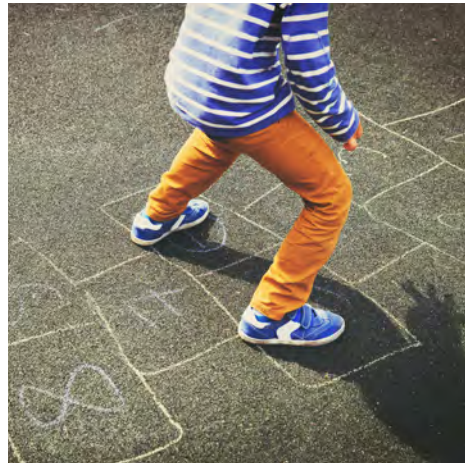
Hop scotch can be done all different ways and you can create several side by side and set-up challenges.

You'll need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Links to a variety of different hopscotch games and rules
- Player tokens e.g. rock, bottle caps, buttons etc.

Host a Bike Parade

Take advantage of your BP street closure and host a bike parade. You can decorate the bikes with stickers, streamers and other fun decorations. Even an old deck of playing cards can be clipped to the bike spokes!





CHECK OUT A PLAY KIT

Add some play to your party!

Sign up to borrow one of our new Block Party Play Kits to use at your next block party. The play kits include outdoor game equipment suitable for all ages. Learn more at coquitlam.ca/BlockParties



MORE INSPIRATION

MAKE IT MUSICAL

Host a Talent Show or Porch Concert

Bring some music to your block by recruiting your neighbourhood performers—you never know what kind of talent might be just around the corner.

Create a stage on your front porch, in your backyard or even in your living room. Get the kids to create tickets and let the show begin!

Homemade Harmonies

Use your imagination to make musical instruments from everyday household items. Drill holes into a PVC pipe to make a flute or try stretching elastic bands over an empty shoebox for a makeshift guitar.

Homemade Maracas

Making your own music shakers or maracas is easy. Use recycled bottles, toilet paper rolls or two paper cups taped together. Add small rocks, rice, lentils, corns or buttons to provide the shaker noise. Once complete, decorate your shakers for the final touch.

Make Music with Water

Line at least five glasses next to each other and fill them with different amounts of water. The first glass should have just a little water and the last glass should almost be full. The glasses in the middle should have slightly more than the last. See if you can get a tune going by hitting the glasses in a certain order.



Start a Pots & Pans Band

Gather an assortment of pots, pans, and wooden, metal and plastic utensils; experiment with the different sounds each one creates!





GET CREATIVE

Tin Can Lanterns

Create your own beautiful lanterns using empty tin cans.

You'll need:

- Variety of empty tin cans, labels removed
- Water
- Hammer and nails
- Printed design templates and tape (optional)
- Spray paint; black works well
- Tea lights or string of LED lights

DIRECTIONS

Fill the tin cans with water and place in your freezer until all water is frozen. Take the cans out of the freezer and tape on your design template, or just use your imagination to create a design of your own.

Using your hammer and nails, punch small holes in the side of the can to create a pattern you like.

The frozen water inside the can will maintain the can's structure while you create the design.

Once all the water is melted and the can is dry, finish it off by spray painting the outside. Use tea lights or a string of LED lights to show off the beautiful designs you've created.

Chalk Art

Share your artistic side with the neighbourhood by creating temporary works of art on the pavement.

Fun ideas:

- Create a neighbourhood mural
- Draw a scene on the ground to take photos with; try balloons to hold, a crown to try on or butterfly wings!
- Host a chalk drawing competition.





TAKE IT OUTSIDE

Outdoor Movie Night

Create your own outdoor theatre with a movie screen for the neighbourhood. Use an old white sheet and hang it from a tree, a couple poles, a fence or find a neighbour with a white house or garage door and set up your theatre there.

You'll need:

- White cloth or sheet
- Posts or wire to hang sheet from
- Projector
- Blankets, pillows, lawn chairs
- Popcorn and snacks



Backyard Bowling

Bring the bowling alley to your backyard, with a few simple supplies. Use one litre bottles filled with water to give them some weight, and arrange them in a triangle with the single pin closest to the bowler. Use streamers or sticks to make out the bowling lane width and length.

You'll need:

- Water bottles (at least six)
- Soccer or dodge ball
- Streamers or sticks



Homemade Bubbles

Who can resist blowing bubbles? Get creative and try using different items as bubble wands. Fun ideas can include straws, Mason jar lid rings, wire coat hangers and string tied in a circle.

You'll need:

- Dish soap
- Water
- Glycerin (can be found at many pharmacies or where cooking supplies are sold)
- Sugar
- Container with lid, such as a plastic food container
- Bubble wands

DIRECTIONS

Mix one cup of water with two tablespoons of dish soap, one tablespoon of glycerin and one teaspoon of sugar. Stir the mixture gently and store for one hour before using. Once you're ready to use it, gently swirl the container in case any ingredients have separated. Then, dip your bubble wands into the solution for a few seconds, lift out and blow! You can also make a bubble solution without glycerin and sugar; just use soap and water. There are lots of recipes to try; search online to find the best one!

