



Fairfield / Gonzales Street Party Kit

Revised August 2009

Introduction

Street parties are a wonderful way to have fun and bring neighbours together. Getting to know each other better through such events can lead to many good things.

Did you know? In Victoria, the City provides block party permits and delivers barricades for free.

Several streets in Fairfield and Gonzales have traditions of annual street parties, including Carnsew, Chapman/Linden, Cornwall, Howe, and others. The purpose of this kit is to share some tips and ideas based on local experience.



Chapman/Linden Street Party, September 2008

How to get your permit from the City of Victoria

In the first year you need a majority of residents to sign in support of the street party, and in subsequent years you only need to put in the application form. The City provides a neighbour sign off form:

www.victoria.ca/common/pdfs/permits_events_blockpartyapp_signoff-2009b.pdf

The City also provides “Block Party Guidelines”:
www.victoria.ca/common/pdfs/permits_events_blockparty_guidelines_2009.pdf

And an application form:

www.victoria.ca/common/pdfs/permits_events_blockpartyapp-2009.pdf

Some helpful materials

- ✓ Sidewalk chalk
- ✓ ‘Danger’ tape to extend the barricades – you can buy this from hardware stores (leave just enough space on the right for a vehicle to get out)
- ✓ Market tent (can be borrowed for free from Thrifty Foods)
- ✓ Tables and chairs
- ✓ Hockey nets and extra sticks

Organizing tips

Tip #1: When you're getting your neighbours' sign off to have a street party, ask them about what they'd like to see at the event and what they are able to contribute.

For example:

- ✓ Kids activities (parades, bouncy castle, face painting, etc.)
- ✓ Art / crafts
- ✓ Performance (music, dance)
- ✓ Workshops (Cornwall Street had a wonderful laughter workshop one year!)
- ✓ Presentations (ideas for greening the neighbourhood, etc.)
- ✓ Potluck / barbecue coordination
- ✓ Pancake breakfast or free lemonade stand or??
- ✓ Street hockey
- ✓ Other sports / games
- ✓ Other activities – the sky's the limit!

Tip #2: Get people involved.

For example, if someone suggests an activity ask if they are willing to coordinate it. Also, the sign-off sheets can be a handy reference for recruiting people in subsequent years.

Tip #3: Get people from off your street to contribute.

Musicians that neighbours know may be willing to come and play for free or for donations by 'passing the hat'. Music stores may be willing to loan equipment: for example, Larson Music donated the rental of a PA system, including microphones and a mixing board The Chapman/Linden street party in 2008. Cornwall Street has had fun interactive activities, such as a fire truck (getting a blast from that hose is great fun on a hot day!) and a horse drawn carriage.

Tip #4: collect donations from local businesses.

These can be used for the event, and/or as volunteer appreciation gifts. The Chapman/Linden street party in 2008 had donations from several Cook Street Village businesses.

Tip #5: Put out a reminder about 2 days before.

Provide a schedule of activities, and ask people to park their cars off the street for the day. This is also a good chance to ask for any last minute volunteers you need.

Tip #6: Make sure to organize a clean up crew.

At the ending time, the clean up crew makes sure the street is clear and places the barricades back where the City delivered them to. Leaving the street pristine will build support for future street parties.

Tip #7: Take pictures!

Documenting the fun with photos and/or videos is a great way to capture some of the memories. Also, the images can be used in flyers for future street parties and other community building activities.

How to be in touch

This document, **available online at www.fairfieldcommunity.ca**, was prepared by Moss Street Village volunteers. Moss Street Village is a neighbour-driven initiative, supported by the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association through its Streetlife Committee.



Please do be in touch to let us know about your street party: mossvillage@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.fairfieldcommunity.ca and click on 'events and projects'.