

Welcome to the Mount Forest Block Parent Information Session



History of the Block Parent® Program

The Block Parent sign was first seen in windows in London, Ontario in 1968. In 1977, the Waterloo Regional Block Parent® Program was created to serve the people of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and the surrounding rural communities. Gaining popularity, the program quickly expanded within Ontario and across the Nation.

The Block Parent Program consists of a network of safe homes for people of all ages to access in an emergency situation. The familiar red and white Block Parent sign is a symbol that indicates a Police-Screened and Block Parent-Trained Adult is available to offer

assistance should the need arise.



Our Mission

The Mission of the Block Parent® Program is to provide a network of homes for children and other community members to access in case of emergency.





What do Block Parents DO?

Block Parents offer assistance to children, and other community members who find themselves in an emergency situation, by contacting the appropriate emergency service (police, fire, ambulance) and/or parent/guardian.

A Block Parent may be called upon to offer their front porch or seating area as a place of safety when someone is in a dangerous or threatening situation, or simply waiting for their parent/guardian.



What do Block Parents NOT Do?

A Block Parent is **not** expected to provide food, drink, toilet facilities; transportation or medication; or to administer first aid.

Block Parents do not need to admit anyone into their home. Block Parents have no special legal status or authority other than that of ordinary citizens. They are there to help others in case of emergency by simply placing a phone call.



WHO may become a Block Parent?

A responsible adult over the age of 18 years, who has been screened and trained by the Block Parent® Program, via Volunteer Canada's Safe Steps Screening Process, and who has received a CLEAR Police Vulnerable Sector Check, can become a Block Parent.



How do we know Block Parents are SAFE?

Based on Volunteer Canada's Safe Steps Screening Program, the Block Parent Program will mitigate risk by:

- *Establishing a formal recruitment process
- *Providing a clear position description
- *Requiring a completed application form
- *Requiring a clear Police Vulnerable Sector Check
- *Following-up on references
- *Conducting in-home interview, training & orientation session
- *Requiring Block Parents sign the Window Sign Agreement form
- *Requesting an Incident Report form when necessary
- *Connecting with Block Parents annually to update contact information

How do we know Block Parents continue to be SAFE?

Re-Certification: Every adult living in the Block Parent home must update their Block Parent Application and Police Vulnerable Sector Check every two years, to continue to participate in the Block Parent Program.

Block Parents agree to notify the program if they move, change their contact information, or have someone move in or out of their home. If they retire from the program, they must return their window sign. This is outlined in the agreement that is signed when they receive their training and orientation.

Note: Block Parent application information is kept confidential on Block Parents' secure data base, BP Link. BP Link is protected by the National Block Parent Program of Canada.

How do I become a Block Parent?

- *All adults (18 years and older) living in the home must apply for a Police Vulnerable Sectors Check (PVSC)
- *Potential Block Parents must complete the Block Parent Application form
- *PVSC(s) and the completed Block Parent Application form are mailed (scan/emailed) to the Block Parent Program
- *Once the Program screens and approves the application/PVSC, a representative from the Program will contact the potential volunteer(s) to set up the 30 minute Orientation & Training Session
- *At the end of the session, the volunteer receives their window sign and can become a Block Parent.
- *The sign only goes in the window when the Block Parent(s) listed on the application is at home and available to answer the door.
- *When the Block Parent leaves the house, the sign must come out of the window.

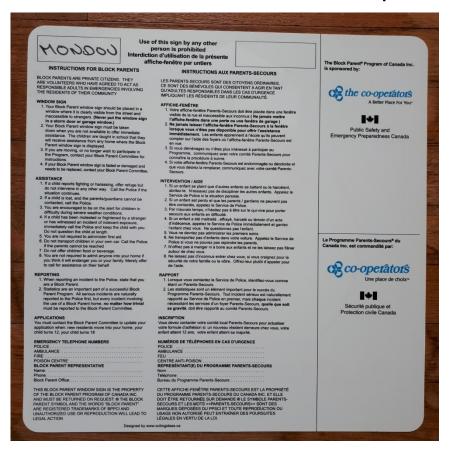
What does the Window Sign look like?

The Block Parent places their sign in a street-facing window when they are home and available. The sign indicates to community members that a police-screened and trained adult is available to place a phone call if a child or community member needs assistance. Each sign has its own certificate number that is used to connect the sign with the sign holder.



What does the back of the Window Sign look like?

The back of the sign gives instructions (in French and English) on what a Block Parent does and doesn't do when someone knocks on their door; and provides a space to record emergency numbers like police, ambulance services, fire station, poison control etc.



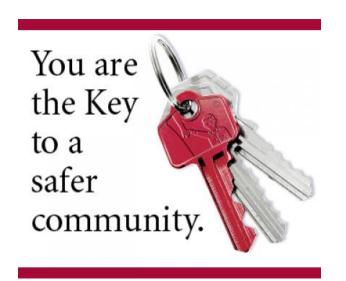
Support for the Mount Forest Block Parent Program

The Mount Forest Block Parent Program has gained support from the OPP, has approval from the National Block Parent Program of Canada, and would like to request support from Wellington North.

The Block Parent Program is a non-profit organization guided by a dedicated group of volunteers who make up the Board of Directors. The Block Parent Program raises funds by building relationship with sponsors and donors.

We Need You!

How can YOU help the Block Parent Program?



Our next step is to get seek "resolution from council". If council supports our program, we will recruit/screen/train Block Parent volunteers, educate the community and schools about the program, and will seek out fundraising opportunities to cover administrative costs, advertising, meetings, and marketing materials.

Would you like to volunteer with us?

Help us with:

Recruitment;

Events;

Marketing & Advertising;

Finance





Be on the Board of Directors

- -Attend monthly meetings
- -Volunteer on a committee
- -Participate in events
- -Steer the organization
- -Vote on important decisions

Thank You for Your Time!



Mount Forest Block Parent Program

Building safer communities, one block at a time.

To find out more about the Mount Forest Block Parent Program

Contact: