



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.

MONDOO

Use of this sign by any other person is prohibited
Interdiction d'utilisation de la présente affiche-fenêtre par un tiers

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BLOCK PARENTS
BLOCK PARENTS ARE PRIVATE CITIZENS. THEY ARE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE AGREED TO ACT AS RESPONSIBLE ADULTS IN EMERGENCIES INVOLVING THE RESIDENTS OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

WINDOW SIGN

- Your Block Parent window sign should be placed in a window where it is clearly visible from the street and inaccessible to strangers. (Never put the window sign in a storm door or garage window.)
- Your Block Parent window sign must be taken down when you are not available to offer immediate assistance. The children are taught in school that they will receive assistance from any home where the Block Parent window sign is displayed.
- If you are moving, or no longer wish to participate in the Program, contact your Block Parent Committee for instructions.
- If your Block Parent window sign is faded or damaged and needs to be replaced, contact your Block Parent Committee.

ASSISTANCE

- If a child reports fighting or harassing, offer refuge but do not intervene in any other way. Call the Police if the situation continues.
- If a child is lost, and the parents/guardians cannot be contacted, call the Police.
- You are encouraged to be on the alert for children in difficulty during severe weather conditions.
- If a child has been molested or frightened by a stranger or has witnessed an incident of indecent exposure, immediately call the Police and keep the child with you. Do not question the child at length.
- You are not required to administer first aid.
- Do not transport children in your own car. Call the Police if the parents cannot be reached.
- Do not offer children food or beverage.
- You are not required to admit anyone into your home if you think it will endanger you or your family. Merely offer to call for assistance on their behalf.

REPORTING

- When reporting an incident to the Police, state that you are a Block Parent.
- Statistics are an important part of a successful Block Parent Program. All serious incidents are naturally reported to the Police first, but every incident involving the use of a Block Parent home, no matter how trivial must be reported to the Block Parent Committee.

APPLICATIONS

You must contact the Block Parent Committee to update your application when: new residents move into your home, your child turns 12, your child turns 18.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POLICE

AMBULANCE

FIRE

POISON CENTRE

BLOCK PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

Name:

Phone:

Block Parent Office:

THIS BLOCK PARENT WINDOW SIGN IS THE PROPERTY OF THE BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM OF CANADA INC. AND MUST BE RETURNED ON REQUEST. THE BLOCK PARENT SYMBOL AND THE WORDS "BLOCK PARENT" ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF APPROXAD. UNAUTHORIZED USE OR REPRODUCTION WILL LEAD TO LEGAL ACTION.

INSTRUCTIONS AUX PARENTS-SECOURS
LES PARENTS-SECOURS SONT DES CITOYENS ORDINAIRES, CE SONT DES BENEVOLES QUI CONSENTENT A AGIR EN TANT QU'ADULTES RESPONSABLES DANS LES CAS D'URGENCE IMPLIQUANT LES RESIDENTS DE LEUR COMMUNAUTE.

AFICHE-FENETRE

- Votre affiche-fenêtre Parents-Secours doit être placée dans une fenêtre visible de la rue et inaccessible aux inconnus (Ne jamais mettre l'affiche-fenêtre dans une porte ou une fenêtre de garage)
- Ne jamais laisser l'affiche-fenêtre Parents-Secours à la fenêtre lorsque vous n'êtes pas disponible pour offrir l'assistance immédiatement. Les enfants apprennent à l'école qu'ils peuvent compter sur l'aide des foyers où l'affiche-fenêtre Parents-Secours est en vue.
- Si vous déménagez ou n'êtes plus intéressé à participer au Programme, communiquez avec votre comité Parents-Secours pour connaître la procédure à suivre.
- Si votre affiche-fenêtre Parents-Secours est endommagée ou décolorée et que vous devez la remplacer, communiquez avec votre comité Parents-Secours.

INTERVENTION /AIDE

- Si un enfant se plaint que d'autres enfants se battent ou le harcèlent, abordez-le. N'essayez pas de discipliner les autres enfants. Appelez le Service de Police si la situation persiste.
- Si un enfant est perdu et que les parents / gardiens ne peuvent pas être contactés, appelez le Service de Police.
- Par mauvais temps, n'hésitez pas à être sur le qui-vive pour porter secours aux enfants en difficulté.
- Si un enfant a été maltraité, effrayé, harcelé ou témoin d'un acte d'indécence, appelez le Service de Police immédiatement et gardez l'enfant chez vous. Ne questionnez pas l'enfant.
- Vous ne devez pas administrer les premiers soins.
- Ne transportez pas d'enfants dans votre voiture. Appelez le Service de Police si vous ne pouvez pas rejoindre les parents.
- N'offrez pas à manger ni à boire aux enfants et ne les laissez pas s'éloigner autour de chez vous.
- Ne laissez pas d'inconnus entrer chez vous, si vous craignez pour la sécurité de votre famille ou la vôtre. Offrez leur plutôt d'appeler pour de l'aide.

RAPPORT

- Lorsque vous contactez le Service de Police, identifiez-vous comme étant un Parents-Secours.
- Les statistiques sont un élément important pour le succès du Programme Parents-Secours. Tout incident sérieux est naturellement rapporté au Service de Police en premier, mais chaque incident nécessitant les services d'un foyer Parents-Secours, quelle que soit sa gravité, doit être rapporté au comité Parents-Secours.

INSCRIPTION

Vous devez contacter votre comité local Parents-Secours pour actualiser votre formule d'adhésion si un nouveau résident demeure chez vous, votre enfant atteint 12 ans, votre enfant atteint sa majorité.

NUMÉROS DE TÉLÉPHONES EN CAS D'URGENCE

POLICE

AMBULANCE

FEU

CENTRE ANTI-POISON

REPRÉSENTANT(E) DU PROGRAMME PARENTS-SECOURS

Nom:

Téléphone:

Bureau du Programme Parents-Secours:

CETTE AFFICHE-FENÊTRE PARENTS-SECOURS EST LA PROPRIÉTÉ DU PROGRAMME PARENTS-SECOURS DU CANADA INC. ET ELLE DOIT ÊTRE RETOURNÉE SUR DEMANDE À LE SYMBOLE PARENTS-SECOURS ET LES MOTS «PARENTS-SECOURS» SONT DES MARQUES TRADEMARKS DE APPROXAD ET TOUTE REPRODUCTION OU USAGE NON AUTORISÉ PEUT ENTRAÎNER DES POURSUITES LÉGALES EN VERTU DE LA LOI.

The Block Parent® Program of Canada Inc. is sponsored by:

the co-operators
A Better Place For You

**Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness Canada**

**Le Programme Parents-Secours® du
Canada Inc. est commandité par:**

co-operators
Une place de choix

**Sécurité publique et
Protection civile Canada**

Designed by www.actingideas.ca

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?

You are
the Key
to a
safer
community.



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: