

KBCA Guide to Street Events in Beaverbrook

Sunday, June 11, 2023

Short and to the Point

Beaverbrook has a history of running street events in its early years, which needs re-starting every few years. There has been a large turnover in the neighbourhood since 2019, and with COVID limiting contact, many new residents have not had the chance to meet their neighbours. So it's time to kick start them as a regular event to rekindle community connections.

Keep it Simple

Goal: A chance for everyone in your family to meet your neighbours, enjoy a relaxed and simple afternoon & evening sharing potluck food & drink, play a few games and share a laugh or two.

Elaborate plans are the #1 reason street events fail before they happen – if organizing is creating a lot of work for several people, then it's too complicated

The KBCA is making a \$150 grant available to any street/cluster organizing group for food, printing, recyclable cutlery, plates and glasses, and games/toys for the kids (or any other reasonable expense, not including alcohol).

More details

Who/which streets to include in a street event? Think Beaverbrook Clusters

Beaverbrook was designed around groups of streets ("clusters"), separated by paths through green space and larger parks.

Clusters were designed to create immediate neighbourhoods, which included adjacent homes bordering the cluster but located on and facing major streets (Leacock, Varley, Penfield).

See the **Beaverbrook** [street clusters map](#) to understand which streets you should consider working with for your event.

See **Who to Invite** at the end of this document for an example using Pentland Crescent, Place and Leacock

Resources Available

The KBCA has the following resources to loan:

- Folding plastic tables and chairs
- A (one) 10' x 10' (3m x 3m) pop-up canopy tent w side & back panels
- Customizable signs 2' x 3' (0.6m x 1m) and sign holders
- Customizable handout/flyer templates (for use with MS Word or compatible word processor)

Setting up the street: The basic setup:

- Tables for laying out food, plates, cutlery, glasses, etc.
- Coolers to keep food cold and hot (essential on hot days)

- ◊ See hot/cold tips below.
- Use recyclable plates, cutlery, etc. or cheap reusable plastic.
- Location:
 - ◊ Set up at the end of driveways and the edge of the road, which allows the occasional car to get in or out and makes more room for games and mingling.
 - ◊ Tables could be clustered in one location or 2 or 3 locations along the street, but don't get too spread out; otherwise, you can end up with people only talking to their immediate neighbours
- Music – A few music boxes on lawns are fine, but keep the volume down. The volume is too high if someone complains they can't talk with their neighbour.

Food: simple potluck food; better if it's homemade, but do what works for you.

- Don't forget dietary restrictions in planning.
 - ◊ For example, if doing hot dogs for kids, make sure you get some that are vegan, pork-free, etc. (ask your street neighbours for their needs)
- **BBQs** – dragging them to the street is optional. However, it is much easier to cook when needed, or cook before, hold in your oven, and bring to the street to serve as needed.

Experience: When BBQs were simpler, smaller and portable, people would pull them out of their back yards to the street to cook. However, they are much bigger, typically connected to the house (natural gas) and a handful to move. And they will be too hot to move back until late.

- **Keeping food safe**
 - ◊ **Cold food** – use coolers, lining the bottom with ice in zip lock bags (avoids a pool of water at the bottom)
 - ◊ **Hot food** – also use coolers, but with hot water bags. The KBCA has a collection of large double-walled bags that, when filled with hot tap water, can keep hot food safe for hours.
 - ◊ **Covers and/or Clink Wrap** to cover food in the coolers or if left out on tables
 - ◊ **Allergies** – understand typical food allergies and label foods if they contain the following ingredients (or known special allergies in the neighbourhood).
 - ◆ Peanuts, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, soy, wheat, eggs, milk

Also: ask your neighbours if there is anyone in their household with specific allergies

Keeping the Kids Entertained

Think Dollar Store – street chalk, balsa gliders, costumes, etc. These can also be giveaways, prizes etc. For example, ensure that every child gets a toy, but encourage them to share and play together.

Not recommended

- **Closing the Street to Traffic** – Beaverbrook was designed with houses off the main streets and should only ever see local traffic. Experience is road closure has never been necessary, and getting formal closure requires a permit with the City, paperwork and a fee.

- **Bouncy Castles, Clowns, etc.** – Expensive, requires a permit and insurance coverage
- **Live band** – see Music above – too complicated, loud, costly, and risk of not being to everyone's taste.

Who and How to Invite and Publicize Your Street Event

Who to Invite

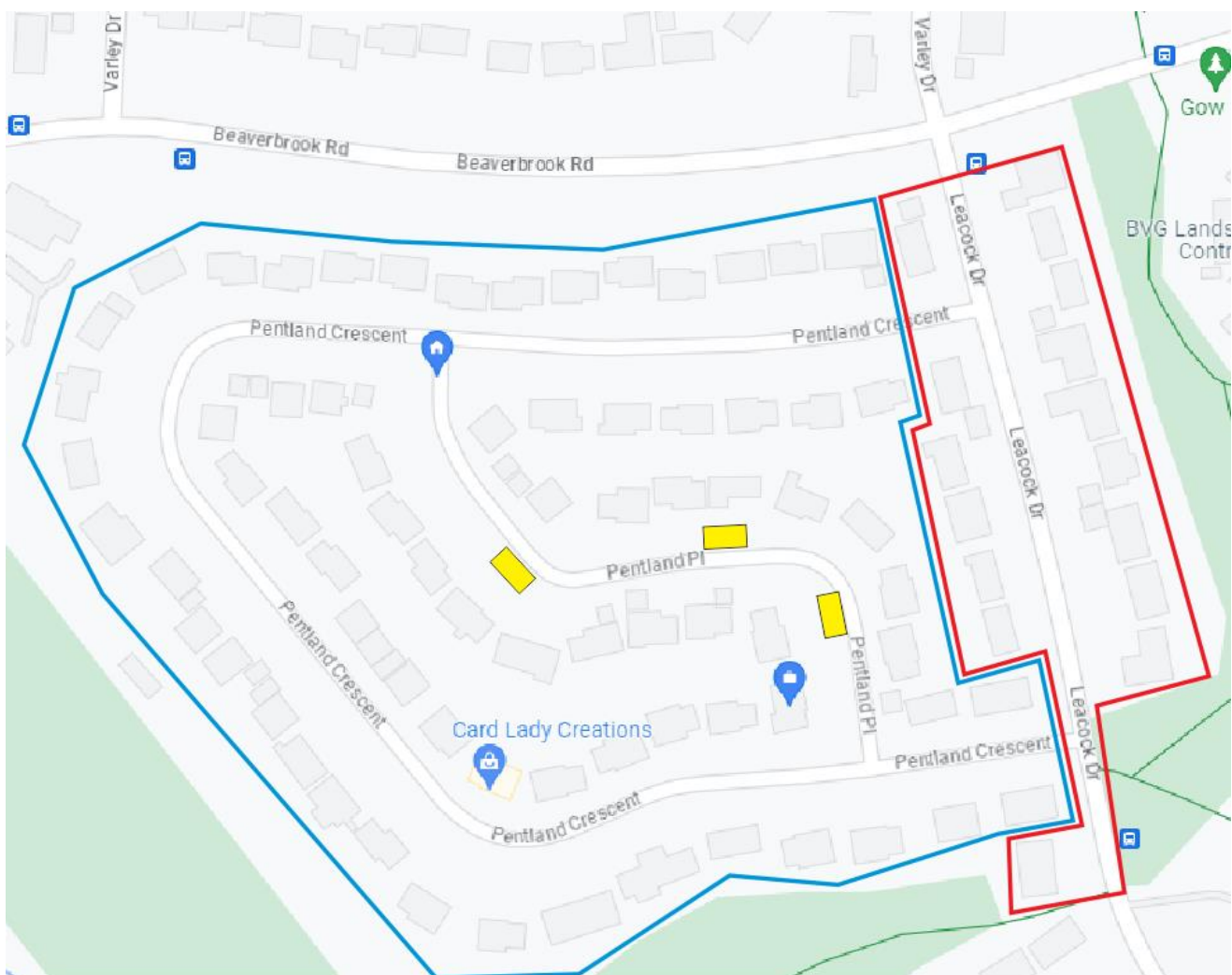
The street map below shows the following streets: Pentland Crescent, Pentland Place and a portion of Leacock Drive, which, combined, form the “Pentland Cluster.”

The obvious homes in the Pentland Cluster are those with addresses on Pentland Place/Crescent (within the **blue** outline), but not so obvious are those at the right-hand edge but facing Leacock (with the **red** outline).

As Leacock is a busy street (including City buses), holding a street event on Leacock is NOT recommended (nor Penfield or Varley).

However, they are also our neighbours, so make sure they are invited.

The **Yellow** rectangles are suggested food, drink and games materials locations (spread out, but not too far), located on a quieter street in the cluster.



How to Invite and Promote

The KBCA will be printing a set of large signs on KBCA Street Events to place on your street/in your cluster to advertise your event – best done during the week before.

These signs can be customized for your street/dates, but you must notify the KBCA in advance if you want them professionally printed.

We will also be making an 8.5x11 page flyer template available for you to customize (or do your own). We can pay for printing (within your \$150 grant from the KBCA) if you want to distribute flyers door to door (Canada Post is not cheap, so the idea of mailing them is not pragmatic).

The KBCA will also promote Street events in its newsletters throughout the spring, summer and fall.

- If you or your neighbours are not on the mailing list, you can do so by asking to
Subscribe to: info@kanatbeaverbrook.ca

Email

If you already have emails for your neighbours, emailing is an excellent choice, and make sure to include a “forward this email to your neighbours” in any emails you send for your event.