



Block Parent[®] Program of Canada Inc. Communiqué

Fall/Winter 2015

BLOCK PARENT[®] WEEK

The 2015 National Block Parent[®] Week poster, which featured a Halloween theme, was created by Lindsay Russell of the Waterloo Regional Block Parent[®] Program. A poster had not been created for a few years so it was nice to see that this part of National Block Parent[®] Week returned.

A very special thank-you goes out to Lindsay for her creative genius.

SPONSORSHIP

There has been a change in focus for The Co-operators. As a result, The Co-operators will not be renewing their sponsorship of Block Parent[®] Program of Canada Inc. in 2016. Their sponsorship began in 2001 and provided funding, support and business expertise, assistance with the design and production of printed materials and commitment to register their advisors, across Canada, as Business Block Parent[®] Program locations.

Jayne Russell's presentations at the annual Symposiums will be greatly missed for the humor and human side of the sponsorship that they represented.

BPPCI is actively seeking new sponsorship.

SOCIAL MEDIA

You can now see the BPPCI Facebook page live on our website. You can access the most recent safety information all in one place. You can find us at www.facebook.com/blockparent.

If you have an event or project that you would like to have posted, please send the information to lindapatterson100@gmail.com and Linda will post it on our site.

SEASONAL SAFETY TIPS

Use these safety tips to reduce risk.

Shopping malls are crowded and shoppers have armloads of bags and parcels during the holiday season. Take extra care when riding escalators.

While escalators are extremely safe and reliable, riders can fall and be injured if they are not paying attention, using strollers (which are prohibited), playing around or overloaded with luggage and bags. More than 90% of falls and injuries on escalators are rider-related.

A few simple reminders will keep you on your feet:

- Step on and off with care;
- Stand in the centre of the step, not right next to the railing, especially when wearing soft-soled footwear, to avoid entrapment;
- Hold onto the handrails;
- Attend to children and hold their hand;
- Always stand facing forward;
- Keep loose clothing, such as long coats, scarves and shoelaces clear of steps and sides;
- Keep handbags, knapsacks, shopping bags and parcels away from the handrails;
- Do not run up or down escalators;
- Move away quickly from exit areas;
- If you have luggage or a stroller, use an elevator.

It is also wise to take a careful and courteous attitude with you on escalators. Pay extra attention to small children and seniors. As a final safety measure, it is helpful to notice where the escalator's emergency stop buttons are located.

This information is provided by SafetyInfo.ca

Hypothermia

Hypothermia results from exposure to low temperatures, wind and moisture over a period of time. It can occur on the ski hill, in a car, falling in water that is cold or anywhere else where these factors exist that cause the body temperature to fall below normal. As a parent you need to be aware of the causes and symptoms of hypothermia. For older children and teenagers, it is also important to educate them, When conditions exist to pose a risk of hypothermia be observant and seek medical attention immediately if you suspect or observe any symptoms which include:

- Complaints about being cold and irritability;
- Uncontrollable shivering;
- Impaired or slurred speech;
- Clumsy movements;
- Blurred vision;
- Severe symptoms can include stiff muscles, dark and puffy skin, irregular heart and breathing rates and unconsciousness.

If you notice any of the above symptoms, you should get the person to a warm, dry place as soon as possible, remove any wet clothing and seek medical attention immediately. NEVER RUB THE SKIN. Bundling in a blanket will help keep heat in. An always soothing parent/child cuddle will help warm up the child and also bring comfort to both of you.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

A very heartfelt letter has been received by the Alberta Block Parent® Association from a mother whose son, who suffers from Asperger Syndrome, went missing after playing with his friend during Easter Break. His mother searched frantically for her missing son and went to the RCMP detachment to report him missing. Working at the detachment was Lisa Rodgers, who is the President of the Redcliff Block Parent® Association. A description of the missing boy was circulated and Lisa personally went with the mother to search for her son. Other Block Parents and children joined in the search. The boy was found safe and sound. The mother expressed how fortunate they were to live in a community that had Block Parent® volunteers who are safe and willing to help others. She believes that Block Parent® was the key in finding her son.

An interesting part of this story is the mother thought her son was safe to go out and play with his friend unattended since his friend had a cell phone. Unfortunately, after playing at the park his friend, with the cell phone, went home and the boy was left by himself. This demonstrates once again how access to a cell phone can give a false sense of safety and security. It was the efforts of the Block Parent® volunteers that found the missing boy not a cell phone.

A special thank-you goes out to Lisa Rodgers and the other Redcliff Block Parent® Association volunteers who helped in the search.

2016 SYMPOSIUM AND AGM

The 2016 Symposium and AGM will be held on April 30th in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Once the hotel arrangements have been finalized the details of the Symposium and AGM will be distributed to all of the Provincial Programs.

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Block Parent® Program of Canada hopes you enjoy all the beauty, warmth and traditions of the holiday season.

