



Abbotsford

CANADA DAY

Celebrate

COMMUNITY

parade DECORATING TIPS

- 1. Plan ahead:** Start planning your float decoration ideas at least a few weeks before the parade.
 - a. Give yourself enough time to plan and organize, this will depend on the extent of your decorations.
 - b. Create a decorating committee including skilled, resourceful, imaginative and creative people.
 - c. Have a meeting so that everyone can agree on a design.
- 2. Choose a theme:** Brainstorm regarding the “Celebrating Canada, Celebrating Community” theme. This gives you the opportunity to focus on the part you play in our community and use symbols & props in your float associated with your organization. Additionally, you can focus on celebrating Canada Day using Canadian flags, shades of red and other Canada Day decorations.
- 3. Use bright colours:** Use bright and eye-catching colours to make your float stand out.
4. Your goal should be to get the attention of your captive audience of thousands of people along the parade route. We recommend that your parade entry be 75% decorated.
- 5. Add Signage:** Use banners and signs to convey your message or promote your cause.
6. Incorporate props: Props can be used to enhance your theme and add a fun element to your float. For example, if you’re doing a beach-themed float, add beach balls or surfboards.
7. Once you have decided on an idea for your parade entry, make a drawing of it. You can refer to the drawing while decorating.
- 8. Split up the work if needed:** one group can be in charge of props or costumes. Another group can be in charge of the lettering or signage that will be displayed. Another group can be in charge of the frame-work used underneath the decorating materials. Decorating a parade entry or float is a team effort, so make sure everyone understands their part in building it.
- 9. Get creative with materials:** Don’t be afraid to think outside the box when it comes to materials. Consider using recycled materials, or repurposing items in unexpected ways.
10. Try to use flame-retardant materials to decorate and do not keep combustible materials near exhausts or hot areas.
- 11. Practice safety:** Make sure your decorations are securely attached to your float, and that you have a plan in place to ensure the safety of everyone on board.
12. Have people participating or walking with your parade entry wear outfits that reflect your organization or dress up in things that reflect Canada to further create excitement.
13. Find a garage or other “out-of-the-weather” location for your work.
14. Go to the parade and show off your amazing work!