

June 26, 2017

CANADA DAY FIREWORKS

HALTON HILLS, ON – The discharge of family-type fireworks is a practice enjoyed by many citizens on Canada Day. As we celebrate Canada's 150th birthday the Halton Hills Fire Department would like to remind its residents who choose to discharge family fireworks of the rules contained in By-law 2004-0122, and provide a few precautions to help keep safe.

Family fireworks, sometimes referred to as consumer or low level fireworks, are those typically available at local retail outlets. Examples include: roman candles, pinwheels, sparklers and volcanoes, to name a few that are designed to rise less than 50 metres.

Should you choose to discharge family fireworks on Canada Day, the following by-law provisions apply:

- The discharge of fireworks is only permitted on Victoria Day and Canada Day.
- A fireworks permit is required for the discharge of family fireworks on any other day.
- No person under the age of 18 shall set off any fireworks, except under supervision and control of a person 18 years of age or older.
- No person shall discharge fireworks on land except his own unless consent has been obtained.
- No person shall discharge any fireworks in or on any highway, street lane, square or other public place. (The discharge of fireworks on Town owned property such as parks is not permitted without first obtaining written permission).
- No person shall discharge fireworks in such a place or manner to create danger or nuisance to others.
- No person shall discharge any fireworks into any building, doorway, structure, automobile or any other place where such setting off might create a danger or nuisance to any person or property.
- Firecrackers are not permitted.

Those who fail to follow these provisions are guilty of an offence and if convicted, are liable to a fine as provided in the Provincial Offences Act.

Halton Hills Fire Chief John deHooze advises, "Serious injury can occur if appropriate care is not taken when discharging family fireworks. If you plan to discharge family fireworks, please follow the safety tips listed below to prevent a fireworks-related accident. The Halton Hills Fire Department family wishes all a happy and safe Canada Day celebration."

Safety tips when discharging fireworks include:

- Carefully read and follow label directions.
- Do not allow children to discharge fireworks without adult supervision.

- Discharge fireworks only if wind and weather conditions do not create a safety hazard.
- Keep onlookers a safe distance away and upwind from the discharge area.
- Always keep a pail of water or water hose close by for extinguishment.
- Discharge fireworks well away from combustible materials, structures, trees and dry grass.
- Bury fireworks that do not have a base halfway in a container of sand or earth unless label states otherwise and angle them at a 10 degree angle, pointing away from people.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never light fireworks in your hand.
- Do not smoke near the fireworks.
- Stay away for at least 30 minutes before approaching a firework that did not go off.
- Keep sparklers away from children. They burn hot and can ignite clothing. Immediately soak spent sparklers in water.
- If someone gets burned, run cool water over the wound for 3 to 5 minutes and seek medical attention if necessary.
- Clean up all fireworks debris when finished and check for embers or smoldering materials.

Between by-law provisions and measures to ensure safety there are many things to be aware of and protocols to follow to ensure a safe event. Mayor Bonnette would like to suggest a better and safer way to celebrate Canada Day: "I invite all Halton Hills residents and friends to participate in the Canada Day festivities being held at Prospect Park by the Acton BIA. The activities begin at 6:00 p.m. and conclude with a large public fireworks display put on by the Acton Fire Fighters Association. I hope to see you there and Happy Canada Day."

About the Town of Halton Hills

The Town of Halton Hills, with a population of approximately 60,000, consists of two urban centres, Georgetown and Acton, the Halton Hills Premier Gateway employment area, three hamlets – Glen Williams, Stewarttown and Norval – and several smaller settlements. Halton Hills has long been recognized for its natural beauty, active agricultural community, high quality of life and proximity to major centres, including Brampton, Mississauga and Toronto. The Town is ranked as one of the top small communities in Canada by a national magazine.

Communications Contact:

Alex Fuller,
Manager of Corporate Communications
905-873-2601 ext. 2412
afuller@haltonhills.ca

Media Contact:

Harry Olivieri,
Deputy Chief Prevention & Public Education
Halton Hills Fire Department
905-873-2601 Ext. 2102
harryo@haltonhills.ca