

## From Queen's Park by Sylvia Jones MPP ? How will you celebrate Canada's 148th Birthday?



How will you be celebrating Canada Day?

There are many opportunities to pay tribute to what makes Canada so special and reflect on what it means to be a Canadian. This year will mark the 148th birthday of our great nation, and since its first birthday, Canada has grown into a prosperous country that is respected around the world. We should be proud of the achievements Canada has made throughout its history.

To mark this special day, there will be celebrations and events happening across the country, with plenty to do throughout Dufferin-Caledon. One popular event that happens every Canada Day is Downey's Farm Market Canada Day Strawberry Festival where pancakes and their home grown strawberries and whipped cream will be served up. Throughout the day at Downey's, there is live entertainment and activities, including a dog show, picking your own strawberries, pony rides and much more!

Another strawberry festival happening in Dufferin-Caledon is the 25th Caledon Canada Day Strawberry Festival at the Caledon Fairgrounds, which will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an all-day strawberry breakfast, desserts and a barbecue with birthday cake being served up at noon. During the festival, participants will enjoy several shows and features that include: classic cars, dogs and even an Elvis tribute.

The Orangeville Legion is hosting a Canadian citizenship ceremony at 1 p.m. This is a great opportunity to celebrate and welcome our community's newest Canadians, as you will see first-hand the joy in each individual becoming a Canadian citizen. After the ceremony you can enjoy some cake, music and entertainment with our veterans and legion members.

The Town of Orangeville has planned a variety of activities at the Alder Street Recreation Centre for the whole family, including free swimming, laser tag, a dunk tank, children's crafts, face painting and of course birthday cake. Fireworks are planned over at Island Lake Conservation Area and are expected to begin at 10 p.m. Enjoy the show!

At the Albion Conservation Area south of Palgrave, there will be activities and events that will start from 4 to 11 p.m.

Family-friendly events include music, magic, dog shows and more, not to mention fireworks at dusk. This year's celebration also includes a dedication of a trailway in remembrance of former long-serving Councillor Richard Whitehead. Join us at the main stage at 7pm for this special tribute.

No matter where you are July 1, please enjoy the day safely and responsibly, and enjoy celebrating Canada and what it means to you. When you are at these events, please take a moment to thank the hard working volunteers that are working to make these events happen.

I would like to wish everyone in Dufferin-Caledon a very Happy Canada Day.