



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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Maple Ridge puts the 'Maple Leaf' in the 2015 Canada Day Celebration!

Maple Ridge, BC: The Canadian Flag is 50 years old and Maple Ridge will celebrate this special milestone as part of the community celebration being held on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the heart of Maple Ridge, Memorial Peace Park.

“Canada Day is all about the celebration of our accomplishments and our pride as a nation. I am deeply moved when I hear our national anthem played and it’s an overwhelming experience when people sing along and proudly demonstrate their love for our great nation,” said Maple Ridge Mayor Nicole Read. She continued, “Maple Ridge is filled with exceptional Canadians. In every endeavour, sports, arts, citizenship and volunteerism, our community represents the values that make our nation strong. I look forward to sharing this day with my amazing Maple Ridge neighbours.”

We’re celebrating our flag with a huge community art project. Everyone can participate through words, illustrations or photos. For example, write a poem or short verse about our nation or the flag. Draw a picture of the flag or the Maple Leaf or print off a photo of yourself or your family with the Canadian Flag or your favourite Maple Leaf jersey and bring it to the park to add to the art project. If you forget to bring something to add you can sign your name and a short message to the project. Let’s see what we create as a tribute to the anniversary of our flag and our nation’s 148th birthday.

Finally, we’re encouraging folks to dress in their best red and white Canada Day outfit and display your Canadian pride. Our volunteers will be looking for the best dressed citizens and awarding prizes.

Canada Day just keeps getting bigger and better in Maple Ridge, and this year the celebration will span the entire Memorial Peace Park site from 224 Street to the steps of the Arts Centre Theatre.

Let's start on the east side of the Park at the Mainstage located on the steps of the Arts Centre Theatre. Live music begins at 10:00 am and runs throughout the event. Your Mainstage bands include The Crayons, The Road Dogs and the band that will wrap up the afternoon, The Johnson Brothers. These are three fantastic local bands that will have you dancing in the streets.

The official flag raising and protocol ceremony will happen at 12:30 pm and feature a march-in by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #88 Colour Guard and members of the Ridge Meadows RCMP in full ceremonial uniforms. We will need your help for this part of the celebration as we ask you to join in and proudly sing our national anthem.

RCMP officers will be walking throughout the park in their full red serge and would be proud to pose with you and your family for photos. In addition to our RCMP officers, the men and women of the Maple Ridge Fire Department will deploy the largest Canadian Flag in the North Fraser and be on hand to pose for photos with the ladder truck and giant flag. Bring your camera and get a photo with our local heroes!

As we move west through the park there's a giant activity area where you can participate in mini-golf, balloon twisting, face painting, crafts, mascots, prize giveaways, a trivia challenge, hydration station (bring your own cup or water bottle) and a multi-cultural food fair.

During the event we encourage you to take part in the "Neighbourhood Activity Challenge." This is a chance to get active, show your passion and navigate your way through several physical literacy stations, while helping your neighbourhood win a private pool party. Come join the challenge!

In the centre of the park is the iconic Bandstand. This stage will be the home to a number of cultural dance demonstrations. There's a pretty persistent rumour that there's going to be some 'flash mobs' that will be showing up when you least expect it around the Bandstand. New this year is Street Magician Matt Johnson. Matt is not your typical magician, instead he has crafted a style known as Urban Deception, a cool mix of urban street style magic combined with a comedic timing and slick stage presence. Matt has appeared on Penn and Teller's Wizard Wars

as well as TedX. Don't miss Matt roving in the park and his Bandstand show from 11:00 to 11:30 am is a 'must see' event.

Anchoring the west side of the park you will find the popular Haney Farmers Market who will join us for a special 'Canada Day Market' featuring the bounty of area farmers, chefs and artists. Whether you're looking for the freshest seasonable fruits or vegetables or preserves, salsas or spices, the market has something for every taste. But there's more! The baking is divine, from croissants, to bread, pies, tarts and cookies; the sweet tooth in your family will find a treat. Local artisans will also be displaying their crafts, art and jewellery. It's a Maple Ridge tradition.

Just to the south of the Farmers Market in Memorial Peace Park you will find the Downtown Maple Ridge BIA Summer Market. If you haven't shopped downtown in a while you will be delighted at the amazing local businesses that offer a large selection of goods and services. There are always new faces and these merchants are dedicated to ensuring you get great service and great value.

This is our biggest Canada Day ever, and it's made possible by an army of volunteers who have been working for months to make sure that you have a great Canada Day. Take a moment and say thanks to these wonderful folks who have invested their time in building this great event and our great community.

For more information about the Canada Day celebration please contact Dave Speers at dspeers@mapleridge.ca or call 604-467-7433 Ext #1.