Halton Hills' journey on becoming most patriotic town in Canada

KATHRYN BOYLE kboyle@theifp.ca

With over 50,000 flags hanging in windows, gardens and off balconies, Halton Hills has unofficially become Canada's most patriotic town.

Last fall, the chamber of Halton Hills tourism committee sat down and decided they wanted to do something special for Canada 150, and make it something in which everyone in Halton Hills could participate. subcommittee formed, and one idea hit the table and became the group's focus for the next six months: hang as many Canada flags as possible.

'That's something we don't do enough of," Halton Hills councillor and subcommittee co-chair Ann Lawlor said. "We don't wave the flag enough in Canada, and we're proud of our country, and we're proud of our town."

The committee then had an important task: how do they persuade people to hang the flags?

"We thought, what about a target?" Lawlor what The committee looked at records and at the current reigning most patriotic town, the city of Thorold, located in Niagara, whose record is 10,000 flags within their city of

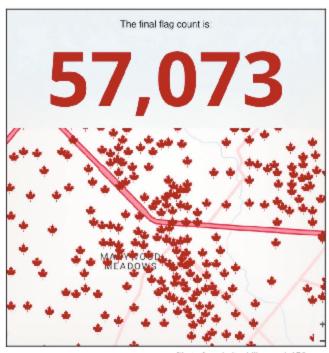


Photo from haltonhillscanada150.com

By July 1, the exact number of flags flying proudly in Halton Hills in time for Canada Day was 57,073.

18,000, or 1.4 flags per household, and created a challenge: to beat them.

"The idea of flying Canadian flags and demonstrating pride is something that suits Halton Hills," Lawlor

"It would put us on the map, if we could claim this committee chair Cheryl Cardon said. "The whole purpose was to unite the community in a common demonstration of Canadian patriotism."

The challenge aligns perfectly with the message of the challenge, Lawlor said.

"One of our tag lines is 'small town living at its best'," she said. theme and the sentiments that are characterized in that theme, really lend themselves to this whole notion of showing our patriotism and flying the Canadian flag."

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