## 23 | The IFP - Halton Hills | Thursday, June 30

## Celebrating Canada 2022

## Twenty ways for families to celebrate Canada Day

## By Michelle Williams

Canada Day is about observing of the birth of our country, but it's also a day for families to have fun together. Ready to get out and enjoy the day? Here are some great ways for families to make the most of our country's 155th birthday.

**1. Birthday breakfast:** Kick off the day with yummy pancakes and Canada's golden treasure, maple syrup! Top your flapjacks with whipped cream and sliced strawberries (and maybe add a side of Canadian bacon).

**2. Take a day trip:** Pack up the family and visit some nearby places you haven't seen before or in a while. From Niagara Falls to Wasaga Beach to the Sandbanks, create a road map to travel some of the local sites that make our country great. And be sure to capture it all in pictures and videos!

**3. Handprint flag:** Start with a piece of white fingerpaint paper. Add red fingerpaint to the sides and a red fingerprint handprint for the maple leaf. Presto! In just a few minutes, you have a cool and creative DIY Canadian flag!

4. Chalk it up! Say Happy Canada Day to the neighbourhood by covering your sidewalk in chalk

Canadian symbols — everything from loonies to lacrosse sticks and maple leaves to Mounties.

**5. Canada's game:** Get all the kids on the block together for an old-fashioned game of street hockey. (Don't forget to start the game with a rousing rendition of "O Canada"!)

6. Make a day of it: From Canada's Wonderland and Black Creek Pioneer Village, to Harbourfront and Dundas Square, there are dozens of great events planned to celebrate the day — and many are free! Look online for local events in your neighbourhood.

**7. Rock painters:** Go on a rock hunt, then get some red and white paint and some small paint brushes, and paint the rocks to commemorate Canada Day 2022. They'll be keepers!

8. Puzzling time: There are many jigsaw puzzles out there that feature Canadiana (a map of our great country is also an excellent learning tool) and puzzling is a perfect way to relax and unwind.

**9. Cupcakes please!** Make a batch of red velvet cupcakes and ice them in white and red. A great dessert for lunch or dinner.

10. Beaver craft: Wrap a toilet paper roll in

brown construction paper; glue a circle of the paper to one end for the face and another to the end for the tail. Add a couple of black craft pompoms for ears, two googly eyes and two white teeth.

**11. Plant a maple:** If you have a space in a sunny area, commemorate the day by planting a maple tree. Visit a nursery together and choose the tree, then plant it and watch it grow in the years to come.

**12. Weave jewelry:** Indigenous-inspired bracelets, necklaces or rings are simple to braid with some colourful embroidery thread and beads.

**13. Canada by the book:** Learn about our country's beginnings by checking out the wide selection of informative and entertaining books for every age at the local bookstore or library.

**14. Maple cookies:** A simple activity to do with kids — add maple flavouring to a sugar cookie recipe, or substitute some of the sugar with a bit of maple syrup. Use a maple leaf-shaped cookie cutter.

**15. Water balloon fight!** Fill up red and white balloons with water, split everyone up into red and

white teams and start tossing!

**16. Create a Canadian cocktail:** Cranberry juice, a splash of orange juice and some lemonlime soda. Throw in a few frozen cranberries for garnish (and for the adults, a shot of vodka)!

**17. Catch a Canuck film:** Act out your favourite movie featuring top Canadian talent in a fun game of charades, and then have a lucky draw from the titles to select one you can all watch together.

**18. Have a singalong:** Pull out your musical instruments and belt out some great tunes made famous by Canadians — from Bieber and Lightfoot, to Bublé and Barenaked Ladies, to Twain and the Guess Who.

**19. Roast s'mores:** Graham crackers, chocolate and marshmallows — they're a Canadian classic! Even if you don't have a campfire or fire pit, you can roast them on a stove or in the microwave or oven.

**20. Enjoy a night out:** You may be in the heart of the city, but it doesn't mean you can't end Canada Day with a camp out under the stars in your own backyard. Happy Canada Day!



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