

Canada Day ends with a bang

By Frances Niblock
Canada Day in Acton will end with a very big bang, thanks to the Acton Fire Fighters Association's

annual fireworks display in Prospect Park.

This year's show, which starts at 10 p.m., will be "bigger, brighter and loud-

er," according to association member Dean Hartley, one of the organizers.

Hartley said the 25-minute display, purchased from Hands Fireworks of Campbellville at a cost of \$12,500, includes some dazzling new features.

"We spend the money to buy the fireworks that have the great effects."

"Our show is comparable to Hamilton or Toronto – what we have in common is that we do the show over water," Hartley said on Monday, adding "there's not a bad seat in the house."

The Acton show has an accident-free history and Hartley said safety is key with the association. It has demonstrated that

commitment to safety by purchasing some necessary equipment instead of renting it every year.

"Our show is safer now than it ever has been and we just continue to ramp up," Hartley said, adding the show is a highlight for some association members.

"We love it. We're firefighters and we love doing it and we wait all year for this thing," he said, adding that along with a twelve-member crew in Prospect Park lighting the fuses, another 30-or-so members will be on hand to accept donations from the crowd.

The money, along with contributions from local businesses and service clubs, helps pay for the show.

"It's because of our ability to recover our costs that we can make the show bigger every year," Hartley said, adding that cool, dry weather is best for the fireworks, which can shoot 250 to 350 feet in the air and be seen all over town.

While the display is a lot of work, Hartley said the Fire Fighters Association just wants to "do our part to make sure the day ends with a bang."

TOWN DIGEST

Goose control

At the request of Acton Councillor Jon Hurst, Town Council endorsed an initiative by the City of Kawartha calling for a province-wide integrated goose management plan of action to deal with the fouling of water and waterfront areas and beaches by Canada geese.

"Each year, due to the over-population of Canada geese in the Acton community – and I'm thinking specifically of Fairview Cemetery, Prospect Park, Rotary Park, Fairy Lake and other areas adjacent to Fairy Lake – the quality of the water, beaches, playgrounds and cemetery is severely and adversely affected," Hurst said.

Although the Town is in the second year of initiatives to try to improve the situation – including oiling eggs so they don't hatch and discouraging geese from hanging around the waterfront area by allowing the grass and vegetation to grow – Hurst said an Ontario-wide plan would be a "welcome addition."

Townhouse parking

Parking in new townhouse developments should not be as much of a problem as it is with existing developments with changes approved by Town Council on Monday to the Acton and Georgetown zoning bylaws.

After a study and public meeting, the bylaw proposed by staff and ratified by Council sets a new mini-

mum standard for off-street parking of two spaces per group/block townhouse dwelling, plus 0.3 spaces per dwelling for visitor parking.

Acton Councillor Mike O'Leary likes a new requirement to include storage space inside private garages – at least 2.9-metres wide and just over .5-metre long for a single car garage, and is pleased staff are looking at the distance between the garage door and sidewalk or curb.

"There are some houses in Acton up on Somerville Road that are so close to the street you can barely park a decent-sized van without the bumper literally hanging over the sidewalk," O'Leary said, adding the developers like to move the garage forward to make the backyard larger.

Some councillors felt the new bylaw does not go far enough, prompting staff to say it is a start and that they are continuing to look at establishing a new townhouse zone that will include rear private shared driveways, and are reviewing parking issues associated with single family dwellings, and allowing wider driveways for single car garage townhouse units.

The new bylaw changes also includes revised parking standards for detached and semi-detached dwellings, setting a minimum standards for all parking spaces outside a garage at 2.75-metres wide by 5.5-metres long (9 x 18-feet.)



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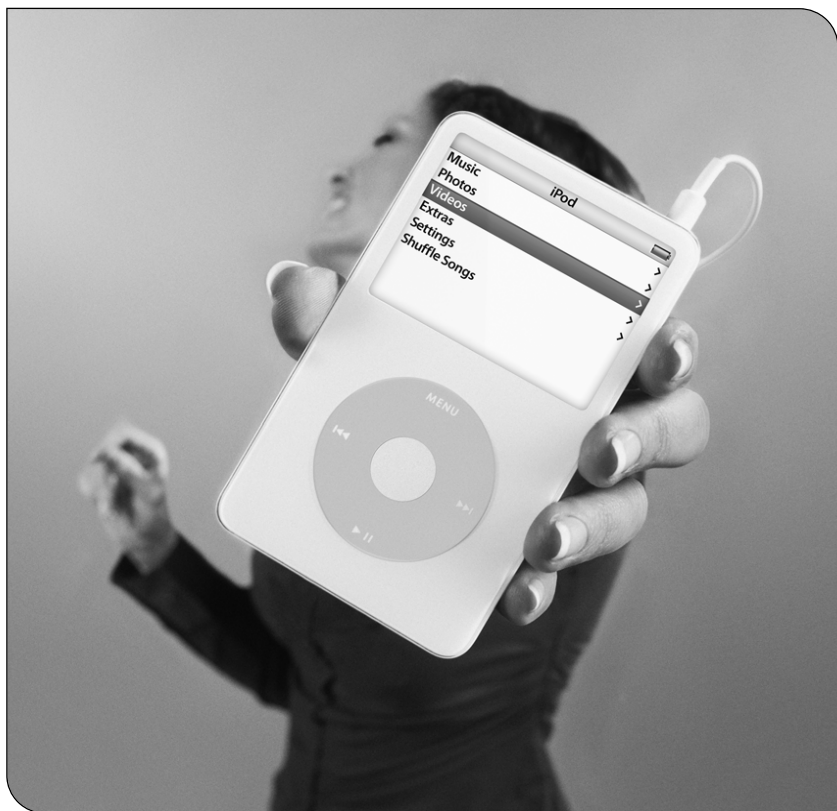
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