



# Celebrate CANADA DAY July 1

## Neighbours help new Canadian celebrate his big day in style

By Kate Gilderdale  
Stouffville This Month



Eastern Gate resident Norm Sumner wasn't the only person to celebrate the unforgettable day he became a Canadian citizen.

The Sydney, Australia native came home from the citizenship ceremony in early June to find that his neighbours had decorated the outside of his home with Canadian flags, accompanied by a

sign over the front door which read, 'Canadian, Eh!'. It was a proud and emotional moment for him and his wife, Jean, who have lived at Eastern Gate for seven years.

Mr. Sumner, who will be 80 in October, came to Canada 36 years ago on a two year working holiday. "I was a builder, and I came to learn how to build high rises," he explained. "I did very well here; I had good jobs and the pay was quite good."

When he went back to visit a friend's building project in Australia, however, he found the Canadian experience had affected him more than he realized. "The Australian attitude was if we don't do it today, we do it tomorrow." He quickly realized that the Canadian penchant for getting on with the job was much more his style, and decided to make his move to Canada permanent.

The reason he waited so long to become a Canadian citizen was that the Australian government did not recognize dual citizenship until recently, and he didn't want to give up his Australian citizenship. "There are two places in the world I would live and those are Australia and Canada," said Mr. Sumner, who takes a trip back to his native land every four years. "As soon as I found out that I could have dual citizenship I applied."

His application took a year and he is delighted to be a fully-fledged Canadian. "When I came home and saw what the people here had done, I was very proud of Eastern Gate. They are great people."

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