

Flying High with Pride

— Our Canadian Flag



Canada Day marks the beginning of lazy summer days, holidays, parades and a break from the regular routine. Celebrate with your group by using one of the following “Proud to be a Canadian” Canada Flag activities.

Introduction

“The flag is the symbol of the nation’s unity, for it, beyond any doubt, represents all the citizens of Canada without distinction of race, language, belief or opinion.”

– Spoken by the Honourable Maurice Bourget, Speaker of the Senate on the day Canada’s Flag was unveiled.

Flags are symbols that identify people belonging to a group. The National Flag of Canada and the flags of the provinces and territories are symbols of honour and pride for all Canadians. They should be treated with respect.

The manner in which flags may be displayed in Canada is not governed by any legislation but by established practice. Flag etiquette is an adaptation of international usage and of customs the federal government has been observing for many years (See sidebar).

Description and Dimensions of the National Flag

The National Flag of Canada is a red flag of the proportions two by length and one by width (or 64 units in length and 32 units in width or depth), containing in its centre a white square the width of the flag, with a single red maple leaf centered therein. Red and white are Canada’s official colours and, with the maple leaf, are the symbolic elements found in the Canadian flag.

More and more Canadians are proudly flying the Canadian Flag at

their homes, offices, and at Scouting meetings, camps and activities. It’s a beautiful symbol of our beautiful country. Happy Canada Day!

Handprint Canada Flag *An easy craft for Canada Day.*

Materials: red and white construction paper, scissors, glue, straws, stapler.

What to do:

1. Each youth traces his/her hand on the red paper and cuts it out.
2. Cut 2 rectangles of red paper, the same size.
3. Glue the two red pieces on each side of the white paper. Glue the handprint in the centre, creating a unique Canada Flag.

4. Curl one side of the flag around the straw and staple onto the straw.
5. Wave your flags on Canada Day!

Canada Day CD Coasters

A festive Canada coaster for your family and friends!

Materials:

- o a picture of a maple leaf, or print one from a template
- o paper – red and white
- o something to draw with – paint, markers, pastels, or pencil crayons
- o glue
- o old CDs, margarine container lid or cardboard
- o clear contact paper or other sticky clear paper (try office supply stores).



“PULL everyone; don’t let the flag touch the ground!”

The 2nd Amherstburg Scouting Group walks proudly in the Heritage Day Parade.

Photo: Ron Gofu, Courtesy of the Amherstburg Echo

What to do:

1. Draw, or print off a picture or template of a maple leaf. Colour if necessary.
2. Glue into the centre of the CD. Let dry.
3. Trace around the CD onto the contact paper and cut out (larger than the CD).
4. Cover CD with contact paper and trim.

Canada Flag Cake

This easy to make cake will help you celebrate Canada Day in style!

Ingredients:

- o pound cake
- o 2 packages strawberry jelly powder
- o 2 cups crushed/sliced strawberries
- o non-dairy whipped topping (Cool Whip™)
- o additional sliced strawberries



What to do:

1. Line the bottom of a 13 x 9 in. (32 x 23 cm) baking pan with cake slices.
2. Prepare the 2 packages of strawberry jelly powder according to the quick set method.

3. Stir in two cups of crushed or sliced strawberries into the partially set jelly mixture. Spread over the cake slices.
4. Spread thawed whipped topping on top of the jelly mixture. Chill for two hours.
5. Garnish with additional sliced strawberries arranged to resemble the Canada Flag. *Tip:* Cut out a pattern of a maple leaf. Place in the centre of the cake and trace the leaf pattern using a toothpick. Remove the pattern and place cut strawberries in each of the leaf points, arranging the remaining strawberries to fill in the leaf shape.

Serves 15.

Scouting to the Rescue! by Tracey Bradwell

I had agreed to help run our town's Amherstburg Heritage Parade this year after the organizer fell sick. As usually happens, one thing led to another, and I ended up as organizer for the whole event.

Every year, the 2nd Amherstburg Scouting Group is asked to walk in the Heritage Day Parade. Each section is included and generally we walk with our sections during the Parade.

On the morning of the Parade everything was going according to plan, until a lady dragging a huge box approached me and asked where the 25 adults she had been promised were! Needless to say I had no idea what she was talking about, but I rapidly discovered that she had been invited by some unknown person to bring a Canada flag measuring 30 ft x 60 ft to be part of the Parade. It was now just a couple of minutes until the start of the Parade and this lady wasn't taking no for an answer.

Glancing around in a kind of horror and realizing that there were in fact no adults available to carry the flag at all, I spied our Scout group lined up and ready to go! "The group that was supposed to carry the 30' x 60' Canada flag is a no show, do you think the Scouts would like to carry it?" I asked Scouter Steve. As Scouts, we all try to

do a good deed every day, so here was our chance. Someone was in need of our help and it sounded fun!

"With mostly Beavers and Cubs joining us today, this flag suddenly is much larger than it sounded, and much heavier," Scouter Steve added. "We had to recruit a few parents from their cozy place on the curb, but off we went." "PULL everyone; don't let the flag touch the ground!"

"Here we go, down the streets of Amherstburg, right at the head of the Parade behind the Royal Canadian Legion and a marching pipe band. Hearing the oooo's and ahhh's made it more exciting, at least until my arms started getting sore. The younger youth, doing more walking than carrying still felt important, as they should, as they were 'Doing their Best'."

Keeping the flag stretched tight was a challenge as each puff of wind caused its center to lift up then rapidly fall down. This was a concern in case the Beavers were carried off Mary Poppins style still clutching the flag.

Calling out directions, "woah, turn, pivot"—our last corner was upon us. "Just a few more blocks everyone." "Roll the flag in, this street is too narrow." The Scouts managed to carry this huge flag along the entire 2 km route!

Aches and strains aside, the group had a lot of fun and demonstrated that Scouts are willing to stand up, face a challenge and help others. It was tru-

ly an honour for all of the children, leaders, and adults that were carrying the flag. For some, it will be a great memory of the whole meaning of the word heritage.

Each Scouting member contributed to the success of the parade by practicing what Scouting teaches everyone, 'Be prepared'. We felt very proud indeed. X

— Tracey Bradwell, Scouter Steve Garbutt and Mike Janisse (Tic Tac) are all leaders with the 2nd Amherstburg Scouting Group.

Linking to Strategic Direction #3.

FLAG ETIQUETTE

The rules applied by the federal government are in no way mandatory for individuals or organizations; they serve as guidelines for all persons who wish to display the Canadian Flag and other flags in Canada.

The National Flag of Canada should be displayed only in a manner befitting this important national symbol; it should not be subjected to indignity or displayed in a position inferior to any other flag or ensign. It's from this belief that every effort should be made not to let the flag touch the ground. However, if it does accidentally touch the ground, it is not necessary to burn it.

For those wishing to know everything there is to know about flying the Canadian Flag, please surf to: http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/cpsc-ccsp/etiquette/index_e.cfm.