

May 19, 2017

Victoria Day Fireworks

Halton Hills, ON – The discharge of family-type fireworks is a practice enjoyed by many citizens on Victoria Day. The Halton Hills Fire Department would like to remind its residents of the rules contained in by-law 2004-0122, and a few precautions to help keep them safe.

Family fireworks, sometimes referred to as consumer or low level fireworks, are those typically available at local retail outlets. Examples include: roman candles, pinwheels, sparklers and volcanoes, to name a few that are designed to rise less than 50 metres.

Should residents choose to discharge family fireworks on Canada Day, the following by-law provisions apply:

- The discharge of fireworks is only permitted on Victoria Day and Canada Day.
- A fireworks permit is required for the discharge of family fireworks on any other day.
- No person under the age of 18 shall set off any fireworks, except under supervision and control of a person 18 years of age or older.
- No person shall discharge fireworks on land except his own unless consent has been obtained.
- No person shall discharge any fireworks in or on any highway, street lane, square or other public place. (The discharge of fireworks on Town owned property such as parks is not permitted without first obtaining written permission).
- No person shall discharge fireworks in such a place or manner to create danger or nuisance to others.
- No person shall discharge any fireworks into any building, doorway, structure, automobile or any other place where such setting off might create a danger or nuisance to any person or property.
- Firecrackers are not permitted.

Those who fail to follow these provisions are guilty of an offence and if convicted, are liable to a fine as provided in the Provincial Offences Act.

Safety tips when discharging fireworks include:

- Carefully read and follow label directions.
- Do not allow children to discharge fireworks without adult supervision.
- Discharge fireworks only if wind and weather conditions do not create a safety hazard.
- Keep onlookers a safe distance away and upwind from the discharge area.
- Always keep a pail of water or water hose close by for extinguishment.
- Discharge fireworks well away from combustible materials, structures, trees and dry grass.

- Bury fireworks that do not have a base halfway in a container of sand or earth unless label states otherwise and angle them at a 10 degree angle, pointing away from people.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never light fireworks in your hands.
- Do not smoke near the fireworks.
- Stay away at least 30 minutes before approaching a firework that did not go off.
- Keep sparklers away from children. They burn hot and can ignite clothing. Immediately soak spent sparklers in water.
- If someone gets burned, run cool water over the wound for 3 to 5 minutes and seek medical attention if necessary.
- Clean up the fireworks debris when finished and check for embers or smoldering materials

By-law provisions and safety measures are key considerations to ensure a fun and safe event. “If you choose to light fireworks follow the rules and safety tips offered by the Fire Department and be respectful of your neighbours and their properties,” reminds Councillor Lewis, Chair of the Emergency Services Committee, adding “Have an enjoyable Victoria Day.”

About the Town of Halton Hills

The Town of Halton Hills, with a population of approximately 60,000, consists of two urban centres, Georgetown and Acton, the Halton Hills Premier Gateway employment area, three hamlets – Glen Williams, Stewarttown and Norval – and several smaller settlements. Halton Hills has long been recognized for its natural beauty, active agricultural community, high quality of life and proximity to major centres, including Brampton, Mississauga and Toronto. The Town is the 2013 recipient of the National Municipal Environmental Award from the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators and is ranked as one of the top small communities in Canada by a national magazine.

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