



# **Vernon-Okanagan Inspired Community Events Society**



Canada Day in Polson Park  
(Tuesday, July 1, 2025)



# VOICE Society

This is the fourth Canada Day celebration since a new Board has taken on the event and our identity is starting taking shape.

- Renamed the society to reflect commitment to creating community-based experiences in the North Okanagan
- Canada Day Event
  - Community-based and celebratory of our town, citizens, and heritage
  - Free to attend
  - Activities suitable for all ages
  - Focus is to leverage a smaller budget and shorter timeline into elements with the largest impacts
  - Climate change risks mean we've deemed fireworks to be unsafe for the foreseeable future

# Event Features

- Community Engagement

- The Arts Council of the North Okanagan → community art wall
- Okanagan Science Centre → animatronic dinosaur that roars
- Outreach Literacy Society → story walk
- Cruise-In Car Show → mini-show
- Other local organizations who want to set up for free and interact with Vernonites are welcome!

- Community Art Activity

- Large canvas at project for Vernonites to contribute to; to be later displayed at any other community events.
- This year's theme is *What Does Canada Mean To You?*
- Sharpies will be provided for comments instead of paintings

# Event Features

- Skate Competition
  - Hosted by Okanagan Skate Co. in the skatepark
- Fruit Fest
  - A promotion of nutrition and local farmers
  - The society will fund the giveaway of in-season, locally-grown fruit to event attendees
  - Seeking partners, local farmers, and orchardists
- Polson Artisan Night Market and Food Truck Garden
  - Will run adjacent to the music and other activities
  - Gives locals a chance to feature and sell their wares

# Event Features

- Local Music

- 2:00 – 9:30 pm
- Focus on family-friendly, Okanagan/Shuswap-based artists (<2h from Vernon)
- Booked artists include:
  - MASK (Musical Actors Singers Kelowna)
  - Carbon Copy (Vernon)
  - Josh + Bex (Kelowna)
  - In talks with several others; looking for family-friendly, good-energy headliners

- Bouncy Castle/Slide

- A pair of inflatables



# Requests for the City

- Tables and chairs
  - Event Trailer
- Waive the park rental fees
- Parks key to main gates and pavilion
- Parks employees on hand from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm to assist with issues
- 6 port-a-potties, placed behind the bandshell along the service road
- Onsite traffic control for assistance with parking
- Temporary permit for entertainment
  - Permission for skate competition
  - All above permissions would have appropriate insurance, including naming the City of Vernon where required

# Parking Suggestion

## Issues

- Ongoing construction in Polson Park that limits parking spaces
- Loss of access to the overflow parking area

## Potential Solution

- Use Park parking to accommodate vendors, hosting participants, and vehicles disability parking permits only
- Close the park to all other public parking

This would mean a longer day of traffic control attendees (11:00 am – 9:00 pm) but should ensure a safer park setting for the event.



# Society Needs at This Time

---

- ❑ Additional musicians
- ❑ Partners, local famers, and/or orchardists for *Fruit Fest*
- ❑ Spread the word!
  - We welcome local organizations and businesses to join and participate in the celebrations, and we're happy to accommodate them according to their needs and capabilities!

# Thank you, Mayor and Council



Please let us know if there are any questions!

Thank you so much for your continued support of July 1st  
celebrations in the city.