



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.