

Stratford Town Crier

Town Crier, June 29, 2024

Public Information, Notices and Meeting Schedule

CANADA DAY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City of Stratford Administration Offices and the Landfill will be closed on Monday, July 1, 2024.

There will be no change in the Recycling, Green Bin, Leaf & Yard Waste and Garbage collection programs on Monday, July 1, 2024. Please ensure materials are to the curb prior to 8:00 a.m. on collection dates. For further information, please call 519-271-0250 extension 279.

RETAIL CLOSINGS ON CANADA DAY

Shoppers and merchants are reminded that under the *Retail Business Holidays Act*, Canada Day, Monday, July 1, 2024, is among the holidays when most stores must be closed.

The *Retail Business Holidays Act* provides limited exceptions for retail outlets that may be open, including stores that sell handicrafts and book or magazine stores that are less than 2,400 square feet with a maximum of three employees, pharmacies under 7,500 square feet, flower shops and gas stations. Stores may also remain open in locations established as tourist areas by specific municipal by-laws. Businesses should contact their municipal offices for information.

Minimum fines for opening businesses on prohibited days of retail operation are \$500 for the first offence, \$2,000 for a second offence and \$5,000 for a third or subsequent offence. Retail outlets may be fined up to \$50,000 or the total amount of gross sales for the holiday, whichever is greater. Stratford's designated tourism season is May 1 to November 12 each year and includes the Canada Day Holiday.

Stratford City By-law 149-92 permits certain retail establishments in Stratford that meet the tourism criteria established by the Province and that provides goods and services primarily to tourists in Stratford, may open for business on Canada Day under the following provisions:

- The retail business establishment does not open prior to 10:00 am and does not remain open after 4:00 pm;
- The number of persons engaged in the serving of the public does not at any time, exceed four (4);
- The total area used for serving, selling or displaying goods or services to the public inside the establishment is less than 278.71 m² (3000 square feet);
- Certain larger retail business establishments listed in Schedule "A" to By-law 149-92 as amended, may also open on Canada Day between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Enforcement of the *Retail Business Holidays Act* in Stratford is the responsibility of Stratford Police Services. To find out which retail operations are exempted by the Act, call the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services toll-free at 1-800-889-9768. For more information visit www.sse.gov.on.ca.

FIREWORK SAFETY – VICTORIA DAY AND CANADA DAY

City of Stratford Fireworks By-law 73-2006 provides that fireworks can only be set off on Victoria Day and Canada Day between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. In the event of weather conditions such as rain, fog, smog or wind on Victoria Day or Canada Day, fireworks may be set off the day before or the day after Victoria Day or Canada Day.

Fireworks may not be set off:

- on any city street or highway;
- in any park or other public place;
- in any building or vehicle; and
- in areas containing dead undergrowth or trees.

Firecrackers which are different than fireworks, cannot be set off anywhere in Stratford.

When setting off Fireworks:

- Use fireworks outdoors only;
- Choose a clear, open area;
- Check wind direction and speed;
- Always have an adult present;
- Have water handy;
- Read and follow label directions;
- Keep spectators away from launch area.

Flying lanterns (the small paper hot air balloons propelled by an open flame) are not permitted for sale or use in Stratford.

Questions or to Report a Violation:

If you have any questions or wish to report a violation of the By-law, please call the Fire Department at 519-271-3212. Please enjoy the holiday safely.

ATTENTION STRATFORD PROPERTY OWNERS

PROPERTY TAX – 2024 FINAL LEVY DUE DATE AUGUST 28, 2024

Your 2024 Final Tax Bill has now been mailed. If you have not received a Tax Notice or would like to set up a pre-authorized monthly/quarterly payment plan, please e-mail taxinfo@stratford.ca or call the City Tax Office at 519-271-0250 extension 5212. Property tax payments may be made through your financial institution via on-line banking, telephone banking, in person at your bank. Debit is accepted at City Hall, or Cash or Cheque payable to the "City of Stratford" are accepted in person at City Hall, deposited in the mailbox Rear Entrance or mailed to P.O. Box 818, Stratford ON N5A 6W1.

The Town Crier is available on the City of Stratford's website.

www.stratford.ca