



Light the 'cue, pop the top

Canucks to mark Canada Day with a beer by the grill: Survey

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On Canada's 142nd birthday, it's all about the two Bs: Beer and barbecues.

A national Nanos Research survey for Moosehead Breweries found that about 50% of Ontario residents will be knocking back a cold one or two at a barbecue today.

Only 5%, meanwhile, will be skinny dipping.

"We usually celebrate with a barbecue with relatives," said Pamela Williamson, 57, who has decorated her Elmer Ave. home with a half dozen Canadian flags and an Ontario flag.

"I think every true Canadian should celebrate Canada Day."

The survey, which polled 1,004 Canadians in June, also found that only 7.1% of Canadians plan on going commando, compared to 23.6% who prefer briefs and 22.4% who lean toward boxers.

At St. Lawrence Market yesterday, most people agreed with the idea of grilling veggies and burgers.

Cynthia Quirion, 34, and Julia Vacchino, 28, said they were heading up to Uxbridge for a dip in the pool (with red bikinis on) and volleyball.

"Where are those commando people hanging out?" said a laughing Julia Vacchino, of Stouffville.

And even one guy said he'd wear a thong.

"Maybe just for Canada Day," said Wade Kelly, 26, who was visiting Toronto from Edmonton.

Kelly and friend Phil Paschke, 28, planned to travel to Parliament Hill in Ottawa for today's fireworks show.

"Usually we try to see fireworks in the evening, hang out with friends and toss around a frisbee, depending on the weather," Kelly said.

The maple leaf is considered the original symbol of Canada by 62%, but only 2.4% see the term "Eh?" as symbolic of their country, according to the poll.

Country singer Shania Twain was voted by men who participated in the survey as the sexiest Canuck export.

"How come Celine Dion's not on the list?" Vacchino said. "But I'd agree with Shania. She's gorgeous. For symbols, I'd agree with the maple leaf, but they should add Tim Hortons, too."

Because some firework displays were cancelled because of the city workers strike, some people will head down to Ontario Place, where the show will go on in the night sky.

"We see them from the top of our condo," said Liz Henriques, 41.

"We have our Canada flag out and (my daughter and I) usually paint our nails red and white with little maple leaves on it. We also put maple leaf tattoos on our cheeks."

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THE NUMBERS

Canadians on things Canadian:

- 49.8% of Canadians plan to spend Canada Day drinking beer at a backyard barbecue.
- 5% of Canadians prefer to be skinny dipping.
- 38% see Shania Twain as Canada's sexiest female export.
- 23.6% say they're wearing briefs, 22.4% say boxers and only 7.1% say they're going commando.
- 62% consider the maple leaf as the original Canadian symbol with the beaver following at 25.6%.
- Nanos Cracked Canoe Canada Day Survey