

Oh, Canada! Have a happy 150th



NATALIE DEANE

DECOR AND MORE

Canada is turning 150 and everyone is celebrating in style. There are eh-mazing events being planned all around the country but if you have decided to host a big backyard blowout for your family and friends at home I have some fantastic tips for you.

Red'n'white style

Is there a better way to celebrate Canada Day than by painting your party red — and white!

Setting a patriotic theme will get everyone into the party mood. Start by lighting things up for later.

String red and white out-

door lights in anticipation for your BBQ getting turned up after the sun goes down. Canadian Tire has NOMA LED lights on sale for \$13.79 — the best thing is you can reuse them at Christmas.

Next you'll need to start flying the maple leaf. You can go chic with one luxury Canada Heritage Deluxe Flag (Canadian Tire \$35.99) or go a little more festive by using inexpensive flags to decorate everything from around the table to stringing them and hanging them around your whole yard (Canadian Tire \$3.39).

Since you will be hosting more people than just your family, you may need to add

to your outdoor set, the Canadian Flag Deluxe armchair (Canadian Tire \$19.99) with its built in cup holder is ideal.

To give that red and white style to your regular patio furniture some fun new pillow cases for your outdoor cushions will do the trick, Indigo's Expressions Canada 150 Eh Team pillow cover (\$39.50).

Canadian cuisine

You've set up your backyard, and now it's time to set the table — or better yet tables. For your Canada Day bash, rather than having to constantly be serving, you need to celebrate and enjoy your time with guests.

Set up a buffet table with an all Canadian cuisine menu and a stoked bar so you are free to frolic with guests. Set out charcuterie boards (Indigo \$17.00) with real Dairy Farmers of Canada, Canadian cheese like Devil's Rock blue, Comox Camembert and delicious Canadian cheddar.

Canada Day Leaf napkins

(Walmart \$1.50), Canada Day leaf plates (Walmart \$1.50) decorated with beavers, moose and maple leaves are perfect for serving BBQ burgers topped with peameal, red potato salad, grilled salmon sliders, and maple bacon topped poutine.

Load the dessert table with everyone's red and white favourites; strawberry shortcake, red velvet and cream cheese cupcakes, maple dipped or sugar maple timbits from Tim Hortons.

Don't forget the bar! Serve truly Canadian wines like Jackson-Triggs Sauvignon Blanc or Merlot — you can even make a fresh fruity sangria punch with them. Beer, cider and sodas can all be kept on ice in a Coleman Canada Day cooler (Canadian Tire \$29.99).

Patriotic party time

Set the tempo of your soiree with a Canadian playlist. Tragically Hip, Rush, Kim Mitchell, Glass Tiger, Justin Bieber,



To give that red and white style to your patio furniture, some fun new pillow cases from Indigo's Expressions Canada will do the trick (\$39.50).

Drake, Maestro Fresh Wes, The Weeknd, Nickelback... your choices are endless!

Make sure to have outdoor games ready to go for children and adults alike. Giant Checkers (Indigo \$25.90), Horseshoe Toss (Indigo \$16.80), Swiftlyte Advanced Bocce Set (Walmart \$43.99), EastPoint 4 Player Sports Croquet Set (Walmart \$30) or even Canadian trivia family edition (Indigo \$29.95) will have everyone romping and having fun.

As soon as the sun goes down

and the patio lights up keep the party bright with sparklers and fireworks (if you can).

At the end of your party make sure everyone leaves with a little Canadian gift like a Canadian symbols mug from indigo (\$10.50) or a special edition Canada 150 Heritage blend candle (Indigo \$20.65).

— *Natalie Deane is a lifestyle connoisseur who shares tips for everyday living through decor, entertaining and household trends.*

Saluting the rebirth of a magical place



JANE LOCKHART

DESIGN CONFIDENTIAL

Watching a revitalization project come to life is one of the most interesting aspects of design — especially if it involves a heritage and historical landmark.

For me, observing the Guild Inn Estate in the Scarborough Bluffs go from decay to revitalization has been a much anticipated one.

The original property, built as Col. Bickford's private summer residence in 1914, went through various incarnations including being purchased by Rosa and Spencer Clark in 1932.

The wealthy newlyweds turned it into a co-operative, an artists' residence and studios called, The Guild of All Arts. Over the years, it

attracted many famous artists and visitors.

A six-story hotel was added in the 1960s and the area thrived with events through the '70s. Sold in 1978, to the Conservation Authority at the time, it soon landed in the hands of the City of Toronto and began to decline in the 80'. The doors finally closed in 2001 and decay continued.

It was once a magical place. I liked tromping through the forested grounds, taking in all the preserved historical columns, artifacts like statuary, carvings and a massive marble façade from a 19th century Toronto bank entrance, saved from demolition in the post-war era.

For well over a decade, it seemed The Guild Inn's boarded up main house and rotting hotel were left to age in place, joining the monuments as reminders of a grander time.

Many came along to try to save the Inn but it wasn't until the house's 100th year, the City approved a plan for the Dynamic Hospitality and Entertainment Group to spend \$20 million to restore and renovate the historical property.

Working with architects, designers, engineers and heritage consultants, they restored the historical Bickford home and built state-of-the-art additions flanking either side, connecting old with new. It's now a 44,000 square-foot property, with multi-purpose events space for groups from 10-1000.

In June, at a red-carpet event, Toronto Mayor John Tory and various dignitaries officially declared the estate re-opened. It was a grand affair complete with performance



Toronto Mayor John Tory and various dignitaries officially declared The Guild Inn Estate re-opened at a red-carpet event held in June.

artists and musicians greeting you around every corner.

Artwork is featured on gallery walls throughout the large, multiple, event spaces — indoors and out. The expansive terraces, with access to the sculpture gardens were the perfect place to spend magic hour on a warm, June evening.

Paying homage to the past, the porte-cochere was faithfully restored for today's visitors. It reminds us of the days when arriving by horse and buggy, guests could enter under the tall, covered "porch" protected from the weather.

This entrance takes you to the new Bickford Bistro, a full-service restaurant, helmed by

Executive Chef James Nguyen. Before the full interior gut, many of the original finishes, like milled wood paneling were rescued, catalogued and restored, adding a fresh face to the original charm.

On the east side, is an oversized, gazebo-like "wing". It's a cedar and stone open-air structure that overlooks the park. Muskoka chairs centered around a faux fire on the adjacent patio fit right in.

The west "wing" is a flexible banquet space, complete with sound proof walls that can divide the vast space, DJ booths perched above the crowds and a wall of floor to ceiling windows overlooking the terrace, a spectacular perch to take in the grandeur. Needless to say, it was great to welcome back a truly magical place.

— *Jane Lockhart is an award-winning designer and TV personality and is considered one of Canada's leading experts in the world of design. Visit www.janelockhart.com.*