

## City cancels Canada Day parties

By BRYN WEESE

Last Updated: 26th June 2009, 3:01am

Happy stinking birthday, Canada.

If you were counting on City Hall to help you celebrate Canada's 142nd birthday, make other plans.

In a possible signal that the five-day old strike is going to be a long one, officials yesterday confirmed all city-run Canada Day events, and those that required permits to take place on city property, will be cancelled.

The strike has already closed pools, cancelled kids' summer camps and stopped garbage collection, among a myriad of other services.

"While we remain hopeful for a timely resolution to this strike, July 1 is fast approaching," said Joe Pennachetti, the city's top bureaucrat.

The cancelled events include:

Amesbury Canada Day, Ashbridges Bay Fireworks, Somali-Canada Day, the Ontario Australian Football Championships, the Peanut Town Festival, East York Toronto Canada Day, the MPP Canada Day event, Shomoy Mela, the New Country Canada Day Jam, the 16th annual Neighbours Together party, and celebrations at Thompson Memorial Park/ Miliken District Park, St. James Park, Kew Gardens, Earls court Park, and Mel Lastman Square.

But there is a glimmer of hope for would-be partygoers. Pennachetti said if the strike ends by Sunday night, some of the events could go ahead, "on a modified basis."

If you're able to get to Mississauga, its municipal Canada Day celebrations will run from 1 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Civic Centre, and features fireworks and a performance by Sloan.