

**Agenda Summary**  
**July 16, 2025**

**Agenda Item No. B-2**

**Request to Hang Canadian Flags on Main Street and Moscow Village**

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**Summary:** Enclosed is an email from Barbara Gameroff requesting “the Stowe Selectboard consider flying an equal or very generous number of Canadian flags on the Town flag poles both in Stowe and in Moscow as a gesture of good will, starting as soon as possible.”

Also enclosed is an email from Ken Schurmann opposing the idea.

If the Selectboard is agreeable to erecting Canadian flags, you should do so as government speech endorsed by the Selectboard, so the flag poles do not become a forum for free speech. The Selectboard should also decide on the duration.

**Town Plan & Policy Impact:** N/A

**Fiscal & HR Impact:** The cost of the flags if they are every other flag (approx. \$450) and the cost to hire someone to put them up on Main St. (approx. \$1,000). Stowe Electric Department linemen hang flags on Moscow Rd.

**Recommendation:** Discuss and advise.

## Will Fricke

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**To:** Charles Safford  
**Subject:** RE: FW: [EXTERNAL] Canadian flags flying in Stowe/Moscow

-----Original Message-----

From: BARBARA GAMEROFF <[shaggygam@aol.com](mailto:shaggygam@aol.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 5:23 PM  
To: Charles Safford <[csafford@stowevt.gov](mailto:csafford@stowevt.gov)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Canadian flags flying in Stowe/Moscow

Hello Charles,

Pursuant to our conversation, I am writing to suggest the Stowe Select Board consider flying an equal or very generous number of Canadian flags on the town flag poles both in Stowe and in Moscow as a gesture of good will, starting as soon as possible! The town of Stowe and Vermont as a whole have deep connections to our Canadian neighbors. I bet the Select Board would be hard pressed to find anyone who doesn't feel the loss of our Canadian friends either through family, business or social connections. Let's make a difference!

Thank you,  
Barbara Gameroff

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## Will Fricke

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**From:** Ken Schumann <kenschumann50@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 6, 2025 3:18 PM  
**To:** Charles Safford  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Canadian Flags Flying in Town/Moscow

Hi Charles

Your Email 6/6(D-Day 1944). Thank you for soliciting my input on the above subject.

Answer: Absolutely Not.

On May 8, 1945 (VE - Day) my parents gave me (age 7) a small American Flag and we joined the celebration crowd in Times Square, NYC. Being exposed to the "colors" at an early age, interest, pride in our flag continued through out my life. The flag of the United States of America symbolizes the patriotic ideals of our nation. I have always (student, Boy Scout, Veteran, civilian, senior citizen) been proud to display "Old Glory" and have remained very protective. The flying of a Canadian flag or any flag on the same pole is a definite No/No. The only exception was made a number of years ago allowing an authorized MIA flag to be displayed directly under the American flag on poles. Some of these are around town including my property.

BEWARE OF SETTING A PRECEDENT.

Others may be encouraged to make similar requests.

Because of the connection to our Canadian friends and neighbors over the years a few locals have displayed Canadian flags, some on their own erected poles. More recently individuals/business folks have demonstrated their support for Ukraine with large/small flags/window stickers, etc. Years earlier the FEDCUP Tennis Tournamen was held at Top Notch (Russia vs USA). The promoters circulated smaller Russian flags all over town for display for the duration of the event (several days).

Unaware any visible support from our Canadian neighbors. Tourism is down, American products are being boycotted. Can't imagine our flag being displayed on the same Canadian pole with theirs No foreign flag should be displayed on a pole with ours PERIOD.

By all means please pass along my comments to the Selectboard for their consideration. I intend to be present (health permitting) at your meeting. If not hopefully my feelings will be helpful.

Enjoy the weekend.

Regards

Ken

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**From:** Heidi Scheuermann <[heidi@heidischeuermann.com](mailto:heidi@heidischeuermann.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2025 8:51 AM

**To:** Nick Donza <[ndonza@stowevt.gov](mailto:ndonza@stowevt.gov)>; Paco Aumand <[paumand@stowevt.gov](mailto:paumand@stowevt.gov)>; Ethan Carlson <[ecarlson@stowevt.gov](mailto:ecarlson@stowevt.gov)>; Jo Sabel Courtney <[jsabel@stowevt.gov](mailto:jsabel@stowevt.gov)>; Beth Gadbois <[bgadbois@stowevt.gov](mailto:bgadbois@stowevt.gov)>

**Cc:** Charles Safford <[csafford@stowevt.gov](mailto:csafford@stowevt.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Flag Policy

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [heidi@heidischeuermann.com](mailto:heidi@heidischeuermann.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Stowe Select Board –

I saw this week's agenda item proposing to hang Canadian Flags in the Village and in Moscow, and I wanted to express my hope that you not approve this request.

To be clear, I understand our close relationship and friendship with our Canadian friends here in Stowe. But, regardless of this, I think raising their flag (in place of or along with our Nation's flag) is inappropriate and would set a bad precedent.

As some background, as Chair of the British Invasion Block Party event, I had British Flags fly on Main Street for one or two years as part of the event. But, when I heard from a Veteran who very eloquently expressed real concerns about doing this, I realized how wrong we had been to do it, and we stopped immediately. In fact, if memory serves, we removed them that same day and they never returned to the poles.

Private citizens and businesses should be free to fly any flag they'd like. But, our Town municipal and school buildings and property – in my view – should be restricted to the flags of the United States and of Vermont, and the POW flag. Starting to raise a flag of a foreign nation sets a significant precedent, and would, inevitably, lead to other requests for other nations' flags to fly. This is a rabbit hole down which I don't think our Town should go.

Thank you. I hope all is well.

Heidi



*Heidi E. Scheuermann*  
*Owner, Allegro Properties*  
*P.O. Box 908*  
*Stowe, Vermont 05672*

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**From:** Lynn LaFleur <yeuxdevert@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2025 7:56 PM  
**To:** Francis (Paco) Aumand  
**Cc:** Ethan Carlson; Jo Sabel Courtney; nickdonza@aol.com; Beth Gadbois; Charles Safford; Will Fricke; Sarah McShane; Ryan Morrison  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Inclusion mission for Stowe's future

You don't often get email from yeuxdevert@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Selectboard,

Dear Selectboard,

I noticed in the local paper that this week's agenda includes consideration of flying the Canadian flag in Moscow Village and on Main Street. As I've raised in previous correspondence with the Board, I respectfully continue to advocate for an ordinance that would limit flag displays in our primary public and tourist areas to the American flag, the Vermont state flag, and the POW/MIA flag.

Coincidentally, I am currently visiting Canada, where tourism is a major economic driver—Quebec, in particular, ranks tourism as its third-highest revenue source. Despite this, I have yet to see an American flag displayed in any of the locations I've visited.

This observation raises a reasonable question: Why do we feel compelled to fly foreign flags in our own highly visible public spaces? Moreover, approving one country's flag could open the door to requests for others, potentially requiring the Town to approve all such requests to avoid claims of discrimination.

In the spirit of fairness and true inclusivity, I urge the Board to consider these broader implications and vote against the proposal to fly the Canadian flag.

I appreciate your consideration. As I mentioned, I am currently in Canada, and unable to attend the meeting Wednesday and voice my concern in person.

Best regards,  
Lynn LaFleur