



Brothers Quinton and Braydon with the help of mom learned to play snowsnakes on Family Day at the Willow Park Ecology Centre.
Photo by Tara Bonin

Activities abound at Willow Park Ecology Centre

By **TARA BONIN**
WPEC board member

A small crowd braved the cold temperatures on Monday, February 21, to participate in Family Winter Fun Day at Willow Park Ecology Centre (WPEC) in Norval.

The wind chill of -15 degrees Celsius didn't hamper the enjoyment of the snow, the natural woodland-garden-riverside setting of the park, and some fun winter games! Activities included traditional aboriginal games (Snowsnakes, a "whale-hunting" tag game, and snow hopscotch), crafts and an experiment. The

children made "snow goggles" to protect their eyes from the sun's glare off the snow (apparel once made from birch bark or other natural materials). The young nature enthusiasts also learned about how animals find warmth and shelter during the cold periods in the winter.

The next Willow Park event — a Maple Syrup program — will occur on Wednesday, March 16.

Let Willow Park Ecology Centre's staff and volunteers introduce you to a sweet, seasonal treat. From 2-3:30 p.m., listen to the native legend of how maple sugar was discov-

ered. Learn how to tap a tree and make syrup at home and how it's more than just a pancake topping.

Register for this free session at www.willowparkecology.com or for further details, teresa@willowparkecology.com or call 905-873-0614. Willow Park Ecology Centre is located right beside Norval Park, a short walk from the Mary Street parking lot.

Other upcoming events include a Spring Fling garden day, on April 25; Earth Day celebrations on April 30 and a Mother's Day Wildflower Walk on May 8 and it's Dad's Day on June 19.

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