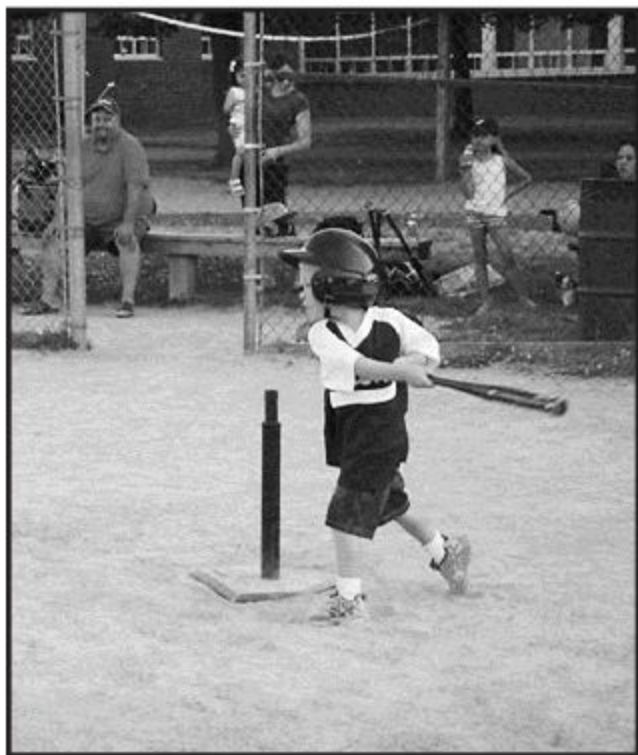


Are your kids bored yet?



SOLID SWING: Jacob St. Pierre demonstrated the power of his swing on the MSB field last Tuesday, July 19 while playing for the Purity Life Pirates in the Acton Minor Baseball League.

- submitted photo

As we reach the mid-point of the summer school break many Acton youth, joyful in June when they are released from the confines of educational institutions, find themselves lacking in social and other constructive activities. Parents may find themselves bearing such utterings as "there is nothing to do, there is no one to play with" or the dreaded "I'm just sooooo bored."

Here to assist with the summer doldrums is a sampling of things available in the Acton area that may help kids and parents alike erase the boredom and spice up the summer.

Go to the library

The fabulous new Acton library offers programs for the very young and up. Firstly there is the reading club designed to encourage kids to read 30 minutes a day. After seven days of confirmed reading (a parent initial is required each day) the club member is allowed to "Go Fish!" for a prize and is entered to win \$25 from the local TD bank. There is also stickers and posters.

Also available is Tuesdays at 2pm Book Parties, Wednesday Crafternoons from 2 - 4pm, Thursday Imagination Stations at 10am, and Friday Munch to the Movies, 12 noon - Wii Fun 3-4pm - and Kids Knit, Friday, August 19.

To find out more and to register visit or call the Acton Branch at 519-853-0301.

Try a Town program

The Town of Halton Hills, Recreation and Parks still have room in some of their excellent programs designed to stimulate, educate and exercise the kids. Some of them are quite affordable, for those who need, there may be subsidy available. Here's the list:

Summer camps

Tiny Tykes, ages 4-6 at McKenzie Smith Bennett school, August 15-19. Cost is \$150.

Girls Week Out, ages 11-15 at the Acton Community Centre, August 15-19. Cost is \$150.

Skateboard Mania Sr., ages 10-14 at the Acton Community Centre, August 2-5. Cost is \$120.

Summer Fun Centre, ages 7-12 at the Acton Community Centre, August 1-5. Cost is \$188. Also offered August 22-26, cost \$146.

Other opportunities include swimming lessons, the Superior Glove Splash Pad and Recreational Swimming. For more information and to register call the hotline at 905-873-2601 ext. 2275 or visit www.haltonhills.ca.

Go Off The Wall

For older kids, Off the Wall Youth Centre located in downtown Acton can be a great place to socialize and spend quality time with the peers in a relaxed atmosphere while still under the guidance of adult supervision.

Open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5pm to 10pm and Thursdays from 3:30pm to 11pm Off The Wall gives pre-teens and teens an opportunity to take advantage of Educational Sessions, get help with summer school homework, maybe watch a movie with friends, or do some baking. It's worth checking out and may just change a boring directionless summer into something much more memorable.

Get prepared to work

Those who have reached the age where employment is possible have an opportunity to earn enough spending cash to assist in making the summer a more pleasurable one. While it maybe a little too late to find work around Acton it's never a bad idea to brush up or create a resume and be prepared for fall hiring or that job that pops up in the middle of the summer.

Links2Care, located beside Off the Wall Youth Centre in downtown Acton can help teens get started on the road to responsibility for free by helping to create great resumes, targeted cover letters and assisting with job search strategies. The centre also offers free use of computers, photocopier, fax and phone for job search purposes.

University and College students go back to school at the end of August so part-time jobs may become available soon. Call 519-853-5014 to book and appointment or just drop in anytime to 45 Mill Street East, Acton.

Life-saving drug to be covered by the Provinces

PNH, sometimes referred to as Marchiafava-Micheli syndrome, is a rare, acquired, life-threatening disease of the blood characterised by anemia due to destruction of red blood cells in the bloodstream, red urine (due to the appearance of haemoglobin in the urine) and blood clotting. PNH is the only haemolytic anemia caused by an acquired (rather than inherited) intrinsic defect in the cell membrane. It may develop on its own or in the context of other bone marrow disorders such as aplastic anemia.

Last November, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott was contacted by Rick Macieszka, Lucas' father.

"When I heard that Lucas Macieszka might die without Soliris, we went to work. I repeatedly raised the issue with the Minister of Health, including Questions in the Legislature," Mr. Arnott recalled. "I am so pleased that

this story has had a happy ending."

The Toronto Star reported on July 22, that the Premiers of Canada have agreed to band together to bulk-buy Soliris. It is hoped that this kind of cooperation can reduce the cost of medication for rare diseases, including PNH.

Arnott has expressed appreciation to the provincial Premiers of Canada for agreeing to provide funding for Soliris, a life-saving drug for paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH) patients.

"This is great news for Lucas Macieszka and his family, who fought long and hard to get this medication approved and save Lucas' life," Mr. Arnott said, "The Premiers deserve credit, but most of all, the credit should go to Lucas, his father Rick and the others, like Tanya Talaga of the Toronto Star, who advocated so passionately, and in the end successfully."

Mill Less Noisy - coming into compliance

While some neighbours of Acton's flour mill have noticed that noise levels have decreased with provincially-ordered changes, they say the mill still "has a long way to go."

After more than a year of complaints from neighbours about noise from the mill operations and from trucks, the Ministry of Environment stepped in and issued an order for the mill to comply with a number of noise reducing measures.

"It is quieter, but when grain comes down the shoots, there's no (noise) difference," said neighbour Kevin McQuade on Friday.

In an update on the mill's efforts

to meet provincial noise standards, Tina Dufresne, the District Manager of the Halton-Peel District Office, Ministry of the Environment said that their priority is to make sure companies operate in a manner that is protective of the environment and community health and we have been working to ensure that the facility does the work needed to comply with our requirements.

"I am pleased to report that the company is complying with our requirements. To date, four enclosures were installed to motor assemblies, four louvres to air openings, and nine silencers were installed on

stacks and a fan," Dufresne said in an e-mail on Friday.

She said P&H would also install a solid floor on three enclosures placed over the motor assemblies; work the Ministry would verify had been completed by earlier this week.

"They are installing noise barriers to control truck noise as well. Once the barriers have been installed, the company will be required to conduct an acoustical audit to determine if the facility is in compliance with our noise guideline," Dufresne said, adding she would supply timeframe information once deadlines were established.

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