

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



Half-way there!

By the time you read this you'll be half-way through March Break, and that means you'll be just desperate enough to try the suggestions that follow.

The kids and I have been through a few March Breaks, and I'm here to tell you, you *will* survive. Just take it one day at a time.

Predictably, the week goes as follows:

Monday: Things are going pretty well. Morning cartoons are a novelty, the game shows are fun to watch. It's nice and relaxing for everyone to have a loose structure to the day.

Tuesday: The house is a little messy – doesn't anyone know how to pick up after themselves? And don't tell me they're watching Oprah *again!* How do they get through a day of school – all they do is *eat* when they're at home.

Wednesday: *There's nothing to do!* All those craft ideas, friends over to play – you even tried baking in an effort to occupy them and feed them at the same time. The kids are bored; be afraid.

Thursday: They are now full-out fighting. Don't ask what you'll be wearing today: just put on the referee's sweater. It's definitely time to get out of the house!

Friday: Remember how you hated taking the kids grocery shopping when they were little? This is definitely worse! They've forgotten how to behave in a grocery store and all those tricks you played when they were little, like games of *I Spy* and *Don't Walk on the Green Floor Tiles* don't seem to work anymore. Even bribery is not going so well.

There are a few things going on in town this week, guaranteed to keep the kids happy, and they won't break the budget either.

For example, Acton Bowling Lanes has some March Break specials that run from 12 noon to 6 pm daily: two games, shoes and taxes, \$3.50; three games, shoes and taxes, \$5. Be sure to call ahead for reservations, 853-0470.

Thanks to the Acton Rotary Club there will be free skating at the Acton arena, daily from 1 to 2:20 pm. A little physical activity, that doesn't involve punching your brother, might be just the ticket to expend some of that energy!

The Acton Lions Swimming pool has planned a fun-filled week of swims during March Break, from 2 to 4 pm daily. Cost is \$1.85 for youth/child/senior; \$2.75 for adults; \$6.50 for families. Call 873-2601, ext. 275 for further details.

Halton Hills goes Hollywood with the March Break program at the library. The "I'm a Star" program is geared to children aged 5 and up. The libraries will also show free movies and contests. Drop by the Acton branch for more details.

There are also movies to rent, ditto the video games, although you might have a hard time finding *Mario Cart* and *Star Wars* mid-week.

A little ingenuity can go a long way too. One year I planned theme days through March Break. We had a Backwards Day, when we wore our shirts backwards, ate our meals sitting on the floor under the kitchen table, starting with dessert (that was the best part, according to the kids!) We also had colour days – our food, clothing and activities were based on a single colour. Green clothing was no problem but I have to admit the green milk wasn't too appetizing.

Spread a blanket on the living room floor and have a picnic; "camp out" in sleeping bags on the floor one night; choose a great children's novel and spend the week reading it together out loud.

Don't forget to plan some time for yourself! You might be able to trade off babysitting with a friend – and treat yourself to some time alone.

And take comfort in the fact that time passes all too quickly. Won't be long before the little darlings will be back at school and life will return to normal.

Same time last year ...

Frank Geng's McDonald Boulevard home is rocked by an explosion caused by a leaking propane cylinder and ignited by the hot water heater's pilot light ... Acton High students sign petitions against proposed teacher and other staff layoffs ... Kylie Kruk, 10, qualifies for the Provincial singles bowling championships.

....well no wonder we can't start 'er up... Some wiseguy stuck a banana in the tailpipe!



Your LETTERS

Warning system to be tested in Halton

To the Editor,

Environment Canada, in partnership with Baton Broadcasting, the CBC, CFMT and Rogers Cablesystems Inc., is launching a pilot project for WeatherAlert. The test area is Greater Toronto (Halton and Peel, York and Durham and Metro Toronto). WeatherAlert is a made-for-television service to advise Canadians of imminent severe weather.

WeatherAlert is a message about impending severe weather that scrolls or "crawls" across the bottom of the television screen. Only severe weather events that are not

forecast early enough for announcement on television broadcasts will trigger WeatherAlert messages.

WeatherAlert messages will be issued by Environment Canada for these severe weather events: tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, severe winds, blizzards, heavy freezing rain, heavy snow, heavy rain and snow squalls.

The message across the bottom of the television screen will be short and concise. For example, the message for a tornado will read: ENVIRONMENT CANADA HAS ISSUED A TORNADO WARNING FOR HALTON AND PEEL. Local broadcasters may add a trailing message telling viewers where to get more details.

There will be an ongoing evaluation of the project during its pilot. If the pilot is successful, WeatherAlert will be expanded across Canada.

For more details on WeatherAlert, call us at 1-800-667-6868.

Elizabeth Adamson
National Weather Services

WANTED!

(temporarily)

Any old photos (10 years and older) of:

- people from Acton
- Acton buildings or scenery
- Acton school functions/class pictures

We'd like to use your photos weekly for a "Peek at the Past," a sometime feature on Page 7 of *The Tanner*.

You can drop your photos off at our office at 12 Church St. E. Monday to Friday from 9 am - 5 pm – or call if you need to have them picked up. All photos can be picked up at the office once they've been used.

Please include whatever information you have regarding the photos, such as the names of the people in them, the date the photo was taken, etc. And include your name and phone number to ensure you get them back.

Thank you Acton!!

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