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Champion COMMUNITY Page

No time to be bored during March Break

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

It's a sentence parents dread, but are destined to hear again and again.

"I'm bored."
 Sure, there's the annoyance factor — "Where did my child learn to whine like that?" — but let's face it, there can also be a bit of guilt if the complaint comes over the March Break and parents are working.

This year, why not look into the wealth of children's programs offered around Milton over the March Break? With programs offered by the Town of Milton, Conservation Halton and the Milton Community Resource Centre, there's sure to be something to keep your child busy and give you a little rest and peace of mind.

Town of Milton

The Town of Milton will offer public swims and skates at its recreation centres, and will also hold the March Mania Camp. All programs incorporate physical activity.

"It promotes healthy child development, which promotes a healthy self-esteem, which then helps them become better young adults and adults," said Janet Davidson, co-ordinator of community programs.

The March Mania Camp will be for children aged 5 to 13 years and will run from March 10 to 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Milton Leisure Centre on Main Street. Parents can either register their children for the week, or just certain days — a welcome option for some parents who stay home with their kids but just need a break, Ms Davidson said. The cost is \$30 per day and \$125 for the week. Extended care is available.

Each day will feature a different theme. There are day trips including trips to Mountsberg Conservation Area and mini-putting. Crafts and sports are also included, as well as skating and swimming.

"As the years pass, (March Mania Camp) is becoming more and more popular," said Claire Dynan-Ford, customer service clerk at the Milton Leisure Centre.

"Kids love the staff. They try to keep the days packed as well as having down time. Ninety-nine per cent of parents are really impressed with this program, and the kids enjoy it too," Ms Dynan-Ford said.

Parents can register for this program at the front desk of the Milton Leisure Centre until a week before the program. Call (905) 878-7946.

The March Break Madness all-ages swim will be held at the leisure centre March 7 from 8 to 9:30 p.m. All-ages swims will also take place



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Maple Syrup Days at Mountsberg Conservation Area are a popular March Break event.

March 10 to 14 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the centre. Public skating will be held at Memorial Arena, 77 Thompson Rd. S., March 10, 12 and 14 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. and at John Tonelli Arena, 217 Laurier Ave., March 11 and 13 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Milton Community Resource Centre

For children aged 6 to 11 years, the Milton Community Resource Centre will hold its All-

In-One March Break Camp from March 10 to 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 917 Nipissing Rd.

The day camp features arts and crafts, sports, co-operative games, outdoor activities, swimming, skating and a trip to the movie theatre.

Terri Claessens, school-age co-ordinator with the resource centre, said the low student to staff ratio is what sets the March Break camp apart from others.

"Lots of parents who are new at leaving their

children in a camp environment are hesitant. If their kids are left with a high number of kids, they're possibly not getting the one-on-one attention they might like, and the group dynamics might not be as personable," Ms Claessens said.
 "If parents have never dropped their kids off before, the small numbers would be comforting."

The cost of the program is \$100 per week, \$22 per day and \$25 on trip days. Extended care is available at an additional cost. To register, call (905) 876-1244, ext. 18.

Conservation Halton

Winter blahs will be the farthest thing from your mind when you're at one of Conservation Halton's parks.

"There's tons going on," said Susan O'Neil, marketing co-ordinator for Conservation Halton.

Stop by for the Maple Syrup Days at Mountsberg, where the park is open daily from March 8 to 16. You and your children can try your hands making maple candy in the candy house, and smell the steam of boiling maple sap in the wood-fired evaporator. There are also horse-drawn sleigh rides through the sugar bush. And, of course, pancakes and syrup in the park's pavilion. There's also a birds of prey demonstration, and children can visit the PlayBarn. Allow yourself to be entertained by the antics of the timber sport team, and take in some musical performances.

Mountsberg is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the March Break. It's located just west of Campbellville. Take Campbellville Road to Milborough Line and then follow the signs. Call (905) 854-2276 for more information.

Crawford Lake will also be open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the March Break for its Sweetwater season celebrations. There will be Native-style maple demonstrations in the reconstructed Iroquoian Village, crafts, and cornbread dripping with fresh maple syrup — which can be bought at the gift shop along with other maple syrup products. Sweetwater Day will be held March 16 and will feature Native storytelling and craft making.

Crawford Lake is just south of Campbellville, at Steeles Avenue and Guelph Line. You'll see the entrance sign on Guelph Line. For more information, call (905) 854-0234.

Of course, there's always winter hiking, snow shoeing and bird watching at Conservation Halton's parks, as well as ski and snow board camps for adults and children at Glen Eden. For more information on Conservation Halton's winter activities, visit www.conservationhalton.on.ca, or call (905) 336-1158.

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COGECO 14 Programming Schedule — Tuesday, February 18th - Monday, February 24th, 2003

Tuesday, February 18th	Wednesday, February 19th	Thursday, February 20th	Sunday, February 23rd	Monday, February 24th
5,6&7:30pm Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5,6&7:30pm Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5 & 6pm Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5,6,7:30pm Plugged In! Late Week Edition	5,6,7:30pm Plugged In! Late Week Edition
5:30pm Seniors Showcase	5:30pm Kid Connection	5:30pm Osler Health Connection	5:30pm Faces Bowser/Hagevik	5:30pm The issue is...
6:30pm Optimist TV Bingo (Live)	6:30pm Swap Talk (Live)	6:30pm Main Street	6:30pm Seniors Showcase	6:30pm Faces Lunau/Smith
8pm Halton Hills Council (Feb 17)	8pm 2002 Hockey Heritage Awards	8pm Halton Region Council (Feb 12)	7pm Osler Health Connection	7pm Money Week
			8pm Main Street	8pm SportsZONE Live