

# Travel in your own back yard



By ANNE WANSTALL  
Tomorrow we'll again turn the calendar and March will come in like a lion or a lamb, bringing the most Canadian of all festivals — maple syrup time.

walks, a stroll through the sugar bush.  
All the maple syrup festivals in Ontario cannot compete with that single afternoon stroll through the sugar bush. The trees crack like pistol shots as the March winds rush by them. Your face and nose tingle with the brisk cold, then are warmed by the lighted fire under the huge

cauldron holding the boiling syrup.  
Children rush when some of the syrup is poured over the snow and immediately forms a sweet, sticky maple toffee. And adults swig the still liquid syrup from small cups, testing the quality as though it were a fine wine.

warmer days to make the sap run from the pegged trees, so if climate conditions change, check first before venturing out to the bush.  
Then there are the festivals; the parades; the country towns showing off local baking, selling small jars of fresh maple syrup, offering sleigh or wagon rides, and pancake with maple syrup.

of maple syrup production from a historic to modern perspective are given.  
Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area in Aurora is set to open March 17 and be open weekends until April 8, and Tiffin Conservation Area, 12 km west of Barrie, opens the same day and runs through until April 15. Also close to home and open to the public on March is a bush on King City sideroad. All offer tours, nature walks and plenty of maple syrup sampling.

Conservation Area north of Oshawa (southeast corner of Simcoe Street north and the 10th Concession) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The famous Elmira Maple Syrup Festival will be held on April 7, with demonstrations of pioneer methods of maple syrup making, countryside tours, arts and crafts displays, pancakes and syrup, free hay wagon and tractor rides and Pennsylvania Dutch cooking.

Bruce's Mill Conservation Area in Gormley opens March 17. Refreshments are available weekends until April 16, there are horse-drawn wagon rides every Sunday, and maple taffy on the snow each weekend.

Newmarket's festival will be held over two weekends, April 13 to 15 and April 21 to 22 at the Whitchurch-Stouffville museum, 3.2 km (two miles) southeast of Newmarket.

There are other festivals as well as those listed here. To get a complete list contact the Information Centre, Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto.

The Royal Botanical Garden in Hamilton will begin its weekend sugar bush tours on March 10 and continue through until April 1.  
Lake Whittaker Conservation Area near London also begins March 10 over an 18-acre sugar bush. They'll have pancakes and sausages for sale, as well as maple products. Demonstrations

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## Teen program attracts 150 every Friday

This item is for 13 to 16 year olds only.  
All social agencies in town recently agreed a Friday night youth program, serving these young teenagers, was necessary.  
Now each Friday evening young people meet at Don Head Secondary School with the program alternating between dancing and a sports night.  
Dan Moore, one of three leaders of the group, said so far the dances are the most popular with more than 150 kids attending, but, said Dan the facilities at Don Head are "fabulous" for sports nights.  
Basketball, volleyball, floor hockey and ping pong are the big events for sports night and Dan sees the possibility for a program to include cross country skiing and crafts in the future.  
Advertising programs in three high schools in Richmond Hill have been carried out and the young supervisor said the town wanted to keep it "totally a Richmond Hill project".  
The group meets each Friday evening from 7 to 10 p.m. and will continue through the seasons "just as long as the kids keep coming", said Dan.  
For information please call Richmond Hill Parks and Recreation Department at 884-8101.

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