

COMING UP

A look ahead in Whitchurch-Stouffville

EDITOR'S PICK

Plenty of March break action, kids



The children's musical entertainment group Smudge Fundaes will perform Monday at the Stouffville library. Tickets are available for the 11:30 a.m. performance.

This spring, give yourself a break!

Take time out of your busy schedule to have fun while learning a craft @ Morning Break.

From scrapbooking, stained glass, decorative painting and stamping to calligraphy, sewing, knitting and a sampler of crafts.

There's something for everyone...

Classes are held Wednesday mornings,
March 25 - May 20
from 9:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. at
Markham Missionary Church.

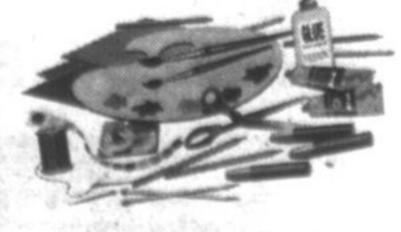
Cost is only \$20 payable at registration plus materials.

Childcare is provided (only \$5/child for the entire

9 weeks, payable at registration).

Registration and first class is on Wednesday

March 25 @ 9:00 a.m. at Markham Missionary Church



5438 Major Mackenzie Dr. E. (between Markham Rd. and McCowan Rd.)

Call 905-294-5081 for further details.

Bring a friend - make a friend!

BY SANDRA BOLAN sbolan@yrmg.com

Whether your child is an athlete, artist or nature lover, there are lots of activities taking place during next week's March break to keep the busiest of busy kids entertained.

FOR THE ACTIVE

"When you get to sleep in during March break, you need to get them out and energy expended, so they're not sitting around all day," said Micole Ongman, manager of recreation for Whitchurch-Stouffville's leisure services department.

Once again this year, the town is offering a hockey camp that includes on-ice instruction in power skating and basic hockey skills. The full day camp costs \$250, while the half-day camp is \$150.

If all that is needed is a sharpening of the skills, which include starts/stops, cross overs and backwards skating, a five-day junior power skat-

ing camp is also being offered. The cost is \$70.

If enjoying a leisurely skate around the rink is more your speed, public skating will be available Monday to Sunday between 1 and 3 p.m. Wednesday's skate is free.

The pool is also hosting free swims throughout the week, with an autism-friendly public swim on Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m.

All other programs at the pool, including parent and tot, aquafit and arthritis aquafit will run as per their regular schedule.

THE BUDDING ARTIST

If your child is more interested in art, then head over to the Whitchurch-Stouffville library and Latcham Gallery.

Workshops offered at the gallery include landscape painting on canvas, creating weather vane sculptures or kites and paper planes, as well as origami.

"What we try to do is have different types of workshops ... that would appeal to different kids," said Maura Broadhurst, curator for Latcham Gallery. "The whole series has been really popular. People really appreciate they can come in for just a couple hours."

Each workshop is \$12 and preregistration is required.

The library is offering an aboriginal art class for children aged six to 12 on Wednesday, with artists Alfie Fishgap and Todd Jamieson, who many children may recognize from the This is Daniel Cook show.

"We've never done this before and we wanted to do something different," said Anne Houle, co-ordinator of children and youth services at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Library. The cost is \$16 per child and there are two sessions, but space is limited.

The library also has a variety of free programs, however, tickets are limited and required.

The children's musical entertainment group Smudge Fundaes will perform two shows on Monday. The 10:15 a.m. show is already sold out, but limited tickets are available for the 11:30 a.m. performance.

Magician Ian will be at Latcham Hall on Tuesday.

The library will also be showing two movies. *Madagascar: Escape to Africa* will be Tuesday's movie, while *Marley and Me* will be shown on Thursday. Showtime is 1:30 p.m. both days. Space is limited and you need to bring your own snack.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum will be open 1 to 5 p.m throughout March break.

SUGARY SWEET

For the nature lover, Bruce's Mill Conservation Area will be hosting the annual Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival.

Along with wagon rides, guided tours, a petting zoo and face painting, visitors will, for the first time at Bruce's Mill, be able to see how syrup was made by the First Nations people.

"It will take you back in time to how maple syrup was produced," said David Boccia, superintendent for Bruce's Mill Conservation Area. "It's not an experience you can find anywhere else."

Bruce's Mill will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 16 to 20.

The Sugarbush festival costs \$8 for adults and \$6 for children and seniors. Children four and under are free with family members.

For people who are unable to be home with their children next week, Willowgrove has a day camp available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with before and after care available. The cost is \$230.

"They've got the space, they've got the staff, so it works out perfect for us," Ms Ongman said of the town's partnership with Willowgrove during March Break.

CONTACTS, ANYONE?

Register for the hockey camp, junior power skating clinic or Willowgrove March break camp through the Whitchurch-Stouffville Leisure Services Programs - www.townofws. com or 905-640-7529.

For Whitchurch-Stouffville Library information, go to www.whitchurch-library.on.ca or call 905-642-7323.

Latcham Gallery information and registration is at www.latchamgallery. ca and 905-640-8954.

Bruce's Mill Conservation Area www.trcaparks.ca/maplesyrup.