

Summer camps serve up triathlons to movie-making

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Arts. Sports. Musical theatre. Filmmaking. Reading and even training for your first triathlon are all part of this year's summer camp offerings for children in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

For the athletically-inclined, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is providing a variety of camps, including those in partnership with Atlas Sports Camp.

Kids will be able to participate in two different sports each day including basketball, volleyball, baseball, mountain biking and European handball.

The camps also teach children about living an all-encompassing healthy lifestyle.

"It's the whole experience. It's not just sports. It's healthy eating, a healthy active lifestyle (and) everything that goes with it," said Micole Ongman, manager of recreation for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

A new program is the Cardio Kids Youth Triathlon Camp, which gives participants the skills needed to complete a swim-bike-run race. A fun triathlon is held on the last day.

"We have a lot of active kids in town, so this is something a little different," Ms Ongman said.

Other sports-oriented camps offered by the town include hockey and inline skating.

For families requiring financial assistance, there are a variety of programs available including Canadian Tire's Jumpstart.

"We just don't want the fee to be a barrier," Ms Ongman said.

For more information on these sports camps and the Jumpstart program, contact the town at www.townofws.com/camps.asp or call 905-642-7529.

Golf, basketball, lacrosse, floor hockey, volleyball, soccer and football are being offered through Fletch and Sons Summer Sports Camps.

For more information, contact fletchy@sympatico.ca or 905-985-3489.

The municipality is also once

again offering Camp Stouffville for five to 12-year-olds, which includes games, crafts, hiking, swimming, drama and water safety.

Participants with special needs will receive one-on-one attention through a partnership with Reach for the Rainbow.

The town has also partnered with Community Living York South to offer week-long respite camps for children 14 years and up with special needs. Contact 905-884-9110 ext. 703 if your child needs extra support.

For kids 13 and up interested in developing leadership skills, the town is offering a Leadership in Training program. Mornings will be spent learning communication, organizational and conflict resolution skills. The afternoons will be spent applying their knowledge while assisting camp counsellors.

For more information, go to www.townofws.com/camps.asp

If the summer hiatus of Glee is causing you to go stir-crazy, the Stouffville Academy of Music and Dance is offering students the chance to star in their own Glee production.

During the first four days of the week-long camp participants learn and rehearse songs and choreography, which leads to the last day's grand finale of a performance for friends and family.

GOT GLEE

No previous experience in singing or dancing is required but participants "have to have the courage to be willing to be able to do it," said Tom Carter, co-owner and musical director of the Stouffville Academy of Music and Dance. "Training just enhances what they've already got."

A theatre camp for kids nine to 15 years of age is being offered by the municipality at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park.

Participants will learn how to create monologues as well as performance skills such as acting and stage presence.

The camp is directed by Cyn-



LATCHAM GALLERY PHOTO

Students have fun while getting creative at the Latcham Gallery's summer camps in Stouffville.

thia Croker, co-artistic director of Motus O.

Experimenting with a variety of materials and learning new techniques is the focus of the Latcham Gallery art camps.

Artists Shelley Painter, Patrice Stanley, Anna Bouzina and Bev Kelly will lead the budding artists in everything from watercolour to sculpture at the art bunker on Market Street.

"That's the space where we can get a bit messy, which is a lot of fun," said Rima Puteris, education program co-ordinator for the Latcham Gallery. "It's about inspiring them in their own creations."

For more information or to register, go to www.latchamgallery.ca or call 905-640-8954.

If filmmaking is more your type of art form, camps for six to nine year olds and 10 to 14 year olds take place at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park. The camps are presented by Director's Cut.

Camp subject matters are stop motion animation and comic relief (six to nine year olds), feature film/

movie trailer making (10 to 14 year olds) and claymation (10 to 14 year olds).

Scrapaliciously Yours, a home-based business in Stouffville, is offering a variety of workshops throughout July and August for kids age eight to 16.

For more information and to register, go to www.scrapaliciouslyyours.com

If you thought the library just housed dusty old books, then you would be mistaken.

READING CLUB

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library will be buzzing with activities such as chess camp, movie madness Mondays as well as crafty Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer.

For kids who do like to read, the library will once again offer its summer reading club, which had more than 430 participants aged three to 12 last year.

"When they go back to school in the fall, their reading scores are higher, they do better in every category at school," said Anne Houle, co-ordinator of children and youth

services at the library.

The more books the participant reads, the more chances he or she gets to win prizes at the end of the summer.

But don't think skimming through a book counts.

"You can tell by the answers to the questions (during the reporting sessions) if they've read the spine or the whole book," Ms Houle said.

The library is also offering special one-day only events.

Music with Brian and Friends Summer Celebration! (www.musicwithbrian.com) takes place July 8 at Latcham Hall. Tickets are free and available at the library, 30 Burkholder St.

On Aug. 30, Justin Kerswill will lead the World Beat Workshop for kids 10 to 13 years old.

Mr. Kerswill will have a number of his own instruments from around the world that children will be able to play.

The cost is \$15 per participant. Pre-registration is required and there is a limit of 30 students.

For more information, contact the library at 905-642-7323.

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