

December 2009

5 Saturday

Holiday Puppet Show. Join us for a puppet show based on How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss. Ages three to seven. Registration. 1:30 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Carp Branch, 3911 Carp Rd. Info: (613) 839-5412

An Afternoon at the Movies. *Earth.* Disney's amazing new true-life nature adventure. 2 p.m. Ottawa Family Cinema. Cost: \$3 - \$7. Notre Dame Auditorium, 710 Broadview Ave., Ottawa. Info: (613) 722-8218 or info@familycinema.org

Tree Decoration. Help us trim the tree with balls, garland and more things merry! Bring your holiday cheer! 10 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, Manotick Branch, 5499 South River Rd. Info: (613) 692-3854

Super Snowflakes. Join us for seasonal stories, songs and a craft. 11 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, Nepean Centrepointe Branch, 101 Centrepointe Dr. Info: (613) 580-2710

Talk to Santa. The jolly old fellow will take a break from his hard work and talk to young visitors via amateur radio. Canada Science and Technology Museum, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Also on Dec. 6. Info: (613) 991-3044 or www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca

9 Wednesday

Words & Pictures: A Graphic Literature Book Club. You are interested in sequential art; you have opinions about things. Join us and discuss a new book every week. Ages 14 to 17. Registration. 4 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, North Gloucester Branch, 5499 South River Rd. Info: (613) 692-3854

11 Friday

Tiny Tots Workshop. Winter is on its way. After discovering a winter wonderland of art, make a snowman ornament to decorate your home for the season. Ages three to five, must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: Children \$5,

adults \$6, NGC Members \$2 and \$3. Registration required. National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Dr., Ottawa (613) 998-8888 or www.gallery.ca

12 Saturday

An Afternoon at the Movies. *Astro Boy*. A wonderful new animated adventure for the whole family. 2 p.m. Ottawa Family Cinema. Cost: \$3 - \$7. Notre Dame Auditorium, 710 Broadview Ave., Ottawa. Info: (613) 722-8218 or info@familycinema.org

A Christmas Carol. Can you honour Christmas in your heart and keep it all the year? Travel to Dickens' 19th century world and experience a special family matinee performance of this favorite play. Hop on a horse and carriage as Vintage Stock Theatre takes the audience through various settings around the estate, ending in the family cemetery where Scrooge will confront his past, present and future. Dress for the weather. Hot cider served as refreshments! Cost: \$30. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Billings Estate National Historic Site, 2100 Cabot St., Ottawa. Info: (613) 247-4830 or www.ottawa.ca/museums

Holiday Puppet Show. Join us for a puppet show based on How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss. Ages three to seven. Registration. 1:30 p.m. Registration Required. Ottawa Public Library, Beaverbrook Branch. 2500 Campeau Dr. Info: (613) 592-2712

Lightfest Storyteller's Festival. Chanukah lighting (electric lights, not candles) with traditional stories, songs and treats from Eastern lands. Registration required. 2 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Hazeldean Branch, 50 Castlefrank. Info: (613) 836-1900

13 Sunday

Mothercraft's 18th Annual Gingerbread Event. Families who attend this event have the option to purchase gingerbread houses that they can assemble themselves, or those which have been pre-assembled. They then have 3 hours to create their delicious masterpieces which are judged by local celebrities, chefs and food critics. In addition to the house decorating competition, there will be a live auction, an opportunity to visit Santa, and seasonal crafts and activities. This event embodies the focus of Mothercraft; to bring families together and to help them grow and thrive. All proceeds from the Gingerbread Event benefit the Birth and Parent Companion Program. 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

\$30/unassembled house – each ticket seats 2 people; \$35/assembled house – each ticket seats 2 people; Additional Tickets \$12.

A Holiday Helping of Music Soup starring Jen Gould. Children, aged two to six, will delight in some of the performer's best-loved tunes such as: *Monster in my Closet*, *Yummy in my Tummy* and her Tango-inspired version of the *Three Little Pigs*, as well as a host of other *Music Soup* songs and holiday favourites. Two shows, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Arts Court Theatre stage, 2 Daly Avenue, After the show, children are welcome to test out their own musical skills on a variety of instruments in the Winter Wonderland located in the *Arts Court Studio*. Teachers from Music for Young Children's Eastern Ontario nest will be on hand to interact with participants. A variety of festive games, cupcakes and cocoa and a child-friendly Arts Market will also be on site for families to enjoy. Tickets to the event cost \$15 and a donation of a can of soup for the Ottawa Food Bank. Each ticket purchased comes with a food voucher for Novotel Trio Restaurant located directly across the street from Arts Court. Info: www.artscourt.ca or to purchase tickets call the Arts Court Box Office at 613-564-7240.

15 Tuesday

Angel Square. The Ottawa International Children's Festival's second-annual staged reading of Brian Doyle's *Angel Square*, adapted and directed by Ottawa writer-director Janet Irwin. This special performance fundraiser for the Children's Festival will take place at Dominion-Chalmers United Church (355 Cooper Street at O'Connor). Come and enjoy a pre-show reception with refreshments and kid-friendly treats. As well, after the show, author Brian Doyle will be signing copies of *Angel Square*. Tickets can be purchased through the Festival Office by calling 613-241-0999, by visiting the office at 294 Albert Street, Suite 602 (Mon-Fri, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm), or online at www.ottawachildrensfestival.ca. Tickets are \$25.00 for adults and \$12.00 for children 14 and under.

17 Thursday

Game On. Roll the dice, pick a suit or grab a nunchuk! Come play cards, board games or Wii with us! Ages seven to 12. 3 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Nepean Centrepointe Branch, 101 Centrepointe Dr. Info: (613) 580-2710

Toddler time (Session 2). Stories, rhymes and songs for babies and a parent or caregiver. 18-35 months. 10:15 a.m. Registration required. Ottawa Public Library, Sunnyside Branch, 1049 Bank St. Info: (613) 730-1082

18 Friday

Holiday Open House. Stop by for refreshments, some holiday cheer and to stock up on your holiday reading. 1 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Emerald Plaza Branch, 1547 Merivale Rd. Info: (613) 224-7874

19 Saturday

Ho-Ho-Ho. Celebrate the holiday season with Santa Claus stories, songs and crafts. Registration. 11 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, St. Laurent Branch, 1910 St-Laurent Blvd., Info: (613) 738-0619

Kanata Junior Chess Club. Players must know the basic rules of the game. Different ages and abilities play one another. There will be chess ladders and tournaments. Please register for this program in person. Ages seven to 15. 2 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Hazeldean Branch, 50 Castlefrank, Info: (613) 836-1900

Christmas Tea. Need a break from your Christmas shopping or a quiet moment before getting started? Join us for a Victorian-style Christmas tea today and Dec. 20 from noon to 4 p.m. Carollers will entertain as you enjoy Christmas desserts and tea inside the 1820s wood-framed house, and Christmas crafts will keep the kids busy while you relax and enjoy the beauty of the season. First-come, first-served. Regular admission applies, plus cost of tea. Billings Estate National Historic Site, 2100 Cabot St, Ottawa. Info: (613) 247-4830 or www.ottawa.ca/museums

An Afternoon at the Movies. *Planet 51.* 2 p.m. Ottawa Family Cinema. Cost: \$3 - \$7. Notre Dame Auditorium, 710 Broadview Ave., Ottawa. Info: (613) 722-8218 or info@familycinema.org

Festivals of Lights. Listen to stories that celebrate the Festivals of Lights that take place around the world and make some crafts. Family program. Registration. 10:15 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, Beaverbrook Branch, 2500 Campeau Dr. Info: (613) 592-2712

Festive Fun. Enjoy holiday stories and music. Make a Christmas craft. Ages 3-9. Registration. 10:30 a.m. Registration Required. Ottawa Public Library, Carlingwood Branch, 281 Woodroffe. Info: (613) 725-2449

20 Sunday

My Colourful Snowman. See all the colours of snow. Inspired by the winter landscapes of the National Gallery's Canadian art collection, make a friendly snowman to warm up your home. Ages three and up accompanied by an adult. No registration required. Included with Gallery admission. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Dr. Info: (613) 998-8888 or www.gallery.ca

21 Monday

Winter Solstice. Celebrate the shortest day of the year with indoor and outdoor activities for the whole family. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Canada Science and Technology Museum. 1867 St. Laurent Blvd. Info: (613) 991-3044 or www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca

ONGOING

DECEMBER 19 TO JANUARY 3

Holiday time at the Canadian Museum of Nature. Keep the kids entertained by bringing them to the museum. HD movies include "The Deep", a 50-minute production from the Blue Planet series. Don't miss this spectacular documentary that voyages into the unknown to capture the strangest life forms on our planet. Also playing is "Sea Exhibition", a montage of colourful and exotic fish and other sea creatures, set to the playful score of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite. Canadian Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod St. Info: www.nature.ca

DECEMBER 19 TO JANUARY 3

Bits n' Bots. Get charged up about robots and intelligent machines! Explore the science of robotics and discover how intelligent technologies touch our everyday lives. Become a robo-scientist as you take part in hands-on activities that examine how machines work and what they can do. Test your robot operating skills and marvel at amazing robotics and artificial intelligence demonstrations. Museum of Science and Technology, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd. Info: (613) 991-3044 or www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca

UNTIL JANUARY 3

Canada's Waterscapes – Yours to Enjoy, Explore and Protect. Explore some of Canada's beautiful waterscapes. Discover the amazing diversity of life that depends on our aquatic ecosystems. Follow an imaginary Whooping Crane's

‘diary,’ listen to frog calls, and even create your own ocean sounds! From the Great Lakes to our seashores, we are a nation connected by water. Visit Canada’s Waterscapes and find out how you can help protect our most precious resource. Canadian Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod St. Info: www.nature.ca

UNTIL JANUARY 2010

Wheels, Wings and Waves – A LEGO® History of Transportation. The exhibition showcases a history of air, land and water transportation, featuring LEGO replica models, ranging from the Titanic to the Ford Model T to steam trains and spacecraft, all created by Master Builders. A LEGO discovery area invites visitors young and old to imagine and build new forms of transportation, and then test them on an interactive race ramp. Canada Science and Technology Museum, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd. Info: (613) 991-3044 or www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca

Just For You and Your Preschooler. On Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., we offer adventures for preschool visitors and their accompanying adults, designed to help young children explore our exhibits. For ages five and under. Canadian Children’s Museum, 100 Laurier St., Gatineau. Info: (819) 776-7001

Artissimo. On Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., budding artists three and up who are accompanied by an adult will look at art and make art. Experience the works that fill the Gallery, let your creativity run riot at the Artissimo kiosk in the Great Hall, and then display your creation at the Artissimo Gallery. National Gallery of Canada, Sussex Drive, Ottawa. Info: (613) 998-8888

Family Fundays. On the third Sunday of each month experience artist-led workshops, plays, musical performances, creative projects, interactive gallery visits, games and much more. Have fun, make memories and discover your hidden talents. For children ages 3 and up accompanied by an adult. Drop-in activities run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. No registration required. Cost: included with Gallery admission. National Gallery of Canada, Sussex Drive, Ottawa. Info: (613) 998-8888

Kids in the Kitchen Join us in the Studio for cooking experiences that are as much fun to make as they are to eat. Workshops are offered at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sign up at the Embassy one hour before each workshop. Maximum 25 participants per workshop. Canadian Children’s Museum at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier, Gatineau: Info: (819) 776-7001

Rideau Hall. Visit the historic home and workplace of Canada's Governor General—where dignitaries are welcomed and Canadians are honoured. Tours of the residence and grounds, Canadian art exhibitions, family activities and The Ceremonial Guard. 1 Sussex Dr., Ottawa. Cost: Free. Info: www.gg.ca or 1-866-842-4422

Gatineau Park. Measuring 363 square kilometres, the park is located in the northwest area of Canada's Capital Region. Hundreds of kilometres of pathways and trails are open yearround for hiking. Info: (819) 827-2020 or www.canadacapital.gc.ca/gatineau

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

Sweaty Moms. Our yummy mummy fitness menu includes: low impact, step, kickboxing, boot camp, skipping, free weights, body bars, exercise balls, Bosu balls, Spri bands, flexibility training, gentle meditation and breath work. Sweaty Moms II, on Mondays and Wednesdays, is a natural progression from Sweaty Moms and designed for moms with toddlers. This class combines high/low aerobics, will help increase core body strength and improve muscle tone. A toddler corner will be provided and mums take turns supervising. 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. McNabb Recreation Centre, 180 Percy St. Info: (613) 564-1070

WEDNESDAYS

Currency Museum. Experience the most comprehensive collection of Canadian notes, coins, and tokens in the world as well as currency from other countries. Fascinating displays of mediums of exchange include shells, glass beads, teeth, cacao beans, paper, and metal. They are among the more than 8,000 objects from the National Currency Collection on display at the Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada. 245 Sparks St., Ottawa. Cost: Free. Info: (613) 782-8852 or www.currencymuseum.ca

Parenting Your Young Child. Thursdays, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. A social networking group for first-time parents and their infants up to age two. Topics include feeding, sleep issues, tantrums, teething, toys, parenting stress, and child development. The Children's Welcome Centre, 2514 Innes Rd., Blackburn Hamlet. Info: (613) 834-7075 or www.childrenswelcomecentre.com

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