

Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Parks and Leisure Children's Services – invites your family to play, grow and stay active!

Parks and Leisure Children's Services staff know how important play is. They know that children learn best when they are using their mind, body and spirit and that play helps children make sense of the world around them. Children are healthier when they are physically active. Exploration of their environment helps them to develop. Children's Services provides opportunities and offers choices that encourage learning, creativity and growth through play. A mix of inside and outside programs include activities such as decorating cookies, listening to stories and singing songs, learning about dirt and worms, playing games, and creating magic muck. Children also have the opportunity for an introduction to sports but the focus is not about competition. The focus is always on ensuring the children are having fun.



Autumn at Parks and Leisure Children's Services

The Parks and Leisure staff members are well-trained, enthusiastic people with strong leadership skills. When planning programs, the staff follow current trends and also look at what other communities are doing. Each season of the year has a different theme but the main focus is always the same – PLAY!

In honour of the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre's 30th anniversary, the Parks and Leisure Services theme for Fall 2011 is **Celebrating 30 Years of Active Living**. The whole community is invited to a celebration on October 15th at the Leisure Centre. Enjoy free swimming, program demonstrations, mini workshops, cake, refreshments and door prizes.

Looking for something to do with your young children this Fall?

Free:

- Family Swim time at the Leisure Centre pool between 2 and 3:30 p.m. the last Saturday of each month (Sponsored by Westminster Saving Credit Union)
- Family Play Time at South Bonson Community Centre is a fun, interactive, family-oriented drop-in playtime. Activities will be based on the number & ages of those in attendance. Sundays 1:30-3:30 PM September 25, October 23, November 27

Low-cost:

- Active play during Parent and Children Playtime for ages 0-5. The program which costs \$1 per child is offered at the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre Gym, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre Gym on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Family Halloween Carnival at the Pitt Meadows Heritage Hall, October 29, 1 – 3 p.m. Wear your halloween costume and join in the carnival games and fun for all ages.
- Pumpkin painting at the ACT, October 24, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., 3 – 4 p.m. or 6 – 7 p.m. for children 1 year and older. A great event for the whole family.
- Loonie swim at the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre pool every Sunday from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Drop-in for parents and children ages 2 to 7 at the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre Playroom.

Some of the new programs and some old favourites for preschoolers:

- **Swimming lessons** at the Leisure Centre
- **Pre-school recreation for 3 to 5 year olds:** One-day wonders include Magic School Bus, Mini Green Thumbs, Kids Concoctions, Thomas the Train, and Dora and Diego
- **Sportball** is a non-competitive sports program for children 16 months to 10 years old. Children are introduced to 8 popular sports: soccer, hockey, basketball, baseball, volleyball, tennis, football and golf.

Registration for programs begins August 23. There are three ways to register:

1. online at www.recreg4u.ca
2. phone in the register at 604-465-2470
3. walk in to the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre or the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre

Access for All – Everyone should have a chance to play!

Parks and Leisure Services wants to make sure that everyone has a chance to participate. Funding is available to help families who might need help in covering the cost of programs.

The Participation Program offers reduced admissions and program fees to residents in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows who meet eligibility. For more information and to book an appointment for the Participation Program services, call Maple Ridge Leisure Centre at 604-461-7322, extension 0 or Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre at 604-465-2452, extension 0

Two other programs to help families are Canadian Tire Jumpstart and KidSport.

Canadian Tire Jumpstart is a program that supports children (ages 4 to 18) in financial need to participate in organized sports and recreation. To find out more, call Shayna Funk-Larmor (604-467-7303) or Petra Frederick (604-467-7355)

KidSport is a community-based sport funding program that provides grants to help cover the cost of registration fees for children under the age of 18 to participate in a sport season of their choice. Applications are online at www.kidsportscanada.ca and completed forms can be dropped off at the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre or the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre.

Look for the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Arts and Recreation Fall Guide for information about more fun programs. The guide is available at the Leisure Centre, the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre, the Greg Moore Youth Centre and the libraries. It can also be found online at http://www.mapleridge.ca/assets/Default/Parks-and-Leisure-Services/pdfs/Fall_guide.pdf or at www.recreg4u.ca

