

Low Cost Ideas for Summer Family Outings

The staff at MOSAIC has provided a list of programs and ideas that are either free or charge a minimal fee. Fun for the whole family.

A number of locations throughout the city provide a variety of locations for picnics and activities depending on the season, interests and ages of children.



- **Waterloo Park** offers children's activity areas, band concerts, skating and programs like Sounds of Summer.
- **Victoria Park** offers children's activity areas, band concerts, skating, boating and summer programs like the Multicultural Festival.
- **Riverside Park** in Cambridge has children's activity areas, swimming, tennis, a zoo, nature trails, ball games, concerts and fishing.
- **Guelph Lake** offers fishing. **Laurel Creek** has biking, hiking trails and a lake.
- City Trails provide interesting hiking and biking paths and an alternative to city sidewalks.
- The **Grand River** throughout Bridgeport, Breslau, Cambridge, Paris and Brantford provides many opportunities for hiking, fishing and canoeing. The **Grand River Trails Association** has weekly weekend walks - both long and short - and you can socialize at the same time.
- Further afield, **Story Book Gardens in London/Springbank Park** has a low cost entrance fee with free picnic areas on the perimeter.
- The **Boys Scouts and Girl Guides** provide occasions for children to explore nature and to develop skills that will last a lifetime. Opportunities for adult volunteers and leaders provide an avenue for parent involvement.
- The **Kitchener and Waterloo Public Libraries** and their subsidiary branches organize lectures as well as preschool programs throughout the year for parent and child. Book borrowing, cassette and video tapes, cd rentals are all available by simply obtaining a library card at no charge.
- The **YWCA and YMCA** offer subsidized membership fees and a variety of programs for all ages.
- The **Waterloo Recreation Centre and Parks and Recreation** pools offer pay as you go public swimming.
- **Our Place** has a program for preschoolers and moms.
- Churches provide support groups, youth activities and often family camping.
- Historical sites within the City such as **Schneider Haus** and **William Lyon Mackenzie King's Home** at Woodside Park provide year-round programs that change constantly.
- Museums are an inexpensive visit for families. Try the **Clay and Glass Museum** at the corner of Erb and Caroline and then wander back along the connecting path to Waterloo Park or visit the **Children's Museum** in Downtown Kitchener.
- You can always have an indoor or outdoor picnic at your own home. And don't forget to treat yourself like company. Even when preparing ordinary meals, serve them as if you had company. Use your nicer plates and cups. And candles, candles, candles - can be an inexpensive way to make your mood and room feel more special.

Talk to your kids about some inexpensive things they might want to do this summer.