



of fun, and the kids have a great laugh when they hear the parents yell out "CAR!" and the game has to stop for a minute. (check your local municipal bylaws first before playing on the street)

Get your teenager to volunteer his/her time. What a great way to teach about responsibility and giving back to the community. Food banks, Seniors Residences, MAAD, Libraries, youth volunteer Crew (through the EEC), the possibilities are endless.

For teenagers, babysitting jobs are a great way to earn money on this March Break. A lot of parents are working and have younger children that cannot be home alone. Start advertising your services and make a bit of cash. Also, be learning about responsibility along the way.

Arts and Crafts are a great way to have kids pass the time. Maybe get your child involved in developing a simple family tree project, and get their interest in their family roots.

For older teenagers finishing High School, this is a great opportunity to work on a resume for summer employment, and to start to think about how to pay for their college or university education. Its never too early to think about this and maybe visit some prospective employers to see what they are looking for in summer employment. Now that minimum wage has risen, the employment market for students may be tighter this year for small businesses and the hiring process.

March break can be challenging for some families that don't take a vacation, whose parents have to work. With a little planning and forethought, a lot of stress for the parents and kids can be lifted. An enjoyable week off with activities covered can be achieved. **LH**

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF MARCH BREAK

By Jonathan Vickers

So, it's March Break and the kids are off school. It seems like even with all the snow days and PA days they haven't really been at school at all this winter. For every parent the question becomes, what activities can I involve my kids or teenagers in that might not cost a lot of money? With one or both parents working, it becomes a challenge for a lot of families and sometimes with work schedules that take time off at March break, it's impossible at this time of year. Here are some helpful suggestions on how to keep your kids and teenagers busy, instead of playing video games or non-stop texting during their time off.

Have your kids invite some of their school friends over for a pot luck kids picnic indoors. The kids can work together to develop a theme for the day and the food and activities revolve around the picnic.

Check out local churches for day camps for kids/pre-teens and libraries for teenage activities. It is possible that some libraries may have computer clubs or Lego days and other activities on a daily basis. There will be costs involved for the day camps, but they will be less expensive than hiring a daily sitter.

Skating days at a public arena. Contact your municipal arena and see if there are public

skating days. A great way for the family or your kids to get exercise and fun. For teenagers, a great and inexpensive way to go on a date.

Go tobogganing or sledding. Who doesn't remember, in their youth, going down a hill at high speed and having a winter blast!!

Check out your local Museums and see what they have to offer.

How about a good ole' fashioned game of street hockey? Parents against the kids, is a lot

