

Choose your own ?Adventure? in Family Day fun



Get ready for some wintery fun this weekend through Monday at Town Park as the Town of Aurora hosts its traditional Arctic Adventure to mark Family Day.

This year's Family Day extravaganza will include a mix of in-person and virtual activities over a four-day period, including more time to get out and enjoy traditional winter activities like skating, tubing and mini-curling.

'It's an Adventure, and there are a lot of things planned,' says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. 'This year's Arctic Adventure is looking more and more normal with the 'new normal.' Prior to COVID, it was always a one-day event usually right on the Family Day Monday. This year, we have expanded it to a four-day event both involving virtual and activities as well as in-person.'

In-person activities get underway this Friday at the Aurora Armoury, home to the Niagara College's Canadian Food & Wine Institute with a night of painting and writing co-hosted by the Town and the Aurora Black Community Association.

'It's going to be an evening celebrating Black excellence virtually and orally, and all those participating will be painting in a collaborative fashion in a very different technique of passing the canvas forward, symbolic of communities requiring a lot of hands and it being a cumulation of effort,' says Ms. Ware, noting pre-registration is required for this event.

The fun continues on Saturday from 6 ? 8 p.m. with an evening of entertainment at Town Park.

Participating performers include a Speaking of Wildlife animal show and the North Fire Circus with Dr. Draw.

'It's a fire performance show with Dr. Draw and his extremely talented approach to creating original music using an electric violin,' says Ms. Ware. 'We had a sampling of their work with the Christmas Market and it just rendered the park speechless. It is definitely a unique performance and a unique experience, and one we highly recommend coming down to the park and seeing.'

'On Monday, we're back in the park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and we're proud to have Traditional Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley to start our Family Day festivities with some songs and stories featuring what life was like for the real first families that were here well over 20,000 years ago.'

Following that experience, Speaking of Wildlife will return along with a team of buskers offering everything from fire juggling and hula hooping to aerial displays. Activities in the park will range from igloo building, to snow tubing and mini-curling, to Nerf

axe-throwing to barrel races.

“We’re trying to make it a very active day in celebration of the finale of the Olympics,” says Ms. Ware. “We have additional virtual activities like online paint nights, family trivia nights, and we do all this programming for you and your family gets to just spend time together, comfortable, in the cosiness of their homes.

“With Arctic Adventure being its signature name, we really try to plan the day with a variety of adventure. You can choose your own adventure in how you choose to spend time with your family during the Family Day Long Weekend. We spread it out in the hopes that more families in Aurora will gravitate towards a certain activity and, if not perhaps be interested in all the adventures available.”

For a full listing of all virtual and in-person elements to Arctic Adventure, including how to register for some of the activities, visit aurora.ca/arcticadventure.

By Brock Weir
Editor Local Journalism Initiative Reporter