

Fire and Ice marks Aurora's Family Day bash



By Brock Weir

Aurora families had no shortage of things to do to keep busy this Family Day.

Hundreds of local families flocked to Town Park on Monday morning to be among the first to take in Aurora's annual Arctic Adventure.

Among the ice, packed, yet suspiciously fluffy snow, kids and the young-at-heart spent the day trying their hands at 'ice fishing', mini-curling and tubing, and other sports, all with an Olympic theme. It was the perfect antidote for otherwise active people who suddenly become couch potatoes as soon as the Olympic flame arrives in the host destination.

Warmed by hot chocolate, chili, and other goodies served up by the Optimist Club of Aurora, as well as by vendors including the all-important Beaver Tails, partygoers were able to take in live entertainment ranging from bands, to a traditional First Nations presentation, to an igloo building competition, and the Battle of the Chainsaws, a duel for ice sculpting supremacy, which is always a fan favourite.

If that wasn't enough, a short walk over to the Cultural Centre had plenty of things to get you warmed up before a finale back at Town Park.

Taking over the second floor Brevik Hall was a salute to Brazil, a kick-off to the arrival of the Pan American Games in Toronto next year. Led by Dean Gyler, otherwise known as Instructor Soquete, his team of dancers and martial artists led a packed auditorium in drumming, dancing, and coepira, a meld of fighting, dance, and martial arts.

The presentation was the first in a series of events the Aurora Cultural Centre will roll out over the next 12 months as an 'IGNITE?' partner with Pan Am 2015 to celebrate culture across the length and breadth of the Americas.

For more on how Aurora marked Family Day, please see Page 16 of this week's Auroran.