

March To Do Around Town

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Despite our desire to hibernate during these long wintery months, there are plenty of great events and activities going on to keep everyone happy and busy. Whether you like indoor or outdoor activities, there's something for everyone. If you're staying put this March Break have a look at the Events side panel located on this page and OutsideTheCrib.com's Family Fun Calendar for more fun ideas that will take you through the week and month. In addition, Empire Theatres is offering toonie matinees (check individual theatre for movie selections) for the week of March Break. If you're looking to stay in, you can always have a summer beach party inside or have a snowball fight with cotton balls! Try writing some ideas on paper and placing them in a hat to be drawn out by your children or allow each child to determine the meals and activities for a specific day.

What's New?

Fairlanes Bowling (Mountain Rd) now offers a Preschool & Tot playtime on the first Friday of every month. The cost is \$3 (adults and newborns free) and play is from 9AM to noon.

The Connections Cafe and Play at St Patrick's Family Centre is a free playgroup beginning March 13th for kids newborn to pre-school. It will be open every Friday morning from 10am - noon.

Speaking of playgroups, **Creative Mommy Group** offers Moms some time alone to get creative with scrapbooking and card making. Classes are \$30 which include all supplies. Contact creativemoms@live.ca for details.

Peekaboos Playhouse has re-opened. It's now located at 37 Highfield St. and is open Mon-Fri 9-3; Sat-Sun 9-7.

Kidz Kloz has also moved and is now at 43 Mapleton. Check out OutsideTheCrib.com's coupon page for a **15% coupon**.

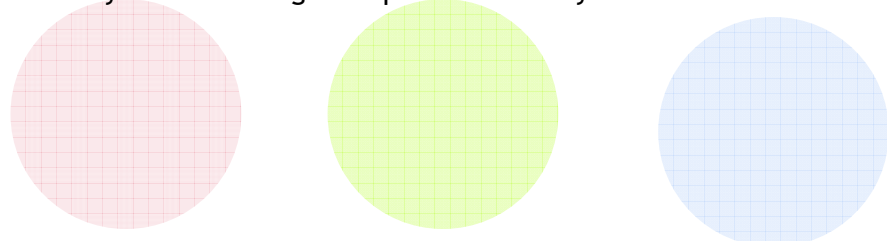
In terms of outdoor fun, new toboggan hills in Riverview and Magnetic Hill are now open. Visit OutsideTheCrib.com for details.

Riverview's **Maple Sugar Festival** set for April 4th is sure to be one of many other tasty events during this special time of year.

March Events

Visit the OTC's [Family Fun Calendar](#) for details.

2nd - Dr. Seuss' Birthday
4th - New Shanghai Circus
5th - Reel Babies
6th - Preschool & Tot Bowling
7th - Doodlebops Live!
8, 15, 22, 29th - Zoo winter openings
10th - Wildcats Rivalry Cup
13th - St. Pat's playgroup begins
14th - Home Depot Workshop
16th - Wildcats Fan Choice Award Gala
17th - St. Patrick's Day
21st - Free Movie
27th - Family Fun Night





Riding The Rollercoaster With Coffee In Hand

by TraceyLipton McCluskey



My life changed forever in February 2007. I was laying on an ultrasound table having a routine scan of my second child. Then it happened. The technician turned to my husband and I with a smile on her face and calmly declared "There are two babies in there. Congratulations, you are having twins". Nothing could prepare me for that moment. The room spun. The oxygen shut off on the planet. I was suddenly very panicky. I was no longer the driver of my proverbial life bus. I would never have two children...I would have three.

Being a SAHM to twins and their older sister is everything I imagined it to be...and more! More dishes, more laundry, more toys scattered, more screaming, more chaos. There are also more kisses and hugs, more laughter and more reasons for me to be thankful every day.

Our joys have also come with a bassinet full of struggles as well. I've had to suspend my belief that I am superwoman and admit that I need help. This does not come easily to me. It would also seem that our children are allergic to sleep and we can count the number of restful nights on one hand. Yes, one hand.

Our family and friends have been an amazing lifeline, as well as a local multiples support group where I have made lasting friendships. These are people who understand that some days it is golden if I get to shower, brush my teeth AND eat lunch!

Life with multiples and another child also leaves little time or energy for your spouse. At the 18 month mark we are now just coming up for a bit of air and entertaining the idea of a date. Lest we forget the person who helps us wipe the runny noses and clean up from three toddlers in the tub on bath night!

The journey to becoming a family of five has me marvelling every day. So do strangers when they see us all bopping along. The small, red-headed twin boys, the curly haired, dimply daughter and the sleepy parents attempting to keep them all in line. It's up and down and nutty in between.

I was given everything I didn't know I wanted and I couldn't be happier. Now, excuse me while I rescue my coffee from the microwave for the fourth time today!

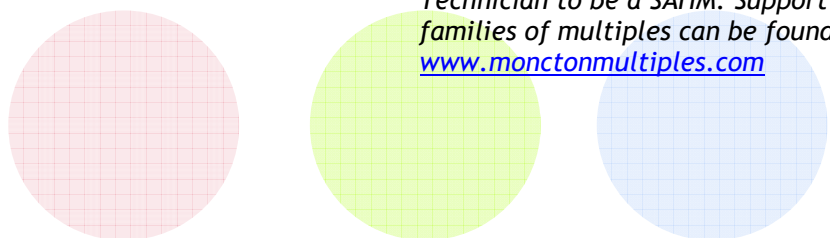
Tracy resigned as a hospital Pharmacy Technician to be a SAHM. Support for families of multiples can be found at www.monctonmultiples.com

Parenting Quote:

"In raising my children,
I have lost my mind
but found my soul."

-Lisa T. Shepherd

Don't forget to share!
Forward this
newsletter to a friend.





Time for Mother Earth



Earth Hour is a call to action. This year at 8:30pm on March 28, people across the world will turn off their lights showing that everyone can make a difference.

Earth Day is April 22. Children are never too young to learn about the earth and the pressing need to reduce, reuse, and recycle! Inspire and nurture their altruistic drive. A great tool is www.ecokids.ca. Plan an activity like cleaning up your favourite park, let them select a few of their toys or clothes to donate to a local charity. You can also join in the tri-community's celebration which will include a green expo, youth eco-art exhibit, buffet, live music, guest speakers and more on April 19th from 10am-5pm at the Moncton Market.



March is Nutrition Month

Local area schools are participating in **The Crunch and Munch Challenge** to coincide with Nutrition Month (Dietitians of Canada). This year Nutrition Month slogan is "Stay Active, Eat Like a Champion". This year the focus will be on nutrition and healthy eating for an active lifestyle. For more information on Nutrition Month please visit www.dietitians.ca.

Got Something to Say?

The OTC newsletter is looking for different takes on various parenting issues. Don't be shy, put those witty comments, keen observations, or frustrating pet peeves on paper. The pay isn't great but you'll get to tell people you've been published!
Simply email outsidethecrib@rogers.com

I Had No Idea...

With this month's newsletter, comes a new column entitled "I Had No Idea". It will include things that I have only now discovered after being a mother for four years. I hope you find it enlightening!

It's taken three children and four years, but I have recently learned that there is a second verse to **Twinkle Twinkle**. Who knew? Not me. In case you did not know, here it is:

*Softly shining silver moon
When you're in the sky at night
The world around me shines so bright!
Softly shining silver moon
If you go please come back soon!*