

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Get a taste of maple syrup at the annual Spring Tonic Festival

UTOPIA, Ontario, Mar. 30, 2010 – Sap has been running from the maple trees at the Tiffin Centre since mid-March and now it's been boiled and is ready to serve at the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival.

Enjoy one of nature's sweetest treats on top of a pancake and sausage breakfast at the annual festival hosted by the Rotary Club of Barrie and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. This year's festival takes place on Saturday, April 10th and Sunday, April 11th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

Member Municipalities

Adjala-Tosorontio

Amaranth

Barrie

The Blue Mountains

Bradford-West Gwillimbury

Clearview

Collingwood

Essa

Grey Highlands

Innisfil

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Mono

Mulmur

New Tecumseth

Oro-Medonte

Shelburne

Springwater

Wasaga Beach

Watershed Counties

Dufferin

Grey

Simcoe

Tours of the sugar bush run every half hour and take visitors on a journey through time, showing them how maple syrup was made by the Native peoples, then by the pioneers, and finally the modern method of syrup production.

"Maple syrup is a great topic to teach kids about our local environment and the importance of preserving and enhancing our natural spaces," says Greg Bray, Lands and Operations Supervisor for the NVCA.

In addition to the pancake breakfast and sugar bush tours, there will be horse-drawn wagon rides and guided hikes through the Tiffin Centre's trail system, children's arts and crafts, face painting, bird box building, safety demonstrations by fire and police departments and other activities.

Zoo to you will be a new activity this year. Families will get to see a variety of animals up close such as turtles, prairie dogs, snakes and frogs.

"This festival is a great way to spend the day with the family and get a first taste of spring," says David McCullough of the Rotary Club of Barrie.

Money raised at the festival is put towards community projects that the Rotary Club of Barrie is involved with such as environmental restoration projects in partnership with the NVCA, Christmas Cheer, enhancements to Royal Victoria Hospital and C.O.P.E. Service Dogs.

Spring Tonic admission prices are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child (12 and under). These prices include a full breakfast and access to all activities except for bird box building which has a \$5 fee to cover the cost of materials.



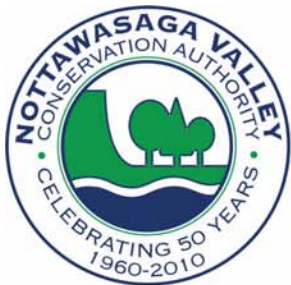
Interpreter Richard Dixon explains to a group how the Native peoples used to make maple syrup.

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The Tiffin Centre is located on the 8th Line of Essa Township, 4km south of Highway 90, just ten minutes west of Barrie.

For more information contact the NVCA at 705-424-1479 ext. 9 or visit www.nvca.on.ca.

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Media contacts for Spring Tonic:

David McCullough
Rotary Club of Barrie
726-7120

Kim Garraway
NVCA Communications Assistant
705-424-1479, ext. 244

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About the NVCA

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is your public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment. As your partner, the NVCA provides the expertise to help protect our water, our land and our future.

About Rotary International

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

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www.nvca.on.ca Celebrating 50 Years in Conservation 1960-2010

NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY • Centre for Conservation
John Hix Conservation Administration Centre • Tiffin Conservation Area • 8195 8th Line • Utopia, On L0M 1T0
Telephone: 705.424.1479 • Fax: 705.424.2115 • Web: www.nvca.on.ca • Email: admin@nvca.on.ca