

Ottawa Family Events Cheat Sheet

By Lynn of Turtlehead - turtlehead.me - March 2016

Great Places for Shows:

[CentrepoinTE Theatre](#) – special events, plus KickIt! Dance Clubs for kids
[Shenkman Arts Theatre](#) – special events, plus regular Rag and Bone puppet shows
[NAC](#) – Family Series and Kinderconcerts
[Canadian Tire Centre](#) – concerts and Disney shows
[TD place](#) – tween and teen concerts
[Gladstone Theatre](#) – Christmas shows

Great Places for Sports Events:

[Canadian Tire Centre](#) – Sens and guest sporting events
[TD Place](#) – Ottawa 67s, Ottawa REDBLACKS, Ottawa Fury

Great Places for Special Exhibits:

[Museum of Nature](#)
[Museum of History](#)
[War Museum](#)
[Museum of Agriculture and Food](#)
[Museum of Aviation and Space](#)
[Museum of Science and Technology](#) (closed until 2017)
[Currency Museum](#) (closed until 2017)
[City Museums](#) – Cumberland Village, Billings Estate, Pinhey's Point, Nepean Museum, Goulbourn Museum, Fairfields, Watson's Mill
[Diefenbunker](#)
[EY Centre](#) – for craft shows, parenting trade shows and warehouse sales

Special Events by Month

January

[Sledding hills open, outdoor rinks open, canal opens](#)
[Alcohol-Free New Year's Party at CentrepoinTE](#)
[Family New Year's Party at Landsdowne Park](#)
[Princess Tea Party for CHEO](#)
[Annual Closures \(one week\) for most major museums](#)
[Winter festival at Rideau Hall](#)
[Company of Fools season announcement party at NAC](#)
[G-Anime Conference](#)
[Manotick Shiverfest](#)
[Start of Winterlude](#)

February

Disney on Ice at Canadian Tire Centre

Ongoing Winterlude events

Used Book Sale at Kanata United Church

Ottawa Children's Gala (sells out quickly!)

Family Day celebrations at the Rink of Dreams, Ottawa Museums

Chemistry Magic Show at Carleton University

Sugar bushes open: Fulton's, Temple's, Sand Road, Wheeler's, Stanley's, Proulx, Vanier
Museoparc

March

Spring/Summer program registration for City of Ottawa

Open house weekend at the RCMP Musical Ride Centre

March Break: most city museums and the big museums, as well as the National Gallery, have daily events on; annual LEGO contest at the Museum of Aviation (requires preregistration)

St. Patrick's Day parade and other family events by the Ottawa Irish Society

Easter Egg hunts at most city museums and the Diefenbunker

The Baby Show

Special Easter events and baby animals at the Museum of Agriculture

Valleyview Little Animal Farm opens Easter weekend

Carp Farmers' Market has an Easter market

April

Kidsfest, EY Centre

Ottawa Parent and Child Expo, Nepean Sportsplex

Earth Day at the Museum of Nature – free admission

Ottawa Fury season starts

HotTots Spring/Summer consignment sales – one east end, one west end

OutGROW OutPLAY consignment sale in Kanata/Nepean/Orleans

Scouts Kanata Bike Swap

Capital Gaming Expo and Geek Market

Originals Spring Craft Sale

Ottawa Youth Orchestra end of season performance

May

CN Cycle for CHEO

Free Comic Book Day

Rideau Hall tours open

Carleton University Night Magic Chemistry Show

Jane's Walks

Ottawa Farmers' Market opens, other farmers' markets open (Kanata, Parkdale)

Mother's Day Tea at Billings Estate

Sheep Shearing Festival at Museum of Agriculture

May, continued

Tulip Festival

Ottawa Comicon

MEC Bikefest

MEC Paddlefest

NOKIA Sunday Bikedays on the Parkway – begin Victoria Day weekend

Suzart.ca presents their annual spring musical

Great Glebe Garage Sale

Ottawa Savoy Society presents a Gilbert and Sullivan Musical

Most splash pads open – last weekend in May

June

Mothercraft Touch-a-Truck event at Lincoln Fields

Inspection of the Guard at Rideau Hall; Changing of the Guard begins at Parliament Hill

Sound and Light show begins on Parliament Hill

Dickinson Days in Manotick

WestFest in Westboro

Italian Week and the Ferrari Festival

Saunders Farm opens for summer season

Doors Open Ottawa

Capital Velo Fest – Capital Velo Rally

New Art Festival (formerly Art in the Park)

OYP Theatre School presents their big end of year play/musical

CHEO BBQ

Ottawa Giveaway Weekend

Father's Day car show at Billings Estate

Father's Day event at Diefenbunker

Fire fighter's day at Cumberland Village

Fringe Festival – has a child care/workshop program

Franco-Ontarien Festival

Ottawa REDBLACKS season begins

Wild Bird Care Centre – open house

Dragon Boat Festival

CHEO Teddy Bear's Picnic

Community Cup

RCMP Sunset Rides

Medieval Festival at Upper Canada Village

Wee Ones Big Strides kiddie race

Mayfair Theatre – All You Can Eat Breakfast Cereal Cartoon Show (last Saturday in June)

Beaches, wading pools, and outdoor pools open – around the second week in June

Strawberry picking season opens, third or fourth week of June – Shouldice, Proulx,

Dekok, Richmond Nursery, Acorn Creek, Avonmore

Majic 100 Friday Night Flicks (outdoors) begin

July

Canada Day – events on [Parliament Hill](#), [Kanata](#), [Stittsville](#), [Barrhaven](#), [Orleans](#), and [Riverside South](#) (great for wee ones especially)

Canada Day free entry to most museums

Canada Day concerts and lunch at the [NAC](#)

[Wonders of Sand Festival](#)

[A Company of Fools](#) Shakespeare in the Park touring season begins

[Performing Arts series](#) at Ottawa wading pools begins

[Park-ticipate](#) program begins at Ottawa parks

[Music and Beyond Festival](#)

[Bluesfest](#)

[Ice Cream Festival](#) at [Museum of Agriculture](#)

[Lighthouse Days and Stargazing](#) at the [Museum of Science](#) (closed until 2017)

[Steam train rides](#) begin at [Museum of Science](#) (closed until 2017)

[Merrickville Car Show](#)

[Almonte Celfest](#)

[Osgoode Medieval Festival](#)

[Almonte Fair](#)

[Ottawa Fishing Festival](#)

[Fortissimo](#)

[British Car Day](#)

[Chamberfest](#) – has a series of free kids' concerts

August

[Riverfest](#) at [Pinhey's Point](#)

[Merrickville Canal Festival](#)

[Rock Balancing Festival](#) at [Remic Rapics](#), August long weekend

[Busker Festival](#), [Sparks Street](#), August long weekend

[Puppets Up!](#) In [Almonte](#), weekend after the long weekend

[Sound of Light Fireworks Festival](#) at the [Museum of History](#) – throughout August

[Lumiere Festival](#) – with lantern making workshops leading up to the main event

[HotTots Fall/Winter](#) consignment sales – one east end, one west end

[Navan Fair](#)

[Ottawa Idol](#)

[Arnprior Fair](#)

Registration for fall/winter programming for the City of Ottawa

[Trainfest](#) at [Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario](#), [Smith Falls](#)

[Capital Pride](#) – parade and festival events

[South Asian Festival](#)

[The Capital Fair](#)

[Almonte Highland Games](#)

[Shrine Circus](#) – not every year, but when they come it's in late August

September

Gatineau Hot Air Balloon Festival – Labour Day Weekend
Perth Fair – Labour Day Weekend
Apple picking at area orchards
House of PainT hip-hop music and dance festival
Savour Fall at Rideau Hall
Mrs. Tiggy Winkles warehouse sale (check their [Facebook](#) events page for dates)
Harvest festivals at [city museums](#), [Museum of Agriculture](#)
Tour La Nuit – Capital Velo Fest
Wiggle Waggle Walkathon
Richmond Fair
Renfrew Fair
Nuite Blanche – has a kids' zone
OutGROW OutPLAY consignment sales in Nepean and Kanata
Ottawa Animation Festival
Ottawa 67s season opens
Ottawa Senators season opens
Sens Fanfest
Carp Fair
Opening of Haunting Season at [Saunders Farm](#)
Fall Rhapsody in [Gatineau Park](#)
Carleton Butterfly Show
Culture Days – at the NAC, National Gallery, and other locations
Metcalf Fair

October

Octoberfest – first weekend of October, in Barrhaven
Mac My Cheese Fest – first weekend in October
Smashing Pumpkins at the [Cumberland Heritage Village Museum](#)
Thanksgiving weekend special events at [Museum of Agriculture](#)
Technology week celebrations at [Museum of Aviation](#), [Museum of Science](#)
Harvest Festival in Manotick
Pumpkinferno at Upper Canada Village
Maple Hill Urban Farm opens – giant corn maze
Ottawa Parent and Child Expo, Nepean Sportsplex
Harvest Potluck at [Children's Garden](#), [Robert Leggett Park](#)
Kids' Lit Gala, Nepean CentrepoinTE Library
Landsdowne Park Pumpkin Derby
Mayor's Halloween Party
Halloween Comicfest
Ottawa Zombie Walk
Spooky Wagon Rides at Cannamore Orchard (non-spooky Family Days on Sundays)
Halloween special events at [Museum of Agriculture](#), [Museum of History](#), [Currency Museum](#) (closed until 2017), [Museum of Science](#) (closed until 2017), [city museums](#)
Trick or Treat at 24 Sussex or [Rideau Hall](#)
Trick or Treat at most malls during the day on October 31

November

Maker Faire

Remembrance Day – free admission at the [War Museum](#); ceremony at the War Memorial downtown (broadcast live at the War Museum)

The [Lakeside Players](#) Christmas Pantomime

Holiday parades: [Kanata/Hazeldean Mall](#); [Help Santa Toy Parade](#); Parade of Lights in Orleans; [Barrhaven](#) parade; [Carleton Place](#) parade; [Alymer](#) parade; [Stittsville](#) parade

Handmade Harvest craft sale

Signatures craft sale

CHEO Royal Ball

Trees of Hope at the Chateau Laurier

Rockcliffe Park Book Fair

Samko and Miko Toy Warehouse Sale, EY Centre

Opening of [Christmas Tree Farms](#) – [Fallowfield](#), [Ian's](#), [Thomas](#), [Cedar Hill](#)

[Stanley's Christmas Village](#) opens

Ottawa Pop Expo

CP Holiday Train – stops in [Smiths Falls](#)

Ottawa International Storytelling Festival – by [Ottawa Storytellers](#)

[Ottawa Farmers' Market](#) special Christmas markets

The Magical Village at [Place D'Orleans](#)

[Alight at Night](#) at Upper Canada Village opens

[Rink of Dreams](#), [Landsdowne Park](#) rink open

December

Vintage Village of Lights opens at [Cumberland Heritage Village Museum](#)

[Ottawa Family Cinema](#) Christmas Party

The Nutcracker at [NAC](#), [Centrepointe](#), [Shenkman Arts](#), [Algonquin Commons Theatre](#) ([Linda Jamieson Dance](#))

Christmas Goose concert at [NAC](#)

[Mayor's Christmas Party](#) – first weekend in December

[Ottawa Little Theatre](#) Christmas programming

[The Gladstone](#) Christmas radio show and other Christmas programming

A Barnyard Bazaar at the [Museum of Agriculture](#)

More parades: [Richmond](#), [Almonte](#), [Manotick](#)

[Sens Skills](#) Competition (this is sometimes on family day instead)

A Charlie Brown Christmas Concert – [Ottawa Jazz Festival](#) (try Facebook for info)

[An Olde Fashioned Christmas](#) in Manotick

OC Transpo/[Ottawa Food Bank](#) Fill the Bus (and Empty the Bus) events – first Saturday

“Letters to Santa” event at [City of Ottawa Archives](#)

[Christmas Lights Across Canada](#) opens on Parliament Hill and throughout downtown

[Originals Craft Show](#)

[Kanata Theatre](#) Annual family holiday musical, between Christmas and New Year's

[Snowshoeing](#) in [Gatineau Park](#) begins