

Readers Forum

The page where readers share their thoughts, photographs and memories



Beaver Tale

Tim Brierley, who lives on Cudmore Road, backing on to the lake, sent us this picture with this note, "For the sake of curiosity, I thought it unlikely that too many of your paper's namesake had been spotted in Oakville, so am forwarding attached picture. This guy showed up on my front porch around 11:30 last night, wasn't too keen on opening the door, but picture makes it pretty clear what my visitor was."



Beaver Trails

Guide leader Sandy Edgar took a picture of the 18th Oakville Girl Guides reading *The Oakville Beaver* during their winter camp in north Burlington. The girls were also getting ready for the upcoming Girl Guides Cookie Sale.

New South Asian Mother-Child group

The new South Asian Mother-Child Group is being launched to create an opportunity for parents and children to come together in an environment of creative learning.

Children (newborn to seven years) will be exposed to their South Asian heritage and culture through arts and crafts, songs, story-time, and language classes.

The group will provide an excellent opportunity for mothers to exchange ideas and experiences, as well as support each other.

Parents and children of non-South Asian heritage are welcome to join the group. The group provides a great opportunity for all of us to share our cultures and to learn from each other.

In addition, the group will be an excellent support and resource for newcomers to Ontario.

The South Asian Mother-Child Group is located in Oakville and welcomes residents from Oakville and surrounding neighborhoods of the Greater Toronto Area. The group is a start-up and is the first of its kind in Oakville. Toronto has a similar organization.

Neha Thaker, President and Founder, is responsible for activities of the South Asian Mother-Child Group. Swapna Shrivastava, Director and Founding Member, promotes the group, seeks sponsorship, and helps Neha organize activities. Both are currently stay-at-home moms and both were raised in India.

Upcoming activities include weekly meetings where moms and children will participate in arts, crafts, songs, story-time, and theme days.

In addition to English language stories and songs, children will learn about their history, traditions, cultures, and festivals through story time, nursery rhymes, songs, and crafts.

With spring and summer nearing, outdoor activities such as visits to parks, family picnics, trips to the Ontario Science Museum and the Toronto Zoo are being planned.

In addition, Hindi language classes

that focus on the basics of conversation and elementary reading and writing are to start in April. Other language classes will be offered in the near future.

The group will hold some of its meetings at the Oakville Central Library on Navy Street. The Library has excellent resources, such as meeting rooms, story time kits,

Discovery Station, children's videos, and books. The group is also in the process of seeking a meeting room at the Halton Multicultural Council on Fourth Line.

We are actively contacting local businesses for sponsorship and/or donations in kind, such as art supplies, toys, and refreshments for children, to help support its activities.

To spread awareness of the South Asian Mother-Child Group, the Halton Community Services database has included the group on its Web site www.hipinfo.info (click on Halton Community Services Database and search for South Asian Mother-Child Group).

This database can also be accessed from the Oakville Public Libraries' Web site www.opl.on.ca (search for South Asian Mother-Child Group under Community Services). In addition, information is posted at local libraries, community centres, Indian stores and restaurants in the Oakville area.

All parents and children are invited to the group's meetings. Call Neha at 905-338-0674 or Swapna at 905-465-3658 for free registration and to obtain further details.

The South Asian Mother-Child Group encourages early literacy and passing on our heritage and culture to the future generations.

We would like to thank the *Oakville Beaver* for including us in their newspaper today.

The Beaver has enabled us to reach out to members of the community so that the parents and children can benefit from our programs.

— Submitted by Swapna Shrivastava

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