

Bloedel Conservatory

# Spring Break Fever

25 of the hottest places to entertain tots, tykes and teens this month **BY SHERI RADFORD**

## 1 Richmond Olympic Oval

(PAGE 52)

From Mar. 12 to 23, kids aged six to 15 participate in week-long camps in everything from hockey to badminton to volleyball—and explore this stunning building, which was built for the 2010 Winter Games.

## 2 Maplewood Farm (PAGE 52)

Animal lovers and future farmers go behind the scenes to groom farm animals, collect and wash eggs from chickens, set up feed and prepare animal bedding, Mar. 20 and 24.

## 3 Bloedel Conservatory (PAGE 53)

This triodetic dome atop Queen Elizabeth Park overflows with exotic plants, flowers, fish and birds from around the world. On a grey and rainy day, entering the conservatory feels like flying off on a tropical vacation.

## 4 Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden (PAGE 54)

In the heart of Chinatown, kids learn about some of ancient China's amazing inventions and innovations, such as paper-making, flying lanterns and kites, fire arrows, tea and tai chi, Mar. 19 to 23.

## 5 Vancouver Aquarium (PAGE 52)

Young humans meet hundreds of young animals in the *Babies* exhibit, running Mar. 9 to May 6, which includes tiny and unusual babies such as jellyfish, stingrays, clownfish, seahorses, wolf eels and dart frogs. Experience the animated movie *Happy Feet* as never before, complete with 4-D multi-sensory effects.

## 6 Minoru Aquatic Centre

(PAGE 54)

Avid swimmers make a splash in the five pools, then relax in the two whirlpools and sauna.

PHOTO BY KK LAW



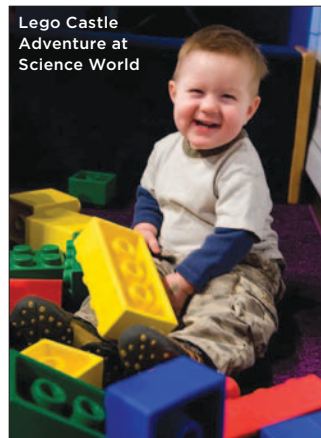
Vancouver Aquarium

PHOTO BY KK LAW





Watermania



Lego Castle Adventure at Science World



Kidsbooks



Kids Market on Granville Island

PHOTOS OF KIDSBOKS AND KIDS MARKET BY K.K. LAW

## 7 Vancouver Art Gallery

(PAGE 57)

Fun hands-on activities let eager young artists look, make, create and explore from Mar. 12 to 25.

## 8 Burnaby Village Museum

(PAGE 53)

The spring break scavenger hunt brings puppets and pageantry to the museum from Mar. 19 to 25. Work on crafts, ride on the carousel, then sample sweet treats in the ice cream parlour.

## 9 Bookstores

Junior bookworms and bibliophiles spend hours browsing in Kidsbooks (page 21) and the expanded kids' section at Chapters/Indigo (page 21), looking for their next great read.

## 10 Capilano Suspension Bridge

(PAGE 52)

Thrill-seekers adore the 137-m- (450-ft-) long bridge suspended high above the Capilano River. The newest eco-friendly attraction, Cliffwalk, offers sweeping views—and one heck of an adrenaline rush—from the suspended stairs, bridges, walkways and glass-bottomed decks.

## 11 Watermania (PAGE 54)

Water babies splish and splash in the wave pool and on the waterslides, while parents head to the competition pool, whirlpools, steam room and sauna. Good luck getting kids to leave the colourful new play structure, with its interactive sprayers, water wheels, tot slide and giant animated seahorse, clown fish and octopus.

## 12 A Year with Frog and Toad

(PAGE 52)

For kids aged three and up comes this tale of cheerful Frog and grumpy Toad, based on Arnold Lobel's beloved children's books and running Mar. 3 to Apr. 8 at the Waterfront Theatre.

## 13 Kids Market (PAGE 26)

A tiny tot's allowance disappears quickly in this popular spot on Granville Island, spent on magic cards, Lego blocks, kites, costumes, games and puppets.

## 14 Stanley Park (PAGE 54)

Nature-loving kids are drawn to this 400-ha (1,000-acre) park, with its many beaches, playgrounds, horse-drawn carriage rides and abundance of cute critters, including squirrels, raccoons and geese—but keep an eye out for wayward skunks. Around the outside of the park winds the picturesque seawall, ideal for strolling, running, blading or biking.

## 15 Science World (PAGE 52)

*Medieval Mayhem* fills the geodesic dome with medieval-themed make-and-take activities from Mar. 12 to 23: create a crown, learn about plant-based remedies formerly believed to ward off plagues, and build a catapult using household items. Lego fanatics can't resist the *Lego Castle Adventure* exhibit, on until May 20. Adults and kids all feel tiny compared to the creatures in the *Extreme Dinosaurs* exhibit, on until Apr. 1. *Arabia* and *Rocky Mountain Express* play on the giant OMNIMAX screen.

## 16 Vancouver Maritime Museum

(PAGE 53)

Small sailors and little landlubbers alike enjoy all the hands-on activities in the Children's Maritime Discovery Centre, taking the controls of a full-sized replica of a tugboat's wheelhouse, seeing the port of Vancouver through a telescope and searching for precious treasures in the Discovery Wall.

## 17 Britannia Mine Museum

(PAGE 53)

From Mar. 10 to 25, inquisitive kids do hands-on activities related to the *Stolen Lives: Remembering the Japanese Canadian Internment* exhibit.



Museum of Vancouver and  
H.R. MacMillan Space Centre



Central branch  
of Vancouver  
Public Library



Beaty Biodiversity  
Museum

PHOTOS BY KK LAW

Grouse Mountain



### 18 Make (PAGE 24)

This fun shop on Granville Island keeps creative kids busy with free scarf-making workshops and half-price button- and t-shirt-making during spring break. Check [www.makevancouver.com](http://www.makevancouver.com) for specific dates and times.

### 19 Vancouver Police Museum

(PAGE 53)

The CSI investigators of tomorrow spend hours examining exhibits of counterfeit money, confiscated weapons, burglar kits and autopsy tools. Forensics workshops are ideal for kids with an interest in the science of police work.

### 20 Beaty Biodiversity Museum

(PAGE 53)

Young bird watchers and aspiring ornithologists discover a bonanza of birds through hands-on activities with real bird specimens, tours, puppet shows, story-time, scavenger hunts and crafts.

### 21 Museum of Vancouver

(PAGE 53)

Kids travel back in time, playing with toys from the 1930s, wandering through the 1950s gallery, and trying on clothes from the 1960s and '70s. The *Neon Vancouver/Ugly Vancouver* exhibit shows what the city looked like half a century ago.

### 22 Vancouver Lookout (PAGE 52)

From one of the tallest buildings in Vancouver, both kids and adults marvel at 360-degree views of the city.

### 23 H.R. MacMillan Space Centre

(PAGE 52)

Future astronauts and budding scientists explore the mysteries of the cosmos. From Mar. 10 to 25, themed weekdays range from Martians to black holes to life on other moons.

### 24 Vancouver Public Library

(PAGE 52)

During the Spring Break Film Fest at the library's central location, school-aged kids enjoy daily films Mar. 12 to 15 and 19 to 22. Teens get their own films Mar. 16 and 23. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, *Shamrock Shenanigans!* takes over the library Mar. 17.

### 25 Grouse Mountain (PAGE 54)

Snow bunnies aged seven to 14 become skilled skiers and snowboarders during five-day camps offered Mar. 9 to 23, while kids 10 to 16 learn to ski and ride steep runs, tree lines and terrain parks. All ages enjoy sleigh rides, snowshoeing, ice skating, ziplining and taking in spectacular views from atop the Eye of the Wind turbine. [W](#)