

TD Summer Reading Club 2021



Ready, Set, Game On!

Kids - get ready for a Summer of reading, games, and prizes with Idea Exchange.

The fun starts **Saturday, July 3 at 2:00pm** with a Facebook concert by **The Relative Minors.**

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Summer camps adapting to health guidelines this year

While day camps offered modified programs, the tradition of kids attending overnight summer camp skipped a season in 2020 due to the pandemic. Many day camps will again offer modified programs in 2021, and some residential camps could be operating

According to the Provincial government's May 20 press release, Step Two of the "roadmap to safely reopen the province" states that overnight camps can operate. It remains to be seen if vaccine thresholds are met along with "other key public health and health system indicators" in the time frame laid out by the Ontario government. At press time Step One had yet to begin.

There is no question as to the benefits

of summer camp. In addition to parents relying on camps to occupy kids while they are out of school for two months, the experience provides opportunities to learn new skills, make friends, spend time outdoors and just have fun. Most would agree that after this challenging school year, kids and parents are more than ready for summer camps to open.

The Ontario Camps Association (OCA) website states that OCA approved camps and outdoor education centres are planning for camp this summer.

"The OCA is working with public health, government officials, and other experts to make summer 2021 safe and healthy for participants and staff at camps and outdoor education centres," says the OCA statement.

In reaction to a recent announcement by Premier Doug Ford that overnight summer camps would be allowed to open July 3, the *Toronto Star* reported Jack Goodman, chair of the OCA's COVID-19 task force, said though Ford's remarks didn't include details, he's had assurance from the premier and the Province that in the coming weeks, more information will be announced to help inform what camps will look like this summer.

"The OCA has been working closely with those health officials as to what exactly those guidelines will look like, " Goodman said.

The *Star* reported that Goodman said many camps may still be able to operate as

planned, "however he estimates as many as 15 per cent have already decided to pivot their operations for the summer, for a variety of reasons including staffing issues and general uncertainty".

Day camps, including those offered by the YMCA across the GTA and Halton Region, are planning modified programs with fewer campers and attention to public health guidelines.



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