

The Local Biz

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FREE
Durham Region

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We take a look at Community Supported Agriculture

We learn about keeping our kids safe this summer

PLUS: We hear from a volunteering dog... and so much more!

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Bringing Durham Region Together

I wanna go to the park, Daddy!

by Darryl Boulley

It's Saturday morning and already ninety degrees outside. The kids are climbing the walls and are begging to go outside. You, on the other hand, want some down time after your busy week. Where can kids and parents go and get the best of both worlds? The park!

I know you just questioned my answer but before you say "that dingy park down the road with the burning hot, warped metal slide and the swings that are just hanging chains", have some faith that I will divulge the secrets to finding some great parks in the Durham region.

Luckily for me I moved into a newly developed neighbourhood, which built a small but really nice park. But where do you look when there isn't a great park across the street? For

me, Google Maps has become my life savior. Whenever I'm out and about I make a mental note of new developments (but close to when they are finished being built) and then either I take a ride around the neighbourhood or I use Google Maps to find the newly built park within the neighbourhood (luckily for us, builders usually build a fancy park as part of the selling features).

Don't want to do all that work or Google Maps scares you, well ask around. Friends, parents and even kids know where a great park is.

For me I asked my son's little friend down the road where his favorite park is and he told me of a park I hadn't heard of. Another option is to pick up a New Homes Magazine that is free all over the region. You might have to wait six

months for that magazine to come in handy but it's worth it.

As for my favourites, well these parks are both for kids and adults. For the kids they are loaded with fun and really cool things. For us adults they have nice places to relax whether you want to bask in the sun or sit in the shade, or like me go down a giant slide. Here are my nominees for Best Parks in Durham.

The Space Ship Park... oops, I mean Baycliffe Park (Baycliffe Dr and Twin Streams Rd in Whitby): This place has sun, shade, a basketball court, a musical ground, a splash pad, a big kid and small kid playground and two of the fastest racing slides you'll find around.

Oh and this spinning thimble thing that my wife loves to go on and makes her look pretty silly.

McKinney Park (right behind the McKinney Centre - Taunton Rd and McKinney Dr in Whitby): Where to start with this park, well a skateboard park, tennis courts, basketball court, a pretty cool splash pad and a very cool playground. They have a swing that fits a few kids at a time and a spiderweb type climbing thingy that for some

reason attracts 30-year-old men to play on. Ok maybe it's just me.

For your newly potty trained kids the McKinney Centre has washroom entrances on the outside of the building for everyone's use.

Cedar Park Resort (Cedar Park Rd and Concession Rd 6 in Bowmanville): Unlike my other favourites, this park has an admission fee but don't worry it is well worth it. This place has mini-golf (the only time I feel like a real golfer), a tennis court, a large swimming pool, two small children's wading pools with some pretty cool splash pads that should be called soaker pads and my favourite - three water slides.

I remember as a kid I used to always use the excuse "there is nothing to do today" but I will never let my kids use that excuse; especially when there is so much fun to be had in Durham. See you at the park!

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Darryl Bouley is the father of two pre-school children. He is a graphic designer, writer and assistant coach of the UOIT Ridgebacks men's hockey team. He's also just a guy who refuses to act his age around playgrounds.

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