

First Time Camping

Camping can create a lifetime of memories, a chance to experience nature first-hand, and oodles of family fun: with just a little advance planning, your family picnic can turn into an overnight or weekend camping trip.

Bronte Creek Provincial Park caters to first-time campers. Campsites are close to the playgrounds, sports fields, nature trails and biking paths. The huge outdoor swimming pool, 2 education centres and children's farm are just a short drive away. Services available at Bronte Creek include electrical hook up, a fire pit and picnic table at each site, showers, laundromats and kids programs in the summer.

If you don't have your own camping equipment, don't worry, Bronte Creek Provincial Park rents fully equipped campsites which include tent, sleeping bags, camp stove and fuel, and a cooler. Fancy gear isn't necessary to collect memories of misty sunrises, busy outdoor

days, twinkling stars and cozy campfires. Equipment you have on hand or can borrow from family or friends will add some of the comforts of home to your first camping trip. Check the Camper's Checklist, it provides some important camping basics ---and some of the luxuries--- that are sure to keep you and your children happy campers.

CAMPER'S CHECKLIST

- ✓ Tent with fly, poles and pegs
 - ✓ Flashlight with spare bulb and batteries
 - ✓ Sleeping bags
 - ✓ Insulated sleeping pad/ air mattress
 - ✓ Matches
 - ✓ Camp axe
 - ✓ First aid kit
 - ✓ Folding chairs
 - ✓ Lantern
 - ✓ Tarp
 - ✓ Nylon cord or rope
 - ✓ Knife
 - ✓ Insect repellent
 - ✓ Sunscreen
- ### COOKING
- ✓ Portable stove



- ✓ Stove fuel
- ✓ Funnel
- ✓ Cooler
- ✓ Pots
- ✓ Cutlery
- ✓ Mugs
- ✓ Plates
- ✓ Water container
- ✓ Dishpan/ clothe
- ✓ Soap
- ✓ Can opener
- ✓ Aluminum foil

CLOTHING

- ✓ Rain gear
- ✓ Bathing suit
- ✓ Fleece or sweat shirt
- ✓ Wind Jacket
- ✓ Sun Hat

- ✓ Beach towel
- ✓ Day pack for short hikes

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ Camera, film spare batteries
- ✓ Binoculars
- ✓ Notebook or journal
- ✓ Fishing licence
- ✓ Fishing gear

FOR THE KIDS

- ✓ Beach toys - shovel & pail
- ✓ Kite or ball
- ✓ Storybooks or novels
- ✓ Bug net
- ✓ Trip journal/ note book
- ✓ Bike and helmet
- ✓ Fishing pole and tackle

Spring Wildflowers

Recommended trails: Trillium Trail or Maiden's Blush Trail

Best to visit mid- April until mid- May.

Dog Tooth Violet or Trout Lily

When not in bloom, this attractive small yellow lily can be identified by the brown patches on its green basal leaves. When in full bloom, the reflexed petals curl back on this 4-6 inch tall plant.



Jack-in-the-Pulpit

Jack, is the small white centre

(spadix) wrapped by the pulpit, (spathe), which is usually green or purplish brown colour. The tiny flowers are actually found inside the centre of the flower (spadix) and mature into red berries.



Bloodroot

The large, lobed leaf wraps around the stem of this 6-10 inch plant.



May Apple

These plants can be found in sunny openings in the forest canopy. Look for the white flower at the stem axis. Flowers only occur on plants with 2 leaves. The umbrella-like leaves are unmistakable.

Look for a medium- sized, buttercup shaped flower with white petals and a yellow centre.



White Trillium

This flower has been Ontario's floral emblem since 1937, and grows in the shade of a forest canopy. Each tiny seed has a tasty growth on it. Ants are attracted to this growth and they take the seeds into their underground nests. They eat the tasty growth, but not the seed. It takes between 7 and 15 years for that seed to produce a flower.