



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



Bill Mason and MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centres

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board owns and operates two Outdoor Education Centres; **MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre** in Ottawa's east end, and the **Bill Mason Centre** in the west. Both Centres provide high quality, hands-on outdoor programming that is designed and delivered to compliment classroom learning in many sections of the Ontario Curriculum.

Each visiting group is introduced to the beauty of the natural world, and our place in it.

The OCDSB encourages participation in Outdoor Education programs through its Every Student Attends initiative. Each grade 3 and 7 class in the OCDSB is entitled to one visit, at no cost to the students, to either MacSkimming or the Bill Mason Centre each year where they will participate in either a Natural Science or Canadian History program.

Programs

Both Centres provide programming that enhances the classroom studies of visiting students. Science programs range from grade one explorations that focus on using one's senses and recognizing patterns in the natural world to grade 10 biodiversity programs that focus on data collection. Recreation programs such as cross country skiing and map and compass courses are designed to benefit everyone from the beginner to experienced outdoor enthusiast. Canadian History programs allow students to gain a better understanding of Life in Early Canada and the Fur Trade.

Facilities

The Bill Mason Centre's indoor facilities are located in the north wing of West-Carleton Secondary School. The outdoor facilities include two "outdoor classrooms" on a 77-acre property of incredible wetlands, forests and meadows.

MacSkimming is a 400 acre property with four active field Centres, including Forest Edge, Trail's End, the Pioneer Village and the Waterfront. With the exception of the waterfront which is seasonal, all are fully equipped to host groups year-round. MacSkimming can accommodate up to 100 participants for overnight visits.

Facility Rentals

Centre facilities are available to rent on weekends and in the evenings. Community groups use our sites for gatherings, meetings, weekend camps, special events and weddings. Overnight packages at MacSkimming include indoor sleeping accommodations, full kitchen facilities and on-call staff to assist.

Open Houses

Each Centre hosts annual open houses. **MacSkimming Maple-Fest** takes place in early spring, and invites families to visit the Pioneer Village for pancakes, sleigh rides, sugar bus tours and of course, maple syrup. **BMC Family Day** takes place each fall. Families are welcome to accompany our expert instructors and make their way along the beautiful boardwalks and trails to explore the wetlands, forests and fields.

Learning for Life

Through the OCDSB's Continuing Education Department, the Outdoor Education Centres offer Learning for Life courses. The public is welcome to sign up for weekend and evening programs that include canoeing, cross-country skiing,

snowshoeing, night hikes nature studies and more.

Donating to the Centres

Donations to enhance Outdoor Education Programming and facilities are graciously accepted through the OCDSB Foundation.

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Website

www.ocdsb.ca/continweb/outdoor/oehome.htm



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