



Carlton Cards Suggestions for Fun Springtime Activities



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Easter is arriving on March 27th and Canadians are looking forward to the renewal of spring, more sunshine and warmer weather. After being bundled up and housebound over the winter it is the perfect time to reconnect with family and friends in the upcoming spring months. The Carlton Cards trend experts have some suggestions on simple ways to have some fun with those you love the most!

Springtime Picnic: Most parks and conservation areas are open all year but take advantage of some sunshine and organize a good old fashioned picnic. Because you won't be limited for space, invite friends and family and make it potluck. If you have a portable BBQ, why not bring it along to cook the traditional picnic fare of hamburgers and hotdogs. Keep warm and active by playing a game of catch, touch football or arrange a badminton competition. It still may be a bit chilly so make sure you bring blankets or cushions to warm up the picnic benches! Or if the day is too nippy, be creative and opt for a tailgate party to be able to make a fast getaway if the weather changes!

Gear up for Cycling: Bike riding is a fun activity to help you stay active and healthy. It also provides you an opportunity to spend some time with your family and friends while enjoying the great outdoors. This spring, organize an afternoon of cycling that all ages can enjoy. Planning is important since the activity has to be fun for all ages and fitness levels. A safe route is the number one priority and make sure that you have planned stops for breaks and refreshments. It is wise to give a gentle reminder to participants that they should wear a properly fitted helmet and their bike is outfitted with reflectors and a working bell.

Find Your Artistic Side: Bring back the joy of being a kid and look at your driveway and sidewalk as one big empty canvas. All you need is some sidewalk chalk that is available in beautiful and inspiring colours and a sunny day. You can each be your own Rembrandt and create your own work of art or try a family collaboration. For some competitive fun, draw out a hopscotch court and have a few matches between your artistic endeavors. Remember your artwork isn't permanent but you can enjoy it until spring showers wash it away. But then on the bright side, you will have another blank canvas to start again!

Build Bird Feeders: Find your crafty side and get the whole family involved in creating some simple bird feeders. You don't have to spend a lot of money and you probably have a lot of the items you need around your house already. Take a plastic pop bottle and cut some holes in it to fit a couple of wooden spoons that are angled downward so that the birdfeed will trickle onto them. Reuse an old milk carton that is cut to hold bird feed, with a wooden dowel inserted to make it easier for birds to perch on. Check out Pinterest for more ideas.

Seedling Exchange: Put a twist on the popular Christmas cookie exchange this Easter season with a plant exchange. March is the perfect time to start your vegetable seeds indoors so they have plenty of time to grow strong and tall for spring planting. Get in touch with friends with green thumbs or those who are interested in planting their first vegetable patch this year. Assign each person a vegetable to grow from seeds, making sure they plant enough to provide everyone 6 plants for each participant. Post pictures on social media to show the plants growth progress to get everyone excited. Close to planting time, make sure you organize an outdoor get together for the plant swap.

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