

The Gingerbread Event

Sugar, smiles, and creativity mix with the holiday spirit as each year families and friends gather at the beautiful Tudor Hall for a fun day of building gingerbread houses. Mothercraft Ottawa has been hosting this magical event for 17 years, and for many Ottawa families The Gingerbread Event marks the beginning of their holiday season! Imagine a grand ballroom utterly filled with candy, icing, gingerbread houses, an exceptional silent auction, Santa and Mrs. Claus and lively music! How can families not have a wonderful time?

This year, on November 23rd, The Gingerbread Event offers families a relaxed, and safe family outing complete with craft activities compliments of the Ontario Early Years Centre – Ottawa Centre, Juggling by Mr. Cueball, and a special appearance by Santa and Mrs.



Claus too! All of the supplies to make a wonderful holiday creation are supplied, so families need only purchase their tickets to attend and get building and decorating... but for some participants this is a very serious matter. Extraordinary reproductions of the Peace Tower, Harry Potter's Hogwarts Castle, and imaginary places like Thomas the Tank Engine's Train Yard have all been pulled together from gingerbread candy and a lot of creativity by participants. These folks may have their eyes on the ribbons and prizes awarded the most impressive houses each year.

Our Celebrity Panel of Judges take their job quite seriously, and do their very best to determine which houses represent the most interesting, beautiful, and age appropriate houses in each of four age categories. This year the panel of high calibre Judges with Derek Bentiz Executive Chef of Benitz Bistro, Nelson Borges Executive Chef of The Westin Hotel, Patrick Garland Executive Chef of Absithe Resto Bar, Councillor Christine Leadman, Ottawa Citizen Food Editor Ron Eade are joined by dazzling hosts Derek Fage and T.L Radar of Rogers Daytime. Last year more than 150 houses were submitted for judging. These folks sure have their work cut out for them, with the charming gingerbread village laid out before them.

The most wonderful thing about the Gingerbread Event is how it supports families in the community. Not only do many companies sponsor tables so that children from organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, Christie Lake Camp, The Youville Centre, Riverside South Community Services Centre and others who may not otherwise have such an opportunity can attend this event. Proceeds go toward the unique work of the Birth and Parent Companion Program at Mothercraft.

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The Birth and Parent Companion Program is an award-winning prenatal and parenting support program that helps to build healthier families and a strong and vibrant community. Through one-on-one volunteer support, specialized workshops, and programs targeted at the needs of diverse families, the BPCP is able to reach many families in our community who would otherwise find themselves navigating the ups and downs of pregnancy and the early years of parenting entirely on their own. The program provides non-judgmental, personal support and training to our volunteers on issues of labour support, cultural sensitivity, abuse, addiction, adolescent parenting and local resources which allow them to meet the diverse needs of our clients and continue to attract participants into the Program. The Birth and Parent Companion Program is unique in that it spans the entire pregnancy, birth, and early childhood phases and addresses unique needs in each phase. By working with families from the very beginning, the BPCP is making a real difference in the lives of many children and their families!

Since 1991, the Birth and Parent Companion has been serving families in need in Ottawa. The support of the City of Ottawa, the Ontario Early Years Centre - Ottawa Centre, the United Way, The Gingerbread Event and individual donations make this extraordinary program possible. Anyone interested in learning more about the program, volunteering with Mothercraft or learning about how else you can help is urged to contact Rachel Horsley by email at Rachel@mothercraft.com.

So many great reasons to bring the whole family to Gingerbread!

When November 23rd, 2008 12:30pm – 3:30pm

Where Tudor Hall

Tickets 1 unassembled house and all the fixings with seating for 2 people – \$25.00

**1 assembled house and all the fixings with seating for 2 people
- \$30.00**

1 extra seat \$12.00

Information gingerbread@mothercraft.com 613-728-1839 x500

See you there!