



**SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD**



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IT'S MAPLE EDUCATION TIME AT SAND ROAD SUGAR CAMP

March 12, 2010

It's mid-March, the sap is running, and it's once again time for the maple education program at Sand Road Sugar Camp near Moose Creek where South Nation Conservation annually provides students with an insight into one of Canada's oldest industries.

With SNC interpreters conducting the tours, pre-booked K-12 school groups are guided through the sugar bush and given an overview of everything from the science behind the syrup, to the proper technique in tapping maple trees. Interested schools are urged to book their visits through SNC Senior Forestry Technician Chris Craig at 1-877-984-2948.

The bilingual program is offered through mid-April. The Sand Road site remains open to regular visitors on weekdays while tours are being conducted, and on weekends when no tours are offered.

Start times are 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Craig said. Each tour is two hours in length and follows the K-12 science curriculum. Cost is \$5 per participant; a \$30 cancellation fee is applicable without 24-hour notice, except for inclement weather.

Program participants learn all about the sugaring process from aboriginal times until today. They get to watch the sap boiling down into sweet-tasting maple syrup, and get to sample the pioneer treat of taffy on snow... if Mother Nature cooperates.

There's plenty of fun to be had during an SNC Sand Road outing... but Craig pointed out the true emphasis is on education. Students will learn how to identify various tree species, woodlot management, and the role forests play within watersheds.

"It gives students a greater appreciation of the value of our forests and the need to respect and conserve them," Craig observed. "What they learn at Sand Road will hopefully be carried into adulthood."

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Chris Craig, SNC, (877) 984-2948, ext. 234.

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