

Fishing not allowed at Coe Hill Fishing Derby



A family attending the fourth annual fishing derby at Coe Hill on March 4 enjoy a snack of roasted hotdog and marshmallow. JIM EADIE photo

By Jim Eadie

After nearly 50 people gathered on March 12 at the Wollaston Lake public beach for the fourth annual fishing derby, Wollaston fire chief Rick Middleton and deputy chief Dave Jackson declared the ice unsafe for fishing. "We just don't trust the ice," said Middleton. "There is a lot of water lying around out there; we just couldn't take the chance."

But there is still a long list of fun things to do when you can't go fishing at a fishing derby. Being a remarkably beautiful spring-like sunny day, the event went forward on land anyway, without fishing poles.

Large soapy bubbles bounced across the snow as children blew bubbles; apparently if you add corn syrup to the bubble mix, they don't pop so easily. Other children went sleigh riding, snowshoeing, visited on the swings, and gathered around a campfire to cook hotdogs and marshmallows.

Deputy chief Jackson stood on a large planter in full firefighters' gear and held hula-hoops for children to throw snowballs through. However, it became clear that the children didn't have bad aim after all; instead they were playing a winter version of "the dunk tank," and Jackson soon retired to clean the snow out of his neck and down his back.

This has become an annual event to open March Break, sponsored jointly by the Wollaston Township Volunteer Dept., Wollaston and Limerick Union Public Library, and the North Hastings Wildlife Association.