

Scavenger Hunt Checklist

We've got **10** fun items that can be spied anywhere in **York Durham Headwaters**, or anywhere in all of Canada, for that matter!

Whether you decide to take a walk around your block, a trip to your local park, or spend the day at your local trail or conservation area, you are sure to find these items.

If you have one on hand, bring a magnifying glass to get up-close and personal with your finds.



1 Mittens and hats



Your scavenger hunt starts at home. Dig out your warmest hats and your coziest mittens (waterproof for the kids is a great option). You're going to want to keep those little ears and fingers tucked warmly away as you venture out into the cold, crisp air.

2 Three different kinds of leaves



Yes, count them: three! They can be on the ground, still on a tree, or attached to someone's holiday wreath on their front door. But they have to be three different kinds. Thankfully, we've got lots of species of trees in our neck of the woods. Oak, maple, pine, spruce, sumac—the choice is yours.

3 A conifer tree and a deciduous tree



Parents, this is a great time to teach your children about the different kinds of trees we have here in North America. Coniferous trees, or evergreens, are those trees that keep their needles through the year like fir, spruce, pine, cedar or juniper. A deciduous tree is more often called a hardwood, and this includes maple, oak, ash, beech and birch. These trees shed their leaves in the fall and are responsible for our beautiful autumn colours. Have your kids find one of each.

4 Animal tracks



The animals may be hibernating, but they're still out and about every now and then. Can you spot rabbit tracks? Deer? Or maybe even dog or raccoon. Get down to the ground with your magnifying glass and go hunting for some tracks. Bonus points to you if you can determine what animal made them.

5 A bird



Is it in flight? On a tree? Not all birds fly south for the winter, after all. See if you can spot a snowbird (fair warning: the human variety that vacation in Florida every year don't count, lol).

6 Icicles



These beautiful crystalline shards are a hallmark of a YDH winter. Whether you're in a natural setting or walking around your urban neighbourhood, you are sure to spot one. It could be on the bumper of a car or hanging from a bare tree limb. Find the most beautiful one you can.

7 Something smooth



Get creative and hunt for anything smooth. Really—anything! Is it ice? Is it the hood of a car? Maybe it's a windowpane.

8 Tree bark



It might be on the ground or on the tree still. But tree bark is abundant in winter and stands out against the canvas of white snow that paints the world. Touch and feel its rough texture when you do find it—*just be sure not to pick it off the trees.*

9 A nest



Bee, spider, bird or squirrel...

There are all kinds of nests you can find on your scavenger hunt. Do you know the difference? Kudos if you can identify which kind of nest you've found.

10 A snowman



This one is a little different.

We're not asking you to find a snowman, **we're asking you to build one!**

Once you've completed your scavenger hunt adventure, end your day outside by building a jolly old bonhomme de neige of your own. Is he traditional, with three round balls stacked on top of one another? Is she a sculpture, perhaps a frosty little elf? Use your imagination. If there is no snow, or not enough to build your snowman, be inventive. What can you find to bring to life your wonderful snow-free snowman?

We can't wait to see what you come up with!

Okay, so now that you have your scavenger hunt checklist in hand, get out there and get some photos, fun and exercise. And don't forget to tag us **@VisitYDH** and **#VisitYDH**



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