The Adventure:

Have you ever noticed fruit-bearing trees in your community? Does the fruit go to good use, or is it left to fall to the ground and rot?

Many Canadian communities have a great source of healthy food hidden in plain sight! Form an Expedition Team to identify local trees that could be a source of food, then reach out to the people who own the trees to see if you can harvest the fruit, berries and nuts. You might even find fruit-bearing trees in public parks; ask your local government for permission to pick the fruit!

Come up with a plan for what you will do with what you pick. A share of what you harvest can go back to the trees’ owners, and the rest can go to local charities.

Plan:
• Where will you look for fruit-bearing trees?
• What kinds of trees will you look for?
• How will you approach the trees’ owners?
• What will you need to pick the fruit?
• What will you do with the fruit you pick?

Do:
• Survey your community and identify fruit-bearing trees.
• Approach the trees’ owners for permission to pick the fruit.
• Pick the fruit and donate it to a local charity.

Review:
• What do you know now that you did not know before?
• What was your favourite part of this adventure?
• How did you feel before, during and after this adventure?
• How did you work as a team on this adventure?
• What obstacles did you encounter, and how did you overcome them?
• What did you do with the fruit and nuts you picked?
• What did you do differently if you did this again?

Online Resources:
• Hidden Harvest Ottawa
• Serviceberries
• Black Walnut
• Pawpaw

Safety Note:
• How can you stay safe while picking fruit? What can you use so that you don’t have to climb trees?
• How will you make sure the fruit and nuts you want to pick are safe to eat?
• Does anyone in your Expedition Team have allergies (nuts, bee stings) that could be a safety concern on this adventure? Check out the Allergy safety tip for more information.

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