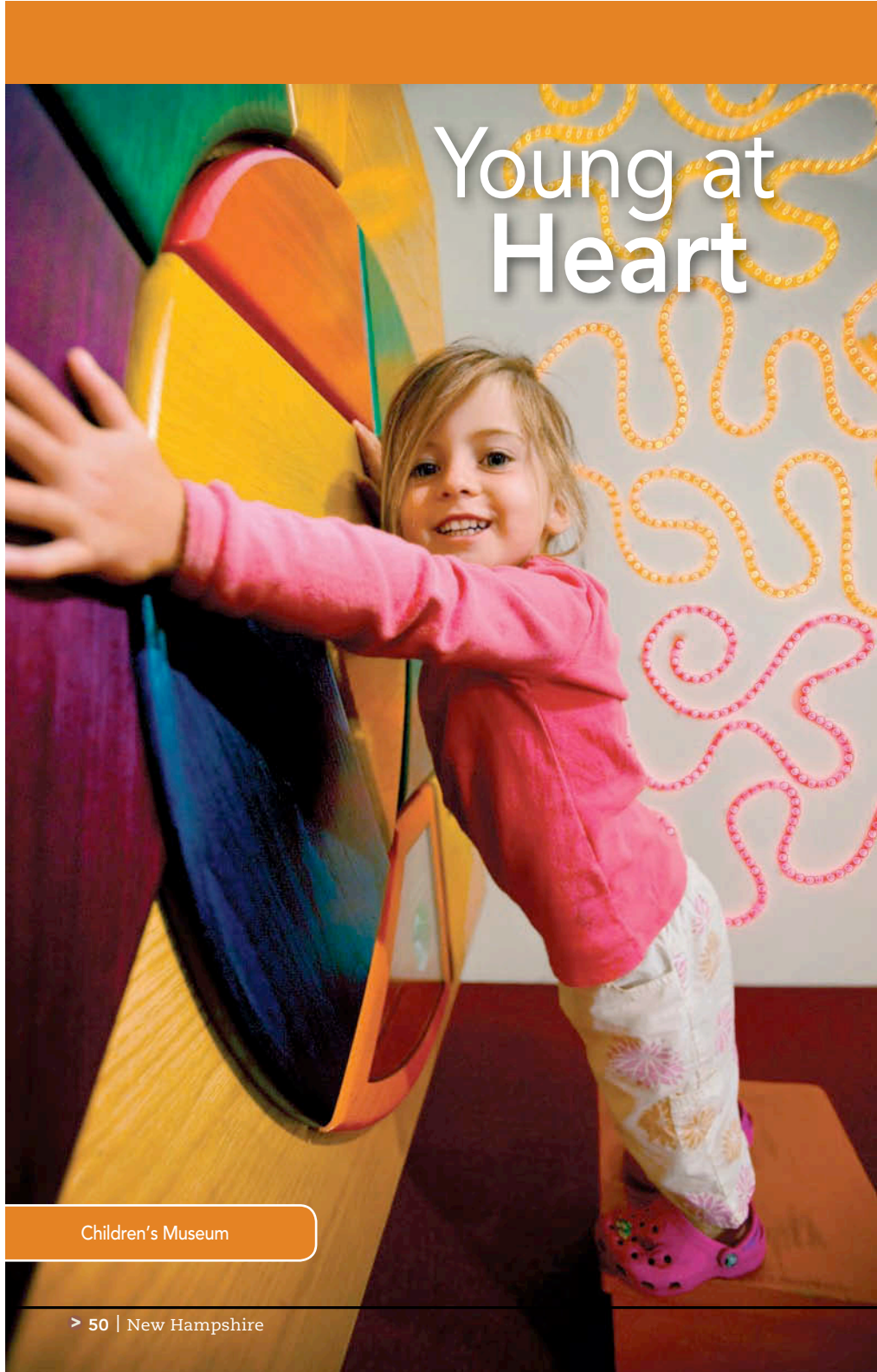


# Young at Heart



Children's Museum

> 50 | New Hampshire

By Kim Windyka

## Like a kid in a (New Hampshire) candy store

Whether it was a day at the zoo, a trip to the arcade, or even just splashing in puddles, some childhood memories make me yearn for a return to simpler times, when my biggest worry was making it home by dark. Fortunately, reclaiming my youth is an easy task in New Hampshire, where activities for kids – and even big kids like me – abound.

### KID-SIZED FUN

First on my journey is a visit to Charmingfare Farm in Candia, which boasts more than 200 different animals – wild and farm – including cougars, wolves, horses and llamas, as well as a hands-on petting area with several breeds of sheep and goats. While I couldn't participate in the children's summer camps, the farm offers year-round seasonal fun for all, like pumpkin festivals, hay and sleigh rides, and even an Easter egg hunt, so a return visit is definitely in order.

Waving goodbye to my newfound furry friends, I continue on to Dover in order to explore the Children's Museum, formerly located in Portsmouth. Initially, I feel a little silly as I marvel at the human-sized kaleidoscope ➤

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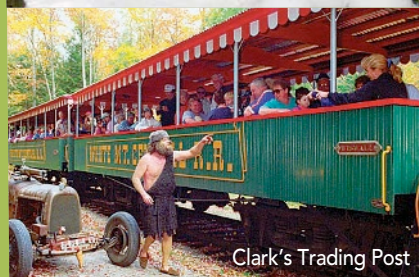
### ONCE UPON A TIME...

New Hampshire isn't often thought of as the "land of make-believe," but it is home to many whimsical spots:

**PICKITY PLACE:** Eat a gourmet lunch and explore the herb garden at the cottage that inspired the original *Little Red Riding Hood* book. [www.pickityplace.com](http://www.pickityplace.com)

**SANTA'S VILLAGE:** It's always Christmastime at this amusement park, with rides, reindeer, pictures with Santa and holiday-themed festivities and shows. [www.santasvillage.com](http://www.santasvillage.com)

**CLARK'S TRADING POST:** The trained bears are the stars of the show at this Lincoln attraction, but make sure to take a ride on the steam-powered train and catch the circus here, too. [www.clarkstradingpost.com](http://www.clarkstradingpost.com)





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and create my very own song at the Music Matrix. However, it isn't long before I find myself mesmerized by the Cochecosystem exhibit, which details both environmental and industrial aspects of the adjacent Cocheco River. I even play Dino Detective for a bit, as I dig around the exhibit for fossils of the extinct creatures.

#### TEEN DREAM

Next on my trek is the lakes region town of Weirs, as I just can't resist the chance to spend a few hours in the largest arcade in the world (yes, really!). True to its name, Funspot not only houses hundreds of addicting, classic video games like Pac-Man and Tetris, but adds



to the amusement with activities like retro mini-golf, bingo and bowling. When I work up an appetite after a few intense rounds of Frogger – staying true to my kid tendencies – I order the chicken fingers at Funspot's D.A. Long Tavern, and ogle the impressive display of bottles found at the bottom of Lake Winnepesaukee.

For any kid, a sweet treat always provides a perfect ending to the day, so it's only



Pumpkin Festival

#### A PLAN FOR ALL SEASONS

There's always good old-fashioned fun to be had in the Granite State, no matter what the time of year.

**WINTER:** Go skiing at Cannon Mountain.  
[www.cannonmt.com](http://www.cannonmt.com)

**SPRING:** Enjoy the view from one of the state's many fire towers: Croydon Mountain, Red Hill or Mount Prospect, to name a few. [www.dred.state.nh.us](http://www.dred.state.nh.us)

**SUMMER:** Play in the tide pools at Odiorne Point.  
[www.nhstateparks.org](http://www.nhstateparks.org)

**FALL:** Carve pumpkins at the Keene Pumpkin Festival.  
[www.pumpkinfestival.org](http://www.pumpkinfestival.org)



Funspot

fitting that I stop at Chutter's in Littleton to satisfy my candy cravings. Another New Hampshire claim to fame: the longest candy counter in the world can be found here, stretching 112 feet. This translates to 800 jars of the sugary stuff (though Chutter's does offer sugar-free options as well)! From gumballs to gummi bears, I'm overwhelmed by the huge selection, but I decide to keep it simple and go with some old-fashioned rock candy. Yet, try as I might, I just can't leave without picking up some taffy for the road. I guess that no matter how old I get, some things never change – including my sweet tooth! ☒

## DON'T MISS

(listed in the order they appear in the story)

- **CHARMINGFARE FARM**  
774 High St., Candia,  
603-483-5623;  
[www.visitthefarm.com](http://www.visitthefarm.com)
- **CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**  
6 Washington St., Dover,  
603-436-3853;  
[www.childrens-museum.org](http://www.childrens-museum.org)
- **FUNSPOT**  
579 Endicott St. N., Laconia,  
603-366-4377;  
[www.funspotnh.com](http://www.funspotnh.com)
- **CHUTTER'S**  
43 Main St., Littleton,  
603-444-5787;  
[www.chutters.com](http://www.chutters.com)

