



# THE PARK PRESS

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## Park News



Park Black Bears

Staff Photo

Some new faces joined the Wildlife Park family this winter.

A pair of rhea, one male and one female make a beautiful addition. You can tell them apart by the colour of their feathers; the male is grey and the female is white. Rheas are typically grey, but can range from darker shades of grey or brown to lighter shades of white or tan.

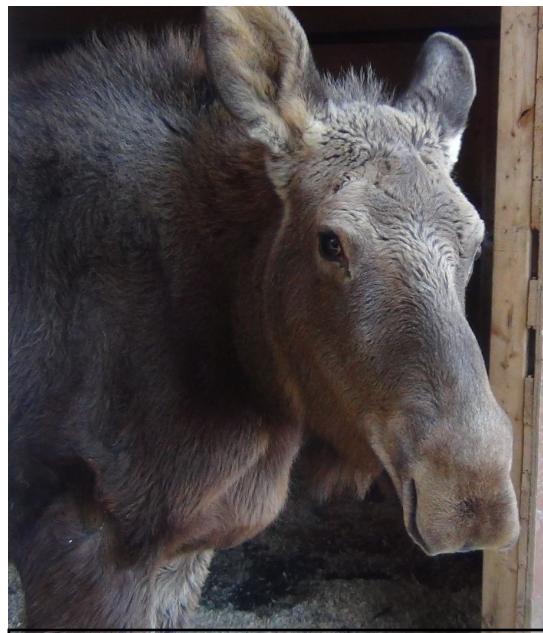
A young female moose was introduced to our adult male. Male moose are called bulls and grow antlers every spring and summer then shed them in the winter. Female moose are called cows and do not have antlers. Additionally, our bull moose happens to have a darker coat than our cow.

Be sure to 'Like' us  
on Facebook!



Two young female elk were introduced to our adult male. A group of elk is called a gang. The bull (male) elk have antlers and the cows (female) do not, but both have dark reddish brown coats with lighter rumps.

Last but not least, we now have two young black bears. Like our previous bears these siblings were orphaned, but this time we have a brother and sister instead of two girls. The male is bigger than the female and both are energetically exploring their new home. Other changes that occurred this winter is ongoing construction to our Wetland Centre that should be wrapped up for opening day on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to check-out the extended retail space on your visit to the Park this summer.



Moose Cow (female)

Staff Photo

## Featured Park Friend: Coyote



Eastern Coyote

Staff Photo

**Name:** Eastern Coyote

**Scientific Name:** *Canis latrans*

**Size:** Weight - 13-16kg (28.5-35lbs)

Body Length - 120-150cm (4-5ft)

Shoulder Height - 58-66cm (23-26in)

**Colour:** Tawny grey with dark guard hairs on their back, their muzzle, throat, legs and underbelly are a lighter yellowish white. Coyotes have yellow eyes and a bushy tail.

**Lifespan:** 8-12 years

**Habitat:** Highly adaptable, coyotes can be found in prairies, deserts, open woodland, urban areas and farms.

**Range:** Originally from central and western North America coyotes have extended their range northeast to create a genetically separate subspecies: the Eastern Coyote.

**Feeding:** Opportunistic omnivores, coyotes eat anything that is readily available. Hunting rodents, birds, hares and small deer, as well as foraging for fruit, berries and insects; they will also scavenge carrion and garbage, and take small livestock if available.

**Breeding:** Forming generally monogamous pairs, coyotes mate in February with a litter of 2-10 (average 5-6) pups being born in a den in April. The parents care for the pups together, teaching them to hunt in the summer. Juveniles leave the den in the autumn but sometimes remain through winter.

**Fun Facts:** Typically wary of humans, coyotes living in urban areas are nocturnal while their rural counterparts will hunt during the day.

Able to make a variety of sounds, two coyotes can easily sound like a dozen as they bark, yelp, howl and bay.



Eastern Coyote

Staff Photo

## Upcoming Events

**Wild about  
Volunteering**

**Sat Apr 16  
10am-1pm**

Please join us for a volunteer orientation session. This is an exciting opportunity for the wildlife park and for you! Do you enjoy working outside, interacting with people, or making nature crafts with children? If you have skills in sharing nature knowledge we need your help to contribute to the visitor experience. Everyone will get a sample of the types of volunteering we are offering, so you can decide if donating time to the wildlife park is something you would like to pursue. All are welcome to come to this event but to volunteer at the park you must be 16 or older and commit to a minimum number of hours. You must pre-register by contacting [legacycentre@novascotia.ca](mailto:legacycentre@novascotia.ca) or phone 902-758-5316.

**Eggs get  
Cracking**



**Sat May 21  
11am-3pm**

Join us at the Greenwing Legacy Centre and see who has hatched! Learn about nesting, hatching, and brooding in the wild, while meeting the new arrivals! Regular park admission applies. For more information email [legacycentre@novascotia.ca](mailto:legacycentre@novascotia.ca) or phone 902-758-5316.

**Follow Sam on Twitter  
@ShubenacadieSam**



## Did you know?



Spring Peepers belong to the tree frog family and have large toepads used for gripping as they climb.

- There are hundreds of members of the Lily family, but the Lily-of-the-Vally, Day Lily, Calla Lily and Water Lilies are not part of that family.



- Able to dive up to 100m (330ft) and hold their breath for 20min, the Harbour Seal is the most common seal seen around Nova Scotia.



- A group of Finches is called a Charm, a group of Starlings is a Murmuration, and a group of Larks is an Exaltation.



**Just 4 Fun!!**

Can you Unscramble the Spring themed words?

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. reowfl      | 7. tealopd       |
| 2. enger sargs | 8. zbeery        |
| 3. leudpds     | 9. eeebbbmul     |
| 4. dbir setn   | 10. bbay aalmnis |
| 5. geadrn      | 11. edses        |
| 6. rtee dbus   | 12. nusnihes     |