



THE PARK PRESS

Dec 2016 Volume 8 Issue 4 Page 1

Summer Recap



Canteen and Snacks

Staff Photos

This summer saw the addition of a locally-owned food establishment here at the Park. The canteen opened on Canada Day and ran until the end of September. Situated next to the Wetland Centre, the canteen was run by the McCulloch family who also operate a bakery in Stewiacke. The canteen served sandwiches, hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy and occasional extras like strawberry shortcake and pizza, the most popular item by far was the ice cream! We look forward to offering tasty treats for years to come.

The Wetland Centre welcomed increased foot traffic to enjoy their newly expanded deck, the enlarged gift shop and the walking trails through the wetlands. Hosting numerous annual events like Day Camp, Duck Day and the Maritime Reptile Zoo, there was something to learn for all ages.

In the animal park we finished updates to the Bighorn sheep, Dall sheep and Reindeer enclosures then moved next door to begin refreshing the Bobcat and Lynx enclosures. These wild cats are temporarily off display while construction takes place. The Otter enclosure also saw a quick facelift in autumn.

Perhaps the most interesting change to the Park this summer was the addition of hundreds of virtual creatures thanks to the PokémonGo app. We set lures for a day in August attracting hundreds of visitors determined to catch them all.



Screenshot of a Pokémon flying around near the Mink enclosure.

Get social with us!



Featured Park Friend: Ring-necked Pheasant



Male Ring-necked Pheasant (Cock)

Staff Photo

Name: Ring-necked Pheasant

Scientific Name:

Phasianus colchicus

Size: Height: 50-90cm (20-35 inches)

Weight: 0.5-3kg (1-6.5lbs)

Wingspan: 55-85cm (22-33 inches)

Colour: Males are iridescent with copper, spotted breasts, long striped tails, and green necks with a white collar and red faces. Females are brown with spots and stripes and a buff coloured breast.

Lifespan: around 1 year in the wild

Habitat: Grasslands with plenty of ditches, shrubs and bushes for cover, and nearby trees for roosting. They also make use of marshes and agricultural land.

Range: the Maritimes, northeastern US, Prairies of central North America, the majority of Europe, and East Asia.



Feeding: Omnivores, eating grains, grasses, fruit, nuts and insects. In summer they eat more fresh greens and insects while in winter they rely more on seeds and roots.

Breeding: Males crow and compete for a group of females, courting them with various displays. Females nest in a sparsely lined natural depression on the ground laying 7-15 eggs that she incubates for 23-28 days. Young can fly after 2 weeks but stay with their mother for 10-12 weeks.

Fun Facts: These birds have strong breast muscles that they use to escape danger by bursting into the air at speeds of around 60km/hr (40mph). They can cover around 180m (600ft) before gliding to land.

Originally from Asia, like many game birds they were moved to Europe and then North America for hunting. They are now so well-established they are listed in most North American bird books and many people do not realize they aren't native.



Female Ring-necked Pheasant (Hen)

Staff Photo

Webcam Fun



Reindeer Cam Still with festive snowfall

Once again the Reindeer Cam is up and running so viewers can check in on our reindeer 24/7. Santa himself looks in on, and feeds the reindeer twice a day at 9am and 3pm local time. It's a lot of work to get the reindeer ready for their big night.

Check it out at: <http://www.novascotiawebcams.com/en/webcams/reindeercam/>

On Dec 10-11 and Dec 17-18 we're hosting Reindeer Games at the Park from 1-3pm, with a lichen display, caribou bingo, and of course free hot chocolate and candy canes! At 2:30pm Santa himself makes a quick appearance before the 3pm feeding.

Don't miss out on the Sam Cam in mid-January to watch Shubenacadie Sam get ready for Groundhog Day!



Festive Joke:

Q: Which Reindeer is the cleanest?

A: Comet!



Shubie Sam's Groundhog Gamble

This February we will be playing host to a 5km run...or will we? The "gamble" aspect is that the true length of the race will not be determined until February 2nd. If Sam doesn't see his shadow, the run will be 5km, if he does then that means 6 more weeks of winter and 6 more kilometers to run for a total of 11km! The race is being organized by RUN Canada and registration is required with partial proceeds being donated to the park. The run will take place on Saturday February 4th at 11am and the course will be on the paved loop around the playground which will be plowed and closed to traffic.

For more information or to register go to: <https://raceroster.com/events/2017/11096/shubie-sams-groundhog-gamble>



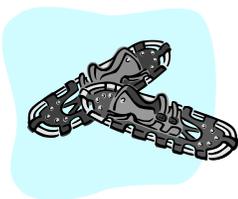
March Break



Join us March 13-17 from 9:30am-12pm at the Wetland Centre for crafts and activities. There will be a different fun theme for each day. The animal enclosure area will also be open from 9am-3pm at regular winter rate from March 11-19
Night Tours - March 10 & 18 at 7:30pm
 \$6.00 cash per person
 (pre-registration is necessary)

Upcoming Events

Snowshoeing at the Park



Have you ever wanted to try snowshoeing? We have the snowshoes if winter gives us the snow. This will be offered periodically on weekends starting January 7, 2017, from 10am-1pm (**Snowshoeing will not be offered February 4**). We wish to encourage people of all ages to try this easy and *free* activity.

Groundhog Day and World Wetlands Day

February 2nd is Groundhog Day and Shubenacadie Sam will be making his prediction at **8am sharp!** Don't miss the excitement! Festivities begin at 7am with face painting, hot chocolate, and more, before a bag piper and town crier start the loud celebration. Dress for the weather! The Wildlife Park will be open *free* of charge from 8:15am to 12 noon. At the Wetland Centre from 8am to 12 noon we will be joined by our many partners to showcase wildlife and their habitats with crafts, displays and games.

For more information: Phone 902-758-5316 or Email: legacycentre@novascotia.ca

To check weather conditions at the Wildlife Park call 902-758-2040 to ensure the facility is open.

Did you know?

- ◆ **The Short-tailed Weasel** (aka stout and ermine) changes from brown fur in the summer to white in the winter for camouflage.
- ◆ An acre of **Christmas Trees** produces enough daily oxygen for 18 people and Nova Scotia has approximately 30 000 acres.
- ◆ **Pewter** is an alloy (mixture) of tin and copper, the same metals that make up bronze, they just use different amounts of the two metals.
- ◆ **Cedar Waxwings** are specialized fruit eaters sometimes surviving on berries alone for months. Unlike many other birds, they eat the seeds but let them pass right though with out digesting them.



Can you find the 2 snowflakes that are the same?

