



THE PARK PRESS

June 2012 Volume 4 Issue 1 Page 1

What's New?

Spring has burst forth with its usual feverish energy; bringing, new life, fresh growth, warm breezes and of course, lots of work!


Goslings
Staff Photo

Another sure sign of Spring is the addition of some baby animals. Be sure to check out the coyote pups, caribou calf, ducklings and goslings. More babies are on the way with our swans busy nesting. Remember while enjoying these latest editions to give the protective parents plenty of space.


Female Moose
Staff Photo

This season we have some new animals to welcome to the park. We have a female moose and, for the first time in our park, we have female elk. They all made a long trip from Calgary to be with us on Opening Day. The males will be arriving later in the season.

Be sure to
'Like' us on
Facebook!



THE PARK PRESS

Featured Park Friend: North American Elk



Female Elk

Staff Photo

Name: North American Elk

Scientific Name: *Cervus elaphus*

Size: 2nd largest deer in Canada

Bull - 1.5m at shoulder

- 1.2m antlers

- 300-350kg (can be 500kg before rut in late summer)

Cow - 1.35m at shoulder

- 250kg

- 8.5 month gestation period

Colour: ranges from light reddish-brown to dark brown with a light tan rump and dark brown neck. The long black hair on the neck is called a “mane”.

Lifespan: Bull 14yrs, Cow 24yrs

Habitat: Boreal (northern) forests and grasslands (usually winter in mountains and summer in valley).

Range: were once found across Canada and the upper US, but now mostly live in the Rocky Mountains or in protected National Parks.

Feeding: Herbivores (grasses, sedges, leaves, twigs, shoots)

Breeding: in spring cows break off to calve in seclusion, hiding their single calf for about 10 days before rejoining the herd. Bulls bugle and fight for control of a harem in late summer. The sexes remain in separate herds the rest of the year.

Fun Fact: Are also known as “Wapiti” which means “white rump”.



Feeding Time

Staff Photo

THE PARK PRESS

Upcoming Events

Fear Factor! **Sat June 23 1pm - 4pm**

Face your fears as you learn about wetland creatures that have scary features. Discover facts about the giant water bug, the predacious water beetle, and the star nosed mole. Explore the wildlife park animals and make a list of what you would fear from each animal. Bring your list to our interpreters and they will explain if your fears are justified.

Biodiversity **Sat June 30 & Sun July 1** **Days 1pm - 4pm**

Celebrate Canada Day by learning about the biodiversity in Nova Scotia. Drop in and find out how many species are in and around the Shubenacadie Provincial Wildlife Park. Do you know why differences in life are important? You will after you visit us! There will be scavenger hunts, guided nature walks, and pond exploration.

For more info call: (902) 758-5316
e-mail: legacycentre@gov.ns.ca



Did you know?

- ♦ **June Bugs** are a scarab beetle, much like the dung beetle, except June bug larvae eat grass and roots making them quite the lawn pest.
- ♦ **Mallard ducks** lose their flight feathers during the summer moult and so cannot fly for a few weeks.
- ♦ **Blackflies** only bite during the daytime unlike mosquitos who prefer the nighttime.
- ♦ A group of **Spring Peepers** is called an "Army", a group of **Monarch Butterflies** is called a "Flutter" and a group of **Elk** is called a "Gang".



Just 4 Fun!!

Q: What season is it when you are on a trampoline?

A: Spring-time!

Q: Can February March?

A: No, but April May!



Spring is Nature's way
of saying "Let's Party!"
~Robin Williams