



THE PARK PRESS

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Duck Day!



Greenwing Legacy Interpretive Centre (GLIC) at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park Staff Photo

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the partnership our Park has with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), we joined together to throw a party! Duck Day was held on July 25th with about 550 people coming out to join the fun. All activities were included with Park admission meaning free barbequed hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone!

Activities included nest box and birdhouse building as well as pond critter dipping. Music was provided by Kate & Rich and face painting by KC's Face Painting. The Canadian Red Cross brought a display with information about Boating Safety, and demonstrations were given of the Learn 2 Fish program by the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.



The Natural Resource Education Centre in Musquodoboit provided a craft that transformed humans into ducks!

Staff Photo



The Natural Resource Education Centre provided a duck craft and The Maritime Reptile Zoo brought some live creatures including a tortoise named 'Taco' and a young alligator named 'Ducky'.

The Party was held at and around the Greenwing Legacy Interpretive Centre (GLIC). The Centre provides DUC with a central location in the province to educate the public about the importance of wetland ecosystems. The GLIC opened in August 2006 and is included with Park admission.

In Atlantic Canada, DUC has conserved over 120,000 acres of wetland, including the St. Andrews Marsh here in the Park as well as the wetlands surrounding the GLIC.

Drake the Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) mascot made an appearance at Duck Day too!

Staff Photo



Featured Park Friend: Raccoon



Raccoons have very agile paws Staff Photo

Name: Raccoon

Scientific Name: *Procyon lotor*

Size:

Body Length – 60-95cm (2-3 feet)

Weight – 4-8kg (8.5-17.5 lbs)

Colour: mottled grey all over with a black 'mask' over the eyes and black rings on the tail.

Lifespan: 3-5 years (in the wild)

Habitat: Highly adaptable, raccoons can live almost anywhere as long as there is water, food and a place to den. They can be found in forests, swamps, fresh and saltwater marshes, farmland and urban areas.

Range: Across subarctic Canada (not Newfoundland), throughout the US and into Central America including some Caribbean islands.

Follow Sam on Twitter
@ShubenacadieSam



Feeding: Omnivores that will eat almost anything. They prefer corn, eggs, fruits and nuts. They forage, taking advantage of seasonal changes in food availability. In the fall they build up fat reserves to get through winter when they remain fairly inactive to save on energy.

Breeding: They mate in Feb-March with a litter of 2-7 cubs being born around May. The babies leave the den after about 2 months when they're finally ready to learn to forage with their mother. They den together for the winter, separating in the spring.

Fun Facts: Baby raccoons do not develop teeth until they are 19 days old but they get their face mask after 10 days before their eyes have opened. Predators are a minor cause of mortality in raccoons. Humans and disease are their primary cause death. It has been found that human attempts at discouraging raccoons seems to be causing them to develop better skills as they are fast learners.



Raccoons Sharing a Perch

Staff Photo

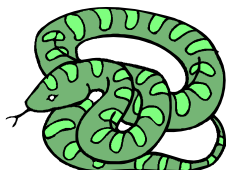
Upcoming Events

No Slandering of the Snakes **Sat Aug 23** **1 - 4pm**

We are seriously celebrating snakes with displays, a colouring contest, and make-your-own-snake with a recycled tie for \$3. Learn about all five of Nova Scotia's native snake species.



To add to the celebration, Maritime Reptile Zoo will be joining us and bringing more snakes as well as other reptiles.



Interesting Insect Day



Sat Aug 30

1 - 4pm

Make your own insect to take home. Try our insect identification activity and marvel at our insect display case with its incredible collection. Discover the many ways insects help humans.



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

What's New Around The Park?



New Snowshoe Hare Enclosure

Staff Photo

Work has been completed on the new Snowshoe Hare enclosure. This large, naturally grassed space provides our hare with plenty of room to run and feed, as well as shelter in which to hide. A climbing and shade structure has been added to the Bobcat enclosure to enrich their exhibit and engage their natural instincts.



Final installation in the Bobcat enclosure required many hands and they didn't let the torrential rain dampen their spirits!

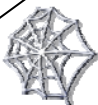
Staff Photo



Be sure to 'like' us on Facebook 'Check-in' whenever you're here

Upcoming Events

Wicked Web Of Food Chains



Sat Sept 6
1 - 4pm

Food chains are important in biology, because they show how energy passes through all living things from one to another. Build a food pyramid. Connect the food webs of wildlife. Discover why being at the top of the food chain can lead to bioaccumulation.



A Bear's Picnic

Sat Sept 13
11am - 1:30pm

Join us as we explore the three species of bears in Canada. Learn how the black, grizzly and polar bears are similar. Nova Scotia's black bear population is doing well but investigate how the grizzly and polar bears are facing challenges.

Wild Photo Day

Sat Sept 27
1 - 4pm

If you would like a lesson on taking better wildlife photos, bring your camera and join us in this educational session. An experienced photographer will explore photo basics and then help you test your skills in the park.

Pre-registering with confirmation is required for this event.

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Did you know?



Almost all of the 250 species of **Bumblebee** live in the Northern Hemisphere as they are well adapted to cold and adverse weather conditions.



- ♦ **Dandelions** are not native to North America. They were brought here intentionally by early settlers for their medicinal and culinary uses.
- ♦ **Great Blue Herons** have specialized feathers on their chest that they use like a washcloth to clean the slime and oils from fish and swamps from the rest of their feathers.
- ♦ Botanists estimate that **Blueberries** first appeared 13,000 years ago making it one of the oldest living plants.



Joke Time:

Q: Where did the Peacock go when he lost his tail?

A: The re-tail store!



Which one of these animals is not like the others? (Hint: think classification)

1. Duck, Eagle, Goose, Swan
2. Bobcat, Coyote, Fox, Wolf
3. Porcupine, Beaver, Raccoon, Squirrel
4. Moose, Caribou, Deer, Horse
5. Spider, Bee, Ladybug, Grasshopper

Answers: 1. Eagle (not a waterfowl) 2. Bobcat (not a canine)
3. Raccoon (not a rodent) 4. Horse (not a cervidae)
5. Spider (not an insect)