



# THE PARK PRESS

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## Big News!!



MP Scott Armstrong

Staff Photo

July 28<sup>th</sup> was a big day for the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park and Greenwing Legacy Interpretive Centre (GLIC). The Government of Canada, through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, is investing \$400,000 of funding in the “Nova Scotia Wetland and Wildlife Park Project”. The provincial government and Ducks Unlimited Canada are each contributing \$200,000 as well to make a total of \$800,000 of invested funds. The purpose of the project is to connect nature to more visitors than ever before by making the park a thriving tourism and education destination.

The main elements of the project are:

- 1) Enhance and Refresh the GLIC – by installing new hands-on interactive displays, expanding the gift shop, adding a visitor food service area and, installing air conditioning.
- 2) Enhance the overall Park visitor experience – by building a welcome plaza, improving accessibility in the parking area and walkways leading to the park and GLIC, comprehensive signage and an improved park map/brochure.
- 3) Collaborative Marketing and Promotion – rebranding of the overall site and facility to become fully integrated and, developing a comprehensive marketing plan and social media strategy.

The project will be spread out over three years.



Aerial of Park including the GLIC and wetlands

Staff Photo

## Featured Park Friend: Beaver



Beaver Grooming

Staff Photo

**Name:** Beaver

**Scientific Name:**

*Castor canadensis*

**Size:**

Weight - 18-28kg (40-62lbs)

Body Length - 60-100cm (2-3.25ft)

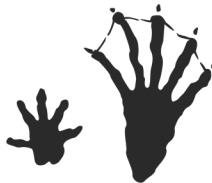
Tail Length - 20-30cm (7.75-12in)

**Colour:** the largest rodent in North America, beavers have thick, dark brown fur, a flat tail covered in leathery scales, webbed hind feet, and long, sharp front teeth.

**Lifespan:** 10-15 years

**Habitat:** Like humans, beavers engineer their own habitat. They select watercourses bordered by mixed forests to build their dam creating a pond to build their lodge in.

**Range:** Throughout Canada including much of the territories and throughout the US though they are absent in a few states like California and Florida.



**Feeding:** Herbivores, surviving the winter off of bark, twigs and leaves while in the summer they add aquatic vegetation, grasses and fruit to their diet.

**Breeding:** Mating for life, beavers breed in Jan-Feb and following a 100 day gestation the litter of 1-8 (average 3-4) kits is born in May-June. Newborns have fur and can see, swim and walk but remain in the lodge for at least a month. They stay with their parents for 2-3 years before dispersing.

**Fun Facts:** Beavers have many uses for their tail including: a rudder, a prop-like seat, a counter-balance when standing upright, and communication by slapping the water.

At the peak of the Fur Trade around 200,000 beaver pelts were shipped to Europe per year causing the beaver population to severely decline. After conservation efforts began in the 1930s the beaver now has a healthy population.



Beaver Swimming

Staff Photo



## Maintenance Update



Construction on the Skunk Enclosure

Staff Photo

Quite a bit of summer maintenance is underway at the park this season. Ongoing work is being done on the new bighorn sheep enclosure and improvements are being made to the skunk enclosure too. The most extensive work involves the paving being done on the park's entrance road and in the parking areas. As with all roadwork, traffic control is in place when necessary and drivers are recommended to use caution.

## Joke Time!

**Q: What do you get when you cross a rabbit with a fly?**

**A: Bugs Bunny!**



Be sure to 'like' us on Facebook!



Follow Sam on Twitter  
@ShubenacadieSam



## Duck Day!

On July 11<sup>th</sup> we hosted our second annual Duck Day, in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada, and over 700 people came out to enjoy the event. Once again the day was filled with learning experiences and fun, including activities like fly-tying, songbird nest box building, pond critter dipping and a rubber duck toss for prizes. The Museum of Natural History made plaster animal tracks while the Red Cross educated the public about boating safety. The Maritime Reptile Zoo joined us bringing a tortoise, python, lizard and dwarf caiman. Balloon Galore was busy painting faces while R.A. Lautenschlager provided some festive music. The free barbeque featured hamburgers, hot dogs and cake and Smokey the Bear made a special appearance!



Smokey the Bear with a Friend

Staff Photo

## Upcoming Events

### SPECIES AT RISK DAY

**Sat Aug 8  
11am-3pm**

We will be drawing your attention to the many mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, plants and marine species that are at risk of extinction in Nova Scotia. By viewing a display of exotic species at risk from other lands the world wide issues of all animals will be instilled. Learn about the threats to their survival and play our species at risk obstacle course.

### Bird Walk

**Sat Aug 22  
9-11:30am**




Did you know that nearly 500 species of birds have been documented in Nova Scotia? Want to learn more about our local birds? Join the **Nova Scotia Bird Society** on a walk through our wetland trail, and Saint Andrew's Marsh trail. We will be looking (and listening) for songbirds, birds of prey, and any other of our feathered friends along the way! A limited number of binoculars are available for use. No rain date.



**Regular Park Admission Applies**  
**For more info call: (902) 758-7094**  
**e-mail: [legacycentre@gov.ns.ca](mailto:legacycentre@gov.ns.ca)**



## Did you know?

- ♦ **Dragonflies** are highly efficient hunters catching 90-95% of the prey they go after. 
- ♦ The average cob of corn has 800 kernels in 16 rows. **Corn** is a component in over 3000 products ranging from cereal and fuel alcohol, to soft drinks, peanut butter and batteries. 
- ♦ **Belted Kingfishers** regurgitate pellets containing indigestible bones, shells and scales just like owls do.
- ♦ **Lupines** are named for the Latin word for "Wolf" due to their tendency to "devour the earth" and spread across it.
- ♦ The head of a **Sunflower** may have up to 2000 seeds and there are two kinds, the black seeds are used to make oil and the striped to make snacks and bird feed. 

## Just 4 Fun!!

Can you match the Animal to its preferred Habitat?

- |              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1) Coyote    | A) Nest in the field |
| 2) Frog      | B) Flower Garden     |
| 3) Squirrel  | C) Arctic Tundra     |
| 4) Sparrow   | D) Den in the Forest |
| 5) Spider    | E) Pond or Wetland   |
| 6) Butterfly | F) Lodge in a Pond   |
| 7) Beaver    | G) Nest in a tree    |
| 8) Caribou   | H) Web               |

Answers: 1-D, 2-E, 3-G, 4-A, 5-H, 6-B, 7-F, 8-C