



# THE PARK PRESS

December 2013

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## Reindeer Cam



Reindeer and Friend

Still from Webcam

Back by popular demand is our Reindeer Cam! Last December, in partnership with [novascotiawebcams.com](http://novascotiawebcams.com), we had a special live webcam on the reindeer herd residing at our park. Since the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park is located halfway between the North Pole and the Equator it's the perfect location for Santa to have an Outpost to keep his reindeer. Twice a day Santa himself will make an appearance to feed and check on the reindeer. You may be surprised to learn reindeer keep a strict winter diet of lichen or "caribou moss", not Holiday Cookies or even carrots.

Last year, the Reindeer Cam got 8,000 hits in the first three days and totalled 74,907 during the full run from all over the world! The reindeer enjoyed the extra attention, as did the young visitors who came out on the weekends to visit them in person. Park staff also made a festive video last year and will again this year. Check them out on YouTube at the ShubenacadieWildlife Channel. We listened to the comments of our webcam viewers and will try to make it even better this year. Some changes include the addition of Santa's sleigh, gifts and a mailbox for your letters to Santa. Check it out and let us know what you think at:

<http://www.novascotiawebcams.com/reindeercam>



Reindeer enjoying 1st Snow

Still from Webcam

## Featured Park Friend: Reindeer



Reindeer in Winter

Staff Photo

**Name** – Reindeer (aka Caribou)

**Scientific Name** – *Rangifer tarandus*

**Height** at shoulder - 85-150cm (2.8'-5')

**Weight** –

Male - 159-182kg (350-400lbs)

Female - 80 -120kg (176-265lbs)

**Colour** – A mix of browns, tans and whites. Darker face and legs with light underbelly, neck and tail.

**Lifespan** – 7-15 years in the wild

**Habitat** – Mature or old growth coniferous forests associated with bogs, lakes, rivers and mountains; plus, arctic tundras and muskegs.

**Range** – Alaska, Northern Canada, Scandinavia and Siberia.

**Feeding** – Herbivore, eating ground and tree lichens in the winter and switching to green shoots, flowers and mushrooms when available in the summer.

**Breeding** – Calves are born in May or early June. Some species migrate to calving grounds and others calf in seclusion. Males rut or spar for a harem between September and November.

**Fun Facts** – Have indented hooves that allow them to scoop or shovel the snow away while they search for lichens. Also helps support them on top of the snow.

The only member of the Deer family in which both males and females grow



Reindeer Resting

Staff Photo





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## Upcoming Events

Guest

## Speaker Saturdays

Join us for a Free Educational Experience on the Fourth Saturday of the Month from **1:00-2:30pm** at the DUC Wetland Centre.

Jan 25 - Helene Van Dominck

### Wildlife Rehabilitation

Feb 22 - Andrew Hebda

### Invasive Species

Mar 22 - Gwenyth Jones

### Symbiosis in Nature

Apr 26 - Emily Gratton

### Learn to Camp

For more information e-mail:

**legacycentre@gov.ns.ca**

No registration necessary.

Presentations are geared for mature audiences.

In case of bad weather call **(902)**

**758-7094** after 10:00am on the day of the presentation for an update.

Be sure to  
'Like' us on  
Facebook!



## Did you know?

♦ **Snowy Owls** are not nocturnal due to the extreme changes in the daily amount of sunlight in the Arctic.

♦ The population size of **Arctic Fox** increases and decreases following that of the **Lemming**, similar to how the **Lynx** population cycles follow that of the **Snowshoe Hare**.

♦ The largest **Lobster** ever caught was 20.14kg (44.4lbs), 0.9-1.2m (3-4feet) long and about 100 years old. It was caught in Nova Scotia.

♦ A group of **Seals** is called a Colony, a group of **Starlings** is a Murmuration or Chattering and a group of **Squirrels** is a Scurry.



Seasonal Joke Time:



Q: What do Snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Frosted Flakes!



Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?

A: Frostbite!

Q: Which Reindeer has poor manners?

A: "Rude"- olf!



## Upcoming Events

### Snowshoeing at the Park



Come out and try Snowshoeing! We provide the snowshoes if Nature provides us with snow! This event will be offered periodically on weekends starting Dec 14th from 10:30-1:30. We encourage people of all ages to try this easy and fun recreational activity. To make arrangements or for more information: Phone: **(902) 758-7094**

Or Email: **legacycentre@gov.ns.ca**

Call **(902) 758-2040** on the day of the activity to check current weather conditions at the Park.



### Groundhog's Day!

February 2nd is Groundhog's 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 the bag piper and town crier start the loud celebration. Dress for the weather!

Follow Shubie Sam on  
Twitter  
**@ShubenacadieSam**



## Just 4 Fun!!

Can you unscramble the Winter themed words!

nefwolsak

rirdeene

hegsil

setntmi

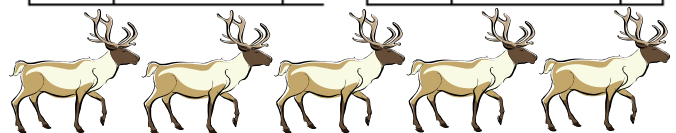
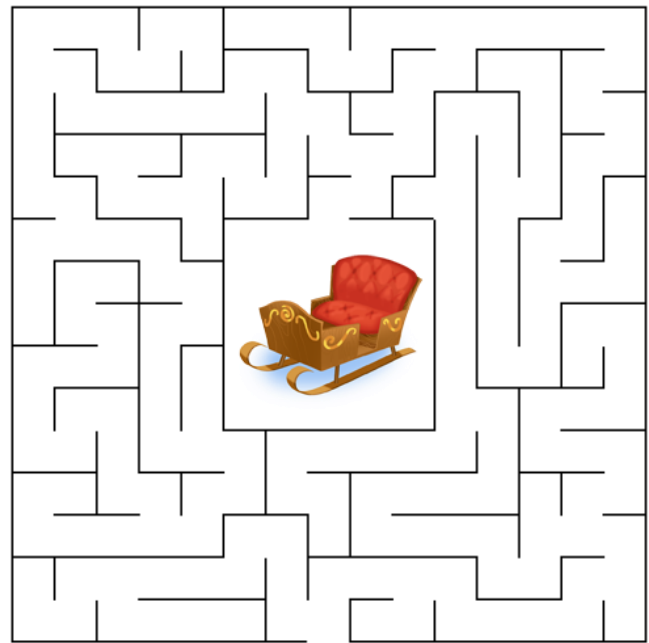
neerrvege

kesast

zenofr

oht cetoolahc

Help the Reindeer get to the Sleigh



Check-out Shubie Sam's  
Live Webcam in January!

Answers to Word Scramble:

Snowflake; Reindeer; Sleigh; Mittens; Evergreen; Skates; Frozen; Hot Chocolate



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## World Wetlands Day

February 2nd is also World Wetlands Day! On Feb 2, 1971 the Convention on Wetlands was adopted in Ramsar, Iran. Now called the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, it is an intergovernmental treaty that “embodies the commitments of its member countries to maintain the ecological character of their Wetlands of International Importance and to plan for the “wise-use” (sustainable use) of all the wetlands in their territories”.

Each year there is a theme. In support of the UN International Year of Family Farming 2014, this year’s theme is “Wetlands and Agriculture: Partners in Growth”, highlighting the importance of wetlands in supporting agriculture. More than 50% of wetlands like peatlands, marshes, floodplains, etc. have been lost with conversion for agricultural uses being a primary reason. For more information check out [www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org). Our Wetland Centre (in partnership with Ducks Unlimited) will be open on Feb 2nd from 7am-1pm. Stick around after the Groundhog’s Day celebrations to check-out our interactive displays and learn about the wonders of the wetlands.

## FOOD, WATER AND WETLANDS

[www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)

