

What's New?

SNOWSHOEING

Have you ever wanted to try snowshoeing? We have the snowshoes if winter gives us the snow. This will be offered periodically on week-ends throughout the winter starting December 15. We wish to encourage people of all ages to try this easy recreational activity.



To make arrangements or get more information email

legacycentre@gov.ns.ca or phone

902-758-5316. **What animal**

makes tracks like snowshoes?

Events Report

Groundhog Day and World Wetlands Day

February 2, Saturday, 2013 was Groundhog Day and World Wetlands Day, when over 1000 people visited the park and watched Shubenacadie Sam make his appearance and prediction at 8 am sharp. He saw his shadow so we are in for more winter. **For more info call: (902) 758-5316 or e-mail: legacycentre@gov.ns.ca**

The 2013 World wetlands theme is Wetlands and water management. Check out this site for more information on World Wetlands Day.

www.ramsar.org/WWD

THE PARK PRESS

Featured Park Friend:



Staff Photo

Name: Woodchuck or groundhog

Scientific Name: *Marmota monax*

Size: Woodchucks weigh 2 to 4 kg and measure 40 to 65 cm total length.

Life Span: Woodchucks have been known to live for 10 years, although the average life span is probably much less.

Colour: Colour ranges from yellowish brown to dark reddish brown.

Eating Habits: Woodchucks eat a variety of wild plants, clover and alfalfa, and garden vegetables if they can get them.

Woodchucks have sturdy claws for burrowing. The front feet have four claws, and the hind feet have five.

They escape from enemies by diving into burrows; their top running speed is 15 km per hour.

Burrows usually have a main entrance with separate toilet and nesting chambers.

Woodchucks are 'true hibernators' able to lower their body temperature to 3°C, and their heartbeat will drop from its normal rate of about 80 beats per minute to only four or five!

Hibernation begins late in September, and all woodchucks are underground by October.

Babies are born blind and helpless in May, weighing about 30 g.

Gertrude the Groundhog seen below is an above average sized groundhog.



THE PARK PRESS

Special Event
February 23

Wildlife Photography Session

by Northern Exposure - Nikon
International Radio
Photographer
Peter Spence



Staff Photo

When: Saturday, February 23, 2013

Time: Starts at 10:00 a.m. to noon for classroom instruction, then an afternoon photo shoot from 12:30 to 3:00 pm. Bring your own lunch and camera. Must be age 16 and up.

Where: Shubenacadie Provincial Wildlife Park, in the Greenwing Legacy Interpretation Centre, 155 Creighton Rd, Shubenacadie

Registration: Regular park admission applies.
Adults \$2.75 Youth \$1.50

Call to register at (902) 758-5316 or email legacycentre@gov.ns.ca



Did you know?

On February 2nd much of North America observes Groundhog Day. According to folklore, the groundhog wakes from its long winter sleep and comes out of its den. If it sees its shadow it will go back in, and we will have another six weeks of winter. If it does not see its shadow it will remain awake and active, and we will have an early spring.



Most people recognize that the legend has no basis in fact, in reality; most groundhogs do not come out of hibernation until March!

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The male moose and elk have arrived from the Calgary Zoo, safe and sound.

MALE ELK



Staff Photo

I am so handsome with my velvety antlers

MALE MOOSE



I am so handsome with my dewlap
(a fold of loose skin hanging from

FEMALE ELK



Staff Photo

Well let me see, who do I like better. There are the antlers, then there is the dewlap.

