



THE PARK PRESS

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DNR Open House



The Minister of Natural Resources, Charlie Parker
making a presentation Department Photo

Fun for everyone was the focus of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Open House on June 1st and 2nd hosted here in Shubenacadie. The event kicked off on May 31st with 300 Grade 6 students from 3 local schools visiting to check out the displays and participate in activities. Later that day DNR staff and retirees were invited to come out and enjoy. The rest of the weekend was open to the public with visitor numbers totaling 6000 over the two days.

The first Open House was held in September 2009, and its success ensured this year's event.

There were exhibits by the Forestry Division, Land Survey, Enforcement, Fire Prevention & Suppression, Fleet Services, Insectarium, Mineral & Geology Services, Air Services, Wildlife Division, Parks Division, and others. Activities included meeting Smokey the Bear, climbing a wildfire detection tower, panning for gold, sitting inside a helicopter and, of course, free admission to the Wildlife Park!

Delicious BBQ was available for purchase by O'Connell's Family Farm Foods and there was live music by the Wilderbeats. On Saturday there was a special presentation about the Boston Christmas Tree Tradition. Fire Fighting Competitions were held on Sunday.



"Sally Mander"

Staff Photo

The Yellow-spotted Salamander was the mascot of the event. "Sally" was borrowed from the Museum of Natural History for the weekend.

Featured Park Friend: Bobcat



Bobcat at Rest

Staff Photo

Name — Bobcat (once called Wildcat)

Scientific Name — *Felis rufus*

Size — Height: 43-58cm (17-23in)

Body Length: 66-104cm (26-41in)

Weight: Males 7-13kg (16-28lbs)

Females 4-8kg (10-18lbs)

Colour — shades of brown from beige to reddish-brown with dark brown spots and lines. The underbelly is white and the tips of the tail and ears are black. They have a short “bobbed” tail.

Lifespan — 10-13 years



Habitat — they have adapted to most habitats from forests to meadows, swamps to mountains and even deserts and suburban areas.

Range — Bobcats have the largest range of all native North American wildcats. They range from Mexico up through southern Canada but are less common in the Midwest and northeastern states.

Feeding — carnivores, hunting mainly rabbits and hares but will also hunt birds and rodents. They can kill larger prey but prefer small game. They will kill poultry, piglets and lambs, making them a potential problem for farms and ranches.

Breeding — mating season is in late winter with gestation lasting 50-70 days. Females raise a litter of 1-6 kittens in a den. The kittens start learning to hunt at 5 mo. and leave the den around 8-12 mo.

Fun Facts — stealthy, pouncing hunters who can leap 3m (10ft). Females never share a territory (8km² or 5mi²) but male territories (40-50km² or 25-30mi²) will overlap.



Bobcat Up Close

Staff Photo

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Upcoming Events

SPECIES AT RISK IN NS **Sat Jun 29** **1 - 4pm**

Canada Day Weekend we will be drawing attention to the many animals, birds, reptiles, plants and marine species that are at risk in this province. Learn the threats to their survival and play our giant interactive dice game to see if you can help them. Discover the many ways these species have value. Dress for the weather.

Groundhog Day Reunion **Sat Jul 13** **1 - 4pm**

Featuring Shubenacadie Sam. We challenge you to try our obstacle course. Explore the wonders of our wetland and discover the many creatures that live in our ponds. Have a free glass of iced tea and leave your mark at the Wildlife Park with sidewalk chalk; at least until the next rain. Dress for the weather.

Follow Sam on Twitter
[@ShubenacadieSam](#)



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

Latest News

Spring has been just as busy as ever here at the Park. The Arctic and Timber Wolves were moved to their new enclosures behind the Moose on May 28th. Their old enclosures will be replaced, creating a new habitat for Bighorn Sheep. There is also space by the Wolves where new enclosures for the Foxes are planned, so stay tuned.



New Wolf Enclosures

Staff Photo

Spring also means baby animals! We have a Coyote pup, Red Deer fawn and a litter of Snowshoe Hare. Also there are many down covered ducklings and goslings. The Mute Swans are still nesting so beware of the cranky, overprotective fathers-to-be!

Be sure to 'Like' us
on Facebook!



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Upcoming Events

Biodiversity Day **Sat Jul 20** **1 - 4pm**

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

Discover Life In Our Ponds

Sat Aug 3
1 - 4pm



Celebrate Ducks Unlimited's 75th anniversary with us! Come to our Wetland Centre, enjoy some cake and explore water creatures with our staff. Discover the many living things adapted to life in the water. Learn about the life cycle of the frog and newt. Make a frog life cycle craft to take home. Dress for the weather.

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Did you know?

♦ On average **Osprey** successfully catch a fish once out of every 4 dives and the average time spent hunting before making a catch is 12 minutes.

- ♦ **Mosquitos** use exhaled carbon dioxide, body odours and temperature to hone in on their prey.
- ♦ The seeds of **Lady's Slippers** require a fungus to break them open and provide nutrients for growth.
- ♦ A group of **Raccoons** is called a Nursery, a group of **Porcupines** is a Family and a group of **Otters** is called a Romp.



Just 4 Fun!!



Q: Why are Skunks so smart?

A: Because they have a lot of Scents



Can you unscramble our furry friends' names? (Hint they're all mammals)

lcakb rabe

oipuprenc

noccroa

ioubcra

erriv ttreo

ucaorg

ebvera

ciactr olfw