



THE PARK PRESS

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Big Changes



Constructing New Welcome Plaza and Entry Staff Photo

On July 28th 2015 the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) invested funds that the provincial government and Ducks Unlimited Canada matched to go towards enhancing the visitor experience at the Wildlife Park including the Wetland Interpretive Centre. Construction began in the winter and is on-going. A major change is underway to the entrance of the park to create one central flow leading to a welcome plaza with clear signage to the different areas of the park. New directional signage will be going up throughout the park as well.

A trail going from the Wetland Centre and into the park by the reindeer is nearly complete to create an easy flow through the different aspects of the park. An extension of the deck at the Wetland Centre is also nearing completion. Inside the Wetland Centre several structural changes have been completed which involved moving office areas in order to extend the retail space. Another door has been added to connect to the new section of deck and heat pumps have been installed. Some of the displays have been removed or moved around.

Both the park and the Wetland Centre remain open during the completion of these projects so we ask that you be aware of the construction areas and use caution.



Extension to the Deck on the Wetland Centre

Staff Photo

Featured Park Friend: Sable Island Horse



Sable Island Horse

Staff Photo

Name: Sable Island Horse

Scientific Name:

Equus ferus caballus

Size:

Height (at shoulder) 13-14 hands
(1.3-1.4m, 4.3-4.6ft)

Weight 250-360kg (550-790lbs)

Colour: descendants of Acadian farm horses, they vary in colour ranging from light browns to dark browns, with cream to black manes and tails. There are no grey or other coloured horses on the island. The horses are short and stocky with shaggy coats.

Lifespan: 5-15 years in the wild
(20-30 in captivity)

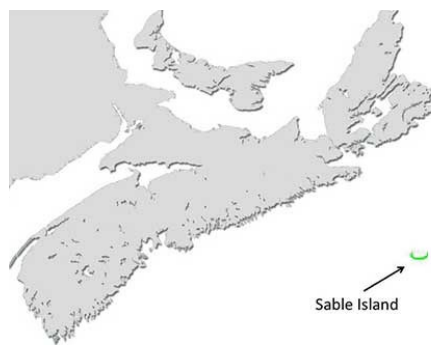
Habitat: Sable Island is crescent shaped and covered in sand dunes with some aquifer fed ponds. There are no trees, just meadows and beaches.

Range: Sable Island is 300km off of Halifax, NS and is 42km long by 1km wide.

Feeding: Herbivores, eating grasses. They have adapted to the salty and sandy dune grass, but the gritty sand can damage their teeth over the years.

Breeding: Small family herds of 3-4 mares and their offspring are defended by a dominant stallion. Other males form bachelor bands. Foals are born between late April and August after a gestation of 11-12 months.

Fun Facts: In 1960, the horses were put up for sale for removal from the island for slaughter but school children wrote to then Prime Minister Diefenbaker begging him to save them. He intervened and the horses were protected by the Coast Guard until 2013 when the island was made a National Park and protected by Parks Canada.



Sable Island



Above: Map showing Sable Island's location
Below: Sable Island Horse

Upcoming Events

Learn 2 Fish

Sat June 25
8:30am-12:30pm

Learn the safe and proper way to fish in NS. We recommend this event for ages 8 to 100. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Fishing gear will be supplied if needed. Be prepared for a 1.5 hour classroom session, then take to the pond and try your hand at catching some delicious fish. You decide whether to catch and release, or take the fish home for dinner. Bring outdoor clothes, rubber boots, hat, insect repellent and sunblock. Regular park admission applies. You must pre-register and receive a confirmation to participate in this event by phoning 902-758-5316 or email legacycentre@novascotia.ca.

Wild about Butterflies



Fri July 1
11am-3pm

Celebrate Canada Day with us and learn about our incredible pollinators. Watch our butterflies be released at 2pm and 3pm. Imagine how it would feel to go from a caterpillar, to sleeping in a cocoon, to a flying creature! Regular park admission applies.

Duck Day!



Sat July 9
10am-2pm

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park present Duck Day! Join us for a day of family fun celebrating the partnership between DUC, the wildlife park, and our community of dedicated supporters. The day will include a FREE BBQ, live entertainment, face painting, crafts, nest box building, critter dipping and more. For more info contact Katie at 902-220-8780, or k_scott@ducks.ca

Day Camp



Day Campers

Staff Photo

Our summer day camp days are both educational and fun, offering hikes, games and crafts designed to encourage a lifelong enjoyment of nature and wildlife.

Day camp is offered to children aged 7-12 years. The camp runs from 9:30am to 4:00pm. The cost is \$30 per day per child.

July 5th - Who is at the Top of the Food Chain?

July 13th - Insects are Important!

July 21st - Big on Biodiversity

August 26th - Survival Day at St Andrew's Marsh

All children must be pre-registered and pre-paid 1 week in advance. To get more information or an application form please phone the booking line at 902 758 5316 or email legacycentre@novascotia.ca

Upcoming Events

Aboriginal Traditional and Ecological Knowledge

**Sat July 16
1-3pm**

Guest Speaker Gerald Gloade an Artist, Carver and Educator of the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre will be giving a talk about wildlife signs. "Our ancestors' survival depended on seeing signs and patterns in nature to tell them when it was the best time to hunt, to plant or to prepare for winter. Many of these signs can be seen today, like the silence of crickets preceding the start of fall weather. (Our ancestors knew that when the crickets stopped singing, it was time to dry fish for winter, because the humidity was out of the air.)"

Wild about Frogs & Toads



**July 23 & 24
10am-5pm**

How can you tell the difference between frogs and toads? You can ask us and hunt for some in their natural habitat. Learn about their life cycles up close. View the frogs and toads on display at the wetland centre. Come explore our pseudo pond and make a fun craft for \$1.

WILD ABOUT WATER



**July 30 & 31
10am-5pm**

This wild weekend we are going wild about water. With a roll of the dice take part in the water cycle to experience how it really works. Just how much fresh water is there on earth? Get a better idea with our eye-opening display. Can you undo water pollution? Make a fun craft for \$1.

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



Did you know?

There are almost 300 species of **June Bugs** and they all belong to the scarab beetle family.

- ♦ **Dandelions** get their name from the French description "Dent-de-lion" which means "Lion's Tooth" and refers to the serrations on their green leaves that resemble teeth.



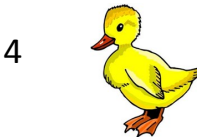
- ♦ Initially introduced to 3 lakes in 1945, **Chain Pickerel** have spread to at least 95 lakes in Nova Scotia making them an invasive species of fish.



- ♦ Male **Wood Thrush** do most of the feeding of their first chicks while the female begins a second brood. They then divide up the second brood and raise them separately.

Just 4 Fun!!

Can you match the baby to right parent?



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