



# THE PARK PRESS

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## Antlers vs Horns



Bull Moose with Antlers

Staff Photo

The terms antlers and horns are often used interchangeably, but they are in fact quite different structures.

Antlers are found on the Cervidae family (deer, moose and elk) and are only grown by the males (except in the case of Caribou, where both sexes have antlers). Males use their antlers to compete for females during the autumn mating season called the rut. Antlers begin growing in the spring and continue to grow all summer. While the bone develops it is covered in blood vessels, skin and soft hair called velvet. The velvet stops growing in autumn and is scraped off, exposing solid bone. Because antlers take a lot of energy to grow, the strongest males will typically have the biggest antlers and can outcompete other males for more females. During winter, the antlers fall off. Discarded antlers are called sheds.

Horns, on the other hand, are found on the Bovidae family (cows, sheep, goats, buffalo and antelope) and are often grown by both males and females. Horns never fall off (except in the case of the Pronghorn, where the horn sheath is shed annually), instead horns continue to grow throughout the animal's life. Horns begin growing from a bony structure extending off of the skull and are covered in a keratin sheath that is similar in makeup to human fingernails. Males use their horns to compete for females, while females often use their horns to defend themselves and their young from predators. Because of the contrasting uses, horns also look different with males often having larger, thicker horns and females often having thin, straight horns.

A simple way to tell antlers and horns apart is that antlers have several branches while horns do not branch.



Dall's Sheep  
Ram with  
Horns

Staff Photo

## Featured Park Friend: Cackling Goose



Cackling Goose

Staff Photo

**Name:** Cackling Goose

**Scientific Name:**

*Branta hutchinsii*

**Size:**

Height - 55-75cm (21.5-29.5in)

Weight: 1-3kg (2-7lbs)

Wingspan: 1-1.2m (3.5-5ft)

**Colour:** Tan to brown body with a white rump, long black neck and head, with a white chinstrap. Once considered a small subspecies of the Canada Goose they have been classified as genetically different.

**Lifespan:** 10-20 years

**Habitat:** Near water including wetlands, ponds, lakes, marshes and streams, they also gather on coastal shores and in agricultural fields.

**Range:** They breed in the Canadian arctic tundra, particularly along the shores, then migrate through the prairies to the southern US, particularly the Midwest and along the Gulf of Mexico.

**Feeding:** Herbivores, eating grasses, herbs, sedges and berries. They will also eat grains like wheat and barley.

**Breeding:** Mating for life, the female chooses the nest location favouring elevated areas on the ground near the water. She lays 2-8 eggs and incubates them for 25-28 days while the male defends her and the eggs. The goslings leave the nest after 1 day, able to swim, walk and eat, but they cannot fly until they are about 6 weeks old. They often stay with their parents until spring.

**Fun Facts:**

They can fly at 50km/hr (30mph) while migrating, sometimes covering 1000km (621miles) per day.

There are 4 subspecies of Cackling Goose. The smallest one is just a quarter the size of the Giant Canada Goose which is the largest of the 7 subspecies of Canada Goose, a close relative.



Cackling Geese with Gosling

Staff Photo



## Upcoming Events

**Wild Halloween Party!**



**Sat Oct 31  
10:30am -  
1:30pm**

Come to the park for tricks and treats, where the animals can see your Halloween costumes. Surprise our wildlife with your outfits and we will have some surprises for you. Brave our Haunted House to get your candy reward!



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

## Coming Soon!

Reindeer Cam in December.

Once again we will have a live webcam on our reindeer enclosure. Check it out to see a special friend feed them twice a day!



Snowshoeing will also be available once we have snow.

## Stay Connected

'Like' us on Facebook



Follow Sam on Twitter  
**@ShubenacadieSam**



## Did you know?

- There is enough **Water** in Lake Superior to cover both North and South America in 30cm (12inches) of water.
- Pumpkin** was originally used as the crust of the pie. Early colonials cut the top off, removed the seeds then filled it with milk, honey and spices before roasting it.
- During migration **Canada Geese** can fly approximately 1000km per day, meaning they could fly around the world in 40days.
- An acre of **Oak** woodland can produce around 250kg (550lbs) of acorns; in fact, Oaks produce more nuts annually than every other kind of nut tree combined.

## Just 4 Fun!!

## Autumn Crossword



### Across

- Another word for Fall.
- To gather food crops.
- Pumpkin colour.

- They change colour in the Fall.

### Down

- Bird eaten on Thanksgiving.
- Yellow grain that grows on a stalk.
- MacIntosh and Grannysmith are both \_\_\_\_\_.
- These birds migrate in a 'V' shape.

**Answers:** 1. Autumn 2. Turkey 3. Harvest 4. Corn 5. Orange 6. Apples 7. Geese 8. Leaves