

**Promo for the HFN Martinique Beach Trip .....**

Join HFN for our Biggest Outdoor Event Ever as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Fifty years ago in October the Halifax Field Naturalists conducted its very first field trip.

To commemorate that event this fall we return to that same location - the amazing Martinique Beach - home to hundreds of species.

This multi-faceted celebration will take place on Saturday October 4 with a Rain Date of Sunday October 5.

This is a Family Friendly Event that is loaded with activities for naturalists of all ages.

Registration is required so we can make the necessary preparations to provide the best possible event for all participants.

This event is also open to non-members who can take part for \$10 or they can become members of the HFN and enjoy all our events for free.

To register contact Bernie McKenna by calling 902-434-3202 or emailing mckennab197@gmail.com

In addition to the activities there will be free snacks & cold non-alcoholic drinks for HFN Members.

This is an all day outing, where participants can come for the entire 8 hours or just come and enjoy specific activities.

**9 AM Kick Off.....**

- We kick off the day at 9 AM with:
- Onsite Registration
  - Handouts.
  - A Welcome Message from our President.
  - The erection of the new HFN Cabana.
  - The Start of our 50 For 50 Contest.

Here's how to play and win the HFN 50 For 50 contest .

1. Start by getting yourself a copy of the new HFN Martinique Beach Checklist which lists over a hundred items waiting for you to discover at Martinique Beach.
2. Find and check off any 50 items to collect a prize from the HFN Treasure Chest.
3. Take advantage of the various events for lots of help in finding the more than 300 discoveries waiting to be experienced. Including items not listed on the checklist but can be added as writeins for additional points.
4. Earn even more checkmarks by exploring the HFN Touch Tank.
5. Take Part in Bonus Activities to quickly wrack up additional checkmarks.

**.....9 AM Kick Off.**

**9:30 AM -Western Half of Martinique Beach.....**

At 9:30 We begin our first 50 for 50 Contest Event with a guided birding walk with birding experts on hand to help with identification as we explore the western half of the beach.

Martinique Beach is a fantastic Fall Migration site where one can find a wide variety of migrating shorebirds, waterfowl and passerines.

And while the main focus will be on birds in the typical Field Naturalist Style we will also be looking at all the other cool species along the way.

.....9:30 AM -Western Half of Martinique Beach.

**11:30 AM. Tidal Pools & Tidal Zones.....**

By 11:30 Am the tides will be perfect for checking out some of the best tidal pools in the province.

We will also literally be exploring the beach from top to bottom as we move through and learn about The Ten Tidal Zones.

.....11:30 AM. Tidal Pools & Tidal Zones.

**1:30 PM Underwater Exploration and Snorkel with Elli of The North.....**

As things heat up we will be cooling down by jumping into the water for some Underwater Exploration.

This is your chance to Snorkel with the award winning Elli of The North and other top provincial snorkelers.

Elli is well known for her knack for finding a variety of underwater creatures.

You can also spend this water time making underwater discoveries through guided wading.

Other options for this time period include going for a swim or if you prefer to stay dry, exploring the beach on your own.

While its too far away to say how warm or cold the water may be that day here are some water temperature stats.

First off, the coldest ocean temperature for comfortable swimming without a wetsuit is generally considered to be around **15°C** (59°F).

While you may not need a wetsuit for this event wearing one is a good choice for additional warmth.

( Pro Tip: If you don't own a wetsuit they can be rented from local dive shops from \$10 to \$25. )

Here are the Oct 6 Water Temperatures at Martinique Beach for the past Three Years.

- Oct 6, 2022 = 17.2°C
- Oct 6, 2023 = 17.1°C
- Oct 6, 2024 = 17.2°C
- Oct 6 Historical Average (All Years) = 16.7°C.

The first week of October is a good time to enjoy the last of our warmer waters as shortly after Oct 6 temperatures start to drop.

Here are the long term max, min and average temperatures for October after the first week of the month.  
Max: 16.4°C / 59.4°F. Avg: 13.8°C / 56.8°F Min: 11.2°C / 54.2°F.

.....1:30 PM Underwater Exploration and Snorkel with Elli of the North.

3:30 PM Exploration of the Eastern Half / Wilder Half Of Martinique Beach.....

After snorkeling we will be exploring the eastern half of Martinique Beach.

This wilder portion of the beach is rich in birds and plant species.

We will also be checking out newly arriving bounty brought in with the now rising tides.

And afterwards we may sneak in a bonus event or two.

.....3:30 PM Exploration of the Eastern Half / Wilder Half Of Martinique Beach.

In addition to our scheduled events, anytime events and activities will be available at the HFN Cabana.

Anytime Events & Activities Under Our Cabana .....

- Free Snacks & Drinks while Supplies Last.
- Collect your HFN Martinique Beach Checklist
- Get a Copy of the HFN Rip Tides, Rip Currents and Undertows Handout
- Explore the HFN Touch Tank
- Experience Magnetite Mining. Including getting to take home your very own sample of Magnetite
- Learn about Seaweed Identification -Outdoor Workshop at our Touch Tank
- Learn All about our NS Sea Turtles & How to Do Turtle Surveys.
- Learn How to ID NS Sea Creatures & Sea Shells Identification.
- Collect Your 50 For 50 Prize from the HFN Treasure Chest.

.....Anytime Events & Activities Under Our Cabana.

Once again to register contact Bernie McKenna by calling 902-434-3202 or emailing mckennab197@gmail.com

However if you have additional questions about the event feel free to call or text Angela Miller at 902-488-0521.

It should be noted that the exact meeting place for the event won't be chosen until just before the event itself so we can have our choice of the best possible beach site.

Martinique Beach has 8 parking lots as well as other parking spots. It is a huge place to explore with many possible locations for the start of our trip.

As part of our the preparations we have made two exploratory trips to Martinique Beach and plan to make three more due to its massive size .

So watch for an early October update detailing the exact beach location, as well as the closest available parking.

