

New 50th Celebration Event - Now Even Bigger than Before!

Promo for the HFN MacCormack's Beach Trip in Eastern Passage

Join HFN for our Biggest Outdoor Event Ever as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

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

Our plan to commemorate that event this fall by returning to that same location - the amazing Martinique Beach has been switched to a new beach due to the closing of Martinique Beach for the remainder of the year.

The new beach location for our celebration is MacCormack's Beach.

While MacCormack's Beach has a much smaller above water walking area its underwater walking area is extensive.

Join us as we explore MacCormack's hidden sand flat that extends out from the shoreline for almost a half kilometer, with a perimeter walking area of more than a kilometer.

This is an natural phenomena where an amazing variety of sea creatures can be walked right up to and observed doing their thing while still standing in only knee deep water.

Additionally the Blue Mussel beds there provide even more sea creatures to enjoy as they generate a micro habitat similar to a mini shallow water reef.

Add in a little snorkeling at this spot and one finds an even greater variety of sea creatures to be enjoyed.

Above water, MacCormack's Beach is known as a Migration Hotspot and its ever popular boardwalk provides nature lovers with lots of land based organisms to examine.

So join us for a multi-faceted celebration that 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.

Please note that the event details below while similar to the original have been adapted from the planned Martinique Trip to better take advantage of what this new beach location has to offer.

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 MacCormack's Beach Checklist which lists over a hundred items waiting for you to discover at MacCormack's.
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 200 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 -Exploration of MacCormack's Beach Boardwalk

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 MacCormack's Beach Boardwalk and adjacent habitats.

MacCormack's 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 plant & animal species along the way.

.....9:30 AM -Exploration of MacCormack's Beach Boardwalk.

11:30 AM -Tidal Flats Exploration

By 11:30 Am the tides will be perfect for checking out some of the most amazing tidal flats in the province.

Although we will be walking on mostly flat sand we recommend wearing water shoes for this part of the trip to avoid the possibility of cutting feet on any sharp objects that might be hidden under the water.

.....11:30 AM - Tidal Flats Exploration.

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.

Other options for this time period include going for a swim or beach combing on the dry areas of the beach.

While its too far away to say how warm or cold the water may be that day, past years suggest a water temperature range of anywhere from as high as 17 degrees to as low as 11 degrees with an average of 14 degrees.

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.

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

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

3:30 PM Exploration of the adjacent Rocky Shoreline.....

We will be exploring 4 kilometers of rocky coastline by car as we make frequents stops at interesting nature spots from Angela's Beach to the tip of Hartlen Point.

This area is rich in birds and plant species including orchids and has some interesting geological features.

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

.....**3:30 PM Exploration of the adjacent Rocky Shoreline.**

Event Wrap Up

It has been decided that some of us will be staying behind to enjoy the sunset and a meal at a popular local restaurant at the adjacent Fisherman's Cove. All are welcome to join us for any of our outdoor explorations and/or just come for the indoor enjoyment of some fine food and conversation.

.....**Event Wrap Up.**

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 50 For 50 MacCormack's 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 and other minerals.
- 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 by mid-day finding a parking space at this location can sometimes be challenging so show up before then to increase your chances of finding a parking space or walk over from nearby parking spots at Fisherman's Cove.

.....**Event Promo.**