



HALIFAX FIELD NATURALISTS

2025 SUMMER PROGRAMME

Except for July and August, HFN's illustrated talks are held on the third Tuesday of every month in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History (NSMNH), 1747 Summer St., Halifax, 7:30 p.m. For **field trips** it *may* be possible for the contact person to organise car-pooling for an out-of-city event; a contribution towards fuel costs would be appreciated. For **talks**, there is free on-street parking after 6:00 p.m., and pay-parking in the Museum parking lot. Two hours is usually adequate. **All participants are responsible for their own safety. Always wear suitable clothing and footwear for the weather, the activity, and the terrain. If in doubt, call the contact person. listed for each field trip. Please note – for limited-space events, HFN members will be given first priority. To join, go to halifaxfield-naturalists.ca, or – mail the form on other side.**

THE CANADIAN BEAVER



TUESDAY, JUNE 17

Halifax Field Naturalists long-time good friend Biologist Andrew Hebda will once again join us for a talk, this time on the Canadian Beaver *Castor canadensis* which is in its 50th year (March, 24, 1975) as Canada's National Animal. With his broad research experience as a retired Curator of Zoology at the NS Museum of Natural History he is eminently qualified to present this talk. No stranger to HFN, Andrew has been very generous in sharing all his knowledge with us. The Beaver was very influential in Canada's national development, especially in the early fur trade of the 1600's. Andrew will cover all three(!) species of the Canadian beaver, including their pre-history, history, natural history, and more. He'll examine our intimate and natural relationship with this member of the Rodentia, and also where the European beaver fits in. As in all Andrew's talks and field trips this promises to be a fascinating look at our national animal.

7:30 p.m. at NSMNH



JULY CANOE / KAYAK TRIP

SATURDAY, JUL. 19

Once again, we're taking to the water for another HFN canoe / kayak trip on Saturday, July 19th. This time, we're going to explore the Cole Harbour Marsh. Being tidal, it has two full tidal cycles every 24 hours as well as inflow from two rivers – from Lake Major and Long Lake. We'll launch on the in-coming tide and recover on the falling tide at the gut bridge on Cow Bay Road. Again – water/wading shoes, waterproof stowage, food, water, and spare paddles are recommended. **Life jackets are mandatory and registration is required. Anyone needing a paddling partner or having an extra canoe/kayak please let Bernie know.**

Rain Date: Sunday, July 20th

Contact: Bernie McKenna, 902-434-3202, mckennab197@gmail.com

Time/Place: 1:30 p.m. at the gut bridge on Rainbow Haven exit road on Cow Bay Road

Difficulty: We should be with the tide both ways; wind may be a factor.

Duration: 4 to 4.5 hours

TUDOR TRAIL WALK

TUESDAY, AUG. 5

This walk along the Tudor Trail connects the Heritage Trail and the Costley Farm Trail at the former Costley Farm site. These trails vary from a firm crusher dust base to uneven rocky footing. The Tudor Trail was the original route from the Costley farm to the road connecting to Cole Harbour. There is a rich diversity of woodlands, lesser shrubs, geological features and good birding (though often by sound). The farm site allows a good but partial view of the Cole Harbour Marsh/ estuary and a path down to the shoreline itself. This walk is an early August outing. **Registration is required and tick awareness is recommended.**

Rain Date: Wednesday, August 6th

Contact: Bernie McKenna, 902-434-3202, mckennab197@gmail.com

Time/Place: 10:00 a.m. at the 784 Salt Marsh Trail Parking Lot

Difficulty: Easy to moderate with 'November footing'

Duration: 2 hours



MEMBERSHIP FORM

New ____ Renew ____ Student \$15 ____ Individual \$25 ____ Family \$30 ____ Supporting \$35 ____ Institutional \$35 ____
I would like to order ____ HFN lapel pins @\$5; ____ Checklists @\$1.00; Butterfly ____ Dragonfly ____ Total \$ ____
Name ____ Phone ____ Email ____
Address ____ Postal Code ____

HFN is a volunteer organisation. Would you share your interests and skills? ____

I could help with: talks/trips ____ board meetings ____ newsletter ____ other ____

MEMBERSHIP: Renewals are due on Jan. 1st. New memberships received from Sept. 1st to Dec. 31st of any year will be valid until the end of the following membership year. Send this application to: **HFN Membership Secretary, c/o Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS, B3H 3A6.** EMAIL: hfn.inquiries@gmail.com. WEBSITE: halifaxfieldnaturalists.ca
FACEBOOK: Halifax Field Naturalists, or HFN. For events with limited spaces HFN members will be given priority; and, for the latest programme updates, go to <https://halifaxfieldnaturalists.ca>, menu item 'Walks and Talks'.

PROSPECT HIGH HEAD TRAIL

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

HFN member Clarence Coxon will lead this walk along the High Head Trail which takes us through the scenic Bill Freeman Nature Reserve. A coastal route, it has a scrubby wooded area, coastal barrens, wetlands, and a view of offshore islands. A popular and regularly used trail, it does have a few steep climbing sections. Good interpretation of fossils and geology. Walking shoes may be in order. A well packed lunch is advised and registration is required.

Rain Date: Sunday, Sept. 7

Leader: Clarence Coxon

Contact: Bernie McKenna, 902-434-3202, mckennab197@gmail.com

Time/Place: 9:30 a.m., at the cul-de-sac at the end of Hages Lane

Difficulty: Moderate – ups and downs plus some wet areas

Duration: 2 to 3 hours



MOLLUSKS OF NOVA SCOTIA

TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

Clarence Stevens Jr. a long time, active HFN member, walk leader and presenter has graciously stepped into the void created when Dr. Sarah Stewart-Clark, our scheduled presenter had to cancel due to the Dalhousie University/Faculty labour dispute. As usual, Clarence will bring his vast diversity of knowledge into play to cover the lives of these fascinating creatures and what our warming waters may mean for them. With Clarence presenting, this talk promises to be informative, entertaining and well worth sitting in to. 7:30 pm at the NSMNH



MARTINIQUE BEACH

SATURDAY, OCT. 4

HFN's own Clarence Stevens Jr. will lead this 50th anniversary commemorative walk at Nova Scotia's longest sandy beach (5 km). We'll trace that initial HFN walk of Oct. 1975, as Clarence reveals the current plant and animal life of this important Piping Plover Protected Area. Well worth the one hour drive from Halifax, its crescent shape is so very appealing. On the backside of the beach is a Wilderness Sanctuary where tiny Plovers have been seen scuttling along. **Registration is required and car-pooling is suggested.**

Rain Date: Sunday, Oct. 5th

Leader: Clarence Stevens Jr.

Contact: Bernie McKenna, 902-434-3202, mckennab197@gmail.com

Time/Place: 10:00 a.m. at Martinique Beach Provincial Park, 2389 East Petpeswick Rd.

Difficulty: Mild – some boardwalk, some hard-packed trail, and a lot of sandy beach

Duration: 2-3 hours, travel not included



ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE (EAC)

TUESDAY, OCT. 7

The Ecology Action Centre (EAC), a members-based environmental charity in Nova Scotia since 1971, will present an overview of their extensive organisation. Leaders in all facets of climate and environmental issues, they are in the forefront of discussion and action on critical, urgent, and complex situations. With almost 50 dedicated staff and hundreds of active volunteers on several action teams, they respond quickly in times of need.

7:30 pm, at the NSMNH