

Programs in P.E.I.'s Provincial Parks

Once again this summer P.E.I. Provincial Parks have attempted to provide a program for those with an interest in P.E.I.'s natural history.

Beach interpretive walks are given at Panmure Island, Brudenell River and Basin Head in eastern P.E.I. as well as Cabot and Mill River Provincial Parks in the western end. Following the programs at Panmure and Basin Head the naturalist takes those interested on a snorkelling excursion to see the aquatic plants and animals in their own environment. This serves both a learning experience in natural history, but also gives those interested a chance to try out snorkelling equipment and wet suits which are provided.

Slide talks also provide park users with an interest in natural history, with an opportunity to look into particular areas of P.E.I.'s natural history in greater depth. Topics covered include Birds of P.E.I.'s Provincial Parks, Flowers of P.E.I., Fox Farming, various types of fishing including lobster and mackerel, and aquaculture, as well as the importance of P.E.I.'s natural areas.

One of the more popular programs at Brudenell River and Mill River involving both the recreation staff and the naturalist, is the Saturday canoe trip, for which there is a minimal charge. The participants meet at 10:30 a.m. and canoe to a point up river from the park. Along the way there is a perfect opportunity for dialogue about the plants and animals found along the way, as well as an opportunity to improve your canoeing skills. Following a lunch, which is provided, consisting of hot dogs, clams, mussels, biscuits, the canoeists return to the marina.

At Brudenell River, Cabot and Mill River one morning is devoted to a childrens nature program. As part of a family weekend program the naturalists at these parks are involved in a campfire program. At Cabot and Mill River Provincial Parks this program focuses a portrayal of the life of the early settlers. In addition the campfires include sing-a-longs, stories, as well as the ever popular passtime of marshmallow roasting.

A final program which may surprise a few is a demonstration bee colony at Mill River, Cabot and Brudenell River Provincial Parks. Behind glass windows, which form part of the hive, you can see the activities of various members of the colony as they go about their roles in honey production and raising young bees.

Check with the staff at any of the parks for a time table of when the various activities take place or contact the Charlottetown Office at 892-7431.

Mill River Provincial Park

An invitation is made to all Islanders to visit the new development at Mill River. In addition to the expansion which includes a hotel complex including a swimming pool and 6 tennis courts, a major program has been established by provincial Parks staff. This includes a new marina featuring canoe rentals, windsurfer rental, etc. as well as a full complement of programmed activities. The naturalist, working from a new naturalist office provides a full spectrum of natural history interpretation for the first time in this area.

Make use of your parks this summer - Join Us.