



## Naturally Entertaining Parks East

With an increased focus placed on environmental issues in the last five years, the park naturalist has an increasingly important role in program selections in the provincial parks in eastern Prince Edward Island. Both locals and tourists alike wish to know more about the world we live in and what can be done to minimize harmful effects to our environment.

There are several displays in the "Naturalists Corner" at Brudenell River Provincial Parks Activity Centre including an arthropod collection and certain animal skulls and different types of shells and objects found on our Island beaches. Posters are displayed stressing everything from effective forest management, to exactly how to prepare and enjoy shellfish. Also available are brochures and pamphlets on Prince Edward Island including information on our different types of flora and fauna.

Aquariums are on display containing Eastern Spotted Newts and amphipods, periwinkles and various algae from the Brudenell River. The display area that catches the most attention is the stuffed animals representing types found throughout Prince Edward Island such as mink, Great Blue Heron, Red Fox and Common Loon.

Perhaps the most important parts of the natural programming in parks east are activities done with visitors. People learn best when they are actually taking part in activities and not just reading about them. Programs are for both young and not so young include the guided Wildflower Garden Trail Walk, Shoreline Discovery, Junior Naturalists Scavenger Hunt, Canoe Hike, Nature and Our Environment, and Mother Natures Secrets.

Nature and Our Environment involves a walk along the shore and the forest to demonstrate the importance of forest management and pollution control. Mother Natures Secrets introduces children to various nature orientated activities like making bird feeders and aquariums. The Canoe Hike is a leisurely paddle along the Brudenell River with a stop on the beach for a cook-out where hot dogs and cultured mussels are enjoyed.

Finally, a play called "Marshland Encounters" is performed once a week. Costumed characters are both humorous and informative in regard to the contents of our productive marshlands. Participants in all activities at our eastern parks are encouraged to bring their own cups, plates, etc. when food and drink is being served, to reduce the amount of plastic and paper being used.

Whether you are young or adult, an Islander or a tourist, come and explore our naturally entertaining parks east!

Cathy J. Jackson  
Naturalist - Parks East