

To Reach the Park

Dollar Lake Provincial Park is approximately 50 kms from Halifax, just 23 km east of Robert L. Stanfield International Airport. Take Highway 102 to exit 5A. Take Route 212 eastward to Dollar Lake Provincial Park, 5265 Old Guysborough Rd., Wyse Corner.



RESERVATIONS

1-888-544-3434

9:00 am to 11:00 pm AT (7 days a week)

www.novascotiaparks.ca (24 hours)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Parks and Recreation Division
Department of Natural Resources
RR # 1, Belmont,
Colchester County,
Nova Scotia, B0M 1C0
(902) 662-3030
www.novascotiaparks.ca

Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 112
Middle Musquodoboit,
Nova Scotia B0N 1X0
(902) 384-2290

Dollar Lake Provincial Park
(902) 384-2770
(mid-June to mid-October)



Photos courtesy Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage.

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Dollar Lake

Provincial Park



Dollar Lake Provincial Park is truly a recreational oasis located just minutes from the urban excitement of Greater Halifax. This beautiful park is a nature-lover's dream. The lake's natural sandy beach invites swimmers to cool off on those warm summer days, or enjoy leisurely hours canoeing, boating and fishing. Five trails provide opportunities for invigorating hikes and let you see nature, unspoiled and up close. Dollar Lake is the ideal get-away for individuals, couples, friends or family. You'll enjoy a complete range of outdoor activities amid unspoiled nature in all its glory. And with so many attractions within reach, you'll be entertained night and day.

Natural History

Landscape: Where worlds collided. At either end of the park, you will come across some impressive rock formations which started out as sediments off ancient Africa approximately 500 million years ago. Over time, the mud and sand were cemented into sedimentary rocks. The heat and pressure of a continental collision 380 million years ago changed these rocks into the metamorphic rocks, slate and quartzite. Thin layers of dark grey slate underlie the northern part of the park, while thick beds of quartzite are in the remainder of the park. Look for rusty stains and square pits in the rocks left by iron-rich pyrite, also called fool's gold. Glaciers shaped the land, formed hills called drumlins, and played a role in the formation of Dollar Lake, the deepest lake in the region. Hmm...could there be a "Nessie" down there? No sightings so far!

Animal magnetism. Central Nova Scotia is blessed with an abundance of wildlife. As you walk through the park or cross the lake in watercraft, you are likely to see many species that will delight

both young and old. Keep an eye open for beaver, muskrat, mink, snowshoe hare, deer and the clown princes of Nova Scotian animals, river otter. Kids love searching for turtles, snakes, frogs and colourful red-back, and yellow- and blue-spotted salamanders. Yours to see; let them BE...in their natural habitat. Look up and you may see red-tail hawks, osprey, hairy and downy woodpeckers, warblers, kestrels – maybe even bald eagles. Near the water, see great blue herons, mergansers and black ducks. At night, let loons lull you to sleep with their mournful, yet comical, cry.

In the lake itself, you can wet a line to catch speckled trout, eels, and the elusive lake trout. Remember to bring your valid Nova Scotia fishing license with you. Sound like a lot to take in? We're not finished yet.

The stories the trees could tell. Dollar Lake Provincial park is home to stands of majestic hemlocks. These towering giants are at least 100 years old. The hemlocks along with mature red spruce, yellow birch and a myriad of other Nova Scotia trees and plants, create a sense of privacy. Many people say they find the park "cozy – as though we were alone among the forest creatures." One peaceful night under the stars and you may never want to leave!



Remember to look up and you might be rewarded with a bald eagle sighting

Trails To appreciate fully the sense of privacy you get from the park, take a hike along any of the five hiking trails. They range in distance from a few hundred meters to more than a kilometer. These trails get you close to nature – they are natural paths through the woods, created to keep you feeling as though you are part of the forest. If you stop and listen closely, you may actually be able to hear yourself relaxing. Wildlife and plants abound all around you. Just imagine the looks on your friends' and family's faces when they see a majestic buck or doe and fawns emerge from the woods. Smaller residents of the forest such as chipmunks, squirrels, and all manner of birds will keep you company with their constant chatter. Please note: Some trails may not be fully restored after the damage they sustained during Hurricane Juan and tropical storm Noel. The recent winds from Noel felled trees and destroyed a walking bridge. Restoration is ongoing. Inquire at the park office for current conditions. The trails are back country trails with no tread. Hiking boots are recommended.

For the more adventurous or serious hiker, try the nearby Musquodoboit Trailways. Easier trails include The Rail Trail which is an old railway bed with the tracks removed. Others, like the wilderness trails, are extremely challenging but hold the promise of spectacular rewards for those who are up to the task. This is Nova Scotia nature at its best.

If you feel the need to immerse yourself in seawater, you are just minutes away from some of Nova Scotia's most famed beaches. Great day trips could include surfing at Lawrencetown Beach (rentals available) or building sand castles on Clam Harbour Beach, or taking a bold coastal walk along Taylor Head. The sublime beauty of the Eastern Shore stretches out before you.



Visit the moose at the Provincial Wildlife Park

Area Attractions

- The Provincial Wildlife Park in Shubenacadie is a provincial treasure bringing people and wildlife together for more than 50 years. The Greenwing Legacy Interpretive Centre, the newest part of the park opened in 2006, showcases the importance of wetlands and the species that live there. Outdoors, several kilometres of shaded, wheelchair accessible trails, let you see dozens of local and non-resident species in an open, yet intimate, environment. You may also have the chance to meet a celebrity – Shubenacadie Sam uses his weather forecasting talents each Groundhog Day to let residents of Eastern Canada know when spring is coming.
- Atlantic Canada Aviation Museum, Enfield, invites you to explore Canada's proud aviation heritage through displays and "retired" aircraft.
- The Bicentennial Theatre located in Middle Musquodoboit is one of the country's last community theatres. Check the schedule for movie screenings and exciting live entertainment.
- Mastodon Ridge & Showcase Nova Scotia in Stewiacke tells the story of how an ice-age mastodon was found and successfully recovered near here.
- For information on these and other attractions please consult the Nova Scotia Doers and Dreamers Guide, visit a Visitor Information Centre or the website at www.novascotia.com

Dollar Lake Provincial Park

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| Parking | Boat Launch |
| Park Office | Campground (117 sites) |
| Washrooms and Showers | Group Campsite (includes fire grills; site available by reservation) |
| Vault Toilets | Firewood |
| Playground | Dumping Station |
| Picnic Area | Park Boundary |
| Change Rooms | |
| Canteen | |
| Walking Trail | |
| Swimming | |

A Special Message to Park Visitors

PARK SAFETY

- Help preserve and protect this beautiful park for the enjoyment of future generations. Plants, animals and rocks are an important part of its natural heritage. Please do not damage or remove them.
- Please keep pets on a leash at all times.
- Firearms are prohibited in the park.

PERSONAL SAFETY

- Please obey lifeguards' directions and observe posted swimming regulations.
- Contact park staff for further information about the park. They want to make your visit as enjoyable as possible.

