

# Provincial Parks Ready To Welcome Visitors This Summer

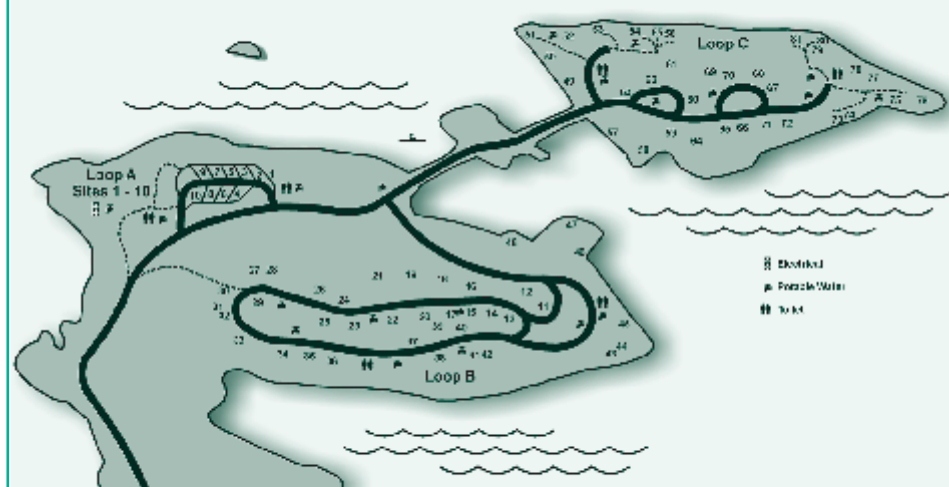
Re-investing in provincial parks is a commitment for the Department of Natural Resources. While each year we undertake routine upgrades, recent storm events of historic proportions, have created even more challenges.

Of all the provincial parks damaged by Hurricane Juan, by far the most hard hit was Porters Lake. The park was closed in 2004 as we moved from the clean up phase, to the planning phase, and eventually into reconstruction in 2005.

There is no doubt that return visitors to the park will be astonished at what has occurred. The once treed park has only ribbons of vegetation, and previously obscured water views abound. In redesign of the park, lakefront views have been a priority

## A "New and Improved" Porters Lake Provincial Park

### Porters Lake Provincial Park



as campsite designs have been upgraded to current standards, providing roomier and more desirable camping opportunities.

While limited vegetation exists now, future plantings of native trees and shrubs should quickly fill in many of the gaps. It will be exciting to

### nature's resources

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**NOVA SCOTIA**  
Natural Resources

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of *Nature's Resources*. Twice a year you can discover what's happening with Nova Scotia's natural resources and what's going on at DNR.

**There are two ways you can obtain a copy of the publication:**

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Family Fun Day is an annual Parks are for People event held at Smileys Provincial Park.

## Discover Why Parks are for People

With 128 Nova Scotia provincial parks, 33 wilderness areas and so many Parks are for People events happening, there is always lots to experience! Last year, over 22,000 people hiked, biked, walked, paddled and swam at events held in our provincial parks. Make it your mission this year to explore a provincial park. Join a biologist on a nature walk, take a wilderness hike, relax at a family picnic, build a sand sculpture or race in a triathlon. The possibilities are endless.

Events take place from May to December. Most events are free, although some require advance registration.

***Remember, provincial parks aren't just for tourists; they're here for the enjoyment of all Nova Scotians too. So, come out and enjoy your parks.***

watch the park grow and develop over the coming years.

The new campground will provide 81 sites ranging from walk-in tent sites, traditional drive-in tent and trailer sites, and pull through RV/trailer sites. Even more exciting, is the provision for water and electric connections at the pull through sites. Reconstruction will continue over the next few years with plans for an expanded trail system, a playground and an amphitheatre. All these elements will result in Porters Lake being our most modern campground offering wonderful camping and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Two other camping parks, Laurie and Dollar Lake, also sustained damage from Hurricane Juan. Scattered throughout these parks are downed or damaged trees that provide evidence of Juan. Where damaged trees do not pose a hazard, they are being left to provide wildlife habitat and allow for natural decomposition and regeneration. At other parks hit by the hurricane, with few exceptions, most of the repairs have been completed. These included clearing downed trees and repairing beach access and boardwalks.

## Celebrate PARKS DAY, Saturday, July 16th

Celebrate Canada's Parks Day by taking part in a new outdoor activity! Check out the many free programs on hiking, paddling, and much more.

Why not try your hand at kite making at Blomidon Provincial Park? Materials and instruction are provided, all you need to bring is your imagination. If the beach is more your style, Rissers Beach is hosting a sand castle competition. History buffs will enjoy the battle re-enactment, bonfires and story telling hosted by battalions from Fortress Louisbourg at Mira River Provincial Park.

For more information on these and other Parks Day events, and Parks are for People events, contact your local DNR office. Order an event guide by calling (902) 424-5832 or visit the website: <http://www.parks.gov.ns.ca/programs.asp>.



Summerville Beach Provincial Park

## South Shore Parks Offer Recreational Opportunities in Scenic Coastal Setting

The Islands and Sand Hills Beach Provincial Parks, located in Shelburne County, offer visitors the opportunity to experience two distinct picturesque coastal settings.

The Islands Provincial Park provides private sites for campers interspersed by large pine trees, rocky hummocks and views of the town of Shelburne and its harbour. Whether a camper or a day-user, the park offers opportunities for boating, picnicking or swimming in the refreshing waters of Shelburne Harbour. An ideal setting for history buffs, there is lots to discover in the area around the park. Historic Shelburne, was founded in 1783 by United Empire Loyalists. Several historic sites, such as Ross-Thompson House and Museum, Shelburne County Museum, Dory Shop Museum and the Black Loyalist Heritage Site are available to explore.

Park amenities include: 64 campsites, flush toilets and showers, boat launch, trailer dump station and

## Consider Becoming A Campground Host



Campground Hosts welcome campers and share information about park amenities and the surrounding area.

Looking for an unforgettable experience this summer? Whether you're retired, or have several weeks vacation, being a Campground Host can be a truly rewarding experience. If you enjoy camping and meeting new people this program may be for you.

Eleven provincial parks offer the Host program. Volunteer hosts camp for at least two weeks in a provincial park, greeting visitors and sharing their knowledge of the park, local culture, history and natural area. Hosts also have the opportunity to share their own personal interests, such as birdwatching or crafts, by putting on programs for visitors.

Sounds like fun, doesn't it? If you are interested in becoming a host, please contact Susan at (902) 424-5832 or [sjhruszo@gov.ns.ca](mailto:sjhruszo@gov.ns.ca).

facilities for the disabled. This year the park opens May 20 and closes September 5. Reservations can be made (starting May 1) by calling (902) 875-4304.

The Islands Provincial Park is located just off Highway 103, the Lighthouse Route, 5 km (3 miles) west of Shelburne. If travelling west on Highway 103, take Exit 26 (Shelburne) onto Route 3. If travelling east on Highway 103, take Exit 27 at Birchtown.

Located nearby is the day-use park, Sand Hills Beach. An amazing 2.5 km stretch of white sand, the beach is one

not to miss. Noted for its sun-warmed waters; at low tide the sand flats are warmed by the sun which heats the tidal waters making the normally cool Atlantic Ocean a pleasure to wade or swim. For explorers, be sure to discover the ancient sand dunes, over 18 metres tall.

Sand Hills Provincial Park can be found off Highway 103, the Lighthouse Route, near Barrington. While travelling along Highway 103 take Exit 29 (Barrington) then travel 6 km (3.7 miles) south of Highway 103 to Villagedale.