

**Autumn Walk, Autumn Talk (Grades JK - 1)**

Gr. 1 needs of living things, seasonal changes  
Daily and seasonal cycles and the characteristics and needs of living things are the focus as students explore the fall season. They will listen for fall sounds, investigate natural textures, find leaves of varying shapes, search for small creatures, and use magnifying glasses to examine seeds.

**Plant Changes in Autumn (Grades 1 - 3)**

Gr. 1 needs of living things, seasonal changes; Gr. 2 growth and changes in animals; Gr. 3 plant changes  
Plant changes and the interdependence of plants and animals are the themes for this program. We will look for seeds in a scavenger hunt, the fungus among us, and trees with antifreeze! On the forest floor we will find leaves that show the changes made by insects and decay, objects for the dozen touches boxes, and little creatures. Leaf and bark rubbings are optional.

**Tender Twigs (Grades 1 - 4)**

Gr. 1 needs of living things; Gr. 2 growth and changes in animals; Gr. 3 changes in plants  
Whorls and crowns, elephant skin and burnt cornflakes bark. Students will use clues like these as well as leaf and bark rubbings to remember characteristics of common trees. Includes time to search for forest creatures, a look at the role of tree seeds, and a forest scavenger hunt.

**Healthy Streams, Healthy Rivers (Grades 7 - 8)**

Gr. 7 interactions in the environment, pure substances and mixtures; Gr. 8 water systems  
Students will investigate the stream based on eight criteria to determine the stream's health. Because of stream temperature you are advised to book a date before the end of September. A good curriculum complement to *Water Systems*.

**The Water Cycle (Grades 2 and 5)**

Gr. 2 air and water; Gr. 5 changes in matter  
In an active game setting, students travel through the water cycle. Along the way they encounter pollution and learn about ways to prevent it. A walk to the creek, wetland and river shows how water moves in the natural environment. Grade 5 students will take part in changes of state experiments prior to the hike.

**Compass Orienteering 1 (Grades 3 - 5, students work in groups with an adult)**

Gr. 3-5 map skills, physical activity  
Beginning with an indoor course, then a short outdoor practice course, students will complete the exercise by locating control points in the Conservation Area. Compasses are provided for each student.

**Compass Orienteering 2 (Grades 6 - 8, students work in pairs)**

Gr. 6-8 map skills, physical activity  
Using a map and compass students navigate through the Conservation Area searching for control points and answering conservation questions. Students participate in an introductory session before heading out on the longer compass course. Compasses are provided for each student.

**Animal Antics in Autumn (Grades K - 3)**

Gr. 1 needs of living things; Gr. 2 growth and changes in animals; Gr. 3 plant and animal interactions  
Students will investigate the life cycles and seasonal changes in animals and the interdependence of plants and animals in field and forest habitats. They will match animals with their method of preparing for winter, play the butterfly migration game, become red or grey squirrels hiding their food, and observe forest floor creatures with magnifying glasses.

**Owl Prowl (Grades 2 - 4)**

Gr. 2 growth and changes in animals; Gr. 3 growth and changes in plants; Gr. 4 habitats  
A stuffed great horned owl and recorded calls of seven Ontario owls are used to introduce students to this amazing raptor. During the Owl Prowl game, students become owls searching for food and shelter, but must use their excellent owl vision to watch out for danger! The effect of humans on wildlife is investigated. The method of playing the game will vary with the grade level.



**Species at Risk (Grades 4 - 8)**

Gr. 4 habitats; Gr. 6 biodiversity; Gr. 7 interactions and the environment; Gr. 4 to 8 physical activity  
Increasing numbers of animal species are becoming endangered. This active game explores the problems facing wildlife species in Ontario. Students take on the role of an endangered animal and attempt to survive by locating food, water, shelter, and space. Players need to watch out for the feared Threats: if they catch you, they'll threaten you with extinction! Short, active games help students understand the contributing factors to the problem.

**Instincts for Survival (Grades 4 - 8)**

Gr. 4-8 physical fitness; Gr. 4 habitats; Gr. 6 biodiversity; Gr. 7 interactions in the environment  
This popular simulation game involves students playing herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores in a struggle to survive. Players quickly learn the meaning of food chains and food webs as they attempt to find food and water while avoiding predators. In the final few minutes of the game, the role that humans play in wildlife survival takes on meaning as the "habitat destroyer" becomes a participant. This is a very active program and serves as an enjoyable conclusion to a study of habitats or as a physical education activity.

**The Forest Community (Grades 1 - 8)**

Gr. 1 needs of living things; Gr. 2 changes in animals; Gr. 3 changes in plants; Gr. 4 habitats and communities; Gr. 6 biodiversity; Gr. 7 interactions in the environment  
Which plants and animals make up the forest community? We'll identify them and investigate their role in the ecosystem. Students become Special Agents of Change as they search for fungi, insects, tree cavities and a salamander, while considering their ecosystem niche. Grades 4 to 8 will focus on tree identification, interactions within the forest and the role of decomposition. The complexity of the program varies with the grade level.

**SOS Save Our Soil! (Grades 3 - 4)**

Gr. 3 soils in the environment; Gr. 4 rocks and minerals  
Students will examine the soil in several different locations and observe the topsoil, subsoil and parent horizons in a metre-deep profile in the field and forest. They will identify some of the living things in the humus and topsoil layers.

**Home Is Where There's Habitat (Grades 3 - 5)**

Gr. 3 Plants; Gr. 4 habitats  
Enhance your study of habitats by participating in a study of plants and animals in five different habitats (meadow, forest, plantation, wetland and stream) at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area. The effect of the loss of such habitats on certain species will be discussed. A game will conclude the study.

**Investigating Ecosystems (Grades 6 - 8)**

Gr. 6 biodiversity; Gr. 7 interactions in the environment  
By collecting physical and biological data in forests and meadows, students will investigate the components of ecosystems and identify interactions between them. Grade six students will classify organisms, and grade seven students will focus on the interactions of organisms in the ecosystem. Includes a look at changes that are likely to occur locally as a result of climate change (effects of human activities). Wildlife sightings are most numerous in September, while the weather is warmer. If time permits we will make a short visit to the wetland.

**Program Notes**

- Binoculars are available for use with a program.
- Indoor activities are available if necessary due to weather conditions or if preferred by younger classes.
- All programs are considered a half-day in length.
- Combine any two programs to make a full day.
- You're welcome to bring a group lunch to be cooked over an open fire.

## Experience nature, know it, cherish it!

The staff of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) invites classes and community groups to participate in fall programs at the Wawanosh Nature Centre. Programs are available for classes ranging from JK to Grade 12 and community groups of all ages. All programs can be modified to meet specific interests or needs. Nature Centre programs provide teachers and group leaders with an opportunity to complement classroom learning with hands-on, outdoor experiences.

The Nature Centre is located at 38854 Nature Centre Rd., west of County Road 4, between Blyth and Belgrave. The property contains a diversity of natural habitats making it an ideal setting for education activities.

## Session Dates

The autumn session at Wawanosh runs from September 19, 2011 to November 18, 2011.

## Booking Procedures

Reservations for programs are taken on a first come, first served basis. Advanced registration is required for all activities. To arrange a visit please contact the MVCA at 519-335-3557. The office is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Messages can be left other times. MVCA Community Education Technician Erin Dolmage can also be reached by email at, [edolmage@mvca.on.ca](mailto:edolmage@mvca.on.ca).

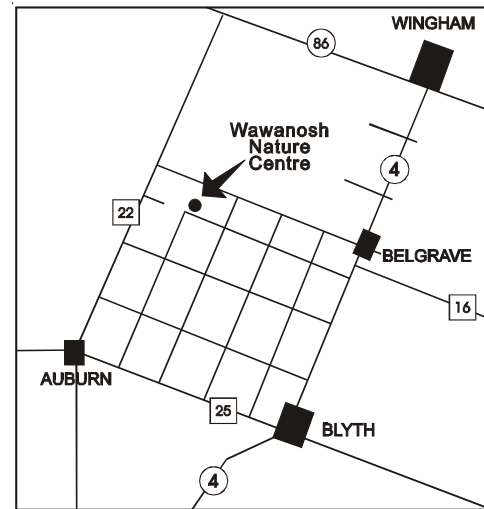
## Accessibility

The Nature Centre building is wheelchair accessible, however the trail system is not entirely accessible. Please contact the MVCA office to discuss activity options for students with mobility difficulties.

## Fees

The cost of a half day visit to the Nature Centre is \$5.50 per student including HST. The cost of a full day visit is \$9.75 per student including HST.

## Where is the Nature Centre?



38854 Nature Centre Rd., Township of North Huron

## Snowshoeing

Plan now to bring your students, community group or family group for a snowshoe outing this winter. The Nature Centre has enough snowshoes to outfit a class from grades 1 to 8. Even the youngest students quickly learn the skills needed to go for a snowshoe hike and explore areas where there are no trails or the snow is too deep for walking. Weekend bookings are available.

## Fall Colour Tour



- Sunday, October 2, 2011
- At the Wawanosh Nature Centre
- 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free admission!
- Wagon rides, apple cider, guided walks
- Children's activities

# FALL



# 2011

Conservation Education  
Programs