

Snow Walk, Snow Talk (Grades JK - 3)

Gr. 1 - Needs of Living Things, seasonal changes; Gr. 2 - Growth and Changes in Animals; Gr. 3 - Plant Changes

A sensory walk through the forest where students examine life under the snow, watch for signs of animals, and identify animal tracks. Students will discuss animals' methods of winter survival, and help birds thrive by hand-feeding them. A sensory scavenger hunt and traditional Inuit game wrap up the program.

Inuit Games (Grades 2 - 6)

Gr. 2 - Communities Around the World; Gr. 3 - Aboriginal Communities; Gr. 4 and 5 - Physical Activity; Gr. 6 - Aboriginal Peoples

Traditional Inuit games reflect the skills and physical strength needed to survive in a harsh Arctic climate. This activity uses a number of games as the focus for an examination of Inuit culture and environmental attitudes. Examining the adaptations of some arctic animals will be included.

Snowshoe Adventure (Grades 1 - 4)

Gr. 1-4 - Safety and Physical Activity; Gr. 1 - Seasonal Changes; Gr. 2 - Growth and Changes in Animals, Water Cycle; Gr. 3 - Plant Changes; Gr. 4 Habitats

After an introduction to snowshoe use, the class will head outdoors for a hike through the snow-covered fields and forest of Wawanosh. Students will investigate snow's value to animals, look for and identify animal tracks, and discuss changes to wildlife habitat in winter. The water cycle, and dangers of ice and seasonal flooding will also be addressed.

Snowshoe Shuffle (Grades 4 - 8)

Gr. 4-8 - Active Participation; Gr. 4 - Personal Safety; Gr. 5 and 6 - Personal Safety and Injury Prevention

This snowshoe hike emphasizes appropriate preparations for a winter outing. Students will be instructed in the use of a compass, proper clothing for winter activities, recognizing signs of frostbite and hypothermia, ice and flood safety. We'll also watch for signs of animals.

Furs and Traders (Grades 6 - 8)

Gr. 6-8 - Physical Activity; Gr. 6 - Aboriginal Peoples and European Explorers; Gr. 7 - New France

We have combined snowshoeing, orienteering and an Ontario-based fur kit to help students understand the historic fur trade and the animals associated with it. With a map in hand, the students will become First Nation trappers who must locate furs (orienteering control points) around the Nature Centre property. Back at the Village/Nature Centre, students can exchange their furs for beaver currency to "buy" supplies for the winter. This is a unique way for students to conclude a study of the fur trade, participate in a winter sport and understand winter adaptations of fur bearing mammals.

The Forest Community in Winter (Grades 4 - 8)

Gr. 4-8 - Physical Activity; Gr. 4 - Habitats and Communities; Gr. 5 - Conservation of Energy and Resources, Forces; Gr. 6 - Biodiversity; Gr. 7 - Interactions in the Environment, Geography

Hiking on snowshoes enables students to explore a forest that is otherwise difficult to reach in winter. We will examine survival techniques of plants and animals and identify a variety of deciduous and coniferous trees. A scavenger hunt will help students discover fungi, springtails, animal tracks, squirrel feeding areas and much more.

Note: This program can be adapted to include a plantation study and the examination of forests as a renewable natural resource (grades 5 and 7).

The Big Freeze (Grades 3 - 5)

Gr. 3 - Measurement, Forces Causing Movement; Gr. 4 - Habitats and Communities; Gr. 5 - Measurement, Properties and Changes in Matter, Conservation of Energy and Resources

What happens to snow during freeze and thaw periods? Where does it go when it melts? How do animals and humans respond to the challenges that winter brings? Students will measure snow depth and examine the layers in a snow profile. Students will build their very own mini-shelter by choosing appropriate materials for insulation and waterproofing. Their construction skills will be tested when the "Big Freeze" begins. A concluding game focuses on changing weather patterns that affect animal behaviour and survival.

Instincts for Survival (Grades 4 - 8)

Gr. 4-8 - Physical Activity; Gr. 4 - Habitats and Communities; Gr. 6 - Biodiversity; Gr. 7 - Interactions in the Environment

In this simulation activity, students play the role of herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. Players learn about the difficulties faced by wildlife as they attempt to find food and water while avoiding predators. Instincts for Survival gives students a sense of the impact of cold temperatures and snow cover on wildlife species. This is a very active program which provides a good conclusion to the study of habitats and ecosystems.

Fine Feathered Friends (Grades JK - 6)

Gr. 1 - Characteristics and Needs of Living Things, Gr. 2 - Growth and Changes in Animals; Gr. 3 - Growth and Changes in Plants (plant and animal interactions); Gr. 4 - Habitats and Communities; Gr. 6 - Biodiversity

Visit our busy bird feeders to meet the chickadees, an assortment of other winter birds and the occasional red squirrel! Students will use binoculars to identify and examine the characteristics of a variety of bird species, including several types of owls. Through games and activities they will appreciate the physical and behavioural adaptations that make winter survival possible.

Note: Primary classes will make a pine cone feeder to take home.

Winter Habits and Habitats (Grades 1 - 7)

Gr. 1 - Characteristics and Needs of Living Things, Gr. 2 - Growth and Changes in Animals; Gr. 3 - Growth and Changes in Plants (plant and animal interactions); Gr. 4 - Habitats and Communities; Gr. 6 - Biodiversity; Gr. 7 - Interactions in the Environment

Many birds and mammals survive by changing their diet and moving to different habitats in the winter. On a discovery hike, students will explore various habitats to learn more about the eating and traveling habits of birds, squirrels, deer, mice and rabbits in winter. Back at the Nature Centre, we will examine the skulls of several animals to determine if they are herbivores, omnivores or carnivores.

Species at Risk (Grades 4 - 8)

Gr. 4 - Habitats and Communities; Gr. 6 - Biodiversity; Gr. 7 - Interactions in the Environment

Many of Ontario's species are at risk of extinction. Several short active games introduce some of the reasons for the decline of certain species. Students take on the role of a species at risk by locating and collecting tokens representing food, water, shelter, and space and avoiding threats that may jeopardize their survival.

Program Notes

- Most programs can be done with or without snowshoes, depending on snow depth.
- The snowshoe rental fee for adults and children is \$1.50, HST included.
- 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.
- Groups are welcome to cook a group lunch over a campfire. Please let us know in advance if you'd like to do this.

Special thanks to the sponsors of our snowshoeing programs.



General Information

The staff at the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) invites classes and community groups to participate in winter 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 compliment classroom learning with hands-on, outdoor experiences.

The Nature Centre is located 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 winter session at the Wawanosh Nature Centre runs from January 16 to March 2, 2012. Snow conditions are generally best in January. Weekend bookings are available.

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 email Erin Dolmage, Community Education Technician, at edolmage@mvca.on.ca or call 519-335-3557. The MVCA office is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Messages can be left other times.

Accessibility

The Nature Centre building is wheelchair accessible, however the trail system is not wheelchair accessible in winter.

Fees

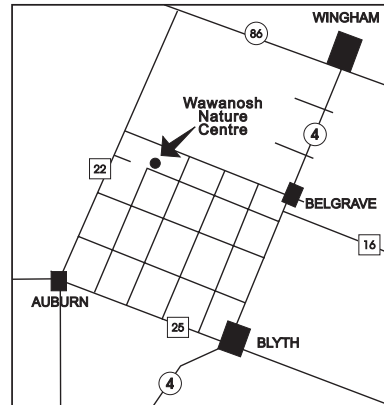
Half-day visit - \$5.75 per student.

Full day visit - \$10.00 per student

Snowshoes - \$1.50 per pair

All prices include HST.

Where is the Nature Centre?



38854 Nature Centre Rd., Township of North Huron

A Note About Weather

In the event we have to cancel a scheduled trip due to adverse weather, we will reschedule to the earliest possible date. There is no fee for a cancelled trip. Indoor activities are available.

Take the Litterless Lunch Challenge!

Visitors to the Nature Centre are encouraged to pack a litterless lunch. This winter we're checking for the class with the least amount of lunch garbage. The winning class will win a free in-school program.

SNOWfest 2012

Spend a snow day with us!

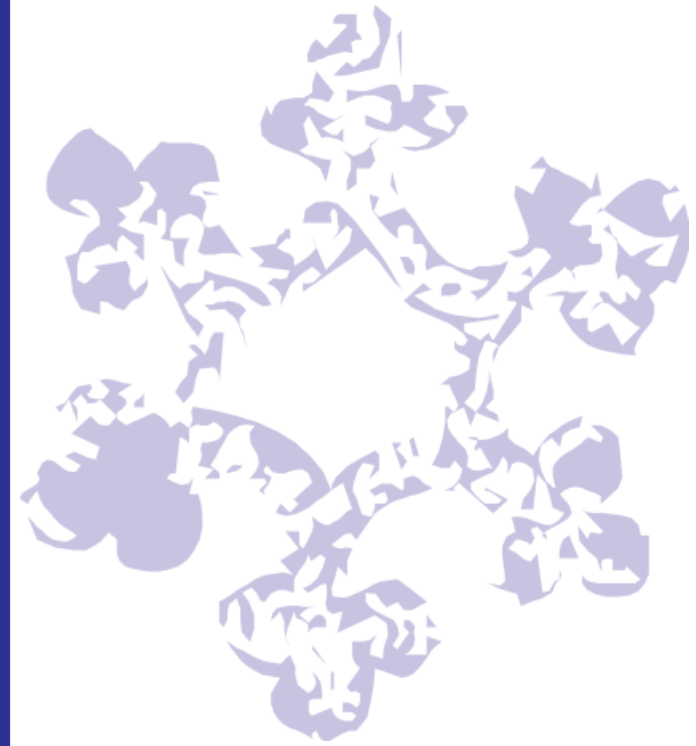
- ★ Sunday January 29, 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.
- ★ Rent snowshoes or bring your own and explore the trails at the Wawanosh Nature Centre. Call 519-335-3557 for details. Free admission.



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WINTER



2012

Conservation Education Programs