



# POINT PELEE

## NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO  
2005



PHOTO: JIM FLYNN



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

Canada





PHOTO: JIM FINN

LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO 2005  
**POINT PELEE**  
 NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

### Hours of operation

Schedule is subject to change. Call for more information or to confirm.

Spring	April 1 - 29	April 30 - May 23
Park Hours *	6 am - 9:30 pm	5 am - 9:30 pm
Visitor Centre	10 am - 5 pm	8 am - 5 pm
Shuttle to Tip **	10 am - 5 pm	6 am - 8 pm
DeLaurier Homestead	closed	10 am - 5 pm
Nature Nook Book Store	10 am - 5 pm	8 am - 5 pm
Cattail Café	closed	10 am - 4 pm
Bike/Canoe Rentals	closed	10 am - 3 pm

Summer	May 24 - June 24	June 25 - September 5
Park Hours *	6 am - 9:30 pm	6 am - 9:30 pm
Visitor Centre	10 am - 5 pm	10 am - 6 pm
Shuttle to Tip **	10 am - 7 pm	10 am - 7 pm
DeLaurier Homestead	10 am - 5 pm	10 am - 5 pm
Nature Nook Book Store	10 am - 5 pm	10 am - 6 pm
Cattail Café	10 am - 4 pm weekdays 10 am - 7 pm weekends	10 am - 7 pm weekdays 10 am - 8 pm weekends
Bike/Canoe Rentals	10 am - 3 pm weekdays 10 am - 6 pm weekends	10 am - 6 pm weekdays 10 am - 7 pm weekends

Fall	September 6 - October 10	October 11 - 31
Park Hours *	6 am - 9:30 pm	6 am - 9:30 pm
Visitor Centre	10 am - 5 pm	10 am - 5 pm
Shuttle to Tip **	8 am - 6 pm	8 am - 5 pm weekends only
DeLaurier Homestead	10 am - 5 pm	closed
Nature Nook Book Store	10 am - 5 pm	10 am - 5 pm
Cattail Café	10 am - 4 pm weekdays 10 am - 7 pm weekends	closed
Bike/Canoe Rentals	10 am - 3 pm weekdays 10 am - 6 pm weekends	closed

Winter	November 1 - March 31/06
Park Hours *	7 am - 6:30 pm
Visitor Centre	10 am - 5 pm weekends only
Shuttle to Tip **	closed for season
DeLaurier Homestead	closed for season
Nature Nook Book Store	10 am - 5 pm weekends only
Cattail Café	closed for season
Bike/Canoe Rentals	closed for season

2005/2006

\* Services provided in collaboration with the Friends of Point Pelee.  
 Park admission fees apply.  
 \*\* Shuttle runs on the hour every 20 minutes.

### :: Friends of Point Pelee :: [www.friendsofpointpelee.net](http://www.friendsofpointpelee.net) 519.326.6137

In partnership with Point Pelee National Park, we provide support and raise funds through memberships, donations, and retail sales to protect and promote Point Pelee for present and future generations.



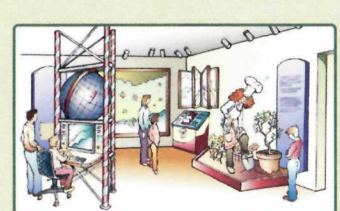
Shop in the Nature Nook Book Store  
 Have lunch at the Cattail Café  
 Rent a bike or canoe  
 Become a member  
 Be a volunteer  
 Donations welcome



### Nature For All Time, For All People

Welcome to Point Pelee National Park of Canada, part of a family of 42 national parks stretching from the Great Lakes to the high Arctic; from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland. Parks Canada preserves these spectacular yet sensitive ecosystems and provides opportunities for visitors to experience and enjoy them responsibly. Point Pelee National Park is small, isolated and impacted by human activities over the last century, making protecting and presenting its signature Carolinian forest and Great Lakes marsh ecosystems especially challenging. Did you know the park has more threatened and endangered species of plants and animals than any other national park in Canada? Here are some of the initiatives Parks Canada along with our partners have been working on to maintain and restore Point Pelee's ecosystems.

#### Helping "Keep the Songs Alive"!



In partnership with the Friends of Point Pelee, our fundraising campaign has raised over \$350,000 for the new exhibits opening Spring 2005 in the Visitor Centre. Explore the interactive displays and learn about Point Pelee's ecology and history. Future fundraising will focus on support for research, monitoring and restoration activities - ensuring that the park's wild voices will be heard for all time.

#### A Habitat to Discover!

The recently completed Red Cedar Savanna Display located in front of the Visitor Centre introduces you to one of the park's rarest habitats. With species at risk like the eastern prickly pear cactus, an endangered plant in Canada, the red cedar savanna is found along old beach ridges. This once manicured Visitor Centre lawn will take a few seasons to grow into a savanna habitat.

#### Blue Heron Goes Green

In our continuing efforts to minimize the human footprint on the park ecosystems, a new septic system was installed over the winter months at the Blue Heron/Marsh Boardwalk washroom. This system minimizes the loading of nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, into the sensitive marsh ecosystem.

#### The Masked Bandits Strike Again!

Point Pelee's raccoons are under the watchful eyes of Trent University researchers. Raccoons have always enjoyed snacking on turtle eggs, but declining numbers of turtles (some endangered) have raised the question of what impact hungry raccoons have on turtle populations. The results of their research will help Parks Canada scientists and managers design and implement programs to protect turtles.



#### Insects on the Move

Having devastated ash trees throughout Essex County, the emerald ash borer, an insect introduced from Asia, has missed Point Pelee National Park for now. Parks Canada resource conservation staff are monitoring its movement and there is a plan in place to combat the eventual invasion of the bug. A ban on bringing firewood into the park and information pamphlets are just two of the programs in place to address this new threat to the park's ecosystem. Help protect Point Pelee National Park and other natural areas by not moving firewood within or out of Chatham-Kent or Essex county.

#### Nature Renewed - A Great Achievement

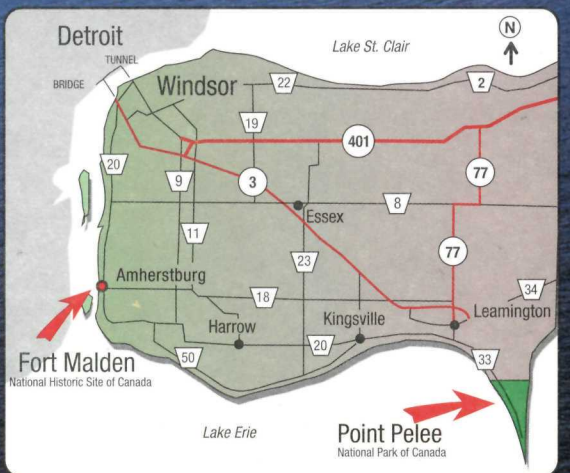
Small but significant, Point Pelee National Park is renowned for achieving the almost impossible - the rescue of a national park. Orchards, cottages, farms, fisheries and almost a million visitors annually are all part of the history of this tiny national park. By the late 1960's, the park's ecosystems were so impacted by human use, Point Pelee almost lost its place in Canada's national park family. Since that time, private lands were purchased, more than 300 buildings were removed and more than 50% of the park's dryland habitats were restored. In 2003 Parks Canada purchased the last private property within the park. This cottage stands as a reminder of days gone by and a testament to the vision and dedication of those who saved Point Pelee National Park for all time, for all people.

## Amazing... naturally!

Wait until you see Point Pelee National Park up close!

A lush Carolinian forest oasis at the southern tip of Canada, Point Pelee resounds with migrating song birds in the spring, hums with cicadas during the summer, drips with monarch butterflies in the fall and is a place of peaceful reflection in the winter.

Discover Point Pelee National Park every season of the year.



In our continuing commitment to "green" our operations, our visitor guides have been printed on recycled paper using an environmentally certified waterless printing process.



### Point Pelee National Park

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 pelee.info@pc.gc.ca

### Better Than a Thousand Rolls of Film!

Make your visit to Point Pelee National Park one you'll remember for a lifetime! We can help you discover this extraordinary part of Canada and make it memorable for you and your family. Here are some highlights:



### Get Up Close and Personal

Join a Parks Canada interpreter during the summer months for lots of fun. Take a Freightier Canoe Tour and skim through the lily pads in search of turtles. Stop by the Visitor Centre for the daily Creature Feature and meet a snake, skink or turtle. Check out the "Bug Bowl" at Marshville near the Marsh Boardwalk and learn why marshes are important. Or take a Guided Hike to marvel at migrating songbirds in May and monarch butterflies in September, both hallmarks of this gem in Canada's national park system.

### Exhibits, Videos and More

At the Visitor Centre, experience the New Exhibit Gallery and "Keep the Songs Alive" video presentation. Uncover hidden details of the park by borrowing a Trail Booklet. Or visit the DeLaurier Homestead and re-live days gone by. Get more out of your hike on one of our Self-guided Interpretive Trails - DeLaurier Trail, Tip and Marsh Boardwalk.

### We're All About Families

March Break at Point Pelee offers fun for the whole family with hikes, crafts and fun nature films. In addition to being "very cool", interactive summer Murder Mystery Campfires teach the audience about park issues. Get in the spirit of Halloween and learn about night creatures at the Legends of the Night program.

### Special Events

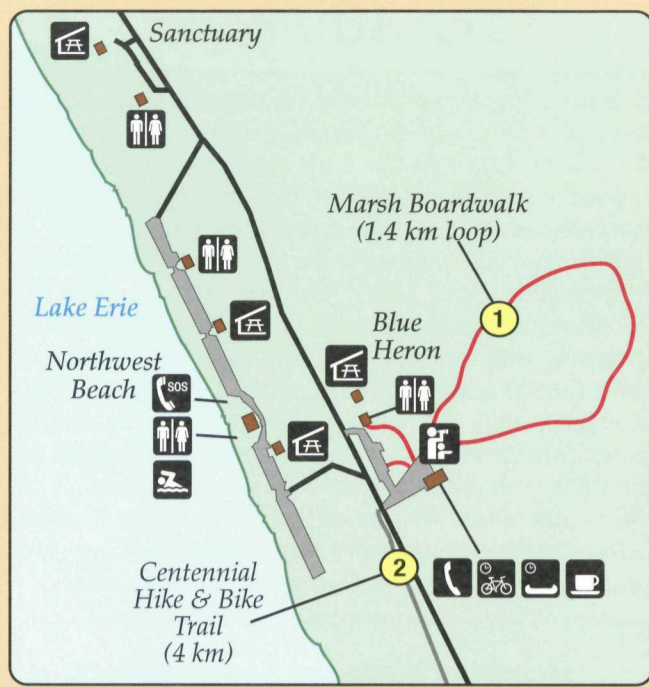
May 1 - 31	Festival of Birds \$
June 25 - September 5	Daily Summer Interpretive Programs
July 1	Canada Day
July 2 and July 30	Murder Mystery Campfire
July 16	Canada's Parks Day
Late Summer	W.E. Saunders Birding Odyssey \$
September 4	Murder Mystery Campfire
September 7 - October 2 (Wed.-Sun.)	Monarchs and More Hikes \$
October 28	Legends of the Night
February 5, 2006	Winter Active Day
March 13 - 17, 2006	March Break

Programs offered in collaboration with the Friends of Point Pelee.  
 \$ Fees apply.

For more information on what is offered during your visit, ask at the Visitor Centre or Park Entrance Kiosk, check out the posters located throughout the park and look for the special inserts in this guide.



## Marsh Boardwalk Area



## Explore the Park Trails

- 1 Marsh Boardwalk** 1.4 km (loop)  
Both floating and stationary boardwalk including two observation areas with telescopes.  
Habitats: open ponds and cattail marsh.



- 2 Centennial Hike & Bike Trail** 4 km  
Runs parallel to park road from Marsh Boardwalk south to the Visitor Centre. Gentle, tree lined, winding trail. Stop at picnic sites along the way.  
Habitats: hackberry dry forest and beach.



- 3 DeLaurier Trail** 1.2 km (loop)  
Historic house and barn with exhibits and artifacts featuring the park's cultural and human heritage. One observation platform.  
Habitats: open fields, cedar savanna, swamp forest, marsh, and old canals once used by farmers.

- 4 Tilden Woods Trail** 1 km (loop)  
Begins at northeast corner of Visitor Centre parking lot.  
Habitats: horsetails and mature swamp forest, cedar savanna.

- 5 Shuster Trail** 0.5 km  
Begins along Tilden Woods and keeps going straight to East Beach (no visitor facilities).



- 6 Chinquapin Oak Trail** 1 km  
Access to historic cemetery. Access from Tilden Woods Trail or near White Pine picnic area.  
Habitats: mixed dry forest.

- 7 Woodland Nature Trail** 2.75 km (loop)  
Begins behind Visitor Centre. Partially boardwalked wetland and mature forests. Interpretive trail booklets available at the Visitor Centre.  
Habitat: swamp and dry Carolinian forest and cedar savanna.

- 8 Botham Tree Trail** 0.5 km (loop)  
Begins at Visitor Centre. Trail booklets available at the Visitor Centre. Identifies trees unique to the Carolinian forest.



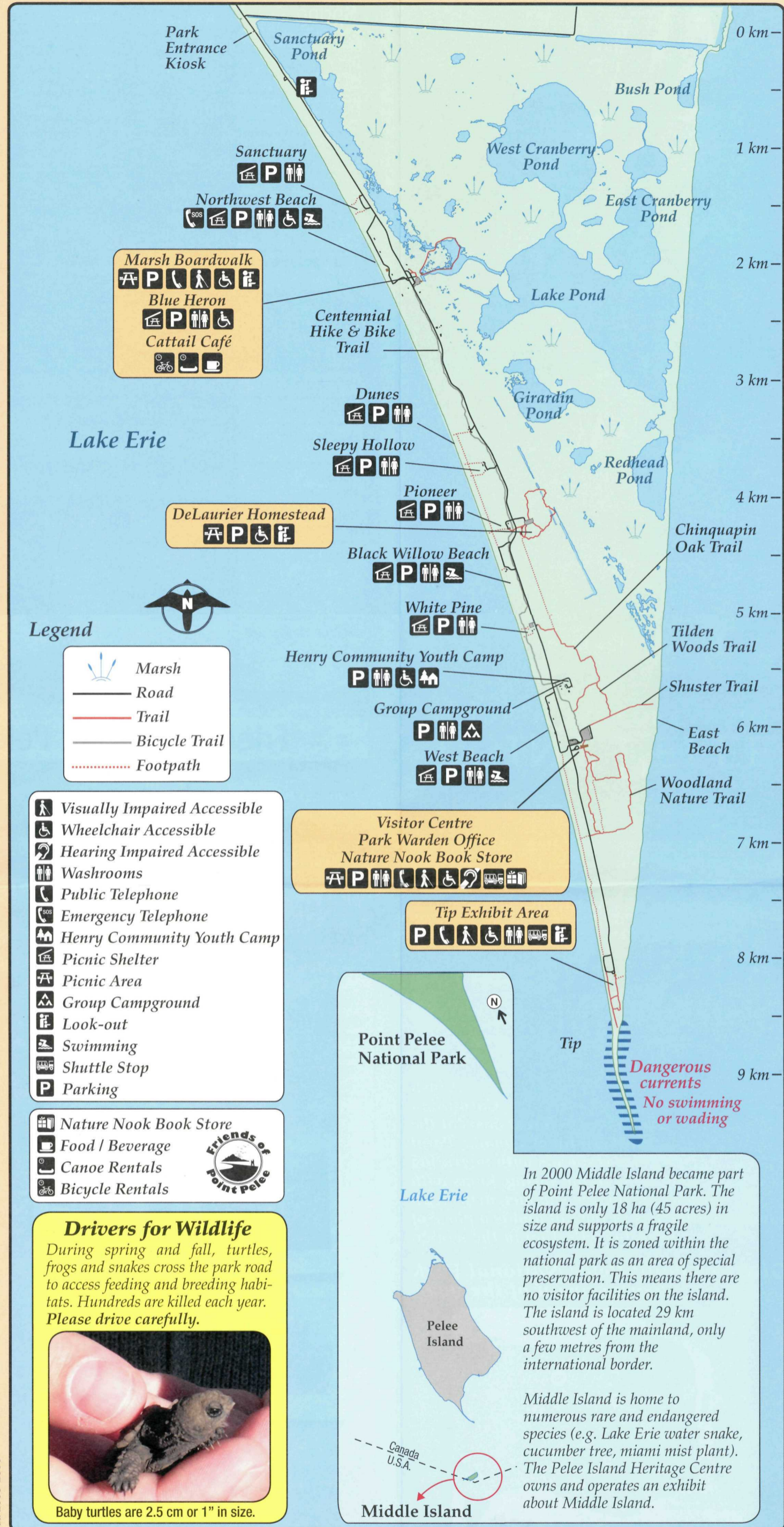
- 9 Tip Trail** 0.4 km  
Access to the most southern point of mainland Canada; sandspit reaches out into Lake Erie. Length and shape of sandspit varies according to water levels and currents. Shuttle from Visitor Centre drops you off at trailhead from April to October. Exhibits and telescope.  
Habitats: early successional woodlands and beach.

There are no lifeguards at Point Pelee National Park. Do not swim at beaches during times of rough water. Please supervise children closely. Emergency life saving equipment is available at Northwest Beach, Black Willow Beach and West Beach.

**Caution at the Tip**  
Dangerous currents exist. For your safety, it is illegal to enter the water beyond the posted warning signs.

**Warning**

## Point Pelee National Park



Park Administration and General Works Facilities are located 4 km north of the national park.

### Visitor Code: For a safe and enjoyable visit

- Park roads are used by people and wildlife. Obey the speed limit and park only in designated areas.
- Bicycles are restricted to the bike trail and roadways.
- Feeding wildlife and fish is prohibited.
- Pets must be under physical control and on a leash, max 3 m (9ft). Remember to stoop and scoop!
- Prevent the spread of insect pests, do not bring wood into the park. Use charcoal in stoves and barbecues.
- Collecting natural objects is prohibited.
- Stay on designated trails to avoid poison ivy and ticks. Do not enter closed areas.
- Alcohol is prohibited in the park.
- Beach water quality is monitored weekly. Poor water quality results will be posted at the Park Entrance Kiosk.
- Avoid stable flies by wearing light coloured clothing and staying in windy areas.
- Fireworks and firearms, including bows and arrows, are prohibited.

