



Apple Blossom Time in the Annapolis Valley

Annapolis Valley apple orchards are wearing their Spring colours now; the trees are covered in blossoms just in time for the 77th Apple Blossom Festival! This annual celebration of our agricultural heritage spans the entire Valley, from Digby to Windsor, and has something for everyone. Beginning with the opening ceremonies on Thursday to its conclusion on Monday, the Festival offers live music and dance, coronation ceremonies (where the next Queen Annapolis will be crowned), fireworks, horse and automobile shows, craft markets, the Children's Parade followed by the Grand Street Parade on Saturday (in Kentville; usually a huge turnout for this event), art shows, sporting events, fair rides, and the Apple Blossom Duck Race (racing rubber ducks, not live ones). For more info and the event schedule, visit www.appleblossom.com and join in on the festivities! If photography is your thing, this is a great photo opportunity - take a walk through the orchards with your camera before the blossoms are gone for another year!

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Jacob's Ladder

If you happen to be in the Truro area and want a fast reality check of your current cardiovascular conditioning, make the climb up Jacob's Ladder. Located just a short distance from the parking lot within the 1,000-acre Victoria Park in the heart of Truro, this 175-step, wooden staircase climbs the steep wall of a ravine and connects visitors to walking trails in the park. If one climb is too easy, good for you! If you like, continue walking the well-maintained trails that will lead you to some beautiful waterfalls on Lepper Brook.



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The Barred Owl



Also known as the Hoot Owl, this bird of prey can be found in dense woods across Canada, and is the only typical owl in the eastern United States with brown eyes. Hunting at dawn and dusk, this species of owl is the one most likely to be active during the day. Nesting mostly in tree cavities (and making inroads into suburbia), they prey on mice, chipmunks, rabbits, foxes and certain birds.

Editor's note: this Barred Owl was observed and photographed in the woods surrounding Electric City (New France), Digby County in early afternoon. Perched in the trees approx. 50 ft away, it sat perfectly still as I snapped several photographs from my car. It was one of two Barred Owls observed that day in the same area.



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Homegrown Trivia

1. In what year was Halifax founded?
2. On average, which community has more foggy days per year, Halifax or Yarmouth?
3. What language was ranked third as a "mother tongue" in Nova Scotia in the 2006 Canadian Census?
4. What is the Provincial Dog of Nova Scotia?
5. The emergency beacon belonging to the *Andrea Gail* - the fishing vessel lost at sea, and depicted in the movie *The Perfect Storm* - washed ashore on what Nova Scotia island in November 1991?

(Answers at bottom of page)

Two Free Things To Do In N.S.

- **Swim in the ocean.** There are a lot of sandy beaches along the Northumberland Strait, and the water is warm. Around the Minas Basin, you'll find sandy beaches, but the water can be murky from silt. The South Shore has many beautiful white sand beaches, if you don't mind cold water from the open Atlantic. The Bay of Fundy has pebbly beaches, and the water is fine...if you're a penguin. ;)
- **Watch some amazing sunsets.** Anywhere with a view facing west will allow you to take in a Nova Scotia sunset, but if you want water in the scene, head for the Bay of Fundy shoreline, or Kempt Shore and Cheverie in Hants County where you can admire the sun setting over the Minas Basin.

Download this newsletter from www.scotianhiker.com



Outdoorosophy

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you...while cares will drop off like autumn leaves." - John Muir

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts." - Rachel Carson

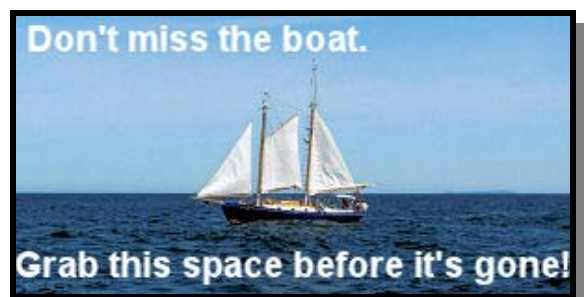
What's Going On Out There!? Event Listings

Cape Split Provincial Park Reserve Open House. The Dept of Natural Resources is seeking public input on a draft management plan. Thurs May 28, Scots Bay Community Hall, Highway 358, Scots Bay, and Thurs June 4, Acadia University, University Ave., Wolfville.

Valley Climbing Geeks is a new club for anyone in the Annapolis Valley with an interest in recreational climbing. For more information, look up the group on Facebook or contact Sean Murphy at sean.murphy@acadiau.ca

Interested in Hiking? Be sure to check www.scotianhiker.com for any upcoming day hikes and weekend events. St. Croix gypsum cliffs, upper Gaspereau River, Roxbury and Amethyst Cove are in planning & TBA. Scotian Hiker is on Facebook and Twitter.

Wolfville Walking Tours is again offering interesting, haunting and entertaining tales from Wolfville's history. To learn more, check out their Facebook group, visit www.wolfvillewalkingtours.com, or email Jeremy at jeremy@wolfvillewalkingtours.com



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