

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, August 4, 2016



RE: Miner's Marsh Birthday Celebration, August 13, 1-4pm

KENTVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA - KENTVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA - On Saturday August 13, the Town of Kentville will host a family event at Miner's Marsh including the launch of a local children's book, followed by expert-lead walks, nature games, bug catching, and critter dipping.

The main event will highlight the release of the children's book "Miner's Marsh ABCs" which will be officially released in the park at 1pm. "I'm honoured to be part of this celebration, and am happy to give back to the marsh for all the joy it has given to me over the years," said Pam Fairn, author of "Miner's Marsh ABCs." Ms. Fairn and her sister and photographer Sheila Levy, collaborated on this children's photographic book that highlights plants and animals that are commonly found in the park.

The event will also include nature games and family-centred activities by local educators and scientists. "We want kids to see new things in the park, in the water, in the sky and hidden in the grasses - it is so much fun to learn about nature in Miner's Marsh!" said Marina Myra, owner of Wild Roots Nature Education Centre. "Miner's Marsh is a beautiful site that was built with the community in mind," said Grenville Jones, Ducks Unlimited Senior Director for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. "This will be a celebration of how the park was used, how it was owned and restored, and how it connects people with nature in the heart of Kentville."

The Miners Marsh Celebration will take place at Miner's Marsh on August 13, 2016 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. The book launch will occur at 1:00 with speeches from the Mayor of Kentville, the authors, and Ducks Unlimited, followed by nature activities and walks in the park from 1:30 to 4:00pm.

"We have a jewel of a park right in our backyard," said Mayor David Corkum, who officially opened the park in 2010. "We look forward to throwing a great birthday party for Miners Marsh!"

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Background on Miner's Marsh

The Kentville Ducks Unlimited Site, also known as "Miner's Marsh," is a wetland habitat constructed by Ducks Unlimited Canada which supports a variety and abundance of wildlife. The protected site includes 1.7 km of maintained trail built by the Town of Kentville in partnership with Health Promotion and Protection, the Rotary Club of Kentville, Michelin, Dr. Don Burry, and the Kings County Wildlife Federation. Miner's Marsh can be accessed from the abandoned rail line trail at the intersection of the trail with Leverett Avenue, and from the parking area behind the County of Kings Municipal building on Cornwallis Street.

Ducks Unlimited purchased the land from the Miner family around 1994, after grazing became too dangerous for their cows due to flooding. DU started to develop the site around 2006, raising money through fundraisers and donations from local families and companies, as well as the Town and county. Stakeholders developed a management plan that included the Town maintaining the grounds and DU maintaining water habitat. The Town built the bridge as a gift to the Park, but benefitted greatly from reduced flood risks from the absorbing effects of the marshlands.

Between 2008 and 2009, the work took place to build the marsh. The water control structure was put in place first, mud from the tides solidified the base to prevent draining. Muskrats started eating the growth and removed many weeds and cattails. Now there is room for waterfowl to land and take off. The official opening was in 2010 with Dave Corkum and Hugh Fairn (author Pam Fairn's father in law), former director of DU.

Thanks to Grenville Jones (Ducks Unlimited) for providing this background information

Background on "Miner's Marsh ABCs"

Sheila Levy, born and brought up in the local area, married to my husband, David for 42 years, mother of two grown sons and Gramma to three granddaughters. I first started walking at the marsh about 5 years ago and enjoyed getting out in nature to exercise rather than walking along a road with auto fumes and noise. When I retired 3 years ago I started making it a daily part of my new routine and found so much to see and enjoy so I started taking my camera along to record what I was seeing each day. Then I realized there was even more than I expected to see and record; once you start looking it is amazing what you can find. I have always enjoyed taking photographs and in the past had concentrated more on scenery so trying to get the birds to stay still and pose for me was quite a challenge and I had to learn to be much quicker to snap the shot.

Several months ago my sister, Pam Fairn, called to ask me if I had pictures of certain birds etc. found at the marsh, she was writing a book and wanted to illustrate with my photos. So from the thousands I have now accumulated we were able to find many pics of creatures she had used in her story and so that was how I came to be involved in the book, **Miner's Marsh's ABCs**. I continue to walk at the marsh as often as I can, sometimes up to three times a day if I don't have other commitments and find it is a place of many faces; every time of day is different with the light, with what you see, and with who and how many people you meet to visit with. I have met many people from the Metro Halifax area who drive up to enjoy the marsh, as well as from the Digby area and one couple from Cape Breton. It amazes me that some folks right in Kentville still don't know it is there. This is a place for inspiration and meditation as well as the physical exercise you get.