Mill of Kintail Conservation Area & Outdoor Education

Mississippi Valley Conservation Education programs promote an awareness of the environment fostering a conservation ethic, stewardship, and caring for our environmental resources in ways that will sustain them for future generations.

Within the 154 acre site students encounter three diverse habitats: river, forest, and field. The comprehensive education program explores many aspects of these habitats from stream studies to soil profiling and wildlife investigations. Programs are curriculum based to meet the needs of elementary students from K-8 but are not limited to school groups.

- * On-site and outreach education programs reach more than 4000 students each year!
- * MVC education programs are Ontario curriculum-based and presented in a fun, interactive, hands-on manner. While meeting the requirements of specific grades, programs can be adapted to your needs upon request.
- * Programs are best presented at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area, but some may be customized for in-school requests.
- * Book now. Programs offered year round except where noted.
- *The Mill of Kintail Conservation Area offers accessible washrooms and space for outdoor activity, lunch, and play time.

Our Education Coordinator

Sarah O'Grady, OCT is the MVC Education Coordinator. She is a strong leader and nature enthusiast with experience in the classroom.

She combines learning with fun providing interactive programming that students, teachers, and parents can enjoy.





Contact

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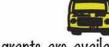
Fees

\$125 Half Day (1program) \$225 Full Day (2 programs)

All programs are approximately two hours with a maximum of 30 students.

Cancellations

Programs run rain or shine. Schools must provide two weeks notice for a cancellation or an \$80 fee will be charged. Programs may be cancelled the day before or day of the visit due to inclement weather (i.e. thunderstorm, heavy winds, freezing rain, snow storms, etc.) without a penalty.



busing grants are available for the winter program courtesy of Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation

The MVC Education has also received support for special programs from:





Testimonials

"Being in nature is funl." Dieudonne, Student

"The Mill of Kintail programs offer a valuable learning experience. It is important to learn about Science and Nature topics in a real setting."

Linda Howie, Teacher

"I had a blast and will never forget it. I hope I can come again."

Christopher, Student





Education Programs

Programs

5 Senses (Kindergarten)

Experience nature through the senses! Hands-on activities introduce young minds to sights, sounds, smells and textures of the forest.

Living Things (Grade One)

Learn how the basic needs of living things are met within the environment. Students explore their surroundings and search for live specimens along the way.

Animals (Grade Two)

Investigate the appearance, behaviour, and life cycles of animals living at the Mill of Kintail. Encounters with resident animals are possible!

Plants (Grade Three)

Discover forest plants and learn about the similarities and differences between the smallest wildflowers and the tallest trees and why these plants are so important to life on earth.

Soils (Grade Three)

Get your hands dirty-literally! Learn why soil is an essential source of life. Students investigate the properties of soil through hands-on identification experiments.

Habitats (Grade Four)

Discover the special relationships between plants and animals living in field, forest, and river habitats. Learn about connections between humans and the environment through hands-on exploration and field activities.

Energy (Grade Five)

This interactive presentation provides an overview of renewable and non-renewable energy sources, the impacts of energy use on the environment, and the importance of conservation.

Biodiversity (Grade Six)

We are all connected! Students discover diversity of species and ecosystems and will begin to appreciate why this variety of life is vital to the health of the planet and human existence.

Ecosystems (Grade Seven)

Investigate ecosystems at the Mill of Kintail! Learn about ecosystem composition and the factors affecting their health. Recognize how everyday decisions impact the environment.

Water (Grade Eight)

This multi-media presentation focuses on the water cycle, groundwater flow, water use, water contamination and water conservation within the local watershed and around the world.



Multi-Grade Programs

Stream Study (Grades K-6)

Explore the Indian River and along the riparian zone using nets and buckets in search of reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. Learn about life cycles, animal adaptations, habitats, biodiversity, and river health.

Field Study (Grades K-6)

Get up close and personal with insects living in the open fields. Using nets, bug containers, magnifying glasses, and field guides discover a variety of insects and learn why they are more than just "bugs"!

Survival (Grades 4-6)

Learn about food chains, animal adaptations, and habitats while playing a physically active simulation game. Through role playing, students discover what a day in the life of animals is really like!

Trees (Grades 3-6)

Learn about nature's largest plants and the important role they play for other living things. Using dichotomous keys, students identify trees by their unique characteristics.

Winter (Grades 1-6) *available Dec.-Feb.

Discover how the animals survive in our cold Canadian climate, search for signs of life throughout the forest, and enjoy a guided snow-shoeing expedition along the Indian River.TD Friends of the Environment provided funding to purchase high quality snowshoes for this program. Busing grants available for this program.



SWAP (In-school for Grades K-8) *available Mar.-Apr.

The Spring Water Awareness Program (SWAP) is a half-day in-school presentation focusing on the dangers of spring water conditions such as thin ice, fast moving water, and flooding. Ensure your students understand the safety precautions that need to be taken at this time of year.



This free program sponsored by Ontario Power Generation

Water Expo *available in May

This interactive full day event promotes water resource management and conservation. Using hands-on discovery centres and presentation students gain an understanding of the value and fragility of water in o world.

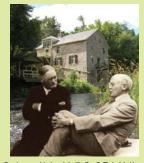
This free program sponsored by Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation



R. Tait McKenzie & Naismith Museums *available May-Oct.

Take some time to learn about the great accomplishments of two influential Canadians. Dr. Robert Tait McKenzie and Dr. James Naismith were childhood friends who grew up locally in former Ramsay Township (just around the corner from the Mill of Kintail!)

Known as Brothers of the Wind, the lives of Naismith (inventor of basketball) and McKenzie (sculptor, sports therapist and philosopher) are showcased at the gristmill museum on site at the Mill of Kintail. Discover how these remarkable Canadians are connected to the conservation area on a guided tour of the museum.



Dr. James Naismith (I), Dr. R. Tait McKenzie