

# SHUBENACADIE CANAL'S ANIMAL OF THE WEEK

## Red Squirrel

*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*

Red squirrels are the most common squirrel species found in Nova Scotia. They like living in wooded areas where they can easily find a tree to call home. As tree squirrels are nimble and agile, they are able to run, jump and climb from tree to tree with ease. That make the Shubenacadie Canal Park the perfect playground for these curious critters! Compared to



squirrels found in neighbouring parts of the world, the red squirrel is quite small, being around 30cm long (including their fluffy tail) and generally weigh less than one pound. They have a reddish-brown coat with white bellies. Come winter they get a little grey to help blend in with the dull surroundings which is especially important where they don't hibernate. They do spend a lot of time before the cold hits gathering food and storing it for the harsh months to come. Their diets mainly consist of nuts, seeds, berries and occasionally bird eggs.



They're definitely not everyone's favourite animal however, as they can be destructive to homes and are known to hog the bird-feeder.



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