

Nature Activity

Walk, Waddle, Bound or Gallop – on Four Legs!

Head out on a nature walk in freshly fallen snow. Don't forget your nature journal, pen/pencil and ruler, binoculars (optional), and Animal Track ID Key. You can get an ID Key from Animal Trackers Nature Backpacks found at select libraries or get your own Quick Reference to Animal Tracks of Ontario and Eastern Canada book (Lone Pine Publishing, ISBN 978-1551059037).

First, use the ID Key to help you identify the tracks left by one of Lake Simcoe Region's furry critters in your local park, hiking trail or backyard.

Just for fun, try walking on all fours as your identified animal does. As a human, you're a Diagonal Walker. But how about waddling like a Pacer, or jumping like a Bounder, or galloping like a . . . Galloper. Now it's your turn to make cool tracks in the snow.

Not sure what animal made those tracks? Ask us on Twitter @LSRCA or Instagram @lakesimcoeconservation. You can also download iTrack Wildlife for free to do some investigating on your own.



Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority

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Diagonal Walker



White-tailed Deer
Odocoileus virginianus
Size: L 1.4-2.1 m; H 70-115 cm;
Wt 30-115 kg
Fore and Hind Prints:
L 5.1-8.9 cm; W 4.1-6.4 cm
Straddle: 13-25 cm
Stride: 25-51 cm (walking);
1.8-4.6 m (jumping)



Pacer/Waddler



Striped Skunk
Mephitis mephitis
Size: L 53-76 cm; Wt 1.9-4.2 kg
Fore Print: L 3.8-5.6 cm; W 2.5-3.8 cm
Hind print: L 3.8-6.4 cm; W 2.5-3.8 cm
Straddle: 7.1-11 cm
Stride: 6.4-20 cm (walking/running)



Bounder



Mink
Neovison vison
Size: L 47-70 cm; Wt 0.6-1.4 kg
Fore and Hind Prints:
L 3.3-5.1 cm; W 3.3-4.6 cm
Straddle: 5.3-8.9 cm
Stride: 20-89 cm (walking/
running)



Galloper



Snowshoe Hare
Lepus americanus
Size: L 38-53 cm; Wt 1.0-1.5 kg
Fore Print:
L 5.1-7.6 cm; W 3.8-5.1 cm
Hind print:
L 10-15 cm; W 5.1-8.9 cm
Straddle: 15-20 cm
Stride: 25-128 cm (hopping)



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