



Information for Cabin Guests

Welcome to Windhorse Farm. We are delighted that you have decided to come here and we hope your time will be enjoyable and enriching. We've written up some guidelines to assist you during your visit. Please let us know if you have questions or about anything we have not addressed. Your feedback is very important to us and for future visitors, so please share your insights with us.

The office phone number is 902-543-6955. Staff will usually be around the farm from 9 am to 4:30 pm daily.

Check in time is between 2-4 pm, unless you have made other arrangements in advance. Keep in mind it is easier to settle into your cabin during daylight hours, and the sun goes down early in Winter.

Check out is 11 am on your departure day.

Parking: As you drive up Sarty Road, you will see the parking lot on the left. The office/store is in a small, red building just slightly further up the road, also on the left. Please park at the office for now and come in to meet us! We will show you where to park for your stay. The cabins are a 3 to 10 minute walk from the parking areas, so be prepared to walk in your belongings. You can have use of a wheelbarrow or sled; please ask for our help with your things, if needed.

Communications: Cell phones may not work in certain areas of Windhorse Farm, though most carriers have fairly good coverage.

Quiet time: To respect our various guests, residents and neighbours, we ask that all noise is quieted down by 10 pm. No fireworks at any time, please.

Office: This is a retail location for the wood business, programs and administration. The office space, including, computer, supplies and equipment is for office staff only. There is a space available upstairs where you can use your own technology to access the internet, if required. Please check with the office staff about using this space.

Items for sale: In the office there is a selection of items for sale. You can expect to find such items as candles, a small selection of books, natural bug repellent, Windhorse organic T-shirts and beautifully crafted wood products from our EcoWoodshop.

Accommodations

We provide all bedding and towels in all accommodations. We don't provide toiletries. Please bring your own food (though fresh farm eggs are seasonally available).

The Forest & Garden Cabins are tucked away around the farm. They are ideal for meditation, writing or other art, forest walking and relaxation retreats, or spending time with loved ones. Each is unique, has wood heat, nearby outhouses, and no running water. Depending on the cabin, lighting is solar or propane.

The kitchen areas are complete with pots, pans, dishes, and 2-burner propane cook-tops. Refrigeration is a cooler with ice packs. (BYO ice packs, which can be refrozen at the farm store). A full jug of water is provided in the cabin when you arrive. You can refill the jug in the Chat Room at the farm house. We provide bedding, pillows, towel and facecloth. Please bring a non-electric way of brewing coffee, if coffee is desired.

Juniper Lodge is a beautiful new building demonstrating many green building techniques. It can accommodate up to 21 people for educational programs, meetings, conferences or group retreats. There are three self-contained suites as well as a central living room, a large gathering space, program kitchen and dining room. (If caterers have been arranged, they will work in the program kitchen, but there are kitchens in each of the suites, should you like to bring any of your own food). There is a mix of single, double and loft (accessed by ladder) accommodations. Data projector and flipchart are available.

The Pavilion: This lovely cob-and-timber meeting/dining space, adjacent to Juniper Lodge, is included with Juniper Lodge. This is where meals are catered for larger groups.

Sunshine House is a bright, 2-storey farmhouse overlooking horse pastures and the lake. Depending on the season and if the Carriage House side is open, up to 20 people can stay here together. Juniper Lodge is only a few minutes walk from here, either via a trail through the woods or via Sarty Road and up the main laneway.

Power House is a wonderful, secluded, 3-bedroom house on the lakeshore that can accommodate up to 6-8 people (or 8-10 if you use the day beds in the window nooks off the living area). The large deck offers a beautiful space to watch the sunrise or lounge by the lake. The other houses and amenities of the Farm are within easy walking distance.

The Forest: Regardless of which building you stay in, you are being accommodated within the Windhorse Forest, one of the last remaining examples of true Acadian Forest. Please take time to wander in this “longest standing demonstration of sustainable forestry in Canada.”

The Gardens: The permaculture garden, begun in 1990, on the shores of Wentzell Lake provides beauty and shelter, and produces lots of food for innumerable beings, both human and non-human. We hope you enjoy wandering here too.

Inner Gardens & Farmhouse: Home of the Drescher family. Please respect their privacy. There is a brush wall surrounding the inner gardens around the yellow farm house that has 5 gates. These inner gardens are a private area for the family. You are very welcome to wander in the surrounding gardens.

Food: We try to eat food that is locally grown (at Windhorse Farm and other Nova Scotia farms, mostly on the South Shore), seasonal (fresh or otherwise appropriate for the season), and organic. You may buy your food from the local farm market or the grocery store.

The Chat Room: This is a room on the side of the Drescher home, down a narrow path off Sarty Road. It is shared by Windhorse Farm residents and guests staying in the off-grid cabins. It has a bathroom with a shower (bring your own toiletries), and also a multipurpose sink for vegetable, egg, and hand washing. Please help keep it clean so it is ready for the next person. Please respect the Dreschers' privacy by not using the Chat Room after 9 pm or before 7 am.

Compost: Compost is fed to the chickens. Eggshells and citrus should not be put in the compost for this reason. Please watch for staples in tea bags as well, as staples aren't good chicken food. These 3 items should go in a separate container from the compost bin (and will later go into the large, city compost bin beside the office).

Trails: We have 22 km of main trails, and even more kilometers of secondary foot paths, for your wandering pleasure. Please ask for directions in the office and/or consult the map in your accommodations.

Wentzell Lake: If you have a canoe or kayak please feel free to put them in on the lakefront beach area. You are welcome to use the canoe here, but please return it to the bank when you are done and don't forget to wear a life jacket. Stay on the lake-side (don't head to the right, where the river gets rough). Swimming in the lake is good here, though is shallow later in the summer. Do not use the dock near Power House - it belongs to our neighbour.

Sauna: You are welcome to use the sauna and swim in the pond. No soap or shampoo should be used in the ponds, lake, or river and only organic or low-impact biodegradable soap should be used anywhere. Please leave it clean for the next person. If it is your first time using this wood-fired sauna, ask at the office/store for instructions on how to use it.

Outhouses: There are nine 2-chamber, above ground composting outhouses - a special Windhorse Farm design. These save water and turn a "waste product" into a resource (nutrients for the forest when it's fully composted.) Sprinkle a cup or so of sawdust on top of each deposit. Go easy on the paper, please. For defecation, use only these outhouses; urination can be done in the woodlot on dry ground away from watercourses. Do not put sanitary napkins in outhouses, but in the garbage.

Animals: We will provide all the pets you need! Please leave yours at home. Come visit our horses (from a short distance), but do not feed them or enter the paddock. There is an electric line on the fence around the paddock.

Smoking & Scents: No smoking in any building or near anyone for whom it might cause discomfort. **Windhorse Farm is a scent-free environment (no perfumes or strongly scented personal toiletries).

Blacksmith Shop, Woodworking Shop, Garage, Barn, and Paddock: Please do not enter these buildings unless accompanied by a staff person. These are work spaces with potential dangers.

What to bring:

- Flashlight or head lamp
- Alarm clock (if needed!)
- Bathing suit (for sauna, pond, or lake)
- Personal toiletries (hand soap, shampoo, razors, etc. –biodegradable, please)
- Raincoat, rain pants, poncho
- Warm jacket, windbreaker
- Comfortable shoes or boots for walking on trails
- Boots and water-resistant shoes (rubber boots)
- Slippers/inside shoes that slip on or off easily for inside cabin
- Favourite cozy blanket or sleeping bag and clothing layers
- Infant care accessories (we do not provide playpens, cribs, etc.)

Energy Conservation at Windhorse Farm

One theme and educational emphasis at Windhorse is sustainability. We view and monitor sustainability through five filters, one of which is the ecological filter. Within that field of ecological sustainability, energy conservation is very important. Three things that affect our carbon emissions are electrical usage, water and space heating, and use of fossil fuels for transportation.

We respectfully ask all our residents, employees, and guests to join us in reducing our ecological footprint in five ways.

1. Minimize fossil fuel use in traveling to and from Windhorse Farm.
2. Prepare for lower building temperatures than you might be used to at home. Please bring slippers and warm sweaters so you will be comfortable.
3. Please conserve hot water by taking a shorter shower than you might otherwise take. Our water is heated differently in different buildings, but going easy on hot water always reduces the ecological footprint.
4. Please burn only the lights you are using. Remembering to turn off lights not in use will reduce a lot of carbon emissions over the period of your stay.
5. There should be no need to use the clothes washer or dryer during your stay. All the laundry has been done, and fresh linens put on your beds, before your arrival, and this will be done again by our housekeeper after you depart.

We would like your feedback if you notice a way to improve things at Windhorse Farm. There might be something very simple that you could point out to make life better – please let us know.

You may notice ways in which we can be even more conservative in our energy use, or improve our sustainability practices in other ways. Please share with us your thoughts about this. We take very seriously all the feedback we receive. In fact, the policies in place today are a result of suggestions that have come to us in the past.

Thank you for your assistance in making Windhorse Farm the lowest ecological cost conference and retreat centre in the Maritimes.

Enjoy your stay!

Windhorse Farm

Driving directions to Windhorse Farm

From Halifax, go west on Highway 103 to Exit 12 (Bridgewater).

Turn right on Hwy 10, (signs for New Germany) and go 11 km.

Turn left on Wentzell Road and go 1 km and over an iron bridge.

Immediately after the bridge, turn right on Sarty Road.

Windhorse Farm is the first place on the left (#129).

You will see the parking lot on the left, and the red office building is slightly further up the road, also on the left.

****Note: Do not use satellite navigation!! Many systems give directions to another Sarty Road!!****

If you are coming down the #10 from the Annapolis Valley, you will pass through New Germany and continue about 10 minutes or so before turning right on Wentzell Road. After turning right on Wentzell Rd., follow it for 1 km and over an iron bridge and immediately turn right on Sarty Road.

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Please stop into the office (the small red barn) to check in.