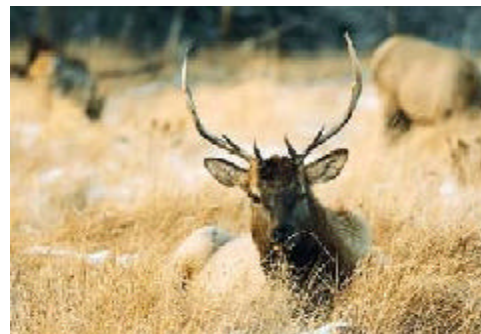


Elk (*Cervus elaphus*)

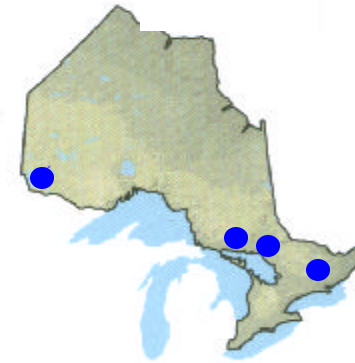
Description: Elk is one of the largest ungulates in North America, second only to the moose. On average, adult females weigh about 225 kg and males 315 kg. Female elk, or cows, stand about 1.3 m at the shoulder and are 2m from nose to tail; while male elk, or bulls, stand about 1.5 m at the shoulder and are 2.4 m from nose to tail. The body of an elk varies from deep copper brown to light tan in colour, depending on location and season, with a light beige rump patch, and legs and neck that are often darker than the body in colour. Bull elk grow antlers annually, which are used to display dominance and occasionally for defence.

Habitat and Range: Prefers grasslands and open mixed woodlands. Occasionally ranges into coniferous forest areas. Elk have been re-introduced to the Bancroft, Burwash, Blind River and Lake of the Woods areas. Their populations remain small within these areas.

Diet: Elk are generally grazers. During the winter and fall, their diet consists primarily of browse. In the spring and summer months, grasses, sedges, and lichens make up for roughly 90% of their food intake. Elk will also travel long distances to find aquatic plants rich in sodium.



Tracks



● Elk Range in Ontario

Behaviour: Elk are crepuscular - they are most active at the times just before dusk and just after dawn. They are also gregarious. Cows, calves and yearlings live in loose herds; and bulls in bachelor groups or alone. The breeding season, or rut, occurs in autumn, at which time you may hear the recognizable bugles of bull elk competing for females.

Elk Restoration Project

History: Elk were originally endemic across Ontario. Excessive hunting for meat and trophies, as well as habitat conversion to agricultural lands, most likely caused the final demise of native elk in Ontario in the late 1800's. A 1930's reintroduction attempt of western elk to Ontario resulted in a small population (30-40) animals in the Burwash / French River area, south of Sudbury. Between 1997 and 2001, 171 elk (98 cows, 19 bulls and 54 calves) were introduced to the French River/Burwash elk range from Elk Island National Park, Alberta, in the hopes of reintroducing this once proud species to viable numbers in Ontario. Similar releases have also occurred in the Lake of the Woods, Bancroft North Hastings, and Lake Huron North Shore areas.

Objectives of the Study:

To monitor the reintroduced elk and to determine post-release dispersal, survival, mortality rate and causes, reproductive rate and the status of the population.



Cambrian College

I Support Killarney Wildlife



Yes, I would like to become a Killarney wildlife fellow by supporting the Elk restoration project .

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Province/State: _____

E-mail: _____

I wish to donate \$10 \$25 Other _____

Method of Payment: Cheque

Visa Mastercard

Card# _____

Expiry Date: _____

Your Killarney wildlife fellowship package includes:

- * A wildlife fellowship certificate
- * A bi-annual newsletter
- * A charitable donation tax receipt for donations of \$10.00 or more

Please Make Cheques payable to:
Northern Environmental Heritage Institute
C/O Cambrian College, 1400 Barrydowne Road
Sudbury, Ontario P3A 3V8