

“Welcome to Beaubassin, a special place of historical and cultural significance, a place to share knowledge and deepen our connections with one another and the natural environment that surrounds us.

When we first envisioned Beaubassin we imagined a meeting place – focused on connection, learning and meaningful research.

We are thankful to all those who helped to make this place possible – Geoff Harding with Ducks Unlimited, and John Waugh - there are many others who worked hard to make it all happen.

Today, we are proud this vision is realized in the work that you are doing – in finding solutions for a better tomorrow.

Our hope is that here at Beaubassin you will learn from one another, challenge yourselves, and build meaningful connections and lasting friendships. We hope that you will be inspired to continue to make positive change in the world and that you'll return often to share that knowledge with others. Thank you for being here.

– Arthur and Sandra Irving

Welcome to this gathering place

Located at the crossroads of the three Maritime provinces, the Beaubassin Research Station focuses on social, cultural and environmental research – critical to understanding our past, present and to defining our future.

Beaubassin is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq nation.

The Beaubassin Research Station was established in 2009 through the partnership of Irving Oil, Acadia University and Ducks Unlimited Canada. Developed in the spirit of collaboration, the three founding partners recognized the potential of the Beaubassin site to advance important environmental and historical research in the Atlantic region. At Beaubassin, students and researchers across a network of partnering academic institutions focus on finding practical solutions for a more sustainable future.

Pjila'si

Beaubassin gagemig' tan etl gotjeoteg aotiil otjit saag tan teliagep otjit elnog, Acadians ag Aglaasieog eganatotep mesgiig tan tel-eltaigep Canada.

Gisgog Irving Oil, Ducks Unlimited Canada ag Acadia University igenmatemitij Center otjit tan teesit oen peoatg gelloten saponogel, ag oeleimg tan tett eig oen, goelg oen nsetooti, ag maololgotinen gepennolag, ag nensetemenen tan tel pelootigo.

Bienvenue

Beaubassin fut longtemps un carrefour ou peoples autochtones, pionniers acadiens et britanniques contribuerent a son epanouissement tout comme a l'evolution du Canada.

Aujourd'hui, Irving Oil, Canards Illimites Canada et Acadia University offrent cette vast etendue des marais Tantramar et son centre de recherche aux personnes souhaitant un monde meilleur, un environnement plus sain, la poursuite de la connaissance, une cooperation plus etroite entre l'industrie et les Etats, ainsi qu'une plus grande harmonie entre les cultures.

Welcome

Beaubassin stood at the crossroads of history where First Nations, Acadians and English people played a major role in its development and in shaping Canada.

Today Irving Oil, Ducks Unlimited Canada and Acadia University offer this wide expanse of Tantramar marshlands and research centre as a beacon for all those wishing a better tomorrow, a healthier environment, the pursuit of knowledge, closer cooperation between governments and industry and harmony between cultures.



Beaubassin Research Station

A place of history, to imagine
our future.



Thank you for being part of the story of Beaubassin.
Working together for a better tomorrow.

To learn more, please visit:
irvingoil.com • kcirvingcentre.acadiu.ca • ducks.ca



Printed on 100% biodegradable paper

History of the Beaubassin area

Prior to the arrival of the European settlers, the Tantramar marshes were the largest tidal salt marshes on the northeastern seaboard. The area was the site of an early Mi'kmaq settlement, Goesomaligeg, on the Fort Beauséjour Ridge. The Mi'kmaq acted as guides and aides to the first French explorers and generously shared their local knowledge of the geography, environment, and the medicinal uses of native plants, helping many early Europeans.

The early Acadian settlement was named Beaubassin and became the "Capital of Acadia" in 1676 with the first Governor of Acadia establishing his residence on Isle de la Valliere/Tonge's Island, the current location of the restored farmhouse for the Beaubassin Research Centre. The Acadians transformed the landscape through dyke construction to improve agricultural prospects. A conflict between the Acadians and British erupted which led to the deportation of Acadians in 1755.

The site was designated a National Historic Site by the Government of Canada in 1920.

Arthur Irving, Chairman of Irving Oil, together with Duck's Unlimited, saw the Tonge's Island farmhouse as an opportunity to create a meeting place dedicated to meaningful historical, cultural and environmental research.

As the owner of the land for many years, Irving Oil, together with founding partners, Duck's Unlimited and Acadia University, began to transform the place to what it is today.

The farmhouse, built in 1862, was completely renovated and a new field laboratory facility and additional sleeping quarters were added in 2009. All construction costs for the Beaubassin Research Station were generously sponsored by Arthur Irving and Irving Oil.

World-class interdisciplinary research

Focused on historical, cultural and environmental research, Beaubassin has a transformational impact on student education.

Multi disciplinary research today focuses on:

- **Environmental impact** - The dynamic tidal environment supports the study of coastal erosion, sedimentation and sea level rise.
- **Wildlife habitat** - Situated on marshlands at the head of the Bay of Fundy, it is an ideal place to study migratory birds.
- **Climate change** - Understanding the role of wetlands as a nature-based carbon solution.
- **Aquatic ecosystems** - The interface between seawater and freshwater offers an abundance of opportunity to study fish movement, populations and species richness.
- **Historical and cultural significance** - With its significant role in history, it is a unique place to study culture, community, language and archaeology.



In Fall 2021, the Beaubassin partnership was pleased to welcome the Université de Moncton, engaging students in historical and cultural research of the land and its people.

1,000 acres of coastal marshland
240 acres of freshwater wetland

Student stories

"I have such fond memories conducting research out of Beaubassin as both an undergraduate and graduate student. The Beaubassin region and facility are so unique and beautiful, and provided me great opportunities to meet and collaborate with researchers and conservationists from academia, government and industry and to apply my research to wetland management and conservation. My experiences at Beaubassin greatly contributed to my passion for field work, conservation and restoration, which launched me on my path studying wetlands for my doctoral research. I love returning to Beaubassin to observe the large tides, see the wildlife, breathe in the fresh air and enjoy the tranquility!"

- **Amanda Loder**, Acadia BSCh Environmental Science 2014, Acadia MSc Biology 2017, current PhD Candidate, U of T, studying physical geography (carbon dynamics in freshwater marshes & wetland conservation), David Naylor Fellow at the University of Toronto

"Beaubassin was where I cut my teeth as an environmental researcher. The summer I spent there at the end of my undergraduate degree gave me the independence I needed to develop as a researcher and build my network alongside other students doing research in the Tantramar Marshes. It's been almost a decade and I can't wait for my next opportunity to return!"

- **Dr. Dewey Dunnington**, Acadia BSCh Environmental Science 2011, Acadia MSc Geology 2015, PhD Dalhousie, 2021 (water resource studies/civil engineering)



Alex Johnson