

For immediate release

**Monday, October 31, 2011**

**OAK HAMMOCK MARSH INTERPRETIVE CENTRE**

**RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL "EDGIE" AWARD FOR WETLAND OUTREACH**



**Oak Hammock Marsh, MB** – The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is pleased to announce that it has received a Leading Edge Award from the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) in the category of Visitor Experience – Small Institution. The 2011 Leading Edge Awards ("Edgies") were presented on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the ASTC Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

The **Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre** was recognized for its highly effective and innovative *Wetland Outreach* program. Migratory birds depend on wetlands and many species are endangered because of wetland destruction. In the past three years, the Centre increased awareness of the value of wetlands among students, educators, and the public through its outreach programs. The "Wetlands On-the-Go" team delivered programs to 56,000 students in 2,500 classrooms in over 100 communities in three Canadian provinces. The Centre also held eight workshops for teachers in six Caribbean locations and provided educational training and resources to underserved communities.

"The Interpretive Centre's outreach programming involves an entire team of dedicated employees and volunteers" said Nathalie Bays, Manager of Interpretive Centre Operations, "and it would not be possible without strong and continued support from many partners and community sponsors."

The Roy L. Shafer Leading Edge Awards are presented annually to museums, science centres and other institutions in recognition of extraordinary accomplishments in Visitor Experience, Business Practice, and Leadership in the Field that not only enhance the performance of their own institutions but also significantly advance the mission of science-technology centers and museums.

A seven-member jury of professionals from the science field and representing a broad spectrum of ASTC's worldwide membership reviewed the nominations and selected the winners.

The jade glass sculptured "Edgie" award – symbolizing the Interpretive Centre's international recognition as a leader in wetland outreach – will be prominently displayed in the reception area at Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.

**For more information, please contact:**

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