



## Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre brings watershed education to your community

*Oak Hammock Marsh, February 9, 2007*—The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre (OHMIC) will soon be visiting the Dauphin and Winnipegosis area to deliver watershed and wetland presentations to school classes, senior's centres and community groups. The Centre's Watershed Legacy - *Legacy II* project will carry a team of experienced and enthusiastic interpreters throughout Manitoba, northwestern Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

"Part of the Interpretive Centre's mission is to deliver outreach initiatives to bring resources and wetland programming to areas that may not otherwise have access" says Nathalie Bays, Education Coordinator for the Interpretive Centre. "This project allows us to go directly into communities and get people excited about the natural world around them. Legacy II gets students involved in learning more about their community and surrounding watershed, while creating a legacy of information and resources for future generations."

The Legacy II team will deliver workshops to teachers, educational presentations to students and community groups and watershed presentations at key educational events. Programs offered are interactive, permitting students and youth to learn by doing. Examples of K-12 classroom programs include: Wacky Weather, Creatures of the Night, Discover Watersheds and more. Evening presentations explore the natural wonders of wetlands and encourage participation in community monitoring programs.

One ambition of the project is to put communities "on the map" by having them participate in creating an online interactive map. The OHMIC team first works with students, teaching them GPS and GIS (Geographic Information Systems) basics with a hands-on geocaching activity (similar to a high-tech scavenger hunt). Students then follow up this activity by gathering information on the natural, cultural and historical features that make their watershed unique and also tell the story of their community. This information is placed in the online map, creating a legacy of information for other students now and in the future. The team will be visiting:

Monday, February 19, 2007	Winnipegosis School, Winnipegosis
Tuesday, February 20, 2007	Colonel Barker School, Dauphin
Wednesday, February 21, 2007	Henderson School, Dauphin
Thursday, February 22, 2007	Whitemore School (morning only)

Teachers and community groups interested in learning more should contact 1-888 50marsh, ext 299.

This project has been made possible in part by the Department of Canadian Heritage, Ducks Unlimited Canada, TransCanada Pipelines Ltd., and the Intermountain Conservation District. The OHMIC, a joint venture of Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Province of Manitoba, fosters public awareness and knowledge of the inherent values of wetlands and their associated ecosystems and encourages support for their conservation through innovative education and outreach programs.

For more information, please contact:

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