



Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

Reeder

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MARSH HAPPENINGS

TryScience Around the World & Bird Sightings Kiosk

Thanks to the generous support of IBM Canada, OHMIC joined a worldwide network of science-technology centres dedicated to sharing the excitement of science. The "TryScience Around the World" kiosk was unveiled at the Centre on May 24th. Choosing from 8 different languages, visitors can learn about science and wetlands by completing a spacewalk, digging for dinosaur bones, and experiencing the life of a dolphin. The TryScience Web site also features live web-cams that will allow people from around the world to view Oak Hammock Marsh through the Internet.

"The future belongs to those who will understand and use science and technology in ways that we can only imagine today," said Loren Cisyk, IBM's general manager for Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Northwest Ontario.

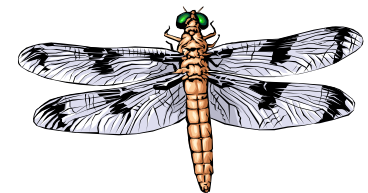
"TryScience offers a new resource to stimulate the minds of the future by presenting interesting science in ways that invite exploration. We are proud to partner with the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre on this innovative project."

As well, thanks to a technology donation from IBM Canada, you can now enter your own bird sightings and view others at the Centre's new computerized Bird Sightings Kiosk located at the entrance to the exhibit hall. New sightings are also regularly added to an interactive map on the Centre's Web page for viewing from home. These two new additions at the marsh are just a click away!



Dragonfly Festival

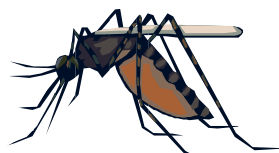
This year, the Centre will be putting on it's first ever Dragonfly Festival! Did you know that Manitoba is home to 96 known species of dragonflies and damselflies? This event is to learn more about these fabulous creatures through several activities such as our giant dragonfly board game. We will also be dipping for dragonfly larvae in the marsh to explore the "secret lifecycle" of this voracious predator. Dragonfly surveys will run throughout the day so you can learn identification tips from our friendly interpreters (yes, we know catching them is half the fun!). Come out with the whole family and even make a special dragonfly craft to take home as a souvenir.



ASK THE NATURALIST

What good are mosquitoes?

Mosquitoes have two important roles in nature. First, they are an important food supply. The larvae and pupae are good food for many kinds of fish. Whereas, the adult mosquitoes



provide food for huge numbers of insect-eating birds and bats.

Secondly, mosquitoes are important pollinators. Like bees and butterflies, while traveling to a flower for nectar, they pick up pollen, which is then brought to the

next flower that they visit. A large part of a mosquito's diet consists of plant nectar.

Mosquitoes have been around since Jurassic times and long before humans and our communities. Although at times they may feel like a nuisance, they are a species like any other and deserve our respect as another living being.



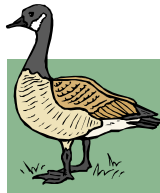
The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is a joint project of Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Government of Manitoba.



MARSHY QUIZ

Summer is here!

- Cattails are important at Oak Hammock Marsh because:
 - They provide shelter for birds in bad weather
 - They are food and building material for Muskrats
 - They help filter pollutants out of the water
 - All of the above
- True or False? If a family of Canada Geese comes across a lost gosling, they will often adopt it as their own.



- What are the 2 species of turtle that can be found in Manitoba?
 - Common Snapping Turtle and Wood Turtle
 - Western Painted Turtle and Common Snapping Turtle
 - Common Musk Turtle (Stinkpot) and Western Painted Turtle



- 1 d
- 2 true
- 3 a
- 4 d
- 5 c

Answers:

- How many eggs does the Common Snapping Turtle usually lay?
 - 10 to 20
 - 90 to 100
 - 6 to 10
 - 20 to 40
- Which owl has a call described as "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?"
 - Western Screech Owl
 - Burrowing Owl
 - Barred Owl
 - Great Horned Owl

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For More Information

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(62774)

E-mail: ohmic@ducks.ca
Web site: www.ohmic.ca

Hours of Operation

May to October
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
November to April
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*Closed Christmas day

Extended hours during the fall.

The Centre is also open beyond its public hours for group bookings and meetings.

Café hours are variable. Please call ahead.

ECO TIP

Technicians found that one poorly-tuned vehicle can emit pollutants equivalent to 20 other cars.



CLAUDE WILSON DEDICATION

On May 7th, 2006, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre recognized one of its founders for his conservation efforts towards the perpetuation of North America's waterfowl resources. Claude H. Wilson was on hand to witness the dedication of a plaque in his honour. He was joined by an audience of about 100 guests and family members, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) Executive Vice-President Gord Edwards, and Chairman of the DUC Board, John R. Messer.

Mr. Wilson was the President of the DUC Board of Directors in 1992-1993. His vision and perseverance were instrumental in the creation of the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.

During his tenure, Mr. Wilson also led DUC through many challenges and accomplishments including advancements in wildlife-friendly agricultural methods, the announcement of the Native Plant Materials Program, and the expansion partnership programs throughout North America.

COMMUNITY MAP

With the generous assistance of the Department of Heritage and Ducks Unlimited Canada, and IBM Canada, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is helping to put prairie communities on the map! Ten schools have participated in our new Watershed Legacy Community Mapping Project, a program designed to educate high school students on the use and applications of GPS (geographic positioning systems) and GIS (geographic information systems) while learning about their watersheds and surrounding community. The result is an interactive, web-based map that captures some of the natural, cultural, historic, and economic features of prairie communities. The map can be viewed at <http://arcntrsv.ducks.ca/public/WLP>. Check it out!

