



Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

Reeder

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MARSH HAPPENINGS

Interpretive Centre Sponsor

As a leader in the truckload transportation business, Bison Transport supports many organizations in our community including the arts, health, and people. The company's motto is "Bison cares ...because we're people driven" and they certainly live up to that. "We are delighted to be the premier sponsor of the Oak Hammock Centre, says Bison Chairman Duncan Jessiman. Bison has a strong commitment to the environment and we believe the Centre represents one of Manitoba's finest environmental facilities."

Bison Transport is a North America-wide long haul carrier. Today, Bison operates over 900 power units and 2,300 trailers. It is supported by a solid team of professional drivers and transportation experts, technological

expertise, and an innovative Driver Development Program called Tatonka. Bison's head office is located in Winnipeg with terminals located in Mississauga, Calgary, Edmonton and Regina. Services include temperature controlled truckload service, intermodal, logistics services, and warehousing and distribution.

Bison Transport has received numerous awards for its energy management and greenhouse gas emissions reduction program.

Fuel economy has long been a priority with Bison. Its current fuel economy is 36.7 litres per 100 km (7.7 mpg), making it one of the top fleets for fuel economy in the country.

Thank you Bison Transport for your support.



ASK THE NATURALIST

How do crocuses deal with cold weather?

Solar heating! Crocuses are the first wildflowers to emerge in spring, not long after the snow has melted. The flowers are arranged like a parabolic dish. The outstretched petals act like reflectors to concentrate the sun's rays. The temperature in the centre of the flower can be 10 °C higher than the surrounding air. Solar heating allows the crocus to bloom so early in spring that it is the only

flower around for the first pollinators (bees, flies and beetles).

The crocus can be finished producing seeds and working to store energy for the next spring before other prairie plants have grown up to overshadow the plant, and before the dryness and heat of summer sets in.



Kiteboarding at Oak Hammock Marsh

A kiteboarder stands on a snowboard or skis, and uses a large controllable kite to propel himself across the snow or ice. The wind picks up and the kiteboarder sails past snow-covered cattails and muskrat lodges at Oak Hammock Marsh. This simplicity also makes kiteboarding challenging.

Your body is the only connection between the kite and the board and you have to control them both at the same time: piloting the kite in the sky, and steering the board on the snow.



The sport, still in its infancy, is rapidly growing in popularity. In 1998, there were probably fewer than 30 kiteboarders worldwide. In 2006, the number was estimated to have grown to 150,000 to 200,000.

The Interpretive Centre, in partnership with Boost Kiteboarding, offers lessons to novice kiteboarders, Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. The marsh offers a perfect setting for kiteboarding with its large icy and snow covered surface as well as the proximity of the Interpretive Centre for shelter, food and facilities.

The Oak Hammock Marsh will be the host of the Manitoba Kiteboarding Competition on March 10 and 11. The event will feature dozens of veteran kiteboarders from across the province who will demonstrate their talent. Don't miss it!

MARSHY QUIZ

1. True or False? A Pileated Woodpecker's tongue is long enough to wrap around its entire skull.

2. Which of these birds of prey can be seen performing courtship displays in April?
 a. Sharp-shinned Hawk
 b. Red-tailed Hawk
 c. Bald Eagle
 d. All of the above

3. Mosquitoes usually overwinter as:
 a. An adult
 b. A larva
 c. None of the above



4. As the weather becomes warmer, Chipmunks wake up from:
 a. True hibernation
 b. Torpor or super nap
 c. Nightly sleep

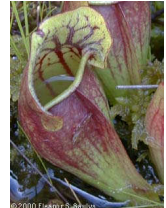


5. In March and April, which of the following groups of birds has NOT yet returned to Manitoba?
 a. Birds of Prey
 b. Waterfowl
 c. Warblers
 d. Sparrows

6. How many species of freshwater fish (both native and non-native) can be found in Manitoba?
 a. 27
 b. 13
 c. 87
 d. 95

7. Which of the following species of fish is a non-native species to Manitoba?
 a. Common Carp
 b. Largemouth Bass
 c. Fathead Minnow
 d. All of the Above

8. How many species of insectivorous plants can be found in Manitoba?
 a. 19
 b. 10
 c. 3
 d. 27



Answers: 3. b
 1. True
 2. d
 4. a
 5. c
 6. b
 7. a
 8. d

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
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For More Information

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 Web site: www.ohmic.ca

Hours of Operation

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

Café is open for breakfast and lunch Monday to Friday.

*Closed Christmas day

Extended hours during the fall.

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

CAFÉ IS OPEN



The café is open Monday to Friday for breakfast & lunch, with daily specials. Enjoy a bowl of homemade soup with your favourite sandwich. There are also flavoured coffees and teas available. While enjoying the marvellous marsh view try some of daily made freshly baked goodies and treats!

At each window-side table you'll find a pair of binoculars so that you can enjoy the wonders of the marsh from indoors while enjoying a hot chocolate & cookie or a fabulously yummy marsh parfait!

Special occasion meal packages, which include birthday parties can be provided.

SPRING BREAK!

What better way to spend time on your own or with the kids then taking in some of the Centre's numerous activities being offered during spring break from March 26 to 30.

- ◆ Spring camp will be offered for ages 6-10 where every day promises to be a new adventure. Camps run daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members \$24 Non-members \$30 (Spring Special: bring a friend to win a special gift!)
- ◆ As well, for drop in visitors,

daily walks, themed crafts, games, films and prop talks will help you discover the wild and wonderful world of Oak Hammock.

- ◆ Even if it still feels like winter, there is an activity at the Centre that will put a spring in your step!

