



Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

Reeder

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MARSH HAPPENINGS

Ducks Unlimited Canada Update

On June 15, 2007 Oak Hammock Marsh greeted James Bezan, Member of Parliament for Selkirk-Interlake, on behalf of the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board. They announced nearly \$340,000 in funding for a pilot project by Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) that will study the ecological and economic benefits of wetlands.

The project aims to identify and share beneficial management practices – environmentally friendly farm methods – and also help ensure that wetlands are protected on the Prairies.

“Wetlands provide some of the richest and most diverse habitat in Canada. They also act as water filters by removing many contaminants from surface run-off, and serve as sources of domestic, livestock and agricultural water,” says Henry Murkin, DUC’s director of conservation programs. “For wetland policy development to make any real progress, it is important for all stakeholders to understand the costs and benefits of wetlands in the agricultural landscape of Canada.”

Earlier this spring, the Prime Minister announced a \$225 million investment in a national campaign to acquire and preserve ecologically sensitive land. DUC was identified as one of the conservation groups that will work towards this common goal.

Manitoba Conservation Update

Many of you will have noticed some changes in the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) over the last year. The main change is the new road and trail to the north mound. As part of a risk assessment of the WMA, a new road to the north mound was deemed one of the highest priorities. Not only will the new road provide better access for tour buses, but will see all roads located inside the WMA. This enables Manitoba Conservation to provide better, and safer, all weather access to the north mound area.

As part of this process, all viewing mounds in the WMA will be redesigned to reflect current safety requirements. It is hoped that the final designs will be completed soon and work on the north mound area will begin after fall migration, with the other mounds completed over the next few years. The north mound revitalization is being funded through the Provincial Watchable Wildlife Program. This program was also used to fund the new WMA feature sign at the lure crop viewing area, as well as the new informational kiosks at the main and north mound areas. The program will also fund new signs for the artesian spring and tall-grass prairie sites. The support is greatly appreciated.

Many of you will also have noticed the excellent result of this year’s drawdown in Cell 3. Response of emergent vegetation has been excellent and the cell will be partially irrigated this fall. Cell 1 is next on the drawdown schedule and water will start to be released later in the fall. With any luck we will have good mudflats and shorebird viewing next spring!

Migration Festival

Join us during the Annual Migration Festival from September 22 to 30. See thousands of geese and ducks and participate in many activities taking place during these exciting nine days. Daily presentations by guest speakers will teach all about birds and migration, from the food they eat to the speed and distance they travel. Learn to identify waterfowl by sight, watch a puppet show or play a migration game. Step on the “pizza meter” to find out how much food you would need to migrate or try the “flap-a-thon” and see how far you would go if you were a bird. Special tours to the lure crops as well as horse-drawn wagon rides on weekends will allow you to see thousands of feeding waterfowl. At sunset watch the geese returning to the marsh from the rooftop observation deck. Stay for a special showing of Fly Away Home, Winged Migration or March of the Penguins in the theatre. Each day will feature a different aspect of migration, so be sure to visit often.



NEW WEBSITE

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre’s website has a new look. The website has been totally redesigned with more great information on the Interpretive Centre and its activities. Be sure to take a look.
www.oakhammockmarsh.ca



MARSHY QUIZ

- How far do Monarchs migrate?
 - Under 100 km
 - 300 km
 - 1,000 km
 - Over 3,000 km
- What Oak Hammock Marsh bird migrates at the greatest height?
 - Snow Goose
 - Yellow Warbler
 - Mallard
 - Tundra Swan
- Which of the following species migrate?
 - American Toad
 - Green Darner dragonflies
 - Woodland Caribou
 - All of the above
 - None of the above



- How fast can Canada Geese fly when they are migrating?
 - 60 – 80 km/hr
 - 40 – 60 km/hr
 - 20 – 40 km/hr
 - Under 20 km/hr
- Which of the following groups of birds begin their southward migration in July?
 - Geese
 - Swans
 - Shorebirds
 - Sparrows



Answers: 3. d
1. d
2. c
4. a
5. c

ASK THE NATURALIST

Where do the Canada geese go?

Many Canada Geese that nest at Oak Hammock Marsh (OHM) spend the winter in Rochester, Minnesota (approximately 800 kilometres south of OHM). They make this flight in 12 hours flying non-stop.

Canada Geese from the Eastern Prairie Population that nest along Hudson Bay may stop at Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area in Minnesota. The next major stop is Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Missouri where they spend the winter.

Join an evening rooftop migration talk to learn more about this amazing feat of nature.

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For More Information

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Website:

www.oakhammockmarsh.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.

*Call ahead for Café hours.

Extended hours during the fall.

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

MIGRATION MAGIC FAREWELL CONCERT

Experience a memorable musical experience as we say our last goodbye to the geese. Join us for the Migration Magic Farewell Concert on Sunday, October 21. The concert will feature the music of the Cambrian String Quartet (four members of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra). The concert will commence at 7:30 p.m. and will end at 9:30 p.m. A wine



and cheese, highlighting some of the best Canadian wines, will be served during intermission while local harpist, Lorena Ferguson, adds ambiance with her music. Tickets are \$20.00 for members of the Interpretive Centre or \$30.00 for non-members. They can be purchased in person or by calling the Interpretive Centre.

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

Choose from over 70 educational programs at our award-winning site this fall!

From "Critter Dipping" to "Fall Changes" to "All about GPS," these interactive programs have been developed to help enhance the Manitoba curriculum.

At the time of booking, feel free to ask about any special requests regarding your programming.



Every teacher booking a class will receive a free one year teacher membership. Or you can upgrade to a family membership for a nominal fee, and support the great programs at the Interpretive Centre.

Book now for an unforgettable field trip!