



MARSH HAPPENINGS

World Day for Water

Monday, March 22

Water is precious. In Canada we are extremely fortunate to have access to 9% of the world's renewable freshwater supply and we only have 0.5% of the world's population. Not only do we have a wealth of freshwater we consume it at an alarming rate. The average Canadian uses 335 litres of water a day which adds up to 122, 275 litres a year.



The World Day for Water began as an initiative at a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, in Rio de Janeiro. Each year a water resolution is adopted and conferences are held to implement the UN recommendations.

You can reduce your water consumption by up to 40% if you:

- Avoid unnecessary flushing. Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- Take short showers, five minutes or less.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge instead of letting your tap run to get cold water to drink.
- Reduce water - most lawns and gardens require little more than 2 to 3 centimeters (1 inch) of water per week.
- Water gardens and lawns early in the morning (after the dew has dried), to reduce losses through evaporation.
- Use a bucket and sponge to wash your car (not the hose). This can save about 300 litres of water.

Come out to Oak Hammock Marsh on March 22 and participate in fun and educational water-related activities.

Earth Day

April 22, 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day!

Founded in 1970. Earth Day was designed to create awareness for, and inspire individuals to care for the environment at a local level. Early celebrations were held throughout the United States; today, Earth Day is celebrated in over 185 countries around the world.

On April 22 at the Interpretive Centre, visitors can celebrate Earth Day and take home ideas about living greener. Tours of the Interpretive Centre will showcase green ideas and environmentally friendly features of the building. An afternoon vermicomposting workshop will teach the basics of using worms to eat your garbage in an indoor setting. Visitors can also take part in a litter hike - a guided marshwalk where everyone can help clean up the marsh. Please join us for this special anniversary!

Snowbird Beach Day

Sunday, March 21



As the days get longer and warmer and the first geese and ducks slowly make their way back to Manitoba, the **Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre** celebrates the arrival of spring with a Tropical Beach Party!

Discover why Manitoba birds migrate for the winter and admire the wonderful colours and vocalization of dozens of **live parrots** from the **Parrot Club of Manitoba**. Listen to Steel Drum music with **Clyde Heerah** as he demonstrates the basics of this instrument typical of the Caribbean. Participate in a limbo contest or try out salsa and merengue lessons.

Enjoy a tropical lunch in our Café or purchase some sweet goodies made by our volunteers and help us greet spring the Oak Hammock Marsh way!

Y.E.S. (Youth Encouraging Sustainability) Showcase

Saturday, May 8

Y.E.S. is an initiative of the Science Council Manitoba. It offers an annual opportunity to students to showcase and compete with an environmental sustainability project. The Interpretive Centre hosts the showcase.

In 2010 the Y.E.S. Showcase projects will celebrate a year of investigations, innovations, inventions and new dimensions entitled "Challenges for a Sustainable Future (2010)".

Visit the YES website for more information or to register your project (www.scmb.mb.ca.)

MARSHY QUIZ

- How many years have people been celebrating Earth Day?
 - Join us for a litter walk
 - Attend a vermicomposting workshop
 - Learn how the Centre is an environmentally friendly building
 - Receive a free tote bag for carpooling (one per family)
 - All of the above
- If you come to visit Oak Hammock Marsh on Earth Day you can:
 - Join us for a litter walk
 - Attend a vermicomposting workshop
 - Learn how the Centre is an environmentally friendly building
 - Receive a free tote bag for carpooling (one per family)
 - All of the above
- Which of the following is an environmentally friendly feature of the Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre?
 - Green rooftop
 - Lagoon system for wastewater
 - Insulating features such as berms and a grass roof
 - Overhangs above windows to prevent window strikes
 - Slanted parking lot to direct seasonal runoff to a decanting pond
 - All of the above
- Which of the following items can be composted?
 - Fruit and vegetable peels
 - Coffee filters and grounds
 - Egg shells
 - All of the above
- Which of the following will help to reduce emissions from your car?
 - Carpooling
 - Inflating tires properly
 - Reducing unnecessary weight in the trunk
 - Replacing air filters regularly
 - All of the above
 - a and b only
- You can easily save energy by:
 - Hanging clothes to dry
 - Walking or riding a bike for errands
- Healthy wetlands help the Earth by:
 - Filtering and cleaning water
 - Removing and storing greenhouse gases
 - Providing habitat for a huge diversity of plant and animal species
 - Reducing the affects of flooding and drought
 - All of the above
- You're buying a drink to take with you. Is it more environmentally responsible to buy a drink in a:
 - Plastic bottle
 - Glass bottle
 - Take-out cup
 - Aluminum can

Answers:
1. 40
2. e
3. f
4. d

5. e
6. e
7. e
8. d

Oak Hammock Marsh
Interpretive Centre
1 Snow Goose Bay at
Highway 220
Stonewall P.O. Box 1160
Oak Hammock Marsh, MB
R0C 2Z0

For More Information

Inquiries: 204-467-3300
Bookings: 204-467-3299
Fax: 204-467-9028
Toll-free: 1-888-50-Marsh
(62774)
Email: ohmic@ducks.ca
Website:
www.oakhammockmarsh.ca

Hours of Operation

September & October
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
November to August
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.

ASK THE NATURALIST

Did you know that?

- Canadians idle their vehicle engines on average 10 minutes a day, wasting 100 litres of fuel a year.
- Just 10 seconds of idling uses the same amount of fuel required to turn the engine back on.
- Restarting your car causes minimal wear and tear.
- Idling causes more wear and tear on the engine than driving it.
- It only takes 30 seconds to warm up an engine enough to drive, even in winter.
- The best way to warm a vehicle up is to drive it.



WHAT TO DO DURING SPRING BREAK?

Spend your spring break at Oak Hammock Marsh!

From March 29 to April 1 have fun participating in daily themed activities at the Centre or register for one or all of our day camps. Camp runs daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is for children ages 6 to 9. Camp is filled with fun indoor and outdoor themed activities that could

include scavenger hunts, animal tracking, giant board games, water activities and nature crafts. For more information on daily themes or to register a camper please visit our website or call the Centre.

