



News Release

100 Whiting Avenue, Oshawa, ON, L1H 3T3
(905) 579-0411, fax (905) 579-0994

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Celebrate World Wetlands Day & Groundhog Day Together On February 2, 2007

Everyone waits for Groundhog Day, anticipating the news that the Groundhog did not see his shadow, and winter is almost over. Most people do not realize that February 2nd also marks another special day, the 10th annual World Wetlands Day. Wetlands play an important role in our watershed as they help reduce flooding, act as natural filters to improve water quality and are home to many species of flora and fauna.

World Wetlands Day celebrates the intergovernmental treaty "The Convention on Wetlands", signed in Ramsar, Iran, on Feb. 2, 1971 which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Each year a wide variety of organizations and communities, like ours, take advantage of this day to raise public awareness of wetlands. From 1997 to 2006, the Convention's Web site (<http://www.ramsar.org>) has posted reports from more than 90 countries regarding World Wetlands Day activities, big and small, from lectures and seminars, nature walks, children's art contests and community clean-up days, to radio and television interviews and more.



Meadow vole tunnels along the trail at Bowmanville/ Westside Marshes Conservation Area.

"A perfect way to celebrate World Wetlands Day is to escape to the outdoors and visit a local wetland, a place that is full of wildlife activity, even in the winter," says Patricia Lowe, Director of Watershed Stewardship, Community Outreach & Education with Central Lake Ontario Conservation. "Lynde Shores Conservation Area in Whitby and Bowmanville/ Westside Marshes Conservation Area in Clarington host Provincially Significant Wetlands along with trails and interpretative signage for an enjoyable hike. You can see winter birds, a variety of animal tracks and maybe even a groundhog. Don't forget to dress for the weather, wear suitable footwear and stay on the trails. We want everyone to enjoy exploring these unique and important habitats."

Not able to get outside to celebrate? Then visit our website at www.cloca.com and get a virtual tour from the air of some of these spectacular wetlands. Find out about the Durham Region Coastal Wetlands project and how Central Lake Ontario Conservation is working with other organizations to protect and enhance the Region of Durham's wetlands.



Enjoying the view at Cranberry Marsh in Lynde Shores Conservation Area, Mr. Jim Fairchild watches for winter birds.

Want more information about wetlands? Central Lake Ontario Conservation has assembled a free World Wetlands Day kit consisting of reference material, waterfowl identification book and posters with kids' activities. Please contact the administrative office at (905) 579-0411 or email: mail@cloca.com for your free kit on how you can protect, restore and explore wetlands in your community.

What we do on the land is mirrored in the water.