



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, 2008

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, 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 2007, 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.

"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. This year, to coincide with our 50th Anniversary, staff will be on hand at the Lynde Shores Conservation Area from 10:00am – 12:00pm and from 1:00pm - 3:00pm to promote our wetlands. Families are also invited to try Snowshoeing, weather permitting, on the trail systems at Lynde Shores Conservation Area. Snowshoeing is a great way to explore our Conservation Areas and is fun for the whole family.

Not able to get outside to celebrate? Then visit our website at www.cloca.com and 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.



A visitor watches for winter birds and enjoys the view at Cranberry Marsh in Lynde Shores Conservation Area, Whitby.



Julia (left) and sister Alicia test out the new snowshoes donated by Mountain Equipment Co-op.

Celebrating 50 Years Of Protecting Local Watersheds