



escape...explore...experience

WYEMARSH

February 2009
Wye Marsh Newsletter
P.O. Box 100, Midland ON L4R 4K6
Phone: (705) 526-7809
Email: info@wyemarsh.com
www.wyemarsh.com

Wye Marsh: Why Let it Trickle Away?

*This is exactly what Mr. Roger Chittenden asked at the conclusion of his in-depth 1990 report, **The Origin of Wye Marsh**. A poignant question that is still asked today.*

In 1984 Mr. Chittenden began his six year endeavour, researching how Wye Marsh was formed, and when. Mr. Bob Whittam, Executive Director of Wye Marsh at the time, not only requested his involvement, but provided endless encouragement as well as hands-on participation in obtaining core samples for the study.

Mr. Chittenden teamed up with experts from the Royal Ontario Museum to obtain, analyze and interpret the findings of core samples taken from Wye Marsh. Their findings are extraordinary and continue to be valuable today in our conservation efforts. Three types of analysis were performed:

strata analysis, chemical analysis and a study of fossil pollen. Each provided different types of information combining to tell the story of Wye Marsh.

From the core sample at 375-360cm a “trash-layer” consisting of a dense mass of cat-tails and pond lily stalks, a humidified white pine tree branch was found. A sample of this branch was carbon dated and revealed that Wye Marsh began approximately in 6800 BC.

The report further explains the various levels of core sample findings, which also revealed a second trash-layer from 2200 BC, indicating the second beginning of the marsh. This was the start of Wye Marsh as we know it today.

From the other two analysis performed it is

clearly identified that White Pine was the most prominent tree with a few deciduous trees appearing among the evergreen. A mixed forest is what we enjoy today.

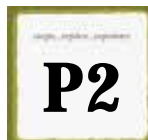
As for the pollen research, cat-tails, grass and pond lilies were in abundance then too. Funny how the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of Friends of Wye Marsh is exciting. Upon reading Mr. Chittenden’s report, the beginning of Wye Marsh is equally impressive and underpins the importance of continued conservation of Wye Marsh. Sometimes you need to know where you’ve been in order to know where you’re going.

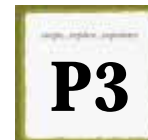
Laurie Schutt
Executive Director



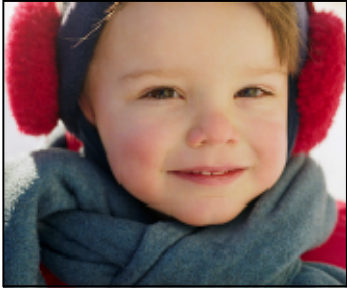
March Break Activities
March Break Day Camp
Family Fun Day



Energy & You
Mid-Point Review
Event Reminders



Marsh Matters
Minks
Follow-up’s & Thank You’s
WM Conservation Efforts



MARCH BREAK

March 16th - March 20th

*There's Always
Something Fun to do
at Wye Marsh!*

Day Camp

Children ages 6–12

Wye Marsh is offering a week long **fun filled program** with interactive, cooperative games, *'Meet the Creatures' live animal shows* and daily themes including Winter Wildlife Survival, Animal Tracker, Chickadee Chatter and more.

Each day your kids, together with our experienced Naturalists, will enjoy **Outdoor Activities** including Snowshoeing or GPS Navigation & Orienteering or Cross Country Skiing. In addition they will participate in **collaborative games** challenging their memory, endurance, and recognitions skills. **Additional hands-on activities** may include building their own bird feeders, enjoying cookouts and snowflake identification. Pre-registration is required as limited space is available. Email camp@wyemarsh.com for further details.

Family Fun Day activities will be available during the March Break week allowing families to enjoy all the best that Wye Marsh has to offer. Come enjoy cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, meet a different creature each day and experience the fun of savouring hot chocolate in the cold by a winter camp fire.

*The most valuable discovery I made is that
if you make a goal and really set your mind to it,
it can happen.*

Grade 6 Student, James Keating Elementary School

*It has changed my thinking
about how if you save energy the world will be
a better place, and if we all do a little bit
it will happen sooner rather than later.*

Grade 6 Student, James Keating Elementary School

Your Child Has a Choice

To date the Wye Marsh staff has facilitated 13 *Energy & You* programs for schools in Midland, Penetanguishene, Barrie, and Orillia. The program has met with wide success among students, teachers, and principals alike. Sponsored by Ministry of Energy: CCI and Midland PUC.



The students are constantly excited and engaged as they move from station to station, and the teachers are often in awe of the hands-on resources provided, as well as the content delivered.

We are just now starting to receive *My Energy & Me Goal Success* worksheets from participating classes and have been very pleased with the results. The majority of the students were not only successful in accomplishing the goals they set out for themselves, but were also able to articulate the importance of their actions in relation to energy conservation and environmental stewardship.

Energy and You targets Grades 5 - 8 Science and Technology: Understanding Earth and Space Systems – Conservation of Energy & Resources curriculum.

Anna-Marie Boulding, the Science and Numeracy Resource Teacher for K-12 for Simcoe County District School Board, attended the Energy & You program to review the program. She was so impressed that she has recommended Energy & You in her January agenda to her entire district. Several of our most recent bookings have been directly attributed to her advocacy of our program.

*It has changed my thinking [about
and understanding [of energy
conservation] because I care more
about how I live knowing that I am
doing something for the earth.*

Grade 6 Student,
James Keating Elementary School

The success of Energy and You is a true testament of the innovation and abilities of Wye Marsh staff. We developed a great program that covers four grades of Science and Technology curriculum based on sustainable living that students can participate in their own schools. Wye Marsh continues to think outside of the box when it comes to education. We are no longer just a wetland based education centre!

Event Reminders

Saturday, February 14, 2009

Valentine's Day: Propose at Wye Marsh and you could win a couples membership.

Falconry Workshop 10am–5pm
\$125 per person

Monday, February 16, 2009

Family Fun Day

Family Falconry Workshop 10am–5pm
\$125 per person

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Dog Sled Tours 10am - 5pm

Friday, March 6, 2009

Garfield Dunlop's Spaghetti Dinner
Three Sittings: 4:00pm, 5:30pm & 7:00pm

Saturday, March 14, 2009

Falconry Workshop 10am - 5pm
\$125 per person

Monday, March 16 - Friday, March 20, 2009

March Break Day Camp 9am - 4pm
Family Fun Day 9am - 5pm

Saturday, March 28 & Sunday, March 29, 2009

Sweetwater Harvest 10am - 4pm

Marsh Matters

February: Mink Mating Season

Confirming our notion that February is the month of love, our sleek Mink friends prove us right. Mating season for Mink lasts between late January to early April.

Implantation varies between one week and 1^{1/2} months, with a gestation period of typically one month. Therefore, young mink are born between the end of April and the beginning of May.

A typical litter will have 4-5 babies, though a female can give birth to as few as two and as many as ten can be born.

Young mink are born blind and hairless rendering them completely helpless. Their eyes will open between 24 and 31 days after birth and begin weaning around five weeks.

Mink are fierce hunters following the scent of their prey over vast and varied terrain. They will also dive several meters underwater for fish.

Female mink will begin teaching her young to hunt for approximately two–three weeks after they have been weaned. After that, the little mink are on their own.

For more information about mink and other mammals inhabiting Wye Marsh you can pick up the Lone Pine Mammals of Ontario book in our Marsh Memories Store.



Follow-Up's & Thank You's

Saturday, January 24th was a wonderful day at Wye Marsh as we celebrated our annual *Open House and Membership Drive*. It was a huge success and we wish to thank everyone who came out to support our event. We were pleased that the weather cooperated as people enjoyed snowshoeing and cross country skiing with brilliant sunshine, blue skies and crisp cold air. Garfield Dunlop dropped by to witness the activities and to share his love for Wye Marsh with others. It was very busy. The centre was the hub of activity for the Guide groups that were here using the facilities for a special badge day. These brave girls spent the previous night sleeping in outdoor tents and then participated in various outdoor activities where they earned more badges for their uniforms. From this event, 195 people attended.

We would also like to extend a heart felt thank you to the *Southern Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce* (S.G.B.C.C.) for promoting our Business After 5 event held on Thursday, January 22nd. We were pleased that nineteen members braved the cold, snowy weather that night and joined us as we launched our new Business Membership campaign. Among the attendees were Scott Warnock, Mayor of Tay Township as well as Garfield Dunlop. George MacDonald President, S.G.B.C.C., gave a warm introduction to Laurie Schutt, Wye Marsh Executive Director and Lucy one of three barn owls residing at Wye Marsh. This was a great chance for us to connect with other Chamber members and to find out further how Wye Marsh contributes to the health of our local economy as well as fulfilling personal environmental stewardship needs.

✂ -----

Yes! I would like to Support Wye Marsh Conservation

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

Yes! I would like to give a gift of...

\$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 or Other _____
 I would like to make a **Monthly Donation** of \$ _____
 I have enclosed a cheque made payable to:
Friends of Wye Marsh
 I prefer to make my gift by Visa Mastercard
Card # _____
Expiry _____ / _____
Signature _____

Thank you for your support!

Please return this form with your donation or fax: 705.526-3294.

An official tax receipt will be issued for income tax purposes.

Charitable # 101894426RR0001

EN02-09

Wye Marsh

16160 Hwy. 12, P.O. Box 100, Midland, L4R 4K6

Tel: (705) 526-7809, Fax: (705) 526-3294

Email: info@wyemarsh.com www.wyemarsh.com