

"Wonders of Wetlands"

2012 FINAL REPORT



Prepared by:



**Special recognition is provided to the following individuals for
their contribution to the
2012 "Wonders of Wetlands" Field Day**

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Matt Smith (Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters)

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CO Jaime Sperl (Bancroft District MNR)

Dan Rapson (Bancroft Retriever Club)

Jim Blake (Bancroft Retriever Club)

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Students of the Northern Outdoor Studies Program

Vicki Wolfrey (Crowe Valley Conservation Authority)

Ethan Huner (Algonquins of Ontario)

Kate Sienna (Kawartha Turtle Trauma Center)

Tim Binch (Ducks Unlimited Canada)

Terry Campbell (Bancroft Area Stewardship Council)

Cathie Best (Bancroft Area Stewardship Council)

Doug Wellman (Bancroft Area Stewardship Council)

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1. INTRODUCTION

The objective of the "Wonders of Wetlands" Field Day is to provide a quality, hands-on opportunity for local youth to learn about the value and importance of wetland environments. Local Grade 3/4/5 (split grades) classes enrolled in the Ducks Unlimited Project Webfoot program are invited to attend. The Project Webfoot sponsorships (valued at \$300 per class) are collected at the annual Ducks Unlimited Bancroft Chapter Fundraising Banquet and Auction held each spring.

This was the eighth consecutive year for the Field Day, held at Joy Bible Camp on Thursday, October 11th, 2012. Six (6) local schools participated.

While the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council is the lead proponent responsible for organizing the event, the contributions of several community partners and donors are critical to successful implementation of this event.

2. COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Successful delivery of the Field Day is due to a strong community effort. Many businesses, organizations, and individuals contribute in-kind and financial resources to the event.

PROGRAM PARTNERS:

- Algonquins of Ontario / Whitney & Area Algonquins
- Bancroft Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Bancroft Field Naturalist Club
- Bancroft Retriever Club
- Crowe Valley Conservation Authority
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Haliburton-Muskoka Children's Water Festival
- Joy Bible Camp
- Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre
- Kinark Outdoor Centre
- Ministry of Natural Resources - Bancroft District & Enforcement Unit
- North Hastings High School - Northern Outdoor Studies Program students and instructors
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- R&L Bus Lines

PROJECT WEBFOOT SPONSORS:

- Leveque Bros. (Tim & Kelly Leveque)
- Dewey Jordan
- Jim and Ina Climpson
- Dr. Peter McEnergy
- Russ Clarke
- Glen and Nancy Keating
- Resmer Power Generation
- Group of local teachers

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SPONSORS:

- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Bancroft Area Stewardship Council
- Township of Carlow/Mayo
- Township of Faraday

3. PARTICIPANT LIST

Six of the eight local Grade 4 (split classes) classes enrolled in the Ducks Unlimited Project Webfoot program participated in the Field Day. Two schools, Coe Hill and St Martin of Tours, opted not to participate this year.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

School	Teacher (s)	Grade	# of Students
York River Public School 30 Flint Street Bancroft, ON KOL 1C0 (613)332-3000	Scott Calder	4/5	26
Birds Creek Public School RR2, 33 South Baptiste Lk Rd Bancroft, ON KOL 1C0 (613)332-3721	Lynn Vanderwoude, Erin Smith, Rebecca Hart	3/4 and 4/5	54
Coe Hill Public School Box 129, 2149 Hwy 620 Coe Hill, ON KOL 1P0 (613)337-5711	Annette Zandendriessche	3,4	N/A
Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School P.O. Box 778 Bancroft, ON KOL 1C0	Robert Lalonde	4/5	27

(613)332-3300			
St Martin of Tours Catholic School P.O. Box 177 Whitney, ON K0J 2M0 (613)637-2720	Pam Fitzgerald	4/5/6	N/A
Maynooth Public School P.O. Box 220 Maynooth, ON K0L 2S0 (613)338-2816	Jason Surgent	3/4	15
Hermon Public School 124 Fort Stewart Rd, RR#4 Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0 (613)332-2897	Gerarda Wagonmakers	3/4	12
Whitney Public School PO Box 309 Whitney, ON K0J 2M0 613-637-2171	Simon Chappell	3/4/5	7
TOTAL			131

4. ACTIVITY CENTERS AND LAYOUT

Activity center themes were selected with the goal of incorporating a variety of different messages and concepts on wetland environments, while providing a mix of instructional and interactive activities. Ideas and materials were borrowed from Children's Water Festivals in other areas, namely the Haliburton-Muskoka Children's Water Festival.

A list and description of the activity centers is included in the Appendix.

Nineteen (19) activity centers operated on the day of the event. Nine (9) of the 19 activity centers were operated by representatives from partner organizations, with ten operated by students from the North Hastings High School - Northern Outdoor Studies Program. All activity center operators were provided with an instructional sheet containing details on the center they were running in advance of the event to allow them the opportunity to review the material and become familiar with key messaging.

This year, the agenda (copy in the Appendix) did not include a special lunch-time presentation as the usual presenter was unavailable on this date.

Due to a questionable advance weather forecast, all but one station (#11 Retrieving Dog Demonstration) were moved indoors. Three buildings were utilized that provided an easy travel route between the stations. A map of the station locations is included in the Appendix.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Expenses:

Description	Amount
Joy Bible Camp - facility rental and meals	\$1,469.00
R&L Charters - bussing	\$1,367.30
Miscellaneous supplies (including 1 presenter travel honorarium)	\$110.65
TOTAL:	\$2,946.95

Income:

Description	Amount
Ducks Unlimited Canada - transportation subsidy	\$600.00
Nominal participant fees (\$2 per person)	\$250.25
Municipalities - Carlow/Mayo and Faraday (\$500 each)	\$1,000.00
Bancroft Area Stewardship Council	\$1,096.70
TOTAL:	\$2,946.95

Special thanks are extended to our financial contributors. These funds significantly reduce financial barriers to participation, and provide an interactive, outdoor learning opportunity for students that otherwise is not available.

6. SURVEYS AND FEEDBACK

Overall, the feedback provided by teachers and presenters, both verbal and written, was very positive.

Matt Smith from OFAH wrote: "I was happy to be a part of your event, it was very well organized. Please let me know when you will be holding the event next year as I would be happy attend."

Gerarda Wagonmaker from Hermon Public School wrote: "... the students had a great day. We made it to only about half of the stations but we were engaged at each one. Even I learned a few things. I found the student helpers knowledgeable and enthusiastic."

Some recommendations for future consideration include:

- a sound indicator to let groups know when it is time to move to another station - this may also help in providing opportunity for students to visit all presenters
- a barrier or rope fence at the Retriever Dog Demonstrations so that students remain in a designated area throughout the presentation
- eliminate the tuck shop and provide each school with a healthy snack alternative (i.e. a fruit / cheese and crackers / veggies tray)
- move the two (2) stations in the Lounge of the Main Building to the other buildings - they don't seem to be as busy at this location

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Stewardship Council was very pleased with the response to and success of the eighth annual "Wonders of Wetlands" Field Day. The following is a list of observations and recommendations that could be utilized or implemented to further enhance the quality of the Field Day program:

- Enhanced fundraising efforts, targeting both local and provincial sources. The Stewardship Council will need to pursue new funding sources to continue this program.
- Encourage continued involvement from partner organizations and community groups to deliver demonstrations on their topics of expertise. Must continue to provide lunch for volunteers and presenters (including students if funding permits).
- Beneficial to have a complete a dry-run of the stations with the NHHS students on the set-up day. This allows them time to practice their presentation and become comfortable with the material they are delivering, also ensuring that correct messaging is being presented.
- Consider development of additional activity centers on moose (wetlands as moose aquatic feeding areas - a more detailed look at the moose); learning to identify aquatic plants; and learning to identify frogs by sight and sound.

- Incorporate a live animal demonstration for the lunch hour (and possibly afternoon) if funding permits - e.g. Muskoka Wildlife Centre, Scienstational Snakes, Falconry etc. This is a great addition to the event.
- Develop a comment form for the station operators to provide input and feedback on the activity centers (i.e. response from students, specific comments from teachers and volunteers, improvements, etc.)
- Encourage students and teachers to recognize donors and sponsors through thank-you letters or other means.

Overall this event functions very well, and meets the objective of providing a high-quality, hands-on opportunity for local youth to learn about the value and importance of wetland environments.

APPENDIX

"Wonders of Wetlands"

Thursday, October 1th, 2012
Joy Bible Camp on Faraday Trout Lake

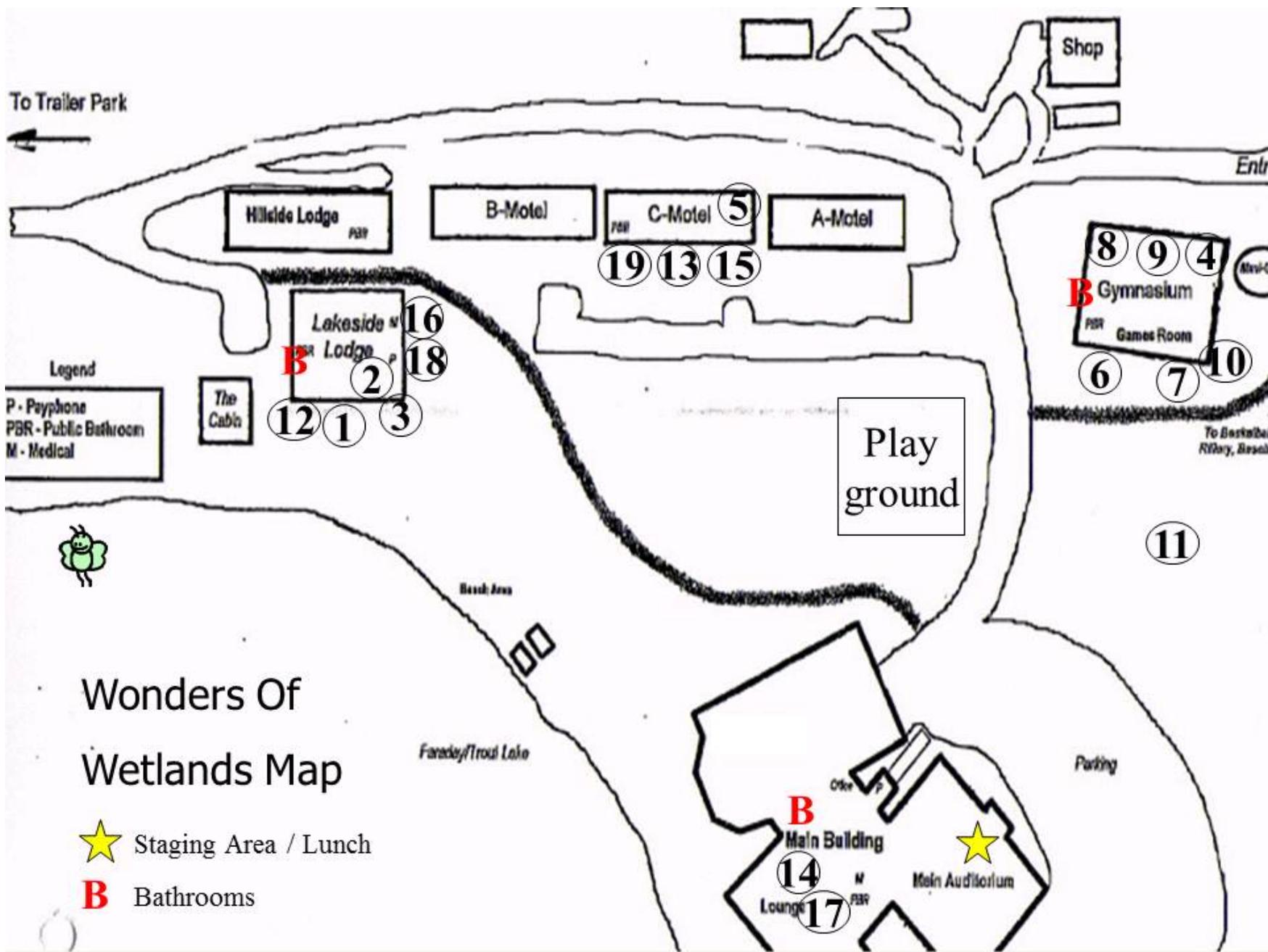
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:30-10:00 Arrival and snack in the Main Building Auditorium.
Each school will have a designated area - watch for signs.
NOTE: Backpacks / Bags can be stored in this area for the day.
- 10:00 Program Begins - Welcoming Remarks
- 10:00-11:30 Station Rotations
- Please have students organized in groups of 5, each with an adult supervisor
 - Groups will spend approximately 15 minutes at each station
 - Try to limit 3 groups to each station at a time to allow for maximum involvement by the students
 - Groups will be free to travel to stations of their choice - there is no set rotation schedule
- 11:30-12:15 LUNCH in the Main Building Auditorium
- NOTE: The tuck shop will be open for snacks during the lunch period.*
- 12:15-1:45 Station Rotations
- 1:45 Bus Departure Begins

"WONDERS OF WETLANDS" FIELD DAY - STATION DESCRIPTIONS

Station #	Station Name	Description
1	No Water Off a Duck's Back	Green wings to the rescue! Students will learn the harmful effects of an oil spill and how it affects a ducks natural ability to keep dry and warm.
2	Alien Invaders	With the help of experts from OFAH, students will learn about invasive / non-native plants, fish and insects that are threatening the health of our wetland environments.
3	Turtles, turtles, turtles	Students will learn about threats to turtle populations and be able to see life size replicas of our Ontario turtle species. The Kawartha Turtle Trauma centre has lots of great turtle facts to tell!
4	It's a Trout's Life	On a life size board game students will "live the trout's life" by trying to survive environmental and manmade challenges faced by one of our most valuable fish species.
5	Animal Identification	Students will learn to identify some of the creatures common to our wetlands using various artifacts, including furs and skulls.
6	Wetland Fate	Using a simulation of a natural aquatic environment, students will identify positive and negative environmental factors effecting fish populations.
7	Who's Quacking?	It's about the time that the ducks will be migrating south - become an expert so you can identify ducks from their calls and colours as they fly overhead.
8	Time For Turtles	Why did the turtle cross the road? We'll find out just how difficult that trek is for a turtle and the importance of their journey.
9	Beneath the Surface	View the underwater world of our lakes and wetlands using specialized equipment.
10	Creeks and Critters	Students will identify 'signs' of various wildlife that rely on wetlands to provide a clean source of water in creeks and streams.
11	Retrieving Dog Demonstration	Live retrieving demonstrations with furry friends from the Bancroft Retriever Club
12	Wetland Metaphors	Students are presented with a selection of "hands-on" objects for investigation as metaphors for natural functions of wetlands.
13	What is a Wetland	Students learn the importance of wetlands and the various types of wetlands commonly found.
14	Habitat for Wildlife	Students will learn about the building, placement and maintenance of loon nesting platforms and wood duck boxes.
15	Wetland Scavenger	Students will walk through a wetland area in search of items on the list. They will find things to

	Hunt	listen for and watch for.
16	Bugs in the Mud	Students will sort through a sample of mud collected from a nearby wetland and use identification keys to determine what creepy crawlies are living in the mud.
17	Natural Filters	Students will use a shoreline model to learn how natural areas or 'buffers' filter sediment and enhance water quality.
18	Amazing Aquifer	Students will use a model to investigate sources of groundwater, how it travels through the earth, and how it is extracted for our use.
19	Water Keepers	Local First Nations representatives will share perspectives on the importance of wetlands / water, fish and wildlife to Algonquin communities.



Wonders Of Wetlands Map

-  Staging Area / Lunch
-  Bathrooms