

## FIELD GUIDE TO THE OCDSB OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRES



Spring 2012

**BILL MASON & MACSKIMMING  
OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRES**



### **Bill Mason Centre's "New" Environmental Learning Centre**

Tamarack Homes has generously donated their Stittsville Presentation Centre to the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB)!

The building has been moved to Bill Mason Centre at West Carleton High School where it will be used as an Environmental Learning Centre.

West Carleton High School's Technical Skills Internship Program is actively involved in the preparation and construction of the centre.

Thank you to Tamarack Homes, the Taggart Family, OCDSB Facility Department, the students and staff of West Carleton Secondary School for making this project happen.

The field centre is proposed to open in the spring of 2013.



### **"Free OCDSB Grade 3 & 7 Field Trips!"**

Since 2008, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) has funded an outdoor education experience for Grade 3 and 7 students through the "Every Student Attends Program".

The OCDSB "Every Student Attends Program" entitles each grade 3&7 class in the OCDSB to one **FREE FIELD TRIP** per year to either Bill Mason or MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre.

The curriculum-based outdoor programs include:

**Grade 3 Programs:**

- Growth and Changes in Plants and Soils in the Environment
- Early Settlement in Upper Canada (Available at MacSkimming Centre only)
- Way finding (Available at Bill Mason Centre only)

**Grade 7 Programs:**

- Interactions within Ecosystems
- The Fur Trade in Upper Canada

**We are able to cover the cost of bus transportation for a limited number of schools. Please call to see if your school qualifies.**

For more information or to book your program, call the Centre's Main Office at 613-833-2080

or email at: [outdooredcentres@ocdsb.ca](mailto:outdooredcentres@ocdsb.ca)

**"We are taking bookings for the 2012-2013 school year!"**

#### **Email us your Nature Facts!**

For the past several years, MacSkimming Centre has posted nature facts on our road sign on Regional Road #174.

The centre is looking for students to give us interesting nature facts to post on the sign.

Have your students research information on native plants and animals of Ontario, write very short nature facts and email them to the centre.

The facts will be posted on MacSkimming's road sign throughout the 2012-2013 school year.

Email your nature facts to:

[outdooredcentres@ocdsb.ca](mailto:outdooredcentres@ocdsb.ca)



#### **Facts About**

##### **Dwarf Ginseng**

- *perennial, Flowers in April to June*
- *Used by the First nation people for medicinal purposes.*
- *Likes damp mixed forests in Ontario*
- *Also called "ground nut"*



## Explore, experience, appreciate and learn!



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### What happened at the Centres this 2011-2012 school year?

The 2011-2012 school year at the Outdoor Education Centres has been a great success and a year of change:

- New initiative elements were built for MacSkimming's Teambuilding Program thanks to a generous donation from the **Leacross Foundation**.
- Construction begins in July 2012 for of the **TD Friends of the Environment and Ducks Unlimited Canada**'s Wetland Enhancement Project at MacSkimming
- After 32 years at MacSkimming, Claude Drouin ( Maintenance Supervisor) retired in March.
- **Both centres have been certified as Ontario EcoSchools**
- More than 21, 000 students and visitors attended the centres this school year

### **Free Grade 4 Wetland Education Field Trips and the "Wetland Centre of Excellence" Program**

#### **Wetland Centre of Excellence**

OCDSB's Bill Mason Centre and West Carleton Secondary School are adjacent to each other. Due to close proximity, Ducks Unlimited Canada felt they would be excellent candidates for the Wetland Centre of Excellence program.

The Ducks Unlimited Wetland Centres of Excellence program is designed to encourage secondary students to get involved in environmental monitoring, develop stewardship projects and provide interpretation to younger students within a wetland habitat.

This project will provide an opportunity for West Carleton Sec-

ondary students to mentor OCDSB elementary school students through facilitating hands-on wetland field trips programs at Bill Mason Centre. Ducks Unlimited Canada will provide training and funding for educational equipment & bussing for elementary classes.

OCDSB Outdoor Education Centre will provide their educational site and expertise in interpretation.

#### **Project Webfoot**

The Project Webfoot is a wetland educational program created and funded by Ducks Unlimited Canada to Grade 4 educators and students to learn and experience hands-on the impor-

tance of local wetlands.

The spring of 2013, Bill Mason and MacSkimming Centres will be again offering the Project Webfoot program to Grade 4 classes.

If you are interested in participating in the Project Webfoot program, please contact the **Ducks Unlimited Program Coordinator**

by email at:

**ed\_ontario@ducks.ca**



**Visit us on the Web at:**

**[WWW.OCDSBOUTDOOREDUCATIONCENTRES.CA](http://WWW.OCDSBOUTDOOREDUCATIONCENTRES.CA)**



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**Please consider the environment before printing this letter!**