



Hampstead School
920 Hampstead Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2K 2A3

February 12, 2010

The Honourable Bill Blaikie
Minister of Conservation
330 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0VA

Dear Minister Blaikie:

We are the Grade 4 students at Hampstead School in Winnipeg and we are writing you this letter to tell you about something we care about. We are part of Project Webfoot at Ducks Unlimited Canada. As members our teacher gets lots of resources to use in class and we each get a book about wetlands called Marsh World, but the best thing of all was going on a field trip to Oak Hammock Marsh!

We had a fantastic time at the marsh! One of our favourite activities was Critter Dipping. We used nets and buckets to catch some of the creatures that in the “wet” part of the wetland. We caught some really cool critters including; water scorpions, water mites, sideswimmers, snails, water boatmen, leeches and even some stickleback minnows. On our walk on the trails around the marsh we saw a brown, lumpy toad, lots of ground squirrels, huge, honking flocks of geese, a 13-lined ground squirrel and some fuzzy woolly-bear caterpillars. There were signs of life everywhere we looked!

We think wetlands are important for animals, plants and people. We learned that wetlands help to clean and filter water and that they act like a gigantic sponge, holding onto water and letting it go more slowly. This helps to stop flooding and protects peoples' homes from being wrecked. Marshes are homes for many different wetland creatures too! Also, many species of animals need wetlands for feeding, drinking, raising their babies, shelter and as resting places during migration.

We think that all wetlands in Manitoba should be protected. We hope that as the Minister of Conservation you can help by making sure that you protect the wetlands we still have left. We thank you for supporting Oak Hammock Marsh and we would like you to use our parents' tax money to create more places like Oak Hammock. Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. We appreciate all the work you are doing for us. Please help to protect our wetlands and other wild places!

Sincerely,

Grade 4 students at Hampstead School

Stefan
Robbye
Wiana
Paloma
Athiel
Jacob
Ivory
Carson
Hunter
Kylie
Aden
Kaiten
Trudora
Isabell
noah
Jacob
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Athiel
Carson
Hunter
Kylie
Aden
Kaiten
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Isabell
noah



**Your letters let people know
your opinions and remind adults
that they need to think about your future.**

