**Clean water starts with healthy wetlands
*Ducks Unlimited Canada stresses need for conservation on World Water Day***

*March 22, 2017, Oak Hammock Marsh, Man. –* With the simple turn of a tap, Canadians have immediate and seemingly unlimited access to the world’s most precious resource: water. On World Water Day, Ducks Unlimited Canada reminds people that water quality, quantity and access aren’t always a given. Conservation is key to the future.

“Canada has approximately 7 per cent of the global supply of renewable freshwater,” says Karla Guyn, CEO for Ducks Unlimited Canada. “Together, it’s our responsibility to take care of it. Conserving and restoring wetlands is one of the best things we can do to ensure our water’s health.”

Ducks Unlimited Canada has been committed to the conservation of water for nearly 80 years. Learn about the wetland conservation work that’s delivering solutions to important water-related issues across the country. Visit [ducks.ca/water](http://www.ducks.ca/our-work/water/).

Many Canadians don’t realize that wetland conservation has an impact on almost every aspect of our water’s health. Wetlands filter harmful nutrients and pollutants from water before they reach our lakes and rivers. They recharge groundwater, retain flood water and provide habitat for birds, fish and other wildlife.

Even though wetland conservation is important for the health and safety of all Canadians, wetlands are under threat. Up to 80 acres (32 hectares) are lost every day. This is the equivalent of about 45 soccer fields every 24 hours.

“The next time you drive past a cattail-lined marsh, shallow bog or coastal wetland, remember that it’s delivering and managing life-giving water for people, wildlife and a variety of natural habitats. Wetlands play an essential role in water’s journey to your tap.”

*About World Water Day:* In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly officially designated March 22 as World Water Day. This annual event is about celebrating the important role water plays in our lives – and taking action to address the many water-related challenges we face.

*About* [*Ducks Unlimited Canada*](http://www.ducks.ca)*:* Ducks Unlimited Canada is the leader in wetland conservation. A registered charity, DUC partners with government, industry, non-profit organizations and landowners to conserve wetlands that are critical to waterfowl, wildlife and the environment.

*For stories, photos, and other press materials, please visit* [*http://www.ducks.ca/media-centre/world-water-day/*](http://www.ducks.ca/media-centre/world-water-day/)

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