

REPORT:

Canada: Paresh Pandya (Dr.)/ ParishPandya@yahoo.com/ (519) 967-8131 and 519-250-9855. 836 Cabana Road East, Windsor ON N9G 1A4 Canada. We have promoted the World Wetlands Day this year at Windsor City, Ontario, Canada, with the theme of

'In the face of poverty . . . wetlands are lifelines'

We have been celebrating WWD for the University student, Elementary students, High school students as well as community people. We have arranged the mass awareness program through library, and media. The memorandum is given to Ontario and Federal government. We have made face to face contact to opinion making people. The sticker, poster and leaflet distribution to all. We have celebrated Wetlands week from February 2, March 5-11, 2006 at the University of Windsor and The Hindu Mandir Windsor.

Canada is among the 144 contracting parties to the Ramsar conservation on wetlands, an intergovernmental treaty adopted on February 2, 1971. The convention on wetlands came into force for Canada on 15 May 1981. Canada presently has 36 sites designated as wetlands of international importance, with a surface area of 13051501 hectares. Canada is having 'National Wetland Policy of Canada' for indirect protection of wetlands. We have aware the Canada's Federal Government policy on wetland conservation to all people, so people can understand this policy better way. Therefore we have arranged lecture and face to face program for the people.

World wetlands day, celebrated annually around the world, may not break routine for Canadians, but it directly link to a subject that is more than a drop in the bucket of Canadian consciousness, our water resources. 57% of Canadian who don't have real knowledge of wetlands and it's important, so we have focus on face to face program and mass awareness movement. For the Mass awareness movement, we have distributed materials and talk to the people that, wetland habitats are capable of removing over 90% of common nutrient pollutants like nitrogen and phosphorous and over 70% of the sediment that is carried in waterways. This is natural filtering process works so well that constructed wetlands are being used in Canada to clean wastewater like sewage and storm water, this are the things we could put in the mind of people.

We have conveyed the message about one third of Canada's species at risk, are found in wetland ecosystems. Even though, historical data indicate that as much as 70% of wetlands in Canada's populated area have disappeared so that to empower wetland protection, we need to be able to equate wetland loss by mass movement and talking to the students, opinion making class, media, teacher and politician too. On the part of world wetlands day celebration we have arranged exhibition, drawing competition, seminar, workshop, lecture, presentation for all the Canadian.

We have contacted university departments, faculties, Forster High School, Hindu Mandir-Windsor, Mayor, Sandra Pupatello MPP & Minister-Ontario, Brain Masse M.P Ontario College of Teachers-Toronto, University of Windsor and University of Toronto, etc.

WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2006

INVITATION

Come And Join Us!

World Wetlands Day- 2006
WWD-2006

February 2 each year is celebrated globally as **World Wetlands Day**.

Place: The Faculty of Education, the University of Windsor and the Hindu Mandir Windsor

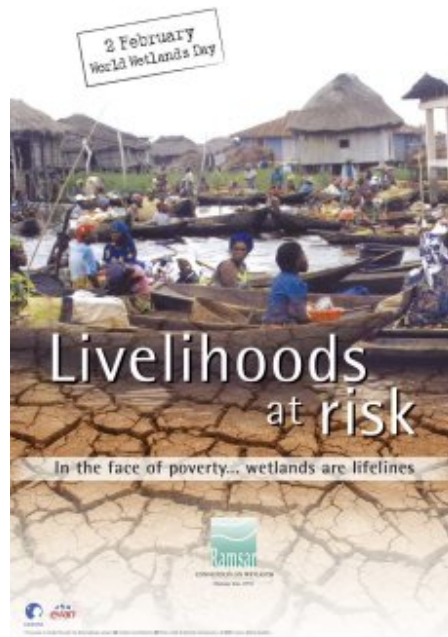
Day and Time: **February 2, 2006 5-8pm**

March 5-11, 2006 6-8 pm



World Wetlands Day

2006



'In the face of poverty . . . wetlands are lifelines'

Dr. Paresh Pandya
Hindu Mandir Windsor
and
Faculty of Education
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CANADA

- Canada is a huge, beautiful and diverse country, Canada is second largest country in the world, it has an Area 9,984,070 Km² and its landmass is 9,093,507 Km².
- Canada holds over 25% of the world's Wetlands. Like rainforests and coral reefs; wetlands are some of the richest plant and wildlife habitats in the world!
- Wetlands are up there with tropical rainforests for their productivity. They are found all over the world—the only continent that does not have wetlands is Antarctica. Canada is fortunate to be home to more than 1,270,000 square kilometers (127 million hectares) of wetlands. That's nearly 25 per cent of all the wetlands on Earth!
- Canada holds over 20% of the world's fresh water. Its longest river, the Mackenzie, stretches 4241 Km.
- The convention on wetlands came into force for Canada on 15 May 1981. Canada presently has 36 sites designated as wetlands of International importance, with a surface area of 13,051,501 hectares
- Ontario presently has 8 sites out of 36 sites designated as wetlands of International Importance with surface area of 54,419 hectares. It's a 0.42% of total area of Canada.
- Unfortunately, **wetland loss** continues in Canada. As much as 70 per cent of Canada's original wetlands have been lost in some areas of the country. That's why we have to work to conserve, restore and manage Canada's wetlands for waterfowl, other wildlife and people.
- Canada is home to nearly 25 per cent of all the **wetlands** on Earth. In fact, about 14 per cent of Canada's total area is covered in wetlands. While that may seem like a lot, the fact is that wetlands continue to disappear every day.
- Wetlands **naturally filter water resources**, improving the quality of the water Canadians drink and use every day.
- Wetlands act like giant sponges, slowing the flow of surface water, reducing the impact of flooding and recharging groundwater supplies.
- Wetlands and vegetation form buffers that separate land-use activities (such as agriculture) from water bodies.
- Wetlands have the potential to remove and store greenhouse gases from the Earth's atmosphere.
- Wetlands help to prevent soil erosion.
- Wetlands are a key link in the water system chain. Canadians have made it clear that water is one of our most important environmental issues.
- Wetland and water conservation is critical if we want to keep our water healthy. The next time you take a drink of water, think about how Canada's wetlands help to keep our water clean.
- Wetlands are a vital part of our environment. Unfortunately, when people think of wetlands, many think of them as wastelands. This couldn't be further from the truth.

Ontario's Wetlands:

Name of wetlands	Area (ha.)	Date
1) Long Point	3,730	24/05/82
2) St. Claire	244	06/10/85
3) Southern James Bay	25290	27/05/87
4) Polar Bear Provincial park	2408	27/05/87
5) Point Pelle	1564	27/05/87
6) Mer Bleue Conservation Area	3343	26/09/95
7) Matchedash Bay Provincial Wildlife area	1840	31/10/96
8) Minesing Swamp	6000	31/10/96

2 February each year is World Wetlands Day (WWD). It marks the date of the signing of the convention on wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian City of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. WWD was celebrated for the first time in 1997 and made an encouraging beginning.

University of Windsor and Hindu Mandir Windsor going to celebrate 2 February as a World Wetlands Day at Windsor, Ontario Canada by organizing lectures and seminars for students and community people. Theme for World Wetlands Day 2006 is '**Wetlands as a tool in poverty alleviation**', is closely linked to the theme of the COP, which is 'Wetlands and water - supporting life, sustaining livelihoods' and the slogan '**In the face of poverty . . . wetlands are lifelines**' yet still the area drained, polluted, over-exploited and under-valued. This year we want to send out a reminder for WWD. Wetlands are an essential part of our lives. Wetlands work for us every day from the top to the coast and it's the responsibility of each and every one of us to consider how we might help in their conservation and sustainable use. Poster, leaflet and sticker will be distributed for raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits in general. It's time now to do for world wetlands day 2006. This year a theme that will allow to focus own wetlands and consider these wetlands work for local levels, and to consider too how to manage wetlands so that they continue to deliver benefits to mankind.

- The 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is one of the world's first global conservation treaties and the only global instrument in force dealing with water resources.
- The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are presently **144** Contracting Parties to the Convention, with **1401** wetland sites, totaling **122.8 million hectares**, designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.
- Between 1900 and 1995, human water withdrawals increased by a factor of more than six, which is more than twice the rate of population growth
- In 1995, some 41% of the world's population, or 2.3 billion people, inhabited river basins under water stress.
- 82 of 114 watersheds studied world-wide have less than 5% of their land area under national protection
- billion people do not have access to safe drinking water
- 2.3 billion people currently live around rivers where there are frequent water shortage and 1.7 billion of these people live in areas where water is scarce
- 3 million die each year, many of them children, from illnesses caused by contaminated water
- In 20th century we destroyed 50% of the world's remaining wetlands
- There is no specific wetlands legislation in Ontario or Canada. Wetlands receive indirect protection through Ontario's *Planning Act* , *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* , *Municipal Act* , *Endangered Species Act* , *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* , *Conservation Land Tax Act* , *Conservation Authorities Act* , *Environmental Assessment Act* , and *Ontario Water Resources Act* .
- Wetlands are also specifically recognized in the natural heritage protection measures of Ontario's *Planning Act*. However, other legislation, such as the provincial *Drainage Act*, still works against wetland conservation by permitting wetland drainage for agricultural purposes. In most cases, the installation of municipal drains significantly alters the local water cycle, resulting in dramatic changes to wetland area and function.
- At the federal level, the *Canada Wildlife Act* , *Fisheries Act* , *Migratory Birds Convention Act* , and *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, provide some protection to wetlands through species and habitat conservation measures.
- Most often, wetlands are protected through policies and agreements. While certainly valuable, these vehicles do not have the same clout as legislation.





