

# REAPS READER

Have you helped the environment today?

## February 2 is World Wetlands Day!

Wetlands are important parts of our ecosystems, and learning about them can help us protect them. Wetlands encompass many different habitats including ponds, marshes, swamps, and peatlands. They are areas where land and water meet and are wet for an ecologically significant part of the year. Wetlands may be temporarily flooded each day as with tidal marshes, or be filled seasonally with water from melting snow. Plants and animals present in wetlands are from land and water habitats making them highly productive environments. Wetlands function as *ecotones*, transitions between different habitats, and have characteristics of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Canada possess 24% of the world's wetlands, more than 127 million hectares. 14% of Canada is covered by wetlands, although many original wetland areas have been converted or drained. Wetlands generally are smaller than lakes yet there are huge regions of them. The Prairie pothole region across south central Canada and the United States contains more than four million wetlands and ponds.



This information can be found at:

[www.aquatic.uoguelph.ca/wetlands/chintro.htm](http://www.aquatic.uoguelph.ca/wetlands/chintro.htm)

## Important Dates

### February:

- 2 World Wetlands Day and Groundhog Day
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 National Flag Day
- 18 Heritage Day
- 18-24 Heritage Week
- 23 Seedy Saturday at Exploration Place

## Word Scramble

Put the letters in the right order to complete the sentence!  
(From [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater))

All living things need \_\_\_\_\_ to live.  
t a w e r

When water evaporates, it travels into the air and becomes part of a  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
d l o c u

Less than 1% of all the water on the earth is  
\_\_\_\_\_ water.  
s e f r h

We \_\_\_\_\_ water in the liquid form.  
i k r d n

Check for leaks and save hundreds of  
\_\_\_\_\_ of water a day.  
a l l o g n s

You'll save water by taking a quick \_\_\_\_\_.  
h o w s e r

Wash bikes and cars with a \_\_\_\_\_ and sponge  
instead of a running hose. k e c b u t



### Tips for a "green" Valentine:

Tell your classmates how awesome they are, but do it in an environmentally friendly way! Try **reusing** household items or **recycled** materials to make your Valentine's cards this year, and make sure to buy **fair trade** and/or **organic** chocolate for everyone!