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## COASTAL WETLAND TOUR

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The **SECOND MARSH WILDLIFE AREA** is a 123 ha coastal wetland located in the southeast portion of Oshawa. It is host to marsh, swamp, wet meadows, a barrier beach and woodlot habitats. Together, with wet meadows and the surrounding uplands, this dynamic ecosystem supports a rich and diverse wildlife community. These habitats provide food and cover for over 380 plant species, 305 bird species, and numerous species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and hundreds of species of insects. The marsh is currently in a draw-down which will promote natural processes such as the recycling of nutrients back into the marsh soil and the germination of emergent aquatic plant seed that have been lying dormant on the bottom of the marsh awaiting just such conditions.

Presented by David McLachlin, Biologist and Jennifer Lavigne, Conservation Specialist, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Robin Brand, Wetland Biologist, CLOCA

### *Lessons Learned*

1. Partnership is the KEY! Every partner brings different skills and resources to the table. Bring partners in early and ensure everyone feels valued and involved. Everyone owns a piece of the project.
2. Communicate! Communication between partners is important. We used a text/email/phone system for daily check ins. We sent out weekly updates. We made sure everyone was up to date and provided weekly pictures. Communication was also important with local residents and local media. This is a high profile site located in a busy city... lots of traffic and interest.
3. Be open to new ideas and concerns. Every partner had a different overview of what marsh management should look like. We all had to sit together and determine the best way to move forward.
4. Be prepared for challenges. During the 1<sup>st</sup> drawdown attempt in 2015, we had challenges with Carp, beavers, pumps and RAIN. We made changes, adapted our processes and moved forward in 2016. This time, things went fairly smoothly but all partners were prepared.