

HULLETT NEWS



SPRING 2019

Board of Directors

Message from the Board

Hello FOH members:

I would like to thank the BOD, staff and most importantly the loyal **Hullett Volunteers** for their hard work this past winter in helping FOH staff with general property maintenance, trail care and nesting structure data and maintenance.

2019 marks the end of our 5-year **Agricultural Agreement** and the process of tendering out a new 5-year plan has begun. **FOH and MNRF** will also be reviewing their 5-year **Operational Agreement** to ensure that that Hullett Marsh is moving forward in the right direction with this unique partnership.

Rapid freeze/thaw conditions have damaged some of the Hullett interior access roads. Please use caution when travelling on these roads. Slow travel is by far your best option for the safety of yourself, your vehicle and wildlife.

FOH has acquired student funding through the **Canada Summer Jobs** program. This program will allow students opportunities to learn as well as contribute to the success of the Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area (HPWA).

Finally, our upcoming AGM will be held on **Sunday May 26**. This is a chance to come and meet your FOH Board of Directors as well as to update members on upcoming events, projects, and to vote on **3 open positions** for the Board of Directors. Refer to Page 4 for further details on the AGM.

Duane Inkpen
Chairman
Board of Directors



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Water Access Restrictions

Water access (for any purpose) is **not permitted** in the HPWA from **May 15 to August 1 in Zone A** and **May 15 to July 15 in Zone B** annually to minimize the disturbance to nesting waterfowl. This includes retriever training activities, wading, canoeing and kayaking.



Horse Access

Hullett Marsh is a beautiful area and from the back of your equine partner, even more so. **Horses are allowed all over Zone B and the dyke systems but there are limitations.** Between the months of October and May, the dyke systems are soft. Riding horses on the dyke tops during this time causes damage to the dykes and poses a potential danger to horses. Please abide by the set rules and regulations to help maintain the HPWA and reduce wearing of the trails and dyke systems.



Eagle Buffer Zone



FOH established a 400- metre buffer zone in the fall of 2013 to protect our resident eagle nest from human disturbance. Our resident female is banded and now over 10 years old. Over 12 eaglets have fledged since the spring of 2013. Please respect the privacy of the eagles and the perimeter around the nest site.

**THIS BUFFER ZONE IS ACTIVE
FROM FEBRUARY 1st TO JUNE 15th.**

Brake for Turtles

As temperatures are on the rise, so is activity of snakes and turtles throughout Hullett Marsh. Hullett is home to a variety of different species of turtles, snakes, and amphibians. The majority of these species are listed as Species at Risk in Ontario, so please slow down if you see them crossing the road.



Turtle Nesting

FOH has been looking for volunteers for our turtle nesting program which will run from mid-May to mid-July. Approximately 20



volunteers have expressed interest in this project. FOH is planning to install 10 cages over the nests throughout the Marsh to help increase the nest's survival rate. Volunteers will assist in finding turtle nests, installing cages and recording the position of the cages. Volunteers will monitor these cages to

ensure they are not tampered with. If you are interested please contact FOH staff at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca to connect with the project leader. We would also like to thank **Jeff Thuss and his students from St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School in Clinton** for the construction of these turtle boxes.



Spring Fundraiser Early Bird Winners

As part of our 6th Annual Charity Dinner and Auction, individuals who purchased their tickets before March 8th, 2019 were entered into an early bird draw. Congratulations to our three lucky winners:

\$50.00 Gift Certificate to Maelstrom Winery: Terry of Bayfield, Ontario



2 Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) Adult Annual Memberships: Scott of London, Ontario and Heather of Exeter, Ontario



FOH Dinner and Auction

On May 5th, 2019, FOH held their 6th Annual Charity Dinner and Auction at the **Bluewater Golf Course (BGC)** in Bayfield. Similar to last year, 85 seats were available for this event.



Attendees of this event enjoyed a delicious four course meal prepared by Chef Devin Tabor of **Bon Vivant Catering**. This meal included Smoked BBQ Beef Brisket, Sour Cream and Chive Mashed Yukon Gold Potatoes, Mini-Fan Carrot and Roast Maple Rutabaga, with Strawberry & Rhubarb Pie for dessert. **We would like to thank Chef Tabor and his team for preparing this meal.**

Over **\$10,500** was raised at this event! This money will help fund the operation and management of Hullett, as well as the programs run at Hullett, including the **Pheasant Release**.

FOH would like to thank **Derek and Krista Jefferson of BGC** for the use of their clubhouse and their staff for the setup, operation and cleanup of this event. We would also like to thank **Richard Lobb** of Clinton who has volunteered his auctioneering services over the past 6 years. **Greg from Clinton Sporting Goods** provided 3 firearms, plus new this year an Excalibur crossbow to both our card draws and live auction. Thank you also to **Daniel Caudle of the Clinton News Record** for promoting and attending our event.

A big thank you goes out to all of our volunteers, donors and attendees. Without your support, this event would not have been possible.

Annual General Meeting

Join your fellow FOH members at the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**. By attending this meeting, you will have a chance to voice your opinion and make a difference!

We will start by discussing the current state of the marsh, including phragmites eradication as well as other invasive species, and the status of the Summerhill Privy. The Vanessa Palmer Award will be presented, followed by an open discussion with all members and director elections. We will close with a guest presentation by **Nick Courtney of GWG Resources Services** to discuss woodlots within Hullett.

After this meeting, members are welcome to join for a barbeque lunch provided by FOH. All members are welcome to come out and enjoy the company, marsh news and food!

Elections for **three (3) Board of Directors (BOD)** positions will take place on the day of the AGM. To run for the BOD, you must be a member of the FOH and submit a letter expressing your interest to run for the BOD to **MNRF Guelph Area Office**. Letters expressing intent to run for the BOD must be received **at least two weeks prior** to the AGM. Nominations will not be taken from the floor.

The AGM will be held on **Sunday, May 26, 2019** at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be at the HPWA Office Complex, located at **41378 Hydro Line Road** outside of Clinton.



AGM Agenda

- 1/ *Introduction of **Board of Directors** and Guests*
- 2/ *Report from Marsh Staff*
- 3/ *Financial Report*
- 4/ *Report from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry- **Lorraine Moir MNR Representative***
- 5/ *Report from the Friends of Hullett BOD*
- 6/ *Presentation of Vanessa Palmer Award*
- 7/ *Questions, Comments and Suggestions from members floor*
- 8/ *Election of officers to the Board of Directors*
- 9/ ***Guest Presentation: Nick Courtney, Forestry Consultant, GWG Resources Services***
- 10/ *Barbeque Lunch*

Vanessa Palmer Award

Every year, FOH recognizes a dedicated student who is pursuing post-secondary education within the environmental field. Students are to submit a letter to FOH stating their contributions and/or achievements and a reference to validate these contributions. We would like to thank all students who submitted an application to us.

This year, we had the honour of offering awards to **2 students** who displayed knowledge and passion for the environment. **FOH congratulates our two award recipients:**

Julia Beaven

Kayla Gauthier

As part of being a recipient of the Vanessa Palmer Award, each student will receive a **Certificate of Recognition**, plus \$200.00 to go towards their education. These recipients will receive their award at the AGM. Names of each recipient will be added to our Vanessa Palmer Award plaque.

March Break Volunteers

During the month of March, students look forward to their March Break. Some students go on vacation, some relax and some come out to volunteer in their community!

This past March Break, FOH hosted 2

March Break Work Days. During these two days, 4 high school students came out to gain community hours. On day one, students assisted FOH staff with splitting and the collection of firewood for heating our shop. Overall, an additional 2 truck loads of firewood were collected and stacked by our volunteers.

Day 2 consisted of the preparation of nesting materials for both our Wood Duck Box and Mallard Tube programs. Students sieved 3 bales of wood shavings, ensuring the finer materials were removed to provide optimal nesting material. Students also added additional



nesting materials inside prepared Mallard Tubes, plus added material into feed bags for future field work.

In return for their hard work and efforts, FOH provided a lunch for each day students participated.

All in all, these students received community hours required to graduate as well as volunteer experience for their resume.

FOH would like to thank our high school volunteers for their efforts over these two days!



Species Profile: Western Chorus Frog

The **Western Chorus Frog** (*Pseudacris triseriata*) is one of many frogs and toads found in Ontario, including Hullett Marsh. At approximate 4cm in size, this frog is a small, smooth

skinned tree frog. The Western Chorus Frog varies from green-grey to brown in colour. A dark band runs through the eye of



the frog, while a white to cream coloured stripe runs along the upper jaw. A key characteristic of the Western Chorus Frog are three stripes broken into blotches. Species that are apart of the tree frog family are known to be more often heard than seen. The breeding call of these frogs resembles the sound made by running a fingernail along the teeth of a comb.

Although these frogs are part of the tree frog family, they rarely climb trees and prefer aquatic habitat. The Western Chorus Frog inhabits forest openings around woodland ponds, damp meadows, marshes, swamps, and temporary ponds. These frogs breed in almost any fishless pond with a minimum of 10 cm of water.

Over the past 10 years, there has been a decline in the population found in Ontario by 30%. Habitat loss and fragmentation have been the main causes. Specifically, forests and wetlands that Western Chorus Frogs use for breeding habitat, are being developed for urbanization into wetlands. **Provincially, the Western Chorus Frogs found in the Great Lakes/ St. Lawrence region are Not at Risk by the Province of Ontario.**

Hullett Marsh is known to have Western Chorus Frogs around the property. We are fortunate to have Canadian Wildlife Service conducting surveys within Hullett and surrounding areas this year to provide a further understanding about the species and its populations in Southern Ontario.

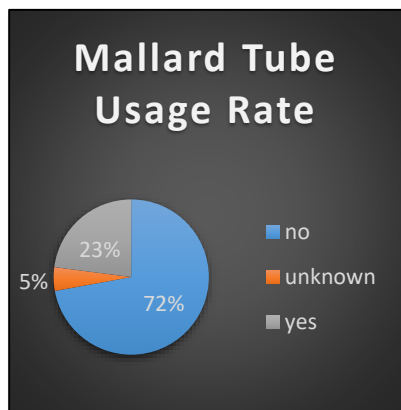
Nesting Report: 2018 Nesting Season

In some areas of Canada, 70% of our wetlands have already been lost or degraded. Every day, we lose another 80 acres of wetland (Ducks Unlimited). The need to protect and maintain waterfowl nesting habitat has never been greater.

Thanks to the help of the dedicated staff and volunteers at Hullett Marsh, the Mallard Tube and Duck Box Nesting Programs continue to thrive and produce fruitful results for ducks and duck hunters alike. The collection of detailed data over multiple nesting seasons has continued to provide us with greater insight into the nesting habits of ducks in the marsh. Last year, the **Hullett Marsh Waterfowlers Association** (HMWA) relocated nesting structures in order to produce better results; these relocations have been a success! This year, we decided to remove consistently unsuccessful boxes and tubes in order to increase our staff and volunteer's efficiency by reducing the amount of time and effort needed to run the programs.

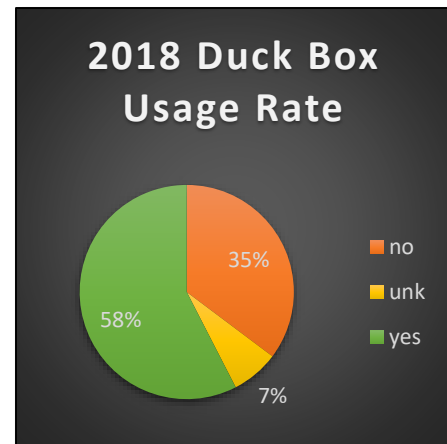
Mallard Tubes

The Friends of Hullett observed a 23% usage rate in our Mallard Tubes during the 2018 nesting season; 13% of the 61 tubes were considered successful nests. As we have now collected 3 nesting seasons worth of data on our Mallard tubes (excluding the Delta Waterfowl tubes that were placed throughout B-Zone last year), we have limited the amount of tubes that were reinstalled back into the marsh during winter. It was decided that the tubes that have not had any usage over the past three years would not be reinstalled for the 2019 nesting season.



Duck Boxes

The Friends of Hullett observed a 58% usage rate in our duck boxes; 80 of 139 were used by waterfowl over the 2018 nesting season and 30 of 139 or 22% of the boxes used were considered



successful. Of the boxes that were used, it was found that 50% of the waterfowl usage was from **Hooded Merganser**, 31% by **Wood Duck** and 19% used by **both species**. A total of 6 boxes have been removed over the winter.

Being a waterfowler means a lot more than just shooting ducks. That's why this past season the volunteers who support the **Youth Waterfowl Clinic** and the staff of the Friends of Hullett decided to make a greater effort to instill these conservation concepts into our youth. We now dedicate an entire day to teaching apprentices the importance and techniques behind maintaining our duck nesting programs.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering or would like to take part in the Youth Waterfowl Clinic, please email fohoffice@tcc.on.ca for more information.



Christopher Ambrose
Hullett Marsh Waterfowlers Association
Board of Director

Hullett Timber Project

If you have been on Hullett's trails recently, you may have noticed markings on various trees. FOH and Nick Courtney of GWG Resources Services have



been working together to complete a Tree Marking Prescription on five woodlots within Hullett Marsh. These woodlots contain a variety of hardwood species, the majority being White Ash and Hard Maple.

Since the invasion of Emerald Ash Borer, Ash species throughout Huron County, including Hullett, have been affected. As the Ash Borer moves its way through the county, the value and quality of these trees degrades and pose a hazard to Hullett users and the ecosystem.

As safety of both the public and the ecosystem is a top priority of FOH, it was decided to hire Nick to mark these woodlots to optimize the health and safety of the woodlots in the future.



As FOH continues with this project, be sure to check our website, social media and emails on updates of the progress for this project and trail restrictions during logging times.

Youth Waterfowl Clinic

The 4th annual Hullett Marsh **Youth Waterfowl Clinic** will tentatively be held Sept 14th, 20th & 21st, 2019. In celebration of **"Waterfowl Heritage Day"** FOH will be hosting a 2 weekend educational event and waterfowl hunt for licenced youth hunters between the ages of 12 and 17.



Youth are required to attend **"Conservation Day"** Saturday, September 14th. **Mentors and Youth** both must partake in the Friday September 20th clinic starting at 5pm and the waterfowl hunt at 5am the next morning.

This clinic offers 10 youth an incredible opportunity to learn about gun safety, duck calling tips, decoy placement, concealment, bird cleaning and waterfowl conservation. They will be paired with an experienced waterfowl hunter who will mentor them on a guided duck hunt in **Zone A** of Hullett Marsh.

With youth spots filling up quickly, we are in need of mentors and volunteers for this event. If you are a knowledgeable and safe waterfowl hunter who is able to guide a youth on a hunt, please consider being a mentor. **We are actively seeking mentors, youth and volunteers** to make this year's event a success once again.



This event is free for everyone! **Donations of cash or hunting gear for the youth are welcome to help out with the youth gifts.** For more information and **application**

forms for both youth and mentor participants, please contact FOH Staff at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca.

2019 Photo Contest Results

March 31, 2019 marked the deadline for our 2019 Photo Contest. FOH would like to thank everyone for their submissions. In total, 66 photos were submitted for this year's contest. The winners were as follows:

1st Place: Jake McClure



2nd & 3rd Place: Conrad Kuiper



4th Place: David Hamments



5th Place: Tyler Burlock



6th Place: Kathy McCaughey



Be sure to continue to send in your photos for the 2020 Photo Contest. For full details, check out our website at www.hullettmarsh.com.

HASAR Training at Hullett

A topography that mimics the region makes Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area ideal for training exercises by **Huron and Area Search and Rescue (HASAR)**, with its wooded areas, trails, ponds and open fields.

HASAR is the newly established non-profit organization that includes professional trained volunteers available for deployment for methodical land and water searches for lost people, stolen property, etc., in Huron, South Bruce, Perth and Lambton Counties.

The organization has held a number of training exercises at the conservation area, fanning out in teams identifiable by their red toques and ball caps, reflective vests, with many also in grey uniforms with "Search and Rescue" written across the chest. Members used compasses or walked in line through the woods in a

Operations Commander Jamie Mitchell is interviewed by CTV's Scott Miller while members wait for deployment in a training exercise at Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area.



search pattern looking for objects that could indicate clues of a missing or lost person.

A March 9th exercise with 38 members was part of the Basic Search and Rescue (BSAR) Course required of all searchers and mandated by the Ontario Search and Rescue Association, which has certified HASAR.

"We met all the objectives and we feel it was a great success not only to have all members pass the training, but the morale and comradeship were evident within the members," said Patrick Armstrong, who is interim HASAR commander and co-founder.

"Hullett absolutely is part of our training area given its size, topography and support from the association that maintains it. We at the Huron & Area Search and Rescue wish to thank the staff and volunteers of Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area for allowing us to use the area for our training. This co-operation will lead to further partnerships and training where members of our organization will hone their skills to be of better service to the community."



In this exercise, members search for evidence of a lost boy.

Most recently, volunteers from HASAR were deployed to assist with flood control measures in the Ottawa area.

Written by:
Heather Boa
Public Relations Officer
HASAR

FOH would like to thank Jamie Mitchell and his HASAR team for using Hullett as their training ground for these training days.

On May 1st, CTV News London aired the report about HASAR. You can find this report by [clicking here](#).

Volunteering

With only two staff members and a 5,400-acre property **volunteer efforts** are the backbone of various tasks that manage and maintain Hullett Marsh's infrastructure, programs and habitat.



Volunteer Rewards:

- High school students can obtain their "community hours"
- Hikers can improve the trails they hike
- Hunters can help with waterfowl nesting structures and get in some scouting
- Photographers may get the perfect photo while out in the field
- Physical activity

New for 2019:

- Thanks to funding from TD Friends of the Environment, we will purchase hiking poles and snow shoes for volunteer led hikes
- **We need hike leaders...could this be you?**

Whether you can donate an hour or a day of your time, volunteers are welcome on any day of the week!

If you are interested in volunteering or organizing a volunteer day for a group, please email Friends of Hullett at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca or call us at 519-482-7011.



TD Friends of the Environment

On April 16th, 2019, FOH received an email of approval for \$2770.70 from **TD Friends of the Environment Foundation**. This money will go towards new snowshoes, hiking poles, handsaws and pruners, along with paint for marking hiking trails within the marsh. Snowshoes and hiking poles will be used for volunteer led interpretive events planned in the marsh. Pruners and handsaws will be provided to volunteers assisting with trail marking and maintenance.

FOH would like to thank TD Friends of the Environment for their contributions to help continue to make Hullett Marsh a hidden gem.



Connect with Hullett Marsh

Friends of Hullett continues to use various forms of Social Media to communicate with our users! Keep informed by checking out our website, Facebook or Instagram. Links to these accounts can be found at the bottom of each page of this newsletter.





REGISTRATION FORM

FRIENDS OF HULLETT MEMBERSHIP

HELP MAINTAIN THE MARSH... BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!
Income tax receipts will be issued for a donation of \$25.00 or more annually!

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

POSTAL CODE _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

A FEW THINGS ABOUT YOURSELF:

- WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU LIKE TO DO AT THE MARSH?
HIKE___ BIRDWATCH___ HUNT___ CANOE___ HORSEBACK RIDE___
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) _____
- IF YOU ARE A HUNTER WHAT IS IT YOU LIKE TO HUNT FOR?
PHEASANT___ DUCKS___ GEESE___
OTHER(PLEASE SPECIFY) _____
- WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN VOLUNTEER DAYS AT THE MARSH? (i.e. Construction of needed structures, maintenance, events help...)
YES___ NO___

IF YOU HAVE ANY **COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS OR CONCERNS** PLEASE TAKE TIME TO SHARE THEM WITH US AS
WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW IDEAS!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR ENVIRONMENT!

PLEASE MAIL CHEQUE OR CASH TO:

FRIENDS OF HULLETT
P.O. BOX 1520
CLINTON, ON
N0M 1L0

Please make cheque's payable to ***"Friends of Hullett"***

For a fast and easy payment please send an email money transfer to fohoffice@tcc.on.ca
OR by Paypal on our website: www.hullettmarsh.com