

HULLETT NEWS



WINTER 2020

Message from the Board

Friends of Hullett members:

I would like to thank the Board of Directors, FOH staff members as well as our members and volunteers for all of their financial support and efforts through 2019. This past year was a successful year for Hullett Marsh and the Friends of Hullett.

With a significant snowfall in November, and up and down temperatures throughout December, winter is starting to finally set in at the marsh. Hopefully this will provide safe ice for volunteers and staff to collect data on success rates and maintain waterfowl nesting structures.

The Board of Directors have approved the annual budget for 2020. **Scott Austin** has accepted his contract and will continue to maintain and manage Hullett, working with volunteers, students, contractors and partners.

Greg Urquhart has accepted a position as a **Forestry Technician** with Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. We would like to thank Greg for his efforts and contributions at Hullett and wish him all the best in the future. Greg will leave FOH in early February 2020.

As a **non-profit organization**, we rely heavily on our volunteers and community to help with various programs and activities at Hullett Marsh. We are fortunate to have produced a core of volunteers to ensure these jobs get done. That being said, if you are interested in volunteering, please contact FOH staff.

To conclude, I hope to see you at our **Annual General Meeting on May 24th, 2020 (see page 5)**. This is the time for FOH members to hear about Friends of Hullett and Hullett Marsh, voice their opinion and elect **FOH Board of Directors**.

We hope you enjoy this Winter Newsletter and that it encourages you to participate in activities and events happening at the Marsh.

Duane Inkpen
Chairman
Board of Directors

What's Inside?

Page 1

- Board of Directors Overview

Page 2

- Membership Renewal
- Roads and Parking Lots
- Snowmobiles in Hullett

Page 3

- Pheasant Challenge
- Pheasant Release Program

Page 4

- FOH Charity Dinner and Auction
- Volunteering

Page 5

- Annual General Meeting
- Vanessa Palmer Award

Page 6

- Youth Pheasant Hunt

Page 7

- Eagle Buffer Zone
- Winter Activities

Page 8

- In Memory of: Calvin Van Massenhoven
- Youth Waterfowl Clinic

Page 9

- Youth Waterfowl Clinic

Page 10

- Calling all Photographers!
- Connect with Hullett
- FOH Membership Form
- GIS and Wildlife Technician



@Hullett Marsh



@Hullett_Marsh



www.hullettmarsh.com

Membership Renewal

As of December 31, 2019, memberships that were purchased prior to September 1st, 2019 have expired (grace period).

There are various payment options available, including cash, cheque (made out to "**Friends of Hullett**"), debit, credit card (at office or over the phone), **e-Transfer and PayPal**.

The purchase of your membership will go towards maintenance and management of the property as well as the operation of programs such as educational events and nest box programs.



The fillable Membership Form can be found by clicking [here](#). This form can be sent via email to fohoffice@tcc.on.ca. Memberships can also be mailed or placed in our Hullett Dropbox located at the entrance of the Hullett Office Complex.



Roads and Parking Lots



Throughout the winter months, accessing Hullett Marsh can be difficult. Interior roads including Front Road, Burns Line, Conservation Road, Bridge Road and Sanctuary Line **do not**

have winter maintenance within the Hullett Marsh boundaries. FOH would like to remind users to use interior roads at your own risk. **Please respect and follow any road closure that may occur within the Marsh** - these are for your safety.

During the winter, two parking lots will have snow removed from them. These locations are: **40672 Hydro Line Road and 80602 Wildlife Line**. Please be patient with FOH staff as we remove snow from these parking lots.

Snowmobiles at Hullett

Throughout the winter season, **Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC)** mark trails throughout Ontario, allowing snowmobilers to ride and enjoy the outdoors. Specifically, the **Huron Trail Groomers Club** are responsible for the trails that route through Hullett and surrounding areas.

FOH staff would like to remind everyone using these trails to **please stay on OFSC marked trails**. Snowmobiles leaving marked OFSC trails creates a safety concern and can disturb wintering wildlife. To prevent damage to agricultural land, **please stay off of trails deemed CLOSED**.

For more information about OFSC, or to check the status of snowmobile trails, please visit

www.ofsc.on.ca



Pheasant Challenge and Release

December 31st, 2019 was the deadline for the **19th Annual Pheasant Challenge**. FOH would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets. A special thank you goes out to our sponsors **Clinton Sporting Goods** and **Ideal Supply** for generously donating both the shotgun and the generator as our prizes for the draw. Another special thank you goes out to everyone who sold tickets to ensure funds were generated to continue releasing in 2020.

Breaking last year's record, **559 tickets** were sold in 2019. **Congratulations to our winners drawn on January 15th, 2020 (see below).**



Savage O/U Shotgun: Stephen Weber of Paisley

Generac Generator: Aaron Leppington of Stratford

Over the past season, 1000 pheasants – supplied by Sarah and Audrey Jackson of **Uplands Pheasantry** were released into Zone B between September and December. Of these birds, 100 were banded. During the season, **21 of 100 birds** were harvested and reported back to FOH. Congratulations to our successful hunters! Thank you to **Ideal Supply** for supplying FOH with orange hats as the band prize.

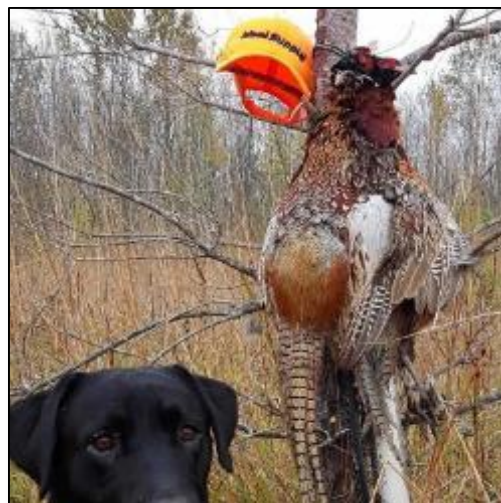


Pheasant Release Program 2020

As stated in an email sent out in December to the membership, the FOH Board of Directors have approved to continue the release of pheasants at Hullett for the 2020 season. **The number of birds released will be determined by the financial support FOH receives towards the program.**



With **\$3000 from the 2019 FOH Fundraising Dinner**, **\$895 in cash donations** and **\$5590 from the Pheasant Challenge** we have funding for a **920 bird release in 2020**. We would like to thank you for your financial support that ensures the continuation and success of this program.



FOH Charity Dinner and Auction

FOH would like to announce our **7th Annual 2020 Spring Fundraising Dinner and Auction**. This year's event will be held on **Saturday April 18th, 2020**.

After last year's success, FOH chose to continue with **Bluewater Golf Course** as the venue. New this year, we will be hosting the event on a **Saturday** instead of Sunday. The evening includes dinner prepared by Chef Devon Tabor (**Bon Vivant Catering**), silent and live auction and door prizes.

If you are interested in attending this event, contact FOH staff via email (fohoffice@tcc.on.ca) or by phone (519-482-7011). **With your ticket purchase, you will receive both a Friends of Hullett membership and a \$50.00 charitable tax receipt.**

NEW THIS YEAR: Purchase a table for 4 or 8 and choose your table. Contact FOH for more details.

Early Bird Prizes

As in past years, if you purchase your tickets by **Friday March 6th**, you will automatically be entered into our early bird draw. You will have a chance to win one of three prizes:

- \$50 gift certificate to **Clinton Sporting Goods**
- \$50 gift certificate to **Maelstrom Winery**
- \$50 gift certificate to **River Road Brewing & Hops**

We are seeking help from Hullett users like **you**. We are looking for donations and collection of both silent and live auction items. **Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations.** If you wish to assist in collecting prizes, or wish to donate, please contact FOH staff by email at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca.



Volunteering

With **only 2 full-time staff members** covering over 5400 acres, FOH relies on members and volunteers for help with maintaining the property.

During the 2019 season, FOH recorded over **1400 hours** of volunteer work completed at Hullett Marsh.

We would like to thank all of those who volunteered their time throughout 2019.



There are various jobs throughout **all seasons** that can be done. From trail maintenance, to parking lot construction, to nesting structure data collection, there is always something to do at Hullett. Experience in these jobs are not required – and volunteering is an opportunity for high school students to complete their community volunteer hours.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at Hullett, or would like more information please feel free to contact FOH staff by email at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca. **FOH will provide updates on volunteer opportunities throughout the year.**



Annual General Meeting

On **Sunday May 24th**, FOH will be hosting their **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**. This meeting is an opportunity to meet with fellow FOH members, hear about what is happening at the marsh and voice your opinion. Memberships will be available to be renewed during this meeting.

The AGM will be hosted at the FOH Office Complex, located at **41378 Hydro Line Rd** just outside of Clinton. This meeting starts at 10 a.m. with a barbeque lunch to follow.



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
- 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 (TBA)**
- 10/ Barbeque Lunch

Vanessa Palmer Award

FOH is now accepting applications for the **Vanessa Palmer Award**. In 2005, this award was created in memory of Vanessa Palmer, a past Board of Director of Friends of Hullett. This award is given to a deserving youth, seeking post-secondary education on an annual basis.



Vanessa Palmer was born and raised in Southern Ontario. Throughout her life, she developed a love and passion for the outdoors. In 2002, Vanessa was elected to

sit on the Friends of Hullett Board of Directors. As a director, she was instrumental in developing a place for the public to learn about the natural environment.

To recognize Vanessa's outstanding commitment and achievement to environmental awareness and education, the Vanessa Palmer award was created. This award is suited for students beginning their post-secondary education, preferably in biology, ecology, environmental studies or a related discipline.

To apply, students are asked to **submit a letter explaining their environmental achievements and/or contributions**. The successful applicant will be presented with a **\$200.00** cheque from FOH at our Annual General Meeting.

If you know of a youth interested in applying for the Vanessa Palmer Award, please request an award application outline document from FOH staff via email at (fohoffice@tcc.on.ca).

Applicants must submit their letters by **April 17, 2020**.



Youth Pheasant Hunt

On November 16, 2019, the 13th annual Huron Perth Youth Pheasant Hunt was held at Hullett Marsh. Similar to last year, we had 19 apprentice hunters participate.



After the usual pre-hunt safety talk and practice trap shoot, it was off to the hunt fields. Last year may not have been perfect weather but this year we had a lot more snow. The birds in the

morning seemed to behave a lot nicer than the afternoon birds for whatever reason.

Vanessa Rukas, our new MNRF Conservation Officer gave a short welcome and fur display at the break between hunts at lunch. We received a generous memorial donation from the Van Massenhoven family for their son, Calvin. He was one of our young hunters 7 or 8 years ago.

I would like to thank all the volunteers again that make this hunt possible every year. From the dogs, dog handlers, bird planters, marshals, mentors, cooks, speakers, instructors and the clean up crew. You make my job easy.



Until next year.

Michael Leitch
Youth Pheasant Hunt
Chairman

For more information on registration for the 2020 Youth Pheasant Hunt, please visit: <http://www.loop-perthhuron.ca/youth.html>.



Eagle Buffer Zone

In 2013, FOH established a **400 metre buffer zone** around our resident Bald Eagle nest. This zone is to help protect these birds from **human disturbance during the early stages of the eaglet's life.**

In Ontario, the Bald Eagle is a **'Special Concern'** species under the *Endangered Species Act*. Our resident female is banded and well over 10 years old. As of the last nesting season, over 14 eaglets have fledged since the spring of 2013.

Please respect the Eagle Buffer Zone during the posted time period.



This buffer zone is in effect from February 1st to June 15th.



Winter Activities

With winter starting to establish at Hullett Marsh, there are many activities that users can participate in. Since 2 of our parking lots are maintained throughout the winter, some of our trails, including Blue, Yellow, White Green and Purple trails, can all be accessed.



With trails open, users can:

- Snowshoe
- Cross-country ski
- Hike
- Geocache
- Hunt (following Hullett and Ontario Regulations)

Be sure you get out this winter and enjoy what Hullett has to offer.

Calling Snowshoe Enthusiasts!

Are you a Hullett user that enjoys snowshoeing? Are you interested in becoming a hike leader? FOH has an opportunity for you!

With the financial assistance of the TD Friends of the Environment, FOH purchased 10 pairs of modern snowshoes in various sizes. FOH is in search of a hike leader that can organize a **"Learn to Snowshoe"** event. If you are interested in the organization of an event like this, please contact FOH staff to discuss potential event options.



In Memory of:

Kalvin Van Massenhoven

Kalvin was a well loved, talented, genuine guy, who passed away unexpectedly on July 27, 2019.

Kalvin was a hunter and outdoor enthusiast that had many great experiences with Hullett Marsh and Friends of Hullett. He took part in many of the events that were offered at Hullett Marsh, plus volunteered his time. Calvin always enjoyed teaching others and learning new things and one of his special places to be was outdoors enjoying what it had to offer him.



In his memory, Calvin's family has donated \$750.00 to the Friends

of Hullett to keep sharing his love of the outdoors and to assist in providing more training and experiences to the others who enjoyed the outdoors as much as he did.

As a family we will continue to be part of the Friends of Hullett and make Calvin a part of our quest to help and support.

Always Loved, Never Forgotten, Forever Missed 💔

Written by the Van Massenhoven family

FOH would like to thank the Van Massenhoven family for the generous donation of \$750.00 in memory of Calvin. Calvin's name will be placed on the FOH Memorial plaque in 2020.

Youth Waterfowl Clinic

As discussed in our last newsletter, **FOH hosted our 5th Annual Youth Waterfowl Clinic** in September. As a final request, FOH asked youth and mentors to provide a statement of their experience in this year's event. Here

are some of the comments we received back from both mentors and youth:



It was great for my first experience at waterfowl hunting. I learned lots and enjoyed the volunteer weekend also. I would not hesitate to do it again if the opportunity was there. Best program I have ever done. –Jacob

I had a great time and cannot wait to do it again.

–Emmett

Friday was very informative as well as the conservation part. I enjoyed going out with my mentor and learned lots and had a blast! –Dayten

I really enjoyed everything about the Youth Waterfowl Clinic. All the leaders and mentors were very patient with me and taught me a lot about waterfowl habitat and calling and duck ID. They were very generous with gifts that I can use when hunting in the future. I had so much fun with my mentor Jason. I got to canoe out to our hunting stake in the dark with him and his dog and then waited for the ducks to come in. I learned a lot from Jason and want to thank him and everyone involved for this incredible experience. –Rachel



Youth Waterfowl Clinic

It was amazing! I had a lot of fun. The food was great!
—Dean

I LOVED my hunt and mentor. My mentor really took me under his wing and provided me the best opportunity for success - which worked! —Lukas



This was my first time at the Youth Waterfowl Clinic and it was an awesome experience. The staff at Hullett Marsh and the mentors were

friendly, patient, generous and super fun. I learned about mallard nesting tubes, waterfowl ID and calling and hunting strategies. On the morning of the hunt my mentor Trevor and I set out decoys and had a great talk before the ducks started coming in. Trevor was very skilled and I learned a lot from him. I shot a limit of ducks that morning and had the best time ever. Thanks so much for the opportunity. —Josh

My experience was amazing! —Michael

It was a fun learning and hunting experience. The teachers Scott and Greg were energetic and were fun to be around. Made me feel welcome. —Brett

I think that this was an amazing opportunity and I loved how I was able to go out hunting in Hullett marsh and harvest my first Duck this was an experience I wish to do again. Thanks to all the members who helped all the youth to be prepared and thanks to all the mentors who gave their time for us.

A big thank you to my mentor for getting me hooked on waterfowl hunting!

—Denver



I can say that this year being my first as a mentor, was the best yet. It was the most rewarding hunt/experience to this date and I thank everyone especially the Friends of Hullett for making it happen. —Luke Forbes, 1st year mentor

It was a please to experience the enjoyment seen by the youth and continue the interest of hunting for future generations. —Trevor Latta, 2nd year mentor



FOH would like to thank our youth and mentors for providing statements to put in our Winter Newsletter. A special thank you to our sponsors: **Clinton Sporting Goods, Huron Fish and Game, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Delta Waterfowl, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters** and donations by various individuals for the support of this event.

Registration for the 2020 Youth Waterfowl Clinic is now open. Please contact FOH staff for more information.



Calling all Photographers!

Do you like taking photos? Do you visit Hullett Marsh? We want to see your photos!

FOH is calling all users to submit their photos of Hullett Marsh for a chance to be showcased on our 2020-2021 User Guide. Submit your photos of Hullett with the best quality possible to fohoffice@tcc.on.ca.

Photo submitted must follow these simple guidelines:

- Must be taken in Hullett Marsh
- Depict safe practices
- Not contain gore
- Contain the name of the person entering the photo contest plus the photo number as the title (Example: John_Doe_1.jpg)

The top prize winner will receive a free **FOH Membership** and the photo will be placed on the cover of our next User Guide.



The picture above was our 1st winner in 2019. This sunset photo graces the cover of our current **User Guide** and was taken by **Jake McLure**.

**Deadline for the Photo Contest
is March 31st, 2020.**

Connect with Hullett

At FOH, we continue to provide up-to-date information to our users through social media and our website. **Be sure to “Like” us on Facebook and “Follow” us on Instagram.** Links to these accounts and the link to our website can be found at the bottom of each page of this newsletter.

FOH Membership Form



GIS and Wildlife Technician



The Friends of Hullett would like to thank our GIS and Wildlife Technician Greg Urquhart for 21 months of dedicated service at Hullett Marsh. His experience and achievements at Hullett Marsh have given Greg a very well-rounded resume and allowed him to further develop his skills to succeed in his new position.

Greg has accepted a position as a **Forestry Technician** with the **Maitland Valley Conservation Authority**. We wish Greg good luck in his new position and look forward to seeing what our next technician has to offer! **Hullett Marsh is certainly a better place thanks to the efforts of Greg.**

Friends of Hullett is now **accepting applications** for the GIS and Wildlife Technician position. For information about the position, please contact FOH staff at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca.