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What's Inside

- Page 1 – Message from the Board of Directors**
- Page 2 – Habitat and GIS Technician
– The Waterfowl Group**
- Page 3 – Summer Students at Hullett Marsh**
- Page 4 – Hullett Marsh Youth Waterfowl Clinic**
- Page 5 – 3rd Annual FOH Dinner/Auction**
- Page 6 – Hullett Public School Helps Hullett**
- Page 7 - Hullett Trailblazers Message**
- Page 8 – Annual General Meeting**

From The Directors

With the 2016 Annual General Membership (AGM) meeting fast approaching I come to realize that my term on the Board of Directors is coming to a close. In fact it is my fifth term. Fifteen years, oh the time does fly by. I must take a moment to reflect back on the past fifteen years. There has been many highlights that come to mind, the **Youth Pheasant Hunt program**, three 5 year Agricultural Contracts that have allowed us to fund our employee's and purchase capital equipment through the years, numerous fundraising events, plus many funding programs that have employed or educated those that are pursuing careers in the ecological or outdoor fields.

All of these achievements were attained through countless hours of work and determination by the people that have sat on the Board with me, employee's that have worked with myself and others, organizations such as Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry and Ducks Unlimited. The many volunteers that also put countless hours are the key to making the **Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area** what it is today. I have met many people and learned much along the way and for that I would like to thank everyone.

The upcoming **AGM** will be held on **Sunday May 29** to vote for the 4 open positions on the FOH Board of Directors as

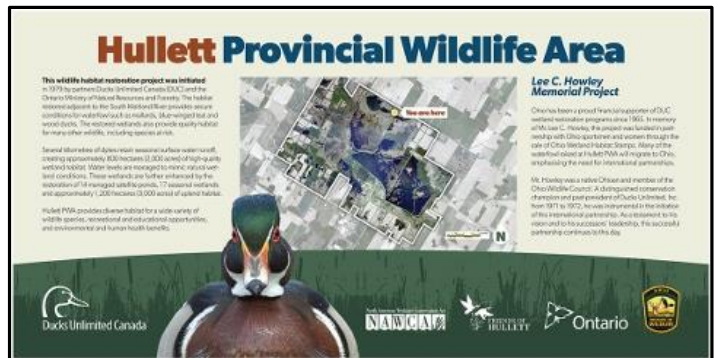
well as update members on upcoming projects, programs and financial and operational issues. We have also hired Sarah Hubbert to help with our GIS and habitat maintenance needs. Below is a picture of her second marsh tour along with our MNRF liaison Diane Schwier and her husband Frank.

Duane Inkpen
Chairman
Board of Directors



New DUC/FOH/MNRF 4' x 8' Signs

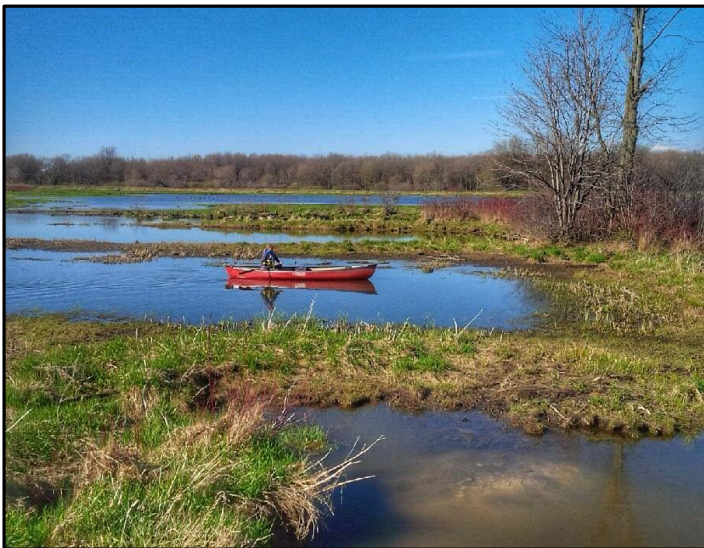
Please watch for the new sign installation this spring!



FOH Habitat and GIS Technician

We have a new member joining our team for the 2016 season. **Sarah Hubbert** has accepted the position as **Habitat and GIS Technician** for the Friends of Hullett.

She is a graduate of Lakehead University and Sir Sanford Fleming College with a strong background in **GIS (Geographic Information Systems)**. Sarah has worked with private sector GIS consulting companies mapping assets in fly-in Northern Ontario communities. Sarah is ready to help update the Hullett database. She also has experience with maintaining websites and other social media outlets and looks forward to taking Friends of Hullett into 2016 with new social media accounts and updating old ones. You can check out our new Facebook Page “Hullett Marsh” for updates on upcoming events, pictures of past and current events as well as many pictures taken around HPWA. There will also be an Instagram account linked to the Facebook page for anyone interested it is named “Friends of Hullett”. The website will be undergoing some maintenance throughout the year so watch for pages moving around.



While working in Algonquin Park Sarah gained experience with water level monitoring as well as experience dealing with management plans. She will be working with us to maintain water levels and hopefully integrate GIS and do some hydrological mapping. Sarah brings many skills and certifications to FOH including chainsaw certification, extensive canoe experience, ATV and UTV operation and common sense developed while working in the bush.

She has moved to the Goderich area for the duration of her contract from her job in Fort McMurray and is very excited to get involved with the activities at Hullett. She comes from a large maple syrup farm in the North Bay area and over the last few years has developed a passion for hunting and fishing.

The Waterfowl Group/Ed Allen Report



The **Hullett Marsh Waterfowl Association (HMWA)** members continue to manage and supplement wetland work at the marsh.

Although the winter ice conditions were less than ideal, members and staff spent several productive days at the office and on the ice. And with the early thaw, they also added a few days in canoes. Both Mallard Tubes and Wood Duck Boxes were added, repaired, and readied for the 2016 nesting season. Most of the work was done in the A Zone; however, wood duck boxes were cleaned and readied in the B Zone. And, several mallard tubes were added to the Green Wing Pool. The volunteer pool was still quite small; but, with dedicated members like Gord McKay and others Ed has listed in the updates throughout the winter, a lot was accomplished.

Let's not forget either that several HMWA volunteers went **“back to school”** and became certified in **Ice Safety** for the sole purpose of volunteering on the ice at Hullett.

The HMWA will continue to work throughout the spring and summer, to monitor water levels and maintain and enhance the waterfowl hunting opportunities at Hullett. Renewed interest in A Zone projects is making the next few years very exciting at Hullett Marsh. 2016 goals include new signage for both hunting stake and parking lot numbers!

Sarah Hubbert will work closely with the HMWA and DUC managing water levels to provide optimum habitat for waterfowl during breeding and staging times.

The **Heritage Day Youth Hunt** will present a great opportunity (and demand) for HMWA volunteers – many more than have participated during the off season.

Summer Students at Hullett Marsh

FOH are very fortunate to receive provincial funding from **MNRF in the Student Employment Program (SEP) for 2016**. Two young students will be employed as **“Maintenance Workers”** for 7 weeks this summer. Job descriptions have been posted at 4 local high schools.



We also anticipate federal funding from the **“Canada Summer Jobs”** program to further boost our summer labour force.



Volunteer Opportunities

The Friends of Hullett are always seeking volunteers to help us manage the property. We encourage you to volunteer at a task that interests you. Our Trail Ranger program has been a huge success with hikers and we now have 5 active Rangers. The HMWA has interest in the A Zone Waterfowl Area.

You can volunteer as an individual or with a friend as there are always tasks that will improve the Hullett Marsh.

We also have organized work days promoted via email. Feel free to offer your help at any time by contacting Scott at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca or 519-482-7011.



New Signs at the HPWA



Above is an image of the new sign project that FOH is currently working on. These signs will assist HPWA users to **define property boundaries** in conjunction with our User Guide Map.

The signage will also protect our adjacent property owners from trespassing issues. Please respect the private land.

Water Access at Hullett Marsh

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



Privy Replacement

The FOH Board has approved budget funds for 2016 to replace the **damaged and degraded privy** located at the “**Sugar Bush**” parking lot 80602 Wildlife Line. A concrete structure that is wheelchair accessible will be constructed in late spring this year.



Hullett Marsh Youth Waterfowl Clinic

FOH will be hosting a weekend waterfowl hunt and educational event for youth between the ages of 12 and 17 on the weekend of **September 16 to 18 2016** in celebration of “**Waterfowl Heritage Day**”.



This event has been partially funded by **Wildlife Habitat Canada** from revenue collected on the sale of migratory bird hunting permits to **encourage youth involvement** in the waterfowl hunting and the conservation of wetland habitats.



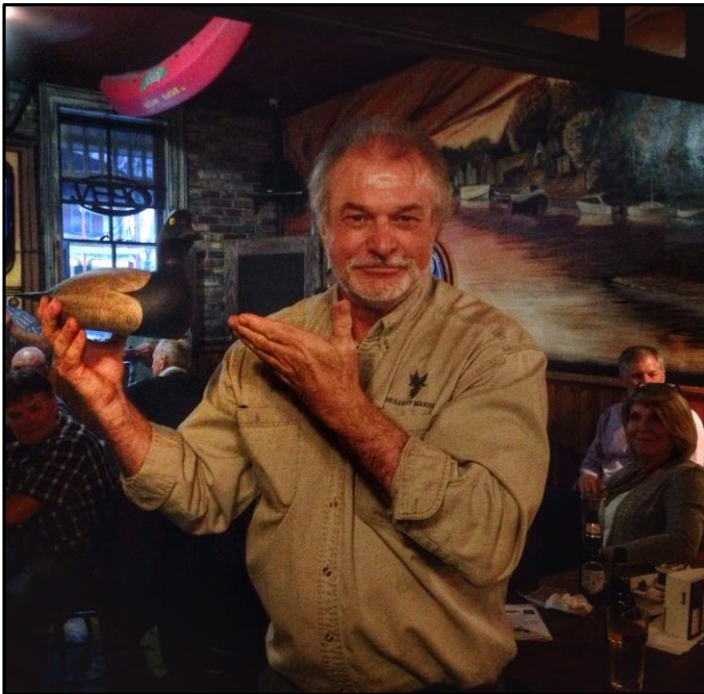
FOH has created a partnership of financially supporting organizations for this special weekend.

- **Huron Fish and Game Association \$1000**
- **Huron/Perth Youth Pheasant Hunt \$500**
- **Lambton Conservation Association \$200**

Details of the event and registration will be circulated and posted in June of 2016. **Zone A will also be refurbished with new hunt stake and parking lot #'s as part of this project.**

The 3rd Annual Albion Hotel in Bayfield Charity Dinner & Auction

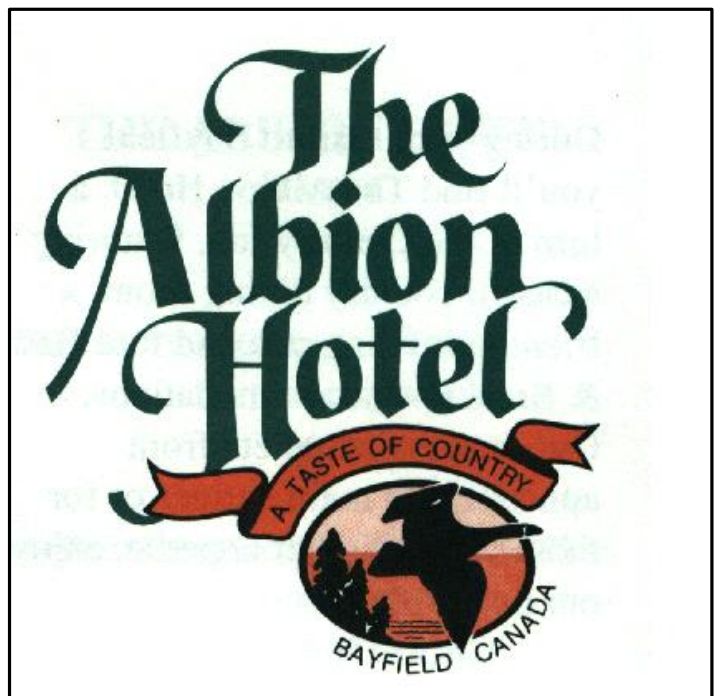
The Albion Dinner and auction was another huge success this year; all the tickets were sold out and lots of donations made as auction items. Our gun raffle brought in more money than expected when it was donated back for live auction. All the volunteers were busy running around showcasing our auction items and recording membership data. **We raised well over \$12,000 profit** which set a new single event record for Friends of Hullett. These funds will help fund all the programs this year including the costly "Pheasant Release".



A big thanks to our corporate sponsor "Ideal Supply" for the continued assistance and donations to FOH.



The fabulous staff at the Albion Hotel once again closed their doors to the public for our exclusive event. Kim Muszynski and his crew prepared a fabulous wild game orientated menu that was an instant hit. Appetizers included everything from bison, duck, rabbit and even kangaroo with amazing wine from **Alton Farms Estate Winery**. Alton Farms set up a wine tasting to kick off the evening pairing very well with our wild game menu.



The night could not have happened without all the support from the FOH members, their donations and ticket sales. The contributions and hard work that go into this night are incredible and the results we have attained are amazing.



Hullett Public School Helps Hullett!

On April 19 in celebration of “**Earth Day**” ninety grade 4, 5 & 6 students from Hullett Public School in Londesborough arrived at Hullett Marsh on two school buses. The students were supervised by parents, teachers and FOH volunteers. In total over 110 people walked the roadways and parking lots at the HPWA collecting garbage.

The young students were eager to learn and help Hullett Marsh. Thank you Hullett PS and principle Cathy Goetz for setting up this event!

A big thanks to **Ideal Supply for donating the surgical gloves and garbage bags** for this large scale clean up! Pictured below are Scott Austin and loyal FOH volunteers Bill Dineen, John Leppington and Glen Carey with a sample of the litter collected.



Donations Needed For Hullett Marsh

- Florescent safety vests
- Work gloves and safety glasses
- Lumber in any form
- Steel fence posts
- Yellow rust paint

Charitable tax receipts can be issued for all donations!

Hullett Trail Rangers

The Hullett trails are in good shape to attract hikers that rely on well-marked trails to navigate. Continued maintenance is required to maintain our 13 km of marked trails.

Please contact us if you would like to become a “**Trail Ranger**” volunteer. Our next ranger meeting will be held in June 2016 once the **Recreation and Event Coordinator** has been hired under the Canada Summer Jobs Program.

Wild Turkey Hunting

The season runs from April 25/16 to May31/16. You must abide by all Provincial Regulations as well as HPWA specific regulations while hunting Wild Turkey in Hullett (WMU #85). For detailed information regarding hunting seasons and bag limits please refer to the **Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary**.



Membership Importance

The strength of Friends of Hullett is our membership base. The “Friends of Hullett” membership has increased significantly this spring with many first time members. Many thanks to all new members as well as long standing members for renewing your membership.

Members help in many ways with great ideas, financial support, material donations and most importantly volunteer hours in an aspect of Hullett Marsh that they enjoy. The future of the HPWA is dependent upon our membership. Please find attached a membership form to renew your support for Hullett Marsh on the last page of this newsletter.

Hullett Marsh Web Site

Our website will be getting updated this year through our new staff member Sarah. Watch for changes throughout the summer and new information. Our web site is a great place to research the HPWA, learn about FOH and also stay informed. Upcoming events, safety issues, road closures and awesome Hullett photographs are some of the highlights.

The home and news pages will contain the most up to date information.

FOH website: www.hullettmarsh.com

Message from the Hullett Trailblazers

We are now seeing signs around the Hullett that spring may be on its way. The geese are setting on nests and we have seen a family with goslings, Sandhill Cranes have returned, killdeers, ducks and the Tundra Swans have made their appearance and the Bald Eagles are nesting. The Trailblazers and their dogs have started their Wednesday walks.

A few suggestions as we begin a new year of our walks:

- 1) Lyme disease which is spread by ticks is becoming more prevalent, so have your dogs vaccinated and wear long pants and closed shoes and socks when walking**
- 2) Don't forget your bug repellent, camera and binoculars**
- 3) Dogs are welcome, preferably on a leash especially along the dikes as the Hullett does trap beaver and muskrats.**

Come out and enjoy what the Hullett has to offer and bring a friend. I will send an e-mail each week stating where our walks will be for that week, if you wish to be added to the e-mail list let me know at:

mailto:j_da.mckichan@tcc.on.ca or call me at 519-482-5762

The walks are going to be going up on our new Facebook page so be sure to take a look! We are always happy to have new walkers come out and join us as we appreciate what the Hullett has to offer. I am looking forward to our Wednesday evening walks and wondering what sighting will be the highlight this year. See you at the Hullett on Wednesday night.

Dale Ann McKichan
FOH Director



Deb Johnson photo credit of Hullett mink.

Photo Sharing With FOH

As we are starting to use new media to reach the public with pictures of HPWA we are always happy to receive all of the fantastic pictures taken by anyone touring the marsh. You can send your pictures to the Friends of Hullett email address: fohoffice@tcc.on.ca. We would like to give credit where credit is due, so if you would like photo credit for your picture when it goes up feel free to add that in the attached email. We are looking forward to seeing all of the amazing pictures. The following are a few of the pictures featured on our new Instagram page:

https://www.instagram.com/hullett_marsh/?hl=en



Hullett birds, feeding Turkey Vulture and Screech Owl.



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 the full payment of the new office trailer and budget strains. An update on new projects like the establishment of the first ever Hullett Marsh Youth Waterfowl Clinic (YWC), privy replacement and the approval by members for 2 new migratory bird hunting field stakes. Service awards and the **Vanessa Palmer Award** will be presented, followed by an open discussion with all members and then director elections. We will close with a guest presenter. After this meeting, all members are welcome to join for a delicious barbeque lunch provided by the Friends. All members are welcome to come out and enjoy the company, marsh news and food!

Elections for **four Board of Directors (BOD) positions** will take place on Sunday May 29, 2016. To run for the BOD you must be a member of the FOH and you were required to 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 29, 2016. The meeting will be held at the HPWA Office Complex, located at 41378 Hydro Line Road. The meeting will start at 10:00 A.M. with a free lunch to follow. All members are strongly encouraged to attend this event.

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 & Conservation Officers
- 5/ Report from the Friends of Hullett Board
- 6/ Presentation of Vanessa Palmer Award
- 7/ Questions, Comments and Suggestions from
Membership floor
- 8/ Election of officers to the Board of Directors
- 9/ **Guest Presentation: Blue Water Raptor
Rehabilitation Centre/Lynn Eves**
- 10/ Lunch provided for all!



Be sure to like our new Facebook page!
<https://www.facebook.com/Hullett-Marsh-279870435685766/>



New Wildlife Crossing Signs

New signs provided by the **Huron County Stewardship** council have been placed on Hydro Line Road advising motorists to slow down to avoid collisions with wildlife and especially reptiles!





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 _____

STREET _____

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___
- ARE YOU CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF A CLUB OR ORGANIZATION THAT MAKES USE OF THE MARSH AND ITS FACILITIES?
YES___ NO___
(IF YES, PLEASE LIST NAMES OF CLUBS OR ORGANIZATIONS)

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