



What's Inside

Page 1 – Message from the Board of Directors

**Page 2 – QDMA Fundraising Raffle
Water Access Restrictions
Volunteering**

Page 3 – Fundraising Dinner and Auction

**Page 4 – Wildlife and GIS Technician Position
Youth Pheasant Hunt
Youth Waterfowl Clinic**

**Page 5 – Ducks Unlimited Canada Infrastructure
New Payment Method
Donation Tube Installation
Privy Replacement**

**Page 6 – Summer Students
Small Game Hunting Regulation Changes**

**Page 7 – Ruffed Grouse Society Events
Duck Box Report 2016
New Mallard Tube Installation**

**Page 8 – Bird Studies Canada
Municipality of Central Huron**

**Page 9 – Phragmites Funding
Friends of Hullett Photo Contest Results**

Page 10 – Annual General Meeting

From The Directors

With the 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) just around the corner, the Board of Directors and I would like to invite you to come out and catch up on the activities that have taken place at the marsh over the past year, as well as part in the democratic process of electing board members for the upcoming years.

You will see some major changes around the marsh as the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry have been doing environmental assessments followed by repairs and upgrades at the office facility, and Ducks Unlimited has undertaken major upgrades to the water controls and infrastructure in the field.

Scott Austin has signed a contract for another year and Alaina Vandervoort is moving on to a MNRF job up north. Alaina has contributed many new ideas in her 6 months with FOH. The Wildlife and GIS Technician position is open for competition so Scott and Alaina are hard at work screening applicants.

The upcoming **AGM** will be held on **Sunday May 28** 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. Please refer to the end of this newsletter for further details.

Duane Inkpen
Chairman
Board of Directors

QDMA Fundraising Raffle

Friends of Hullett have partnered with the Quality Deer Management Association (Southwestern Ontario Branch) for a fundraising raffle. There are some great prizes available, including guided fishing trips, guided hunting trips, binoculars, a compound bow, a chainsaw, a rifle and a South African safari!

Tickets are \$10 each or 3/\$20, and **75% of proceeds go to the youth, educational, and conservation events at Hullett Marsh!** Yes, you read that right, 75% of proceeds go directly back to Hullett Marsh!

To purchase tickets and see a full list of prizes, come see us at the office complex, or visit Greg at Clinton Sporting Goods. Help support marsh events and have a chance to win some great prizes at the same time!

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.



Volunteering

Friends of Hullett are always seeking volunteers to help in managing the property. We encourage you to volunteer for a task that interests you. We have developed an unique opportunity which we coined **“Workday Wednesdays”**.

Every Wednesday from **10am to 3pm** staff are available for anyone who wishes to come out and volunteer. For more information, please see the poster attached at the end of this newsletter. **Please email us in advance** if you would like to participate.

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



FOH Dinner and Auction

Our 4th Annual Charity Dinner and Auction took place on May 7th at the Albion Hotel in Bayfield, ON. This year's event was sold out by March 7th—the earliest sell out date yet!

The attendees who paid by April 1st were entered into our early bird draw. Gerd Keller was our first prize winner, who received a one night stay at the Albion Hotel. Jeanette Hill and Rob Leppington were our second and third place winners respectively, each receiving a complimentary OFAH membership.

The FOH Albion Dinner and Auction was another huge success this year— all seats available were quickly filled, and many donations were given to FOH for the auctions. The volunteers were busy running around showcasing our silent and live items and recording membership data. **We raised well over \$9,000 profit** and this money will help fund FOH programs at the marsh including the costly "Pheasant Release".



A big thanks to our corporate sponsor "Ideal Supply" for the continued assistance and donations to FOH. Clinton Sporting Goods and Northern Exposure Sporting Group Inc. were new sponsors for the 2017 dinner, who helped us provide two quality shotguns for the auction.

The fabulous staff at the Albion Hotel once again closed the doors to the public for our exclusive event. Owner Kim Muszynski and his crew prepared an amazing meal that was an instant hit. Richard Lobb of Clinton volunteered his auctioneer services for the 4th year in a row. Brian from **Maelstrom Winery** set up a wine tasting to kick off the evening, which paired very well with the menu. A big thanks to Kim, Richard and Brian!

The night could not have happened without all the support from the FOH members, their donations and many volunteers.



Wildlife and GIS Tech

We are currently in the process of hiring a new Wildlife and GIS Technician that can lead many programs in 2017 including the Phragmites removal. Alaina has been offered a Resource/Bear Technician position with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in Sudbury, and will be leaving FOH.

Her experience at Hullett Marsh has given her a very well-rounded resume and let her further develop her skills to succeed in her new position. She has greatly helped to bring new ideas to the marsh, improved our mapping and social media, and networked with volunteers and partners. We wish her luck in her new position, and look forward to seeing what our next technician has to offer!

Youth Pheasant Hunt

The Youth Pheasant Hunt program is in its preliminary stages in preparation for its 11th annual hunt. Applications are not being accepted quite yet, but if you have a youth hunter interested in participating, please continue to check the YPH website for more information:

<http://www.loop-perthhuron.ca/youth.html>.



Youth Waterfowl Clinic

FOH will be hosting a weekend waterfowl hunt and educational event for youth between the ages of 12 and 16 on **September 15th and 16th 2017** in celebration of **"Waterfowl Heritage Day"**.

This clinic offers 10 youth an opportunity to learn about gun safety, duck calling instructions, decoy placement and concealment, and waterfowl conservation. They will also be placed with a waterfowl hunting expert, who will take them on a guided duck hunt in Hullett Marsh.

Youth spots are filling up quickly, but we are also in need of mentors and volunteers for the 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 more mentors** to make this year's event a success.

For more information and application forms for both youth and mentoring positions, please contact FOH Staff at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca.



Ducks Unlimited Work

As many of you may have noticed, this past winter was very busy around the marsh with construction projects at numerous areas within Zone A and Zone B. With provincial funding, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) was able to replace many of the aging and deteriorated water control structures at Hullett Marsh.

This large project employed several local contractors under DUC guidance to improve the water control structures and better manage the water levels. Safer designs were installed and many of the new structures will be “beaver proof”. These extensive upgrades will be summarized in an article from DUC in the User Guide to be printed late this summer.



New Payment Option

Friends of Hullett have obtained a point of sale machine for use at the office complex as well as in the field, allowing us to now accept debit, credit, and Apple Pay. This is a great option for donations, memberships, and other purchases! Receipts can be emailed to you or sent to your phone instantly.

Donation Tube

Next time that you are out in the marsh be sure to visit the popular parking lot located at 80602 Wildlife Line. Here you will discover a new donation tube that will help collect funds to offset the privy construction and parking lot maintenance costs. We are hopeful that regulars as well as casual users will part with a bit of spare change to help FOH continue with these two important tasks.



Privy Replacement

The FOH Board has approved budget funds for 2017 to replace the **damaged and degraded privy** located at the **the main viewing stand** in parking lot located at 40905 Summerhill Rd. A concrete structure that is wheelchair accessible and a complete holding tank replacement will be constructed this summer.

Summer Students

FOH are very fortunate to receive provincial funding from the MNRF in the **Student Employment Program** (SEP) for 2017. Two young students will be employed as **Maintenance Workers** for 8 weeks this summer.

We have also received funding from the federal **Canada Summer Jobs** program. We are in the process of training a Maintenance Supervisor for a 12 week contract to lead our summer labour force. Jason Barger of Lucknow has been hired as the leader, who just completed his first year in the Fish and Wildlife Technology course at Fleming College.



Small Game Hunting EBR

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry proposed regulatory amendments for furbearers and small game in December 2016, which included the increased daily bag and possession limits of ring-necked pheasants to 10. The Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area is one of very few places available for free public pheasant hunting. As the program is an extremely costly venture and exhaustive use of FOH resources, the increased bag limits would have been detrimental to the project. Other proposed changes were in regard to ending the snapping turtle hunting season, and standardizing small game hunting season dates. FOH

provided a statement letter to the public against the pheasant bag limit increase, and asked those who agreed with the statement to submit it to the EBR comment period.

The regulation decision notice was posted on March 31, 2017. A total of 13,461 comments were submitted by the public during the comment period. Several comments submitted used the statement letter FOH provided, as well as many personal letters in disagreement with the changes to pheasant hunting. As a result, **the pheasant bag limit remained at 3**, small game hunting seasons were standardized, and there is no longer an open season for snapping turtles.

FOH would like to thank all those who submitted comments regarding the pheasant limits! Without public input on these matters, the changes would have been imminent.

Please be sure to familiarize yourself with all changes to the hunting regulations as of April 1, 2017 before hunting, as they may apply to the WMU you are planning on being in. The updated 2017 hunting regulations summary can be found here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-hunting-regulations-summary>.



Ruffed Grouse Society

On Wednesday, May 17th the Ruffed Grouse Society held a habitat seminar at the Kinburn Hall. RGS biologist Andy Weik discussed grouse and woodcock habitat. The birds prefer successional forests, shrubby areas, and some open areas. Mature forests do not benefit them, and forestry practices (such as clear cuts) are extremely valuable.

The Ruffed Grouse Society Huron-Perth Chapter is hosting their inaugural banquet on Saturday, June 10th at 5pm at the Pyramid Rec Centre in St. Mary's. Tickets are \$65 each or \$100 for couples, which includes a one year RGS membership. For more information or tickets please contact Roderik Stevula at 226-989-2049 or rstevula@outlook.com.

Duck Box Report

Our Wildlife and GIS Technician has now completed a thorough report from the 2016 nesting season data collected from our wood duck boxes.

A total of 145 duck boxes were present in the marsh for 2016, and 57% of these boxes showed waterfowl usage. From the 78 boxes that had waterfowl usage, 30% of nests had abandoned eggs present, 10% had successful hatches, (membranes present in the nests,) 9% were predated, (egg shells fragments present,) and 8% were an unknown level of success.

A total of 479 eggs were layed in wood duck boxes. Hooded mergansers laid 338 of these, and wood ducks laid 141. Hullett duck boxes had a 16.3% successful hatch rate for waterfowl in 2016.

To read the full report, check out the 'About' section on our website!

Mallard Tube Install

There are approximately 45 mallard tubes installed throughout the marsh annually, which are removed each winter for data collection and re-stuffing of the grass. Many of these tubes are located in the big pools in the interior of the marsh. As mallards prefer nesting in grass, the tubes provide a much safer place to nest rather than the shore lines. They also allow ducklings to fledge directly into water rather than be extremely vulnerable to predators as they travel from nest to water.



From analyzing the data we have collected from mallard tubes over the years, FOH is started to see a trend between used mallard tubes and open water. We are trying to improve the mallard tube program by removing tubes and stakes which are rotten or have never been productive, and installing new posts and tubes in better habitats. We are also increasing our data collection, and will be **requiring volunteers** to carefully check out each tube in the coming months and see if there is waterfowl usage.

On an extremely windy March day, staff members successfully installed a new post and mallard tube from a canoe and with waders in Sat Pond 12. This has become our 'showcase' tube, as it is easily visible from the parking lot at 40542 Hydro Line Road. Be sure to stop by and check it out!



Bird Studies Canada

If you've hiked the orange trail before, you would have seen the Motus Wildlife Tracking System tower that was installed in the spring of 2013 by Bird Studies Canada. This tower is a telemetry station which detects signals from tagged birds. The organization has now updated their website to allow users to view these telemetry tower locations, and see bird species in the area as their tags are detected nearby. You can check out the data from Hullett's tower as well as all the other stations in the world by clicking here: <https://motus.org/data/receiversMap.jsp>.

Central Huron

FOH would like to thank the **Municipality of Central Huron** for installing new signs and posts at the entrances to our interior roads! These signs are very visible and will help keep our roads safe.

We would also like to thank Central Huron for their efforts in keeping our interior roads in good shape. Gravel is been added to the roads this spring, and all interior roads are being graded.



Membership Importance

The strength of Friends of Hullett is our membership base. The number of memberships 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 spent in Hullett Marsh working on projects that interest them. The future of the HPWA is dependent upon our membership. Please find attached a membership form to renew your support of Hullett Marsh on the last page of this newsletter.

Phragmites Funding

An application to the 2017/2018 Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration program provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry was submitted by FOH in late November, requesting funds for the removal and control of the invasive Phragmites australis in Hullett Marsh.

A total of 36 applications were received by the MNRF from across Ontario, with funding requests totalling more than \$577,000. Out of these 36 applications, only 23 were successful in obtaining funding.

Friends of Hullett are proud to announce that after many hours spent planning and organizing the funding application, we were successful in receiving the funds requested!

We will start our Phragmites control project this summer. Have you found patches of Phrag throughout the marsh? If so, let us know where! Click here for a google map showing the patches we already have GPS points for: <https://tinyurl.com/lo9bl45>.



FOH Photo Contest Winner

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos to our 1st Annual Photo Contest! We love to see users' photos of the marsh and their friends, family, and pets enjoying the property. We also love to share these on our social media! Every submission received counted as an entry into the random draw for a FREE Friends of Hullett membership!

Congratulations to this year's winner, Josh McLeod!

Here's one of his submissions:



Annual General Meeting

Join your fellow FOH members at our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**. By attending this meeting, you will have an opportunity to voice your opinion and make a difference. We will start by discussing the current state of the marsh and a review of our accomplishments from 2016. We will update you on our 2017 goals and projects such as the Phragmites removal funding, student staffing and privy replacement on Summerhill Road. Service awards and the **Vanessa Palmer Award** will be presented, followed by an open discussion with all members and the director elections. We will close with an interactive staff and volunteer presentation of marsh programs and their importance. After this meeting, all members are welcome to join for a **delicious barbeque lunch** provided by the Friends. The public and our membership is 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 28, 2017. To run for the BOD, you must be a member of FOH and have submitted a letter expressing your interest to the MNRF Guelph District Office. Letters expressing intent to run for the BOD must have been 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 28, 2017**. The meeting will be held at the HPWA Office Complex, located at 41378 Hydro Line Road. The meeting will start at **10 AM** with a **FREE BBQ LUNCH** to follow. All members are strongly encouraged to attend this event and cast a ballot so that FOH can continue in a positive direction.

AGM Agenda

- 1/ Introduction of Board of Directors and Guests
- 2/ Report from Marsh Staff
- 3/ Financial Report
- 4/ Report from Ducks Unlimited Canada
- 5/ Report from the Friends of Hullett Board
- 6/ Past service award presentation
- 7/ Presentation of Vanessa Palmer Award
- 8/ Questions, Comments and Suggestions from Membership floor
- 9/ Election of officers to the Board of Directors
- 10/ Staff and Volunteer Interactive Presentation
- 11/ Lunch provided for all!



Like us on Facebook!

www.Facebook.com/HullettMarsh

And Follow us on Instagram!

[@Hullett_Marsh](https://www.instagram.com/Hullett_Marsh)





10AM-3PM WORKDAY WEDNESDAYS



Want to volunteer? Email us!

Every Wednesday from 10am to 3pm staff will make themselves available for anyone who wishes to come out and volunteer at the marsh. There's lots to do, rain or shine! Please call or email us in advance so we can better accommodate you.

**Come volunteer at
Hullett Marsh!**

**Rain or shine,
there's lots to do!**

Have some skills?

**Passionate about
something?**

**Choose a task
that interests
you...there's lots
to choose from!**

FRIENDS OF HULLETT

41378 Hydro Line Road
Clinton, ON

519-482-7011

fohoffice@tcc.on.ca

www.hullettmarsh.com

[Facebook.com/hullettmarsh](https://www.facebook.com/hullettmarsh)

Instagram: @hullett_marsh



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!

Payment Options Below:

PLEASE MAIL CHEQUE 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