



From The Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Hullett, I would like to welcome you to Friends of Hullett's Fall Newsletter.

This summer has been a busy one for FOH staff. A fresh new look has found its way to the Hullett User Guide along with some changes. If it's your first time visiting the wildlife area, take some time to review the user guide so that you are familiar with the rules and regulations associated with HPWA. **If you have been here before, please check the map section, as well as the rules and regulation section, for any changes that may have taken place since your last visit.** Also, don't hesitate to check out our newly improved website for more information on the HPWA and upcoming events.

The BOD administers a large agricultural contract which, along with generous donations from the public, provides the funds for maintenance of the marsh, grounds, and buildings, as well as the funding for new and exciting projects, and the hiring of employees.

Partnered with the OMNRF and Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Board of Directors continues to manage this amazing 2200 hectare wetland complex in Huron County. The success of our operation however, depends on much more than the three senior partners. Our employees, of course, are indispensable as are the volunteers that manage many of our projects at Hullett. If you have an idea for improvement to the area, or a program you might want to see at Hullett, we encourage you to bring it to the attention of our staff or directors.

We hope you enjoy this Fall Newsletter and look forward to seeing you out in the marsh.

For a quick link to our website
Ctrl + click the Hullett Button (example found below).



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Pheasant Release & Challenge



Once again FOH will be releasing 1000 pheasants in Zone B at regular intervals during the Fall of 2017. We would like to thank **Ideal Supply** for their corporate support of the program and Uplands Pheasantry for the birds. Each ticket purchased gives you a chance to win a fantastic 2000 watt portable generator (donated by **Ideal Supply**) or the 1st Prize shotgun (supplied by **Clinton Sporting Goods**).



Youth Pheasant Hunt

Please refer to our new User Guide, website and posters on each map box to see how and where you can purchase your tickets to ensure a pheasant release happens in 2018.

The youth hunt is hosted by the Huron – Perth Youth Pheasant Hunt Committee and is open to youths between the ages of 12 and 15.

This year's date is Saturday, November 18, 2017.

The Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area will be the host property for this event. Please visit the link below for more information:

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

Youth Waterfowl Clinic



On September 15th and 16th, Friends of Hullett and HMWA hosted our 2nd annual **Waterfowl Heritage Day** Youth Waterfowl Clinic in celebration of Canada's National hunting, trapping and fishing heritage.

Many thanks goes out to the various organizations, and individuals, that provided meals, awesome loot and cash donations towards this important event. Thanks to everyone's generosity, these young hunters went home with assorted hunting magazines, duck calls, an ID poster, decoys, shotgun shells, camo ball-caps and many other goodies.

Eight youths were paired with eight experienced waterfowl hunting mentors for this two-day event. Firearm safety, hunting ethics, calling, decoy placement, species ID and, of course, conservation were some of the skills shared with these young hunters.



1 Canada Goose, 7 Mallards, 1 Northern Shoveler, 1 Wood Duck, 6 Bluewing Teal and a gorgeous Northern Pintail, totaling 16 ducks. This harvest made this YWC a huge success. Good job youth and mentors and we hope that you enjoy the waterfowl protein!



GIS and Wildlife Technician

Salutations Hullett users. My name is Raeshawn Parsons and I am pleased as punch to be working here at Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area as the Jack-of-all-trades, GIS and Wildlife Technician.

I have spent seven years in college; three years for Natural Environment Technologist, and one year in a graduate program for GIS Analyst, both at Sault College. I have also spent two years at Fanshawe College for Horticulture.

After working here for a month in 2014, it was quickly realized that Hullett Marsh is something special. I've worked in 3 different provinces, but nothing takes my breath away like seeing a tornado of ducks migrating through the marsh or the sound of sandhill cranes in the mist. Since that month in 2014, I vowed to return and here I am.

My job involves many things; priorities being the Phragmites Management Project and well as producing the new Hullett User Guide, Funding reports, and GIS work. I have enjoyed the challenge of working at Hullett Marsh and have learned many new skills and knowledge from coworkers and users like you. Being a non-hunter, I had a lot to learn.

After years of diverse work and educations, from the Saskatchewan prairies, to the Manitoba mountains, then up in the forests of Northern Ontario, nothing is more rewarding than working with the amazing people that make Hullett Marsh what it is.



Raeshawn Parsons, GIS and Wildlife Technician

Summer Students

This summer FOH hired Jason Barger (thanks to funding from Canada Summer Jobs fund), a student in Fish and Wildlife Technology at Fleming College, as our maintenance supervisor. As well as everyday maintenance, Jason's job was to lead volunteers, along with rehired maintenance workers, Bailey Van Massenhoven and Cecil McMichael (thanks to funding from the MNRF). This team spent 7 weeks this summer working on numerous projects such as extensive timber removal, adding signage, parking barrier upgrades and numerous other projects.



Working rain or shine (usually more rain than shine this summer), this team developed their mechanical expertise along with teamwork and leadership skills. Only with their help has the marsh been able to stay afloat with summer, especially with the mosquitos scaring the volunteers away.

Summer Events

Pluckin' Fest: Hullett Marsh joined in Clinton's Pluckin' Fest in the Historical Area. Between the old milk cans and yearbooks, Hullett showed off its ancient photos, past user guides, aerial photos and other historical items from the Hullett office.

Retirement Raceway: Hullett Marsh was at the Clinton Raceway for the final race of harness racer John Campbell. The interpretive trailer intrigued some with its displays and frog calls. Thanks to those who stopped to say "hello".

QDMA Raffle: This year, the Quality Deer Management Association held a raffle where 75% of the earned proceeds would be donated to Hullett Marsh. In total, \$585.00 was put toward the Youth Waterfowl Clinic for 2018. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets.



Hullett Marsh Waterfowl Association

This volunteer subcommittee within the FOH, continues to put waterfowl first. The HMWA's mandate is to continue to improve the production, attraction and harvest of waterfowl at Hullett. Again in 2017, waterfowlers have devoted hours of time, hard work and money into making the area increasingly attractive to both nesting and migrating waterfowl. In 2016, the list of accomplishments was long. Again in 2017, a lot is happening:

- 🍁 The Invasive Phragmites is being treated in late summer/early fall. The Waterfowlers have pushed for this action and are helping locate and identify the problem areas to be sprayed.
- 🍁 The Mallard Tube program is continuing to be improved. Data has been collected, from 2016, so that optimal locations for placement can be determined. Chris Ambrose, a new director, has stepped up to keep this programme on track.
- 🍁 The Wood Duck Boxes have all been renumbered and GPS'd. Our local Wood Duck population is in great shape. Over 280 Wood Ducks were banded at Hullett in 2016 thanks to our program and the large number of natural cavities.
- 🍁 The Whitetail Swamp Rehabilitation project is closer to reality. Funds are being secured and plans for work in the swamp have begun. Some standing water, year round, in the form of potholes and ponds should provide nesting, loafing and roosting areas for waterfowl. A variety of wading birds and raptors will also benefit.
- 🍁 New signage is in place in the 1-50 parking lot as well as at the hunting stakes.
- 🍁 On request of the HMWA, the Whistler Pool boat launch has been dredged as has the canoe canal out to #40.
- 🍁 Bait will be placed in two baited areas by staff and waterfowler volunteers throughout the hunting season.

If this type of volunteer work specific to waterfowl interests you, then contact the FOH office at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca to be put on the Waterfowler's mailing list. Both organized workdays and impromptu ones will be organized throughout the year, including winter months.



Split Opener Hunting Seasons

Hunting at Hullett Marsh is always full of changes. This year there is a "Split-Opener"; **Waterfowl** opening day is the 23rd of September and the **Pheasant/Small Game** opener is on the 25th of September.

Make sure you always read the Hullett regulations before hunting in the marsh as you never know what may have changed since the last time you were here.

Summer Water Levels at Hullett

Get ready to get your feet wet because Hullett Marsh has received large amounts of rain this summer. All ponds and pools (except Greenwing) are full of the wet stuff with no cells in draw down.

Please keep in mind that heavy rains make the roads and trails soft which can lead to washouts, large potholes and ruts. FOH tries hard to maintain these areas but only with the help of volunteers can these issues really be fixed.



New Hunting Regulations

Hunters are encouraged to visit our website for the most up-to-date rules and regulations at Hullett. Always review Federal and Provincial laws before hunting.

Please click here for more information on:

[Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations](#)

Or here for more information on:

[Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary](#)

Here are just a few updates to the 2017 Hunting Regulations that will affect Hullett users:

- 🍁 Increased pheasant and squirrel season to December 31, 2017
- 🍁 Decreased season for Ruffed Grouse to December 31, 2017 as well as a decreased bag limit from 5 to 2
- 🍁 Hunting season for snapping turtle has been permanently closed

Remember that HPWA is in Wildlife Management Area 85.

Field Hunting Stakes

This will be the 2nd year for our two field hunting stakes, F1 & F2. The parking for F1 is lot 41494 on Bridge Road and F2 is lot 81001 down Burns Line. These stakes will be opened for hunting once the bean crops are harvested this year. Please refer to the hunting page on our website, or our new user guide, for details.



Phragmites

Hullett Marsh is highly used by a large variety of plants, animals and human activities but some have become a grave issue. Invasive species are found everywhere: in the waters, in the sky, in our diet and, commonly, in our lives.

If you have been following the newsletters and Facebook/Instagram posts you will notice a large amount of talk on Phragmites; an invasive reed that has taken over the marsh. This weed is native to Eurasia and was originally brought over as a spiffy looking ornamental grass for gardens. It soon got out of control and has now invaded throughout North America. It has a tendency to squeeze out other species and leave nutrient deficient lands in it's wake. For Hullett Marsh, a very special area full of species at risk and endangered habitats, phragmites is a big concern. This summer we were finally able to do something about it.



Hours of Phragmites hunting has taken place in the last couple years but nothing like this year. During the summer, a massive index of the Phragmites stands in Hullett Marsh was mapped and prioritized based on location, density and size (among others criteria). To date, 120 stands of Phrag has been found, spanning from sizes of one meter squared to 90 meters squared. With this collected information, Friends of Hullett has put together a game plan to help reduce and manage the invasive plant. With the help of Giles Restoration Services, professionals in herbicide application in aquatic environments, FOH can finally begin removing this devastating plant from our ecosystem. Since August, a third of the stands have been sprayed with the last two thirds to be sprayed by the end of September.

For more information on Phragmites australis, visit: [Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program](#)



Thank You to Municipality of Central Huron

The roads department from the local municipality of Central Huron has been very generous to the HPWA by grading some of our roads last fall and once again this spring! The municipality has once again donated 500 tonnes of gravel and spread it throughout our parking lots and roads.

New signage has been installed at some road entrances and this year **Central Huron** supported Hullett Marsh again with \$4000.00 in funds towards the replacement of our privy on Summerhill Road (40905).

The yearly support of the Donation Fund allows us to build and maintain the marsh to higher standards!

New Things at the Marsh

Complex Sign: Friends of Hullett has bought a brand new 4 x 8 user map found at the office complex.

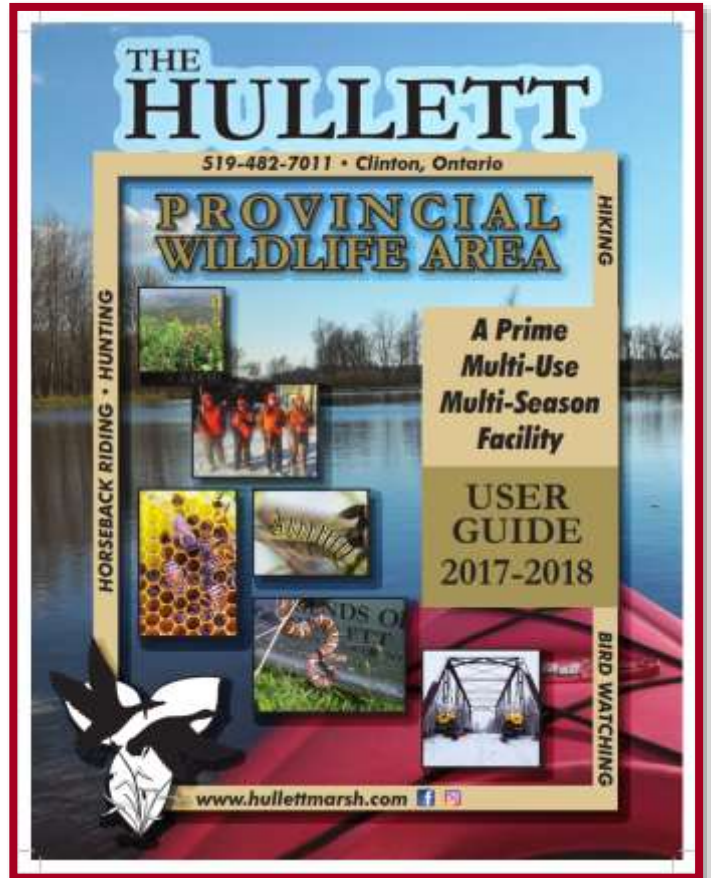


Donation Tube: FOH has also added a donation tube to the Sugarbush parking lot (80602 Wildlife Ln), ready for any loose change you may have to help fuel the marsh project (One dollar is better than no dollar).

Drop Box: A new dropbox has been installed at the office complex right at the front gate. This is for memberships, mail and comments when the office is closed for business.



New User Guide Look



This year's User Guide has had a major overhaul and a brand new look. Complete with last year's fantastic map, the 2017-2018 HUG shows off Hullett Marsh in all its glory with full colour pages, hunting information, nature, history and a new, and improved, birding checklist. We are very proud with how this year's User Guide turned out and we hope you like it as much as we do.

Summerhill Privy

Plans to reconstruct the Summerhill Privy, located at Parking lot 40905, is underway. After being torn down due to safety uses, this privy will be reconstructed like its sister on the Sugarbush Parking lot (80602). Construction of this important privy will start in the fall of 2017.



Social Butterflies of Hullett Marsh

FOH has many ways of staying connected to its members and users.

Website: Since the launch of our new website two springs back, it has continued to grow and help Hullett users get more information on the marsh. The website, however, is not perfect. If you find any issues or conflicting information please bring it to the attention of FOH so we can fix it. Visit us at: www.hullettmarsh.com



Facebook: When it comes to receiving up-to-date information on the marsh, nothing beats our facebook page. Trivia Tuesdays, event updates, daily finds and activities of FOH are just some of the things you will find on our Facebook Page.

<https://www.facebook.com/HullettMarsh/>



Instagram: Our Instagram account is a fun way to share daily photos of what FOH is doing. Straight from the eyes of the Hullett staff to its loyal followers.

Volunteer at Hullett

The Friends of Hullett are always seeking volunteers to help us manage the marsh. This fall, Mallard tubes need to be retrieved, hunting stakes # signs need replacing, trails need maintenance, tools need sharpening, invasive species need monitoring, signs and posts need painting, map boxes stocked and help is always needed for upcoming events. These and many other tasks need to be done, and with only two staff members, it is a difficult task.

Volunteers are welcome on any day of the week and it's a great way to get school volunteer hours and skills for your resume. Retired and sick of twiddling your thumbs? Come out and patrol the marsh, learn what we do here and join the people that keep this jewel sparkling.

Whether you can donate half an hour or a day of your time, every bit helps.

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. We would love to have you.



2018

Photo Contest

We want to see your pictures of Hullett Marsh!

From nature walks to family fun, scenery, wildlife, and hunting shots, Hullett wants to see your best.

1st Place Winner receives a FREE Hullett Membership AND their winning photo in the next User Guide

2nd – 6th Place Winners receive their winning photos on the cover of the next User Guide

Images must:

- Depict safe practices
- Not contain gore
- Contain the name of the person entering the photo (John_Smith.jpg for example)

Send us your pictures of Hullett Marsh to fohoffice@tcc.on.ca

By entering your photos, you are giving FOH the right to use them (with photo credit given to you)





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