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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.



Photo Credit: Paul Parsons

The Board of Directors Overview

Hello FOH members and friends:

I would like to thank the BOD, staff and most importantly, **Hullett Volunteers** for their hard work this past winter in helping FOH get to this point.

Winter has finally retreated here at the marsh and spring has sprung after some major weather events. With the help of volunteers and waterfowlers, Hullett staff have completed all necessary Duck box and Mallard tube work. FOH has joined forces with **Delta Waterfowl** for an expansion of the Mallard tube program in Zone B (Pg. 5).

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

FOH has acquired student funding through the Canada Summer Jobs program along with provincial funding under the SEO program. These programs 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 27**. This is an opportunity to come and meet your FOH Board of Directors as well as to update members on upcoming events, projects, and to vote for 3 open positions on the Board of Directors. Please refer to Page 3 for further details on the AGM.

Duane Inkpen
Chairman
Board of Directors

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. A majority of these species are listed as Species at Risk in Ontario.

FOH would like to remind you to please brake for all wildlife found on our roadways.

Horse Access

Hullett Marsh is a beautiful area and from the back of your equine partner it is 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 and can be dangerous for horses. This is why we do not permit horses in Zone A between October 1 and May 1.

Please abide by the set rules and regulations to help maintain the HPWA and reduce wearing of the trails and dyke systems.

Bald 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 10 eaglets have fledged since the spring of 2013. Please respect the privacy of the eagles and the perimeter around the nest site during the posted time period.



February 1st to June 15th

Early Birds Get The Worms

Congratulations goes out to the three lucky winners of our Early Bird Draw from the FOH Dinner Fundraiser:

Glenn Carey of Hamilton Ontario
A \$50.00 Gift Certificate to the Albion Hotel

Bruce Wilbee and Jeff Stewart
2 Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH) Adult Annual Membership

FOH Charity Dinner & Auction

May 6th, 2018 marked the date of our 5th Annual Charity Dinner and Auction. This important fundraiser has grown in popularity since inception in 2014. Due to this demand, the venue was moved to the **Bluewater Golf Course** (BGC) clubhouse in Bayfield, ON increasing seating capacity from 60 to 85 seats.

The sell-out crowd enjoyed a fine dinner prepared by Chef Devin Tabor of **Bon Vivant Catering** featuring pheasant supplied by **Uplands Pheantry**. With so many generous donations, over 40 door prizes were provided which led to lots of excitement!

Well over \$13,000 was raised! This money will help fund infrastructure as well as programs at the marsh that the public expects, including the costly "Pheasant Release".

A big thanks to our sponsors **Derek and Krista Jefferson** of BGC for the use of their clubhouse and their staff for setting up the event. Also **Richard Lobb** of Clinton who has volunteered his auctioneering services for the 5th year in a row. **Greg from Clinton Sporting Goods** provided 4 great firearms that were exciting additions to the auction and raffles! Thank you also to **Sheila Pritchard** of the Huron County Focus/Clinton News Record for providing an article to promote the fundraising event.

Many thanks goes out to all dinner attendees, the generous donations and also the volunteer's who helped make this event possible.



Coming and Going

Hello FOH Membership. My name is Greg Urquhart and I am honoured to be working as your new GIS and Wildlife Technician for the Hullett Marsh.

My professional background involves me attending Fleming College studying Fish and Wildlife for 2 years, along with an additional year to receive a post graduate certificate in Aquaculture. Throughout my career, I have been working within the Fish and Wildlife field all across Ontario. I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with Scott, the Board of Directors, as well as the FOH membership.

If you would like to know more about me, or have a question regarding the marsh, please feel free to contact me or come down to the Annual General Meeting!

Greg Urquhart- GIS and Wildlife Technician

FOH would like to thank Raeshawn Parsons for all her work she has done throughout her contract and wish her well in her future endeavours.



Hey everyone! My name is Cassie Eveland and I am very excited to spend the next 16 weeks working at Hullett Marsh as the Recreation and Event Coordinator.

I have worked the previous four summers at Pinery Provincial Park as a Naturalist with a specialty in the Common Five-lined Skink (Ontario's only lizard!). I am currently attending Wilfrid Laurier University for my Bachelor of Education and I have a passion for all things outdoors, especially education and recreation.

If you ever have spare time and would like to volunteer at Hullett, I will be the person to contact (fohoffice@tcc.on.ca). I hope you all have an awesome summer and I look forward to seeing and meeting you all!

Cassie Eveland – Recreation and Event Coordinator

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 state of phragmites 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 of falcons and birds of prey by Shore Bird Control's, Mike Shore.

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 three(3) Board of Directors (BOD) positions will take place on **Sunday, May 27, 2018**. To run for the BOD you must be a member of the FOH and you are 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 27, 2018. The meeting will be held at the HPWA Office Complex, located at 41378 Hydro Line Road outside of Clinton. 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 –*Ryan Bayne, FOH Treasurer*
4. Report from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry- *Lorrain Moir, Partnership Specialist*
5. Report from the Friends of Hullett Board
6. Presentation of Vanessa Palmer Award-*Scott Austin*
7. Questions, Comments and Suggestions from members
8. Election of officers to the Board of Directors
9. **Guest Presentation:** Mike Shore from Shore Bird Control with a Falconry experience
10. Free Barbeque Lunch (YUM!)

Species Profile

Eastern Hognosed Snake *Heterodon platirhinos*

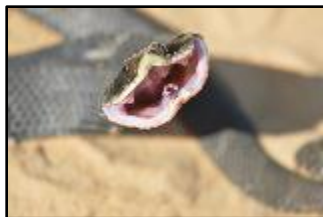
The Eastern Hognosed Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*) is one of many Ontario snakes; unfortunately it is also one of Ontario's many species at risk (SAR), listed as a threatened species. The hognosed snake has faced many



adversities in Southern Ontario including habitat loss as well as fragmentation and persecution by humans. Often, this snake can create cases of fear

mongering within humans due to its cobra-like appearance and attitude. In fact, they will act exactly like a sassy three year old child in many ways!

When first approached, the hognosed will puff up, flatten its neck and stand its ground (just imagine a cobra (or a three year old) in your head and you will get the picture). When you continue to approach the snake, they will hiss and open their mouths to make you think they are about to strike at you. Do not fear, because this snake will not strike, and if it does it will do so with its mouth closed since it *has no teeth!* Well, that is a lie, they do have osthoglyphous teeth at the back of their mouths, but this is only to aid in eating their favourite and only snack, toads! More often than striking, these snakes will resort to playing dead as their second option of protection (just like a three year old, they know they are not actually that tough). However, in nature, there are a lot of animals that



love to be lazy and often eat carion (dead things), so to protect themselves from these scary animals the hognosed snake has one last self defense mechanism...

Can you guess what it is?

These snakes, while playing dead, will begin to up-chuck their last meal, defecate, and then roll in this smelly, gross pile of yuckiness. *Ew!*

All in all, these snakes are impressive self-defense masters who really need our help. Their population is expanding (*woo!*) and may soon encompass the Hullett Marsh area! Keep your eyes peeled for these fascinating creatures and let the Hullett Marsh staff know if you have *any* cool sightings- we love to hear about them. Happy herping!

**All pictures of hognosed snakes courtesy of Ryan Wolfe, Ontario Nature*

March Break Event

For all of those that are associated with school, March Break is a time to vacation, relax, help out the family, or work till you drop?

This past March Break, Hullett received help from local students: Kenna Somerset, Dom Snell, Quinn Collins, as well as dedicated volunteers Lauren VanderWal and Andrew Somerset, who all helped Friends of Hullett for a three day stretch. Day 1 involved dead Ash (*Fraxinus spp.*) removal from the sugarbush, back-breaking wood stacking and lots of log splitting. Day 2 was a mix monotonous clerical work and pine shaving seiving along with Bluebird box removal, barn work, and equipment maintenance.

The final day resulted in the cleaning of the last duck boxes and checking the status of all the owl boxes in the HPWA. In return, FOH staff cooked up a hotdog lunch each day (needless to say everyone was hotdog'd out by the last day), provided volunteer hours for school, experience for their resumes, and good company.

Thanks to these volunteers, FOH staff were able to finish a hand full of jobs and cross them off the ever-growing to-do list. To all our volunteers, thank you.



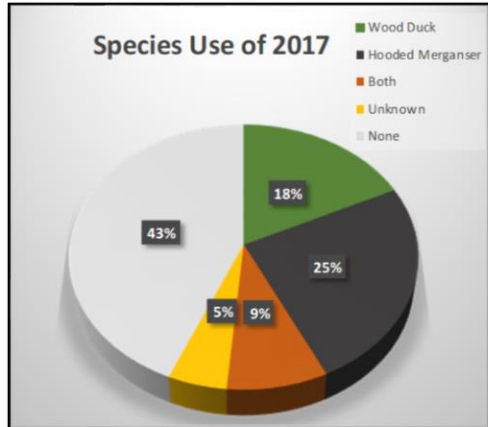
Photo credits: Jory Mullen

2017 Nesting Report

The past year has been an exciting time for the various nesting programs that Hullett maintains, especially for the Duck Box and Mallard Tube nesting programs. This past winter, the marsh saw excellent ice conditions which provided staff and volunteers with ample opportunity to efficiently and effectively maintain both the Boxes and Tubes. During this time, the Hullett Marsh Waterfowlers Association (HMWA) took the opportunity to move 6 Mallard Tubes from unsuccessful nesting locations to areas which have shown a higher nesting rate. This has been done in an attempt to achieve greater overall success with the Mallard Tube program. These relocations could not have been reasonable to attempt without the collection of detailed data over multiple nesting seasons by staff and volunteers. This data has provided us with an invaluable insight into the nesting habits of ducks in the marsh.

Duck Box Success

In the 2017 nesting season, the Friends of Hullett observed a 52% usage rate within the Duck Boxes. There were a total of 141 boxes in the marsh during the 2017 nesting season, 73 of which were used by ducks (either Wood Ducks or Hooded Mergansers).



Mallard Tube Success

In the 2017 nesting season, the Friends of Hullett observed a 21% usage rate within the Mallard Tubes. There were a total of 43 tubes in the marsh during the 2017 nesting season, 9 of which were used by ducks. Mallard Tubes also provide nesting opportunities for both Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal.

2017 Nesting Report

Delta Tubes

Along with the current and existing Mallard Tubes, 14 additional Tubes were donated by none-other than Delta Waterfowl. These 14 new tubes, which are slightly different in design compared to the FOH/DUC tubes, are owned by Delta Waterfowl but are cared for and monitored along with the current Mallard Tubes at Hullett; the more, the merrier! The majority of these tubes have been installed in the satellite ponds found in Zone B. This provides the marsh with extensive Mallard Tube coverage and we are hopeful that it will increase the number of ducks in the flyway this season.

The Friends of Hullett and the HMWA are dedicated to increasing nesting success and duck populations within the marsh and will continue to collect data, improve our nesting programs, and foster relationships with like-minded organizations to accomplish these goals.

Chris Ambrose

***Hullett Marsh Waterfowlers Association
Board of Director***



2018 Photo Contest Results

The results are in and the winners have been selected. 65 photos were submitted to the 2nd annual Photo Contest with photos from hunting to snowshoeing to bouncing dogs. Thank you everyone for their submissions. Here are the results.

1st Place: Wayne & Nancy Denham



2nd Place: David Stevenson



3rd place: Ken Smith



4th Place: Lauren VanderWal



5th Place: Pauline McIssac



6th Place: Shari Parsons



7th Place: Natasha Colling



Support The Marsh

It has often been said that Hullett Marsh runs on its volunteers and members. The countless hours spent helping FOH staff helps make Hullett the gem it is. However, we do understand that you can not always find the time to volunteer and many people live hours away but do not worry there are always ways to help FOH and HPWA without even setting foot on the property.

- Donating tools, money, materials and raffle prizes
- Assisting in writing reports, documents, and articles for the user guide and newsletters
- Following us and sharing our posts on Facebook and Instagram
- Participating in events such as Trivia Tuesday and our annual Photo Contests
- Purchasing our Pheasant Challenge raffle tickets (when available)
- Supplying us with photos of the marsh and report on suspicious activity

Social Seedlings of Hullett

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

Website: Since the launch of our new website two springs ago, it has continued to grow and help Hullett users get more information on the marsh. Every week the website is being updated with new information, pages and problems fixed. The website is far from perfect and it is with help from viewers like you that issues come to our attention. If you find an issue please email 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 Tuesday, 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 (hullett_marsh) 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.

Volunteering

The Friends of Hullett are always seeking volunteers to help us manage the marsh. This spring, Bluebird boxes need major work, trails need maintenance, tools need sharpening, winter wood needs collecting, map boxes need labelling and the barn can always use a sprucing up. These and many other tasks need to be done and with only two staff members, it can be difficult.

Volunteers are welcome on any day of the week and it is 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, we have something for everyone. More of a stay-at-home person? No problem! Reports, articles, and other electronic jobs are a great way to help out the FOH without leaving your house.

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.





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