

From The Directors

Hello FOH members and friends. I would like to thank the BOD, staff and most importantly, **Hullett Volunteers** for their past efforts throughout 2017 and into the new year.

This winter has been beautiful here at the marsh and has made for some fantastic ice conditions. Cold temperatures keep the marsh frozen enough for our staff and volunteers to get out and maintain the many nesting structures we have at Hullett, as well as gather the necessary data to determine the success of each structure. As you may have seen from the pictures posted on Instagram and Facebook, some of the findings are quite surprising.

We are happy to report that Scott Austin has accepted his contract for 2018 and will continue to guide summer students and volunteers for the year. Scott has also been seeking sources of potential funding for “good fit” students. These students will assist in the many tasks around the office and property.

At present, we have Raeshawn Parsons who is continuing as our GIS and Wildlife Technician until the end of March. We have applied for funding in the hopes of hiring another Summer Maintenance Supervisor and Event/Fundraising Coordinator.

In closing, I hope to see many of you at the upcoming **AGM on Sunday May 27**. At the AGM, we will be able to report on present and future projects and programs at HPWA, as well as update the members on financial and operational issues. This is also the time in which the FOH members have the opportunity to participate in the democratic process and vote for the 3 open positions on the FOH Board of Directors.

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



Found at the bottom of each page.

Pheasant Challenge and Raffle

FOH would like to thank everyone who supported the Pheasant Challenge by purchasing tickets in 2017. Special thanks goes out to **Ideal Supply, Upland Pheasantry, Clinton Sporting Goods** and to those select few who volunteered their time to help with the releases. It is only with the combined efforts of ticket sales and hardworking volunteers and staff that the Pheasant Release is possible. Thanks to everyone's support, \$3900 was raised in tickets sales alone, an increase from the \$3160 in 2016.

One thousand Ring-necked Pheasants were released between September and December at staggered intervals to allow the birds a fighting chance. Congratulations to the hunters and dogs that got a bird as well as to the crafty birds that got away.

Every year, **Ideal Supply** graciously donates a Generac 2000-watt portable generator to the FOH Pheasant Challenge as the grand prize. This year the generator was partnered with an additional prize, purchased from **Clinton Sporting Goods**: A Savage 555 20ga Over/Under Shotgun.

Ideal Supply also donated camouflage hats for the band prizes. Each year, 10% of the 1000 birds released are banded and when hunters have a Pheasant Challenge ticket and show the band to FOH staff, they receive one of these hats. Of the 100 banded birds released only 29 bands were reported to FOH.

BOD Chris Ambrose met with winners of the 2017 Pheasant Challenge. Congratulations to **Devin Tabor of Clinton, ON** for winning the generator and **Wyatt Murray of Stratford, ON** for the grand prize shotgun. Congratulations and enjoy your prizes!



Youth Pheasant Hunt

Once again HPWA was the host property for the Huron/Perth YPH on November 18. **This popular event is very important in the development of young hunters between the ages of 12 and 15.** The YPH volunteers organize the entire event. Firearm safety, hunter ethics, shooting skills and bird cleaning were just some of the many topics.



Though it threatened to rain all week, luck prevailed and the Youth Pheasant Hunters didn't see rain until the very last hour. Thanks goes out to all the volunteers that helped to make this event safe, educational and one to remember.



FOH Charity Dinner & Auction

The Friends of Hullett Spring Fundraiser is here again! 2018 will be the fifth year this important event has been held and FOH plans to make it just as good as the ones in the past. This exclusive event will be held on **Sunday, May 6** and will begin with a reception at 4 pm followed by dinner at 5:30 pm and a live auction at 7 pm.

A special thank you goes to Kim Muszynski for his many years of support at the Albion Hotel. Kim has now sold the Albion and is enjoying his retirement.

There have been changes in venue to this event as it is now being hosted at Bluewater Golf Course in Bayfield, ON. Due to the popularity of this event, 25 additional seats have been added to the original 60.

There are **85 seats** available for the event and amazing food and prizes to be had including a silent auction. If you are interested in attending or supporting the event please contact Friends of Hullett at 519-482-7011 or by email fohoffice@tcc.on.ca.

Tickets include your FOH membership, on sale now!



Early Bird Prizes

Purchase your ticket by Friday, March 23rd and you will be automatically entered to win one of two Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH) memberships and a \$50.00 gift certificate to the Albion Hotel as a draw prize.

To continue with the success of past years we are seeking **your help** in the collection and donation of prizes for the live and silent auctions. **Charitable tax receipts will be provided for all donations.**



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 and other invasive species, as well as the status of the Summerhill Privy. 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 (to be announced).

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 (3) three 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
- 4/ Report from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- 5/ Report from the Friends of Hullett Board
- 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 (YUM!)



Phragmites of 2017

Phragmites australis, an extremely invasive plant, has been a hot topic with Friends of Hullett in the past few years. In 2017, thanks to funding from the Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Program (MNRF), Friends of Hullett was able to start making progress on its Phragmites removal and management project.

Before herbicide spraying could occur, hours of mapping and data collection had to be performed. Staff and volunteers collected detailed information on over 130 stands of Phragmites at Hullett Marsh with some spanning over 90 metres long. This data was then logged into a Geographical Information System, or GIS, database where maps were made to track problem areas, stands sprayed, density, best access and so on.

The majority of data collected was on land access stands such as those found on the dyke systems or road ditches. Many aquatic stands have been found but due to access limitation and no over-water herbicide available, most stands in the pools and ponds are still undiscovered and lacking in detailed information. Even with these current limitations, 2017 saw 49% of all known stands sprayed with herbicide, equaling approximately 7.26 acres. In 2018, Friends of Hullett plan to assess all the sprayed stands for growth and continue to work away to help manage the phrag problem at the marsh.



The Call For Photos



Everyone always says a picture is worth a thousand words and for Hullett Marsh, it is no different.

Whether it be on the Hullett website, social media or funding applications, Friends of Hullett is always using photos to portray how diverse and beautiful HPWA really is.

Thanks to the staff, volunteers and members FOH has many photos in its database. Events, volunteer work, hunting, and landscapes make up the bulk of the photos that we have on hand. But if you have been to the marsh, you know this is not all we have to offer. Hullett Marsh is a magnificent piece of crown land and a beautiful example of what can happen when human ingenuity and nature work together. At Hullett Marsh, you can horseback ride while bird watching, snowshoe while geocaching and hunt while hiking.

FOH is on the hunt for photos taken at Hullett of the following:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Horseback riding | Birdwatching |
| Snowshoeing | Snowmobiling |
| Skiing | Canoe/kayaking |
| Geocaching | Other activities |

You can submit your photos to our Photo Contest. These can be photos from this year or previous years.

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't always find the time to volunteer and many people live hours away but don't worry there are always ways to help FOH and HPWA without even setting foot on the property.

- Donate tools, money, materials and raffle prizes
- Assist in writing reports, documents and articles for the user guide and newsletters
- Follow us and share our posts on Facebook and Instagram
- Participate in events such as Trivia Tuesday and our Photo Contest
- Purchase our Pheasant Challenge raffle tickets (when available)



Nesting Projects at Hullett



Friends of Hullett has four nesting projects within the marsh. These projects help to monitor, attract and support a variety of life - not just the target species of birds. Non-target species of insects, reptiles, mammals, birds, even plants and microorganisms use these nest boxes in their daily lives. In 2017, the Eastern Bluebird nestbox program went under major changes. Many boxes in the past have been placed in non-ideal

habitat locations, resulting in very few bluebirds. Other boxes were missing, difficult to monitor, off property or damaged beyond repair. Since 2004, Hullett has been trying to monitor over 250 bluebird boxes and with very few volunteers and resources available the project has fallen behind. Thanks to the staff and volunteers, the bluebird project has undergone the much-needed updating. New posts have been pounded, old boxes have been removed and 250 boxes have turned into 152 boxes.

As shown in the picture above, Hullett also have Eastern Screech-owl nest boxes. This small species of owl nests and over-winters in tree cavities created by woodpeckers or, in this case, by humans. 38 of these boxes are found in Hullett Marsh and are monitored during the winter. Keep an eye out for these large boxes on the trails and report to FOH any that have fallen down.



Wood Duck boxes and Mallard tubes are maybe the most important nesting structures at the marsh, helping the population of these commonly hunted birds.

All 145 Wood Duck boxes found at Hullett are located near water. Like the Screech-owl and Bluebird, Wood Ducks are cavity nesters as are Hooded Mergansers who also use the boxes for nesting.

Mallards, on the other hand, are typically ground nesters but have grown accustomed to using mallard tubes. With grass for nesting, overhead cover and access to water, this structure is perfect for nesting mallards. 53 tubes are found at Hullett Marsh.

Ernie Tupholme



Ernie came by his love of firearms and hunting thank to his father, Gerry, and his uncles. He particularly enjoyed owning and using Browning firearms.

Ernie also passed his love of the outdoors, hunting and fishing on to his son and 2 daughters. He especially enjoyed taking his son on hunts for moose, northern deer, waterfowl and particularly local shotgun hunts for deer. In Ernie's last couple of years, he even took up pheasant hunting as his dear friends owned some hunting weimaraners.

His greatest contributions were as a member of W.S.S.C. (**Wellington Street Sportsman Club**, Dorchester, ON). As an active and instrumental member, he always committed his time to work at the club in any volunteer capacity needed. His number one pride at the club was his ability to organize the biggest fundraiser for the club, each year: The Annual Wild Game Dinner. He often sold 60% of the tickets for this event based on the wide circle of friends he had. Due to this and other major contributions, Ernie was also named Sportsman of the year at the club in 2008.

Ernie's true desire was to help people improve their shooting or get started. He helped hundreds of new shooters, mentoring them in the use of shotguns via trap shooting. Though his name on a few trophies at his home club, only those people that he helped teach proper shooting techniques will remember his enthusiasm and encouragement. Appropriately, a month after his passing last year, a memorial shoot was held in his honour and over \$1000 was raised for Hullett Marsh and was used toward the Youth Waterfowl Clinic.

A gentleman and a true friend to those that love hunting and the outdoors is sadly missed by those of us who were lucky enough to know him.

Written by Susan Rueger



Supporter Spotlight: Nature's Nest

Friends of Hullett, as said many times, runs on its volunteers as well as its supporters. Many businesses have helped to support FOH and Hullett Marsh through the years with donations, advertising, fundraisers and product deals.



Since 2013, Jenn & Tim Elliott have been promoting their family run business, Nature's Nest, by purchasing a spot in our Hullett User Guide. For those that do not know, Nature's Nest is located in Londesborough and is one of the best places to purchase quality bird seed and suet as well as other garden necessities. This is not just your run-of-the-mill bird seed, this is locally blended ingredients that ensure quality, freshness, affordability and personal touches. They formulate their mixtures to entice your favourite avian neighbours or repel nuisance critters, like squirrels and raccoons.

Thanks to the businesses and people like Tim and Jenn, Friends of Hullett is able to produce quality user guides for everyone to enjoy. So next time your birds need some yummy seed, why not consider Nature's Nest and support the Hullett Supporters?



Winter Activities

'Tis the season for hot chocolate, snowmen and winter fun. With snow and ice comes many opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors and nowhere is it better than Hullett Marsh (in our humble opinion). During the winter months, FOH staff clears snow in the 40672 Hydro Line Road parking lot and the 80602 Wildlife Line parking lot to allow access to the Hullett trail systems. These trails are fantastic for:

- ❄️ Snowshoeing
- ❄️ Skiing
- ❄️ Horseback riding
- ❄️ Photography
- ❄️ Hiking
- ❄️ Critter Tracking
- ❄️ Geocaching (depending on the cache)



SNOWMOBILES

Hullett Marsh also has registered Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club (OFSC) trails which is the only place in Hullett you can operate a snowmobile.

Snowmobiles leaving the marked OFSC trail create a safety concern and disturb wintering wildlife as well as other users of the property.

To learn more about OFSC visit: <http://www.ofsc.on.ca/>



Even though it is winter it doesn't mean that Hullett Marsh or FOH shuts down. In fact, winter is when many duck projects are performed. If you want to try your hand at snowmobiling why not volunteer to help out with Screech-owl boxes, Wood Duck Boxes or Mallard tubes.

If you prefer staying warmer, why not help roll and stuff Mallard Tubes or repair Bluebird Boxes before they are put back out?

Please remember that snow and ice can hide hazards such as holes, slippery rocks and branches. Pond and pool ice can be unpredictable due to the shallow nature of the areas. Be aware of where you are at all times and be prepared.



Built, Busted & Fixed

BUILT:

This winter, FOH has had many new additions. One of the most noticeable is the new office deck, built by our new neighbour, Rueben, who braved some of the worst winter weather to get it done. This deck aids in keeping rain and snow from the office entrance, which has been damaging the doorway. It will also serve as an outdoor mudroom which will reduce shoe and boot clutter from the office entrance.

The promise for a new, accessible privy on Summerhill road is becoming a reality. Installation of the septic tank and removal of the old damaged one has been approved and installed. \$4,000 of funding money from Central Huron Donation Fund has also been approved to help with the cost of this important project. Soon Hullett Marsh will be running with 2 brand new, accessible privies that will all have working doors.

Volunteers at Hullett Marsh are a precious resource. Sometimes FOH even gets surprises from our volunteers like this handcrafted user guide and donation box. Thanks to Teresa and Conaire for the crafting of these weatherproof map boxes.

The box with the donation addition has already been installed under the Ducks Unlimited map in the Office Complex. Visitors looking for information, user guides and a place to make a donation can use this when staff are out of the office.



BUSTED:

One of FOH's owl boxes has been decommissioned after being shot to bits while used as target practice. This successful box may or may not be replaced. Shame on the vandal.



FIXED:

With the Summerhill Privy under construction, the Sugar Bush Privy is vital to the comfort of Hullett's visitors. Unfortunately, something happened to the door and no amount of poking and prodding would open it. Thankfully the knob has now been replaced and upgraded to a handle. This will make the door much easier to open as well as make it safer to use. We are sorry for the inconvenience this may have caused.

Next time you visit the Sugarbush parking lot, take a gander at the FOH bulletin board for Hullett news and upcoming events. Consider donating spare change to the

brand new donation tube. A loonie here and quarter there has already raised \$106 in donations from our generous users. It just goes to show that every little bit counts.



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. 8 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




Social Snowflakes 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 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 winter, Mallard tubes need to be retrieved and stuffed, Bluebird boxes need fixing, Duck boxes need maintenance, tools need sharpening, winter wood needs collecting, map boxes need labeling 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'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, 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.



2018

Photo Contest





We want to see your pictures of Hullett Marsh!

From nature walks , family fun and everything in between, FOH wants to see your best. New or old, member or not, show us what makes Hullett great to you.

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:

-  Must be in Hullett Marsh
-  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

Draw date and Deadline is:

March 31, 2018

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