

HULLETT NEWS



FALL 2018

Board of Directors

Overview

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to invite you to read and enjoy the entirety of the Friends of Hullett Fall Newsletter.

The summer, much like all others, has been extremely busy for staff. The Hullett User Guide production is complete and filled with new content for all to explore. If it is your first time visiting the marsh, or if you are a new member, please take the time to review the user guide and its rules/regulations. As well, if you are an active Hullett user, please take the time to note any changes on the map as well as in the regulations as changes have occurred. Please do not hesitate to visit our new and improved mobile friendly website for more information concerning the marsh. The link can be found at the bottom of each page in the Newsletter.

A major component of the BOD is managing a large agricultural contract which, along with generous donations and funding from the public as well as various companies, provides the funds for maintenance of the marsh, grounds, and buildings. As well, these funds provide opportunities for new and exciting projects and the hiring of employees.

Hullett Marsh is partnered with the OMNRF and Ducks Unlimited Canada, along with the Board of Directors who continue to manage this amazing 2,200-hectare wetland complex. The success of our operations depend on much more than the three senior partners. Our employees 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 may 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 that it encourages you to participate in Marsh activities. Please feel free to contact Hullett staff at any time to find out how you can help! Also click any of the links at the bottom of the page to be directed to their affiliated locations.

Duane Inkpen
Chairman
Board of Directors



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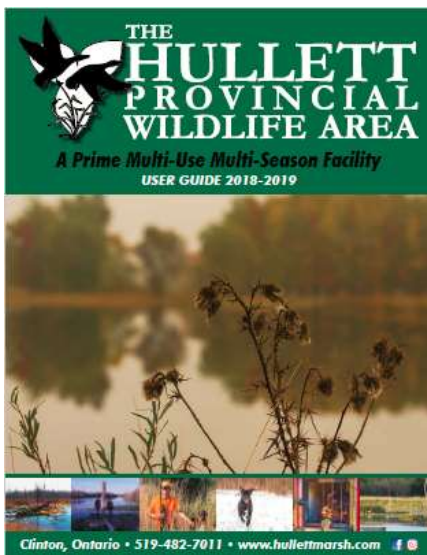
- Membership Form



Funding

Central Huron Donation Fund

Hullett Marsh strongly depends upon funding from outside authorities. For a number of years, the Central Huron Donation Fund has provided significant funds towards Hullett Marsh and 2018 was no different. This year, we asked and received from Central Huron, **\$960** towards a new iPad. As well as **\$1,640** to assist in the production of our new Hullett User Guide. The iPad was purchased at the beginning of Summer and proved to be an excellent tool for all staff. It allowed for communications outside of the office complex universally. It also proved to be helpful with interpretive programming and organization of volunteers. We will continue to use this device to better our communications internally and externally. The funding towards the User Guide allowed us to print an additional 2,000 User Guides. The Marsh is experiencing a high amount of day-use visitors and the additional User Guides are essential to ensure there is no shortage! The Friends of Hullett would like to thank Central Huron for their generous donation which will help improve the overall community surrounding Hullett Marsh.



Phragmites Removal

Phragmites or Common Reed is an aggressive invasive wetland species that has been a constant struggle within the marsh. In 2017, Eric Giles and the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority came into the marsh and sprayed a number of sites out of water with Round-Up using proper permits. FOH got additional funding to spray once again in 2018. On July 27, Giles and his team, along with our GIS and Wildlife Technician Greg, worked hard all day completing mop-up. Spraying the sites from 2017 which had new growth once again. In addition, new sites along the Mallard Pool were targeted as the water had been drawn down in this Pool. In addition to Giles, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority combatted a number of new and dense stands in 2018. There are no approved chemicals for spraying Phragmites in water and therefore a number of stands still remain. The spraying in 2017 was extremely successful and with the additional spraying in 2018, out of water sites are nearly cleared. FOH will continue to monitor the growth of old and new stands and hope to eliminate this species from the marsh to better the habitat for all waterfowl and native plants.



Summer Students Julia and Luke make paths through 12ft tall Phragmites to assist in the spraying.

Turtle Nest Protectors

During 2018, turtle egg predation was found to be an issue within Hullett Marsh. Friends of Hullett has recieved funding from Huron Fish and Game to manufacture turtle nest protectors. These protectors will be placed over turtle nest found to ensure eggs are not predated. Manufacturing of these protectors will begin in the winter months. Keep an eye on your email for future work days occurring to build nest protectors.

Summer Students

This summer we were lucky to receive funding both provincially and federally for three summer students. Julia Beaven and Luke Forbes worked tirelessly around the marsh as our high school students. General maintenance such as: pruning, painting, and assisting in any way that they could, always with a smile on their faces! We also hired Cassie Eveland as our Recreation and Event Coordinator. She spent her time coordinating volunteers, creating the Hullett User Guide, redesigning the website, which is now mobile friendly, working on general paperwork as well as implementing various interpretive events! We would like to thank our summer students for all of their hard work, it was an amazing summer! The marsh has never looked as good as it did this summer!

Road Maintenance

We would like to thank Central Huron for their donation of 500 tonnes of gravel and all the work they did! Burns Line, Conservation Road and Front Road are extremely smooth and look amazing! This work was necessary for all Hullett Users to ensure safe roads.

Parking Lot Maintenance

Our summer students and regular staff worked extremely hard during an entire week to completely redo parking lot 40536 Conservation Road. All barriers were re-dug and posts replaced.

Also a large thank you to all volunteers who spent their time painting all old parking barriers throughout the marsh. The barriers are now bright and bold!

Donation's Update

After struggling for years, the Friends of Hullett are proud to announce that our **PayPal** account is up and running! You can pay membership fees, making a general donation or buy a minimum of **four** Pheasant Challenge tickets through the account! Click the PayPal button below to make a donation!



Annual General Meeting



On Sunday May 27th, the Friends of Hullett held the Annual General Meeting. This meeting is open to the public and allows for a meet and greet with staff and the Board of Directors. It is also a chance for the membership of Hullett to meet one another and hear an update on the marsh as well as the work being done. This year we had special guest **Mike Shore** from **Shore Bird Control**, bring a number of his raptors for an amazing experience learning about his work! Guests also had a wonderful BBQ provided by the Friends of Hullett. Thank you to everyone who made it out to this event. It was a success and we enjoyed seeing everyone!

Vanessa Palmer Award

On the day of the Annual General Meeting we also took the time to recognize a very talented woman. The Vanessa Palmer Award is a scholarship given yearly to a student that exhibits an awareness of the environment through achievement or contribution. This year's winner was extremely deserving and provided the AGM attendees with a wonderful speech on the importance of such award. Since being the successful candidate, this individual has volunteered countless times at Hullett, even helping with the Birding Hayride in June.

Congratulations:

Dana Latour

Friends of Hullett would like to extend our sincerest gratitude out to the Latour family for all of their volunteering around the marsh!



Species Profile

Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*)

Previously known as the Little Brown Bat, the LBM is a species we have all seen but know little about. Identifying these little bats can be difficult as they are nocturnal (active at night), and look very similar to Big Brown Bats and Northern Long-eared Bats. The only difference is a small flap of skin protecting the LBM's ears. The smallest of Canada's 19 bat species, the LBM weighs similar to a Loonie or Toonie but has a wingspan of 22-27 centimetres.

What makes bats so special is their ability to echolocate. In order to 'see', the LBM pulses out high-frequency sounds that creates a returning echo when something is in their way. This sound is too high of a frequency for human ears. However, although bat's echolocate, this does not mean they do not have any vision. In fact, the LBM has vision almost identical to that of humans! Meaning the saying "blind as a bat" is the same as saying "blind as a human"!

Unfortunately, the LBM, once the most common species of bat, is now considered Endangered, both provincially and federally. The significant reduction in population is due to a highly contagious fungus known as White Nose Syndrome (WNS) (picture on right). This fungus absorbs the LBM's fat stores during hibernation and forces the bat to wake up from hibernation early in search of food and water. However, when waking early they use even more energy and then cannot find water or food and eventually become so dehydrated and starved it kills them. This is an introduced disease from Europe, brought over by cave explorers who did not properly wash their gear. To help the LBM, if you are in a highly-populated hibernation area, make sure you wash all gear (including: boots, coats, backpacks, etc.) thoroughly!



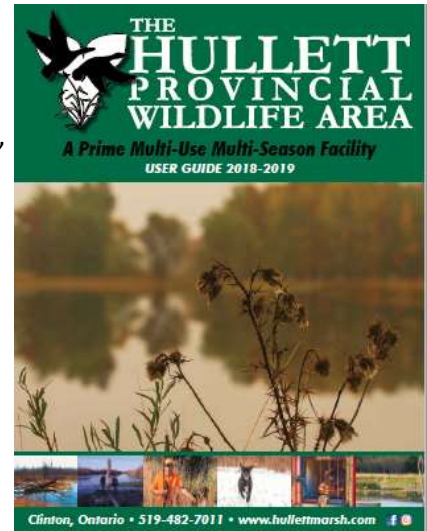
Photo Credits: Matt Reinbold

Photo Credits: USFWS Midwest Region

Hullett User Guide

The 2018-2019 Hullett User Guide is always a daunting task to complete each year. With the help of our Recreation and Event Coordinator, our User Guide went to production earlier than expected and turned out great! We would like to thank all of those who helped with this process! **Blyth Printers** for their design and printing, **Tony Latour** for his informative article, and

to all of our sponsors:
Nahuel Painting, Bayfield
Berry Farm, Kates Station,
Exeter Game Farm,
Munro Honey,
MicroAge Basics,
Bluewater Taxidermy,
Natures Nest, Clinton
Sporting Goods, Ideal
Supply, Youth Pheasant
Hunt, Artech, Dale
Group, VanDriel
Excavating Inc,
Kelly Auto Service, Maelstrom Winery, Huron County Crime
Stoppers, Central Huron, Huron Fish and Game Club and
Ducks Unlimited Canada!



Water Levels

Ducks Unlimited Canada have come into the Marsh and assessed the need for water level changes in the early summer. Drawdowns have occurred in the Mallard Pool and Pintail Pool. The Pintail Pool does maintain some water; however, the Mallard Pool is almost completely drained of water. These drawdowns occur to encourage various natural vegetation to germinate, produce seeds and create additional vegetation. This process is beneficial to duck populations in the future. We hope that these drawdowns will not affect the fall waterfowl hunt, however we do encourage hunters to recognize these water level drawdowns and the possibility of the hunting stakes having a changed habitat.

In addition to these drawdowns, Bluebill, Butterball and Bluewing was raised by 30cm of water. It is important to also recognize that this will also affect hunting stakes and hunters should be prepared to access their stakes through a variety of means.

Fall Hunting!

Pheasant Challenge & Release

With effective staff and being ahead of schedule, the Pheasant Challenge Tickets were printed earlier than normal! They can be purchased at the FOH Office by chance, through PayPal or e-transfer (minimum purchase of 3 tickets), Clinton Sporting Goods and local Ideal Supply stores. The prizes for the Challenge remain the same as last year. Tickets are \$10 and the draw will occur in early January. It is recommended that Pheasant hunters purchase tickets as the funds raised support the Pheasant Release every Fall.



The Pheasants, provided by Uplands Pheasantry, are purchased and waiting for Fall of 2018! As in past years, 10% of birds are banded. If hunters get a bird which is banded they are to contact the FOH Office to collect their prize. Pheasants are released at intervals throughout the hunting season without a schedule; Hullett staff release the birds when deemed necessary and are not authorized to inform hunters when or where the birds are released.

Pheasant Hunting is only permitted in Zone B!

Youth Pheasant Hunt

Each year the Huron-Perth Youth Pheasant Hunt uses the HPWA to conduct their annual hunt. This hunt is open to youth between the ages of 12 and 15.

The hunt for 2018 is on:

November 17, 2018

For more information on how to get involved, visit their website at:

www.loop-perthhuron.ca/youth.html

Youth Waterfowl Clinic

In September, Friends of Hullett hosted 10 youth participants in our 3rd annual Youth Waterfowl Clinic. This event is to help promote youth hunting, as well to celebrate National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day.

This year, our Youth Waterfowl Clinic was run over 2 weekends. September 8, youth participants were provided with an opportunity to learn about Hullett Marsh's Wood Duck and Mallard nesting programs. Youth participated in a nesting seminar, which provided learning opportunities on nesting structures, what to look for in a nesting structure, and how to determine a successful hatch, along with field work within Hullett Marsh.

September 14 and 15, youth were paired with mentors guiding them through their hunting experience. Firearm safety, ethics, waterfowl ID, decoy placement, concealment, calling and cleaning were the topics that youth learned about over these two days. This year's hunt proved to be very successful, with 30 ducks being harvested, including 6 different species.



Friends of Hullett would like to extend many thanks to all the organizations, volunteers, mentors, parents and youth for making these days possible. With their support, the Youth Waterfowl Clinic has been successful and will continue to be successful for years to come.



Hunting Regulations

Before Hunting in Hullett, please ensure you have read all Federal, Provincial and Local hunting regulations. We want to ensure the safety of all Hullett User's this hunting season!

Hold your CTRL key and click on the links to the right to be transported to the regulations coordinated with the title.

[Federal:](#)
[Provincial:](#)
[Local:](#)

Summer Events

We were lucky enough to have a Recreation and Event Coordinator for the summer with a Naturalist background who was able to put on a number of excellent summer programs, all which were highly attended with great feedback!

June 14th – Birding Hayride: A 7km hayride led by Cassie and our volunteers, Tony and Dana Latour. This was a fully booked event with an amazing variety of wildlife. Luckily for all attendee's, the mosquitos were not even that bad!

June 29th – Owl Prowl: despite beginning with a complete down-pour of much needed rain, 15+ people attended this event. Due to the rain, very little wildlife was heard or seen, however the fireflies were out in full force, lighting up the entire walk.

July 11, July 31 & August 20th – Huronview/Huronlee Driving Tour: A private tour of Hullett Marsh for individuals that may not get such experience everyday.

July 18th – August 22nd – Guided Hike Wednesday's: With a different topic each week, these programs got children engaged and inquiring into what they can find at Hullett Marsh.

August 10th – Presenting at Ausable Bayfield Conservation Area's Day Camp about homesteading and sustainable hunting practices.



August Work Days

August can quickly become one of the busiest months of the year as it is the month we must get ready for the up coming hunting seasons! The best time of the year, but always a hectic one. To ensure all tasks are completed in time, the FOH hosts a number of organized volunteer work days. This year they all fell on Saturdays: the 11th, 18th and 25th.

Due to weather and lack of volunteers, FOH was only able to plan for only August 18th. Volunteers and FOH staff were busy placing out walk-in stake markers, along with clearing paths to these stake for easier access for waterfowl hunters.

FOH relies heavily on their volunteers on these work days as there is always work that can be done throughout the marsh. If you interested in volunteering with Friends of Hullett, please feel free to contact us. Future workdays will be coming throughout the winter. Keep an eye on your email, Facebook or Instagram pages for future work days and volunteer opportunities.



Connect with Hullett Marsh

Hullett Marsh has prided itself on up keeping various forms of Social Media and other ways to communicate with our users! Stay up to date by checking our website, Facebook and Instagram. To be linked directly to these accounts, Press CTRL and click on the links in the footer of each page! Also consider becoming a member to receive Newsletters and other updates throughout the year!



Volunteering

Keeping up with daily maintenance and work around the marsh can be difficult with only two full-time staff! The FOH rely heavily on a strong support system filled with volunteers who give up their days to help work in the marsh. From young students to retiree's, there is always work for everyone! It is also a great way to complete high school community hours! This Fall and Winter will be extremely busy and volunteers are always needed.

Tasks that need to be completed this season include: Mallard tubes needing to be retrieved, patrols of all parking lots during the busy hunting seasons, monitoring of invasive species, and many other tasks!

Volunteers are welcome any day of the week, at any time, for however long you can stand a bit of work! This is a great way to get outside, to see the marsh, and to learn more about this amazing property.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the FOH office at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca or by calling 519-482-7011. We love having volunteers and look forward to seeing everyone out!



2019 Photo Contest!

Once again Hullett Marsh is requesting our users to submit their Hullett Marsh photos for a chance to be on the cover of our 2019-2020 User Guide! Follow our simple guideline and submit your photo with the best quality possible to fohoffice@tcc.on.ca!

Guidelines:

- Must be in Hullett Marsh
- Depict safe practices
- Not contain gore
- Contain the name of the person entering the photo contest as the title. (Example: John_Smith.jpg)

Draw date and deadline is
Marsh 31, 2018!

A Few Previous Winners





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

