

HULLETT NEWS



SPRING 2026

Board of Directors

Message from the Board

After another harsh winter, Friends of Hullett (FoH) are eager to get out and continue to make positive impacts on Hullett Marsh in 2026. *This year we'll be building on last years' accomplishments:* the prairie grass fields are continuing their transformation with support from **Ontario Nativescapes** and **over \$100,000 in funding from Wildlife Habitat Canada**, grant funding from the **Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters** will be used to help create more robust duck baiting systems, **Central Huron** is stepping up once again to support the creation of our User Guide, and funding from the **Invasive Species Centre** will be used to create a biochar kiln for upcycling woody invasive biomass. At the time of writing, FoH has begun developing several new programs, installed a new **Motus Audio** station, repaired roads and parking lot, and surveyed and serviced all Hullett's Mallard tubes and duck boxes! This year is sure to bring exciting new possibilities to Hullett and we can't wait to share them with you!

HPWA is a *multi-use property and respecting each other's activities safely is important*. FoH has published [hunting](#) and [hiking](#) "tip sheets" to help you research, understand and enjoy your visits! We hope to see you at the **Annual General Meeting on May 24** (page 4).

I would like to thank the volunteer Board of Directors, staff and most importantly, the membership and volunteers for their efforts and donations. This year's **Charity Dinner and Auction** is a testament to the commitment of our supporters – be sure to read more about it on page 6 of this newsletter!

Looking ahead to the summer, **Justin Johnson** and **Ben Elliott** are building a team of students and volunteers to work at the HPWA. **Emily Dearing** has returned once again to lead our maintenance team with **Ally Gibson** leading the creation of the 2026/2027 Hullett User Guide. These positions are funded in part by Canada Summer Jobs and offer exciting early career opportunities to explore the potential of the wildlife conservation field and help FoH deliver stewardship goals.

We hope you enjoy this Spring Newsletter. You can click any of the links at the bottom of each newsletter page to be directed to their affiliated media platforms. - **Duane Inkpen** - *Chairman of the Board* 🌿

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Membership Renewals!

FoH offers several convenient ways to manage your membership contributions. You can provide payment via cash using the secure drop box located at our office gate, or by mailing a cheque made payable to **Friends of Hullett**.

For those who prefer digital options, we accept PayPal as well as e-Transfers sent to fohoffice@hullettmarsh.com (which is set up for auto-deposit, so no security question is required).

To ensure your records are up to date, take a moment to complete the [Member Form](#) on our website! 🐦

Summer Volunteers Needed!

Trail Maintenance/June to August:

- Pruning, trimming, cleaning, and paint blazing
- Firewood gathering

Nesting Mallard Tube Retrieval/August and September

- Using waders, kayaks and canoes to bring in the tubes after the nesting season

Zone A Hunt Stake and Canoe Channel Maintenance/August and September

- Cutting and marking walk-in trails to hunting stakes
- Repair and cut shooting lanes at accessible hunting stands
- Canoe channels to ensure proper signage and navigability

If you would like to help with any of the above tasks, please **send us an email** at fohoffice@hullettmarsh.com to get the ball rolling! 🐦

Summer Student Staff

We are pleased to announce that Canada Summer Jobs has approved funding for **three** summer students in 2026. These positions represent a significant investment in the next generation of environmental leaders, offering hands-on experience and professional development within the conservation sector.

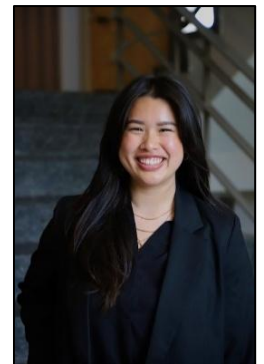
This year, FoH hired **Caelen Greidanus** and **Emily Dearing** as our summer maintenance crew, and **Alica Gibson** as our outreach coordinator!

Caelen has been an enthusiastic Hullett volunteer since last fall and has assisted staff with a number of invasives control and infrastructure improvement projects; he's a hard worker and asset to the FoH team as Maintenance Technician this summer!



Returning for her fourth season at Hullett, FoH veteran **Emily** will be familiar to many at the Marsh. As someone who knows Hullett like the back of her hands; Em will lead the maintenance team as Maintenance Supervisor and assist in the development of the 2026 user guide.

Leading the creation of the 2026 guide is newcomer **Alica**. Ally completed her BSc at Western and worked previously at Huron County Planning and Development Department and Upper Thames Conservation Authority. She recently completed an internship with Marine Conservation Cambodia where she examined the habitat use of seahorses on the Kep Archipelago. She brings new experiences to the team and we're excited to have her on board!



Friends of Hullett

Duck Feeding Program

We are excited to modernize our waterfowl management through a new automated food provisioning project designed to support birds during their migrational stopovers at the Marsh.

With a \$2,700 commitment from the **Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Community Conservation Fund** for specialized docks and cribbing, we are installing automatic corn feeders that dispense feed on a programmable schedule to provide a constant fuel source for waterfowl moving through. We are beginning with two feeders in 2026, with more on the way if the program proves successful!



Thank you to OFAH for all the support in making this project a reality! 🦆



OFAH

Prairie Field Conversion

Friends of Hullett are breaking ground on a large-scale restoration project in 2026, transforming the prairie grasslands adjacent to parking lots 40672 Hydro Line Road and 81044 Wildlife Line into a reinvigorated landscape. This initiative also involves converting a grassland in Zone A to improve nearly 50 total acres of habitat across the Marsh! This massive undertaking is made possible by **Ontario Nativescapes** and **Wildlife Habitat Canada**, who



together are dedicating **\$127,000** to the project this year!

This investment will create high-quality habitat for several key species, including grassland birds like the Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark, pollinators such as Monarch butterflies, and various upland wildlife including White-tailed Deer and Wild Turkey.

As this work begins, visitors may notice significant changes in these areas while the land is tilled and sown with native seed. While the sites may look different during this transition, these steps are essential to establishing a healthy, diverse grassland that benefits the Marsh and all of Huron County. We are excited to see this transformation through—stay tuned for more updates! 🦆

2026 Fall Pheasant Release

Based on available funding, the 2026 hunt will see **1189 pheasants** released throughout the fall season! Friends of Hullett is appreciative of the continued support from hunters and other supporters of the program as they make this hunt possible.

To support the 2026 release, you can easily purchase your **Pheasant Challenge** tickets [here](#) via **PayPal with your credit card** or buy them in person at **Clinton Sporting Goods**.

Big thanks goes out to our sponsors Clinton Sporting Goods

(<https://clintonssporting.com/>) and **Sommers Generator Systems** (<https://www.sommersgen.com/>)

We are hopeful to keep this program going in the future with the number of released birds being based on financial support from pheasant hunters. **Hunters; the future of the pheasant release program is in your hands!** 🦆



Friends of Hullett

Vanessa Palmer Award

Every year, FoH recognizes a dedicated student who is pursuing post-secondary education within the environmental field. Students submit a letter to FoH stating their contributions and/or achievements, plus a reference to validate their contributions.

This year, we received two applicants for this award. After careful consideration, the Friends of Hullett are proud to present this award to **Alaina Scheurwater!**

Alaina developed her passion for environmental stewardship while growing up on a dairy goat farm and exploring local hiking trails, which led her to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science at Redeemer University this fall. She has actively contributed to her community by organizing annual roadside and trail cleanups to protect local waterways and ecosystems from waste. Her recent work includes planning a sustainable community garden in Kincardine to support food security and completing an environmental consulting co-op where she conducts water quality testing and researches Ontario's energy sources for public education.

We encourage students who display impressive knowledge, passion and awareness for the environment to apply for this award again next year.

As a recipient of the Vanessa Palmer Award, Alaina will receive a **Certificate of Recognition**, plus **\$500.00** courtesy of Friends of Hullett to go towards her education and her name will be added to our virtual Vanessa Palmer Award plaque.

Alaina will receive her award on the day of the Annual General Meeting we wish her all the best for her future studies! 🌟

Annual General Meeting

Join us at this years' **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**! By attending, you will have a chance to voice your opinion and make a difference for Hullett Marsh!

We will start by discussing the current state of the Marsh and current projects followed by an open discussion with all members and then elections of **three (3) Board of Directors** positions.

We will close with a presentation by **Libby George** of University of Waterloo. Libby's research focuses on coastal landscape dynamics and evolution; she and her team have recently developed the encompassing GeoReach citizen science program to understand how environments change over time. This project includes the recently launched MarshReach program here at Hullett Marsh!

After this meeting, members are welcome to join for a Subway lunch provided by FoH.

The AGM will be held on **Sunday, May 24, 2026**, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be at the Hullett Office Complex, located at **41378 Hydro Line Road** outside of Clinton.

We look forward to seeing everyone there! 🌟

Agenda

- 1/ Introduction of **Board of Directors**
- 2/ Report from Marsh Staff/**Justin Johnson, Marsh Manager**
- 3/ Financial Report/**Ryan Bayne, Treasurer**
- 4/ Report from the Friends of Hullett **Board of Directors**
- 5/ Presentation of Vanessa Palmer Award/**Justin Johnson**
- 6/ Questions, Comments and Suggestions from **Membership**
- 7/ Election of officers to the **Board of Directors**
- 8/ Guest Presentation/**Libby George – Postdoctoral Researcher at University of Waterloo**
- 9/ Lunch provided for all/**Subway**

Friends of Hullett

New Hullett Marsh Website Coming Soon!

FoH is excited to announce the upcoming launch of our brand-new website!

While locked in the office during inclement weather and shoulder seasons, FoH staff have been hard at work designing an updated and modernized Hullett Marsh website that aims to greatly improve the user experience. With various informational widgets available to aid in planning your trip to the Marsh and a streamlined guide to regulations, accessing the property has never been easier!

Although extensive testing has been done, please keep in mind that there may still be bugs as staff are constantly working to improve the website and user experience. If you run into an issues, please let staff know by emailing the Hullett Office at fohoffice@hullettmarsh.com. We hope that you enjoy the new look and if you happen to visit the homepage, make sure to say hi to our new chatbot, GeeGee!



Water Access Restictions

Water access (for any purpose) is **not permitted** in the HPWA from **May 15 to July 31** 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. 🦋

Hunter's Education Workshop at Hullett

New Hunters look sharp!

FoH is excited to announce an upcoming one-day Hunters Education Workshop hosted right here at the Hullett Office. Designed for participants of all ages, this practical course offers a hands-on look at the essential skills and safety protocols required for responsible hunting. Whether you are a beginner looking to get started or simply want to brush up on the fundamentals of the field, this workshop provides a welcoming environment to learn the practical aspects of the sport.

While we are currently finalizing the curriculum, we are aiming to host this session in late July 2026. Space will be limited, so if you or a family member are interested in attending, please reach out to the Hullett Office at fohoffice@hullettmarsh.com for more information and to stay updated as further details are released. 🦋

Charity Dinner 2026

The 11th Annual Charity Dinner and Auction was an overwhelming success, made possible by the incredible support and generosity of our membership. This year set a record by **raising almost \$16,000** to help maintain and improve the Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area.

With 85 tickets sold, the evening was filled with excitement as guests bid on many interesting auction items and vied for more than forty door prizes. We would like to extend a special thank you to **Clinton Sporting Goods, Bluewater Golf Course, West Coast Leisure Sales, Bon Vivant, and Vortex Canada** for their vital contributions in making this record-breaking event such a memorable night.

We also want to thank our many community supporters and donors for their help in making the evening another success, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year! 🦋

Friends of Hullett

Connect with Us

The Friends of Hullett is committed to staying connected with our community through all our digital channels! To keep up with the latest news, events, and wildlife sightings, be sure to check our website and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Click the links below to visit our social media pages or explore the Hullett Marsh website directly! 🌿



An important reminder for our members: as of October this year, **Tuckersmith Communications will no longer be providing email services.** In response to this change, we are fully transitioning to our new email address, fohoffice@hullettmarsh.com. Please take a moment to update your contact lists now to ensure we can stay in touch and keep you informed about all the latest happenings at the Marsh!

2026 Photo Contest

April 30th marked the official deadline for our 2026 photo contest, and we want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who shared their perspective of the marsh with us. The quality of the submissions was truly impressive, and we congratulate all participants on their stunning photography.

To involve our supporters in the selection process, we once again hosted an online poll to let the community vote for their favorite images. Your enthusiasm led to an incredibly close race, and we are now proud to announce the winners of the 2026 photo contest 🌿:

- **1st Place: Suzan Johnson**



- **2nd Place: Melody van Dorp**



- **3rd Place: Doug Gordon**



- **4th Place: Brian Lasenby**



- **5th Place: Darryl Boyer**



- **6th Place: Deb Johnston**

