

HULLETT NEWS



WINTER 2021

Board of Directors

Message from the Board

Hello Friends of Hullett Members,

I would like to thank the volunteer Board of Directors (BOD), staff and most importantly, **our members and volunteers** for all of their financial support and efforts throughout 2020. **With 82 new and 1st time Friends of Hullett (FOH) members** in 2020 our community based organization continues to move forward with common goals.

We are hopeful that many past members will continue their support when they receive their email renewal reminder notices.

The past year was very challenging with **COVID-19** affecting all of us in many different ways. **FOH staff adjusted work plans and work spaces** to keep everyone safe by following ever-changing Provincial Health Guidelines. Key habitat programs such as Phragmites control and fallow field mowing were unaffected by Covid restrictions.

Following current advice from our health professionals our annual fundraising dinner and AGM will not be held this spring. **There will be open position(s) on the Board this spring. Please contact FOH staff for a BOD application via email if you are interested in stepping up to help guide FOH in the future. Deadline to apply is May 1st.** When health restrictions ease staff will be implementing **“physical distanced”** volunteer opportunities communicated to our membership.

The BOD continue to meet monthly via **Zoom** and have approved the annual budget for 2021. **Scott Austin** has accepted his contract and will continue to maintain and manage the HPWA, working with volunteers, contractors, summer students and partners. We say goodbye to **Alex Morrow** and hello to **Amber Frak** as our new **Wildlife & GIS Technician**. To conclude, I hope you enjoy this **Winter Newsletter** and the winter wonders of Hullett as time spent in the great outdoors is vital for your physical and mental well-being.

Duane Inkpen
Chairman
Board of Directors

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Membership Renewal

As of December 31, 2020, memberships that were purchased prior to September 1st, 2020 have **expired**.

With our office **closed to the public** to keep you and our staff safe we are **encouraging you** to renew your membership on our [website](#).

There are various payment options available, including cash in our drop box at the office gate pictured below, cheque (made out to **Friends of Hullett**), e-Transfer to fohoffice@tcc.on.ca and PayPal!

The purchase of your membership will go towards maintenance of the infrastructure, trail work, signage and nest box programs.

Please complete the **new simple** auto-fill enabled [Member Form](#) on our website!



Roads and Parking Lots



Throughout the winter months, accessing Hullett Marsh can be difficult. Interior roads including Front Road, Burns Line, Conservation Road, Bridge Road and Sanctuary Line **do not**

have winter maintenance within the Hullett Marsh boundaries. FOH would like to remind users to use interior roads at your own risk. **Please respect and follow any road closure that may occur within the Marsh.** These are for your safety.

During the winter, two parking lots will have snow removed from them. These locations are: **40672 Hydro Line Road and 80602 Wildlife Line.** Please be patient with FOH staff as we remove snow from these parking lots.

Snowmobiles at Hullett

Throughout the winter season, **Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC)** mark trails throughout Ontario, allowing snowmobilers to get and enjoy the outdoors. Specifically, the Huron Trail Groomers Club are responsible for the trails that travel through Hullett and surrounding areas.

FOH staff would like to remind everyone using these trails to **please stay on OFSC marked trails.** Snowmobiles leaving marked OFSC trails creates a safety concern and can disturb wintering wildlife. Additionally, to prevent damage to agricultural land, **please stay off of trails deemed CLOSED.**

For more information about OFSC, or to check the status of snowmobile trails, please visit

www.ofsc.on.ca



2020 Pheasant Challenge

The **20th Annual Pheasant Challenge** ensured the **2021 pheasant hunt**. FOH would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets and embraced our new online zero-contact **PAYPAL ordering system**. A huge thank you goes out to our sponsors [Clinton Sporting Goods](#) and [Ideal Supply](#) for generously donating both the shotgun and the generator as our prizes for the draw **and also allowing physical ticket purchases at their store locations**.

Breaking last year's record, **690 tickets** were sold in 2020. **Congratulations to our winners drawn on January 20th, 2021!**



Savage O/U Shotgun: Danielle Nadeau

Generac Generator: Cor Van Gaalen

Over the past season, **920 pheasants** – supplied by Sarah and Audrey Jackson of [Uplands Pheasantry](#) were released into Zone B between September and December. Of these birds, 100 were banded. A special thank you to **Ideal Supply** for supplying FOH with orange hats as banded bird prizes.

Pheasant Release Program 2021

The release program will continue for the fall 2021 pheasant hunt! **Hunters really stepped up to the plate in 2020 to financially support the program**. With \$2,336 in direct cash donations and \$6,900 from the Pheasant Challenge we have funding for a **minimum 920 bird release with FOH contributing the shortfall in funds**. Each pheasant has a price tag of approximately \$11 per bird to release.



For 2021 we will take a break from banding 10% of the birds to save costs in staff wages and communications getting the **Ideal Supply ball caps** to the successful hunters. This will also minimize contact for COVID-19 safety. **We would like to thank you for your financial support to ensure the continuation and success of this program.**



Vanessa Palmer Award

FOH is now accepting applications for the Vanessa Palmer Award.

To apply, students are asked to **submit a letter explaining their environmental achievements and/or contributions.** The successful applicant will be presented with a **\$200.00** cheque from FOH at our Annual General Meeting.



If you are interested in applying for the Vanessa Palmer Award, please submit your letter to FOH staff via email (fohoffice@tcc.on.ca). Applicants must submit their letters by **April 16, 2021.**

For more information about the Vanessa Palmer Award and how to apply, click [here!](#)

European Gypsy Moth

Lymantria dispar



The **European Gypsy Moth** is an **invasive species** that has recently been found within the Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area. The Gypsy Moth larvae/caterpillars feed on tree leaves and can cause significant **defoliation.**

For more information on the state of the Gypsy Moth in Ontario click [here.](#)

Eagle Buffer Zone

In 2013, FOH established a **400 metre buffer zone** around our resident Bald Eagle nest. This zone is to help protect these birds from **human disturbance during the early stages of the eaglet's life.**

In Ontario, the Bald Eagle is a **'Special Concern'** species under the *Endangered Species Act*. Our resident female is banded and well over 10 years old. As of the last nesting season, over 14 eaglets have fledged since the spring of 2013.



Please respect the Eagle Buffer Zone during the posted time period.

This buffer zone is in effect from February 1st to June 15th.



Winter Activities

With winter starting to establish at Hullett Marsh, there are many activities that users can participate in. Since 2 of our parking lots are maintained throughout the winter, some of our trails, including Blue, Yellow, White Green and Purple trails, can all be accessed.



With trails open, users can:

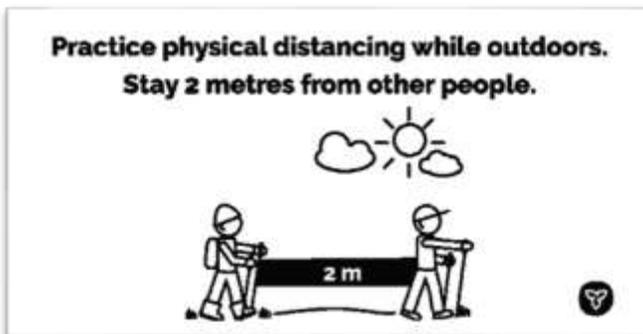
- Snowshoe
- Cross-country ski
- Hike
- Geocache
- Hunt (following Hullett and Ontario Regulations)

Be sure you get out this winter and enjoy what Hullett has to offer.

COVID-19 Reminder

Friends of Hullett would like to remind all of its users to make sure that they are staying up to date and following current provincial guidelines for physical distancing. We would hate to have another situation where we would need to close Hullett.

Let's continue to work together to keep Hullett safe, healthy and open!



Hullett User Tip Sheets!

Friends of Hullett staff have created a couple tip sheets to help users better understand the rules and regulations and also to help answer some common questions so that you can be safe and enjoy your hunting and hiking experiences at Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area.

Below you will find a link to the Hullett Regulations, as well as a Hunting at Hullett tip sheet and a Hiking Hullett tip sheet.

[Hullett Regulations](#)

[Hunting at Hullett Tip Sheet](#)

[Hiking at Hullett Tip Sheet](#)

Calling all Photographers!



We want to see your photos!

FOH is calling all users to submit their photos of Hullett Marsh for a chance to be showcased on our

2021-2022 User Guide. Submit your photos of Hullett with the best quality possible to fohoffice@tcc.on.ca!

Photo submitted must follow these simple guidelines:

- Must be taken in Hullett Marsh
- Depict safe practices
- Not contain gore
- Contain the name of the person entering the photo contest plus the photo number as the title (Example: John_Doe_1.jpg)

The top prize winner will receive a free **FOH Membership** and the photo will be placed on the cover of our next User Guide.

Deadline for the Photo Contest is March 31st, 2021.



@Hullett Marsh



@Hullett_Marsh



www.hullettmarsh.com

2021 FOH Board of Directors



Are you interested in running for a position on the Board of Directors (BOD) so that FOH can continue in a positive direction? Email us at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca for an application.

- 3 BOD positions are up for renewal/election on Sunday May 29, 2021 with one position not seeking re-election
- Depending upon the number of applicants including those seeking re-election a ZOOM AGM may occur this spring
- To run for the BOD you **must be a valid member of the FOH** and are required to submit an application expressing your interest to run for the BOD.

Please email your "Application to Run for Director" to Al Murray at MNRF Guelph District Office.

Please note that applications must be received by Al Murray by May 1st 2021.

Al Murray
Resources Management Supervisor
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Guelph District Office
1 Stone Rd. W.
Guelph, ON
N1G 4Y2
519-826-4914
al.murray@ontario.ca



Virtual Fundraising Auction

As many members know our 7th annual Spring 2020 Dinner/Auction was cancelled due to COVID-19. This 85 seat event was sold out well in advance and donors and sponsors had provided many auction items that we are currently storing. With donors consent we will now be offering some of these items for auction **on a trial basis** via our Instagram page for simplicity and transparency.

Details:

- This auction is a trial only as we do not want to insult our donors with low ball final price bids
- **70% of funds generated will go into waterfowl nesting programs, trail work and parking lot maintenance, the remaining 30% will go to the 2021 fall pheasant release program**
- Posted items will be open for bidding for 7 days starting on a Tuesday morning with a 9 a.m. cut-off for bids the following Tuesday

How to participate in auction:

- Follow us on Instagram **@hullett_marsh** (you must have an Instagram to bid)
- Simply click the **comment icon** on the post displaying the item(s) with your bid price
- You will receive a **comment/message** from us if you are the final bidder
- Payment must be made within 24 hours via PayPal on our website or an INTERAC email \$ transfer to fohoffice@tcc.on.ca (we are set up for auto deposit)
- We will hold your item for you until you can pick it up curbside at a convenient time for you (**spring 2021 is fine**)
- **We will not ship items to you**

New Wildlife and GIS Technician

Hello Hullett members! My name Amber Frak and I am excited to be joining the FOH team as the new Wildlife and GIS Technician.



Growing up I have always been surrounded by all things outdoors. My dad being an avid hunter, trapper and fisherman, my weekends as a kid usually involved me tagging along on some sort of outdoor adventure. I pursued my love for the outdoors by attending **Fleming College** for the **3-year Fish and Wildlife** program and then also attending **Trent University** for **Biology**.

Throughout college, university and after, I have been fortunate to land some pretty cool work contracts. Some of my previous work experiences include, water and fish sampling on Lake Erie with the MNRF, goose nesting ecology and goose banding on the Hudson Bay Lowlands with the MNRF, American Black Duck nesting research in New Brunswick with the University of New Brunswick, Sea Lamprey control throughout the Great Lakes with Fisheries and Oceans Canada an spring waterfowl migration surveys with the Department of Natural Resources in Iowa.

I am already enjoying my time here at Hullett and I'm looking forward to exploring and experiencing everything the marsh has to offer! If you ever have any questions or just want to chat, please don't hesitate to reach out or stop me if you see me in the marsh!

Cheers!
Amber Frak

Thank you Alex!

The Friends of Hullett would like to take the time to thank **Alex Morrow** for over 8 months of dedicated service at Hullett Marsh. As a young environmental professional Alex was able to build his career resume with FOH and has accepted a wonderful job as the **Aquaculture Technician** at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Lindsay where he studied. We wish Alex all the best in the future.



Connect with Hullett

At FOH, we continue to provide up-to-date information to our users through social media and our website. **Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook and "Follow" us on Instagram.** Links to these accounts, plus the link to our website can be found at the bottom of each page of this newsletter.

[FOH Membership Form](#)



Hullett User Poem

Please enjoy this beautiful poem that was written and sent to us by Hullett user Colleen Weber.

If I Walk

If I walk the man-made dikes atop the grass grown wild
And wander along those pathways worn by hunters, men
I trod on the soil of labour and I reach into their souls
Excitement burning in me because I stroke their world.

The wind tosses my darkened curls about my face
My eyes turned skyward trace the clouds and the hawks
As one they soar sky high and daring, elevated beyond
The daily endurance and drudgery of day by day routine.

I am caught in the magic and I do not want to leave
This land of sacred heron and proud, white crane
The geese honk and chatter, the ducks fake a startle
A parade of sound and performance as I watch spellbound.

How I wish to be a part and not a spectator
To take the wind in my hands and hold it
To take the long, wild grasses and clasp them
To feel the languid waters against my soul and...keep it all for me!

I walk on and on and I never want to go
I want to keep these minutes, I want to climb into
The heart of them and stay to watch the maple leaves
Turn crimson and then fall softly to the carpet beneath.

I do not want to miss a single breath of it
I lean to touch the tree bark and caress the roughness
Against my cheek ~ I can feel the spirit stirring within
And does he wish to hold me just the same?

The golden rod and nannyberry, the dogwood and sumac
The wild, apple smell in my nostrils makes me dizzy
The kind of buzz I could crave forever
I walk and walk and I will not miss a beat.

Dragonflies flit and land, dart and dash about me
Big, striped bees land on my shoulder and I gently push them on
Hawks bravely dip and hover, waiting for their mates
Nature itself is clapping aloud!

The sky is still blue and it is hours since I rested
I know my body commands me to take it home
The sun shimmers still even though the afternoon is dying
Ending, always ending, the things that I love all seem to leave.

One last long, sweeping gaze and I must depart
Back to a world where busy is the order of the day
I long for the disarray of tumbling weed and grass
The surprise of hidden bridge or concealed creek.

If I walk in this Hullett place I remember the best
Of all the places that I have ever been
If I walk in this marshland space I am cleansed
And I go freely back to where I came from.

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