

HULLETT NEWS



FALL 2021



Board of Directors

Message from the Board

Hello FOH members:

This summer, like most others, has flown by. With extra help from our summer student positions and volunteers, we finished many priority jobs. For example, all parking lot barriers received a new coat of paint, hiking trails were pruned and blazes repainted, problem areas within the marsh such as the Blue Trail bridge were addressed, and our Instagram auction experienced continued success. On top of this, staff also completed the Hullett User Guide for another year. We are very thankful for the funding from Canada Summer Jobs and Youth Job Connections, which provided some much needed extra hands around the marsh.

As we jump into the fall season, also known as hunting season, the FOH are increasingly busy as the number of users grows each day. We would like to remind all users to keep safe while hunting by following all Hullett, Provincial, and Federal hunting regulations. It is important to consider that there are users within the marsh not there to hunt. Please stay off the trail systems while hunting and keep your eyes open. **We recommend that all users of Hullett Marsh wear bright colours to increase visibility while enjoying this space.**

As the future of COVID remains uncertain and a potential fourth wave looms, please be sure to follow public health guidelines at all times and stay up to date on current restrictions.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please let staff know by emailing fohoffice@tcc.on.ca. We hope you enjoy your time here at Hullett Marsh.

Duane Inkpen
Chairman
Board of Directors

What's Inside?

Page 1

- Message from the Board

Page 2

- Horse Access
- Pheasant Challenge
- User Guide

Page 3

- Summer Students
- Parking Space Barriers

Page 4

- Reporting Violations
- Hunting Regulations
- Phragmites Control
- Accessible Hunting Blinds

Page 5

- Youth Waterfowl Clinic
- Mallard Tubes

Page 6

- Volunteering
- 2022 Photo Contest

Page 7

- Summer Events
- Office Complex Access
- Connect with Hullett



Horse Access

Hullett Marsh is a beautiful place to enjoy a long walk with your equine friend. As fall and winter are approaching, restrictions are in place to protect the integrity of our marsh and dyke systems. **From October 1st to April 30th, horse access is prohibited in Zone A, however Zone B is open to riders year round.** Please abide by the rules and regulations to help maintain the HPWA and reduce wear on the trails and dyke systems as well as prevent injury to either yourself or your horse.

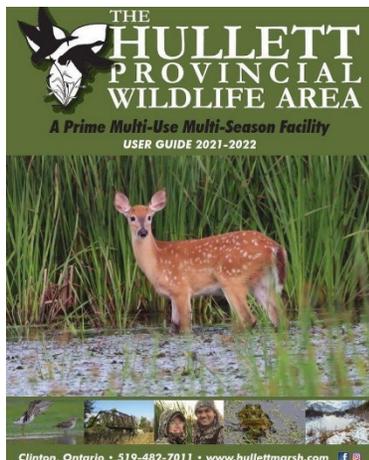
User Guide

FOH staff worked hard this summer to produce the Hullett Marsh User Guide for 2021-2022.

Without the help of many, the User Guide would not exist. A huge thank you goes to **Blyth Printers** for their help with design and their consistent and editing of numerous drafts!

Finally, a huge thank you to all of the local businesses who supported the User Guide by purchasing an advertisement: Artech, Bayfield Berry Farm, the Municipality of Central Huron, Bluewater Taxidermy, MicroAge Basics, Kelly Auto Service, Nature's Nest, Exeter Game Farm, Parker House Motel, Youth Pheasant Hunt, Maelstrom Winery, Sommers Generators, Huron Perth Crime Stoppers, Huron Fish and Game Club, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Munro Honey and Meadery, Ideal Supply, and Clinton Sporting Goods!

Keep an eye out for the new User Guide in our map boxes this fall! You can also download a digital copy from our website by clicking on the book icon on the home page.



Pheasant Challenge

Each year, FOH sells tickets to our Pheasant Challenge raffle in order to support the next year's release of pheasants in the marsh. This year is no exception!

Tickets are **\$10 each** and can be purchased at Clinton Sporting Goods or at hullettmarsh.com. First prize for the draw is a Churchill 520 SxS 3" 20ga shotgun provided by Clinton Sporting Goods and second prize is a Generac 2000W portable inverter generator donated by Ideal Supply!

Without the financial support received from the Pheasant Challenge, FOH would not be able to meet our goal of **releasing 1,000 birds** each year. We thank everyone who has bought tickets and encourage you to spread the word.

Thank You Ideal Supply!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Ideal Supply. For the past 20 years, Ideal Supply has been a generous supporter of the Hullett Marsh Pheasant Challenge. Ideal Supply has donated the generator for the draw and allowed tickets to be sold at multiple locations. FOH is extremely grateful for this support and strong community partnership.

We would also like to wish Tim Macdonald a very happy retirement. Tim has been integral to this relationship and has helped the Pheasant Challenge become the success that it is today through his unwavering support.

2021 marks the end of Ideal Supply's involvement with the Pheasant Challenge, however the Pheasant Challenge will continue with Sommers Generators and Clinton Sporting Goods as sponsors.



Summer Students

Thanks to funding received from Canada Summer Jobs and Youth Job Connection, Hullett Marsh was able to hire three summer students. Back for her fourth year, Julia Beaven joined us as our Maintenance Supervisor. New this year were Lucas Preszcator as a Maintenance Worker and Kate Riemer as our Event Coordinator. Having the extra help, we were able to focus on many priority jobs and tasks while connecting with the community in a variety of ways.

Julia and Lucas worked hard every single day on upkeep of the marsh. They completed weed whacking, clearing water structures, dyke maintenance and timber removal, turtle nest protection, mallard tubes, painting and much more. The marsh has never looked so good thanks to their dedication and work ethic.

Kate's work for this summer included providing engaging experiences for various day camp groups and helping to coordinate the Youth Waterfowl Clinic. She also designed our 2021/2022 User Guide, taking into consideration the feedback received from users.

In addition, Laney Hayter was a huge help to FOH throughout the spring during her co-op placement with CHSS.

Without this funding and the help of these youth, the marsh would not be what it is today. Having them here allowed for much more work to be done and their hard work can be seen across the marsh.



Parking Space Barriers

FOH staff spent countless hours this summer freshening up the parking barriers, map boxes, and gates around Hullett Marsh with a new coat of paint, making sure they are bright and welcoming to users.

In addition, we were able to replace some rotted out wooden parking barriers on Wildlife Line with sturdy, new concrete blocks. These blocks are not only less susceptible to vandalism, they will also stand the test of time, therefore reducing future repairs and freeing up staff to focus on other tasks.

As hunting season approaches, remember to park in the yellow spaces for hiking and other activities, leaving the numbered, unpainted spots for those hunting migratory birds in Zone A.



Major Property Improvements

FOH has been busy this summer putting your membership dollars to work! Generous donations from our members have made major projects like brushing along **Conservation Road**, rebuilding **Burns Line**, expanding the **Butterball Pool canoe launch**, and removing the rotten bridge on the Blue Trail for public safety. These improvements help maintain Hullett Marsh and make it a wonderful place for all users to come to experience nature and pursue their passions. If you are interested in making a donation or becoming a member, visit our website to learn more or click on the link on page 7 of this newsletter.

Reporting Violations

If you see someone committing a violation on Hullett Marsh property please be sure to contact the appropriate authorities. Friends of Hullett staff do not do any type of enforcement so it is important to either contact OPP or a Conservation Officer depending on the type of situation. **Phone numbers for our local Conservation Officers can be found on page 4 of the 2021-2022 User Guide.**

PLEASE REPORT NATURAL RESOURCE VIOLATIONS BY CALLING 1-877-847-7667

You can assist a Conservation Officer by calling our natural resources call line with the following information.

- Nature of the violation (hunting, fishing, species at risk, unlawful harvesting, etc...)
- Vehicle information such as; licence plate, color, make & model of vehicle
- Location of the offence such as civic address or simply where you are in the Hullett
- Specifics about the event that you saw including date, time, persons involved if name known if not descriptions of people

1-877-TIPS-MNR



Hunting Regulations

Before hunting at Hullett, please make sure you have read and understood all Federal, Provincial, and Hullett hunting regulations in order to ensure the safety of all Hullett users this hunting season.

[Federal Regulations](#)

[Provincial Regulations](#)

[Hullett Regulations](#)

[Hunting at Hullett Info Sheet](#)

FOH would like wish all hunters safe and successful hunting season!

Phragmites Control

Phragmites, also known as Common Reed, is an invasive wetland species that has become established in the marsh. First found here in the early 2000's, this aggressive plant can spread rapidly throughout an area, outcompeting native species for water and nutrients.

Our Wildlife & GIS Technician, Amber Frak, has been working with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) to control phragmites in the



HPWA. With the financial support from Huron Clean Water Project and Ducks Unlimited Canada, FOH and ABCA staff located and sprayed approximately 94 Phragmites stands so far this year.

FOH would like to thank Huron Clean Water Project and Ducks Unlimited for their financial support, along with ABCA with continued support and assistance in controlling Phragmites stands within the HPWA.

Accessible Hunting Blinds

Thanks to our generous volunteers who spent hours inspecting the blinds, making necessary repairs, and clearing shooting lanes through the brush, our accessible hunting blinds are ready for waterfowl season. Hullett Marsh is lucky enough to have been the first in Ontario to have wheelchair accessible blinds and is grateful to be able to make hunting at Hullett inclusive to everyone.

To book an accessible hunting blind, please email fohoffice@tcc.on.ca a few days in advance.



Youth Waterfowl Clinic

Friends of Hullett once again hosted our annual Youth Waterfowl Clinic. The 2021 clinic looked a little bit different than previous years, with a reduced capacity due to COVID-19. This year, 5 youth participants were provided the experience of engaging in nesting activities, hunting, gun safety and learning about waterfowl.



In August, youth participants participated in Conservation Day and learned about Hullett Marsh's Mallard Tube program. They worked with FOH staff and volunteers to retrieve Mallard Tubes, collect data, and rebuild tubes for next year.



On September 17th and 18th, youth were paired with experienced hunters to mentor and guide them through their hunting experience. Youth learned firearm safety, waterfowl identification, ethics,

decoy placement, concealment, calling, and cleaning.

Thank you to all the organizations, volunteers, mentors, parents and youth who made this event possible.

Mallard Tubes

As many of you are familiar, FOH has a variety of different nesting programs operating within the marsh, one of which is our Mallard Tube nesting program.



In 2021, a total of 36 Mallard Tubes were installed in the marsh. 15 (42%) of the 36 tubes installed were used by Mallards and 11 (31%) of the 36 tubes showed evidence of a successful hatch.

Over several days, staff, volunteers, and participants in the 2021 Youth Waterfowl Clinic drove, waded, and kayaked all over the marsh to collect the mallard tubes. The data was then collected and analyzed and the tubes restuffed for next year.

FOH would like to thank everyone who took the time to assist in the retrieval of Mallard Tubes during the 2021 nesting season.



Volunteering



With a small staff and a 5,400-acre property to take care of, **volunteer efforts** are the backbone of various tasks that manage and maintain Hullett Marsh's infrastructure, programs, and habitat.

This summer we were lucky enough to have the support of numerous volunteers with everything from cutting the grass at the office complex to painting trail markers. It doesn't matter if you're 13 or 80, there is always something you can do to help.

Whether you can only spare an hour or if you can donate a whole day of your time, volunteers are welcome any day and any time!

If you hunt at Hullett, consider spending some time volunteering with us to benefit and enhance your hunting experience. You'll be able to scout out the area and see what is happening with waterfowl in the marsh before your hunt!

If you're interested in volunteering or organizing a volunteer day for a group, email Friends of Hullett at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca or call us at 519-482-7011.

2022 Photo Contest

Hullett Marsh is encouraging our users to submit their photos for a chance to be on the cover of our 2022-2023 Hullett Marsh User Guide. Follow the guidelines below and submit your photos to fohoffice@tcc.on.ca. By sending us your photos, you give FOH the right to use them in social media posts, presentations, and other public displays.

The first place photo will be used as the main cover photo on next year's User Guide, second through sixth place photos will also be featured.

Guidelines:

- Must have been taken in Hullett Marsh
- Must depict safe practices that do not go against any rules or regulations
- Must not contain gore of any kind
- Name the file with the name of the person entering the contest (e.g. John_Smith_1.jpg)

Photo Contest deadline is
March 31st, 2022.



2021 Winner, submitted by Melody van Dorp

Summer Events

This summer, we were pleased to work with Seeds Rooted in Youth as well as the Vanastra Recreation Centre to offer educational programming to day camp participants ages four through twelve.

Kate put together several interpretive events with a focus on insects, plants, and habitats. Through a variety of games, lessons, and hands on experiences, youth gained a greater understanding of the natural environment. Using nets, bug jars, and microscopes, they were able to see things from a new perspective. Our strong community relationships are what made these events possible.

FOH is happy to support these groups and the beneficial work they do with the youth in our communities to ensure future generations are conservation minded and connected to nature.



Office Complex Access

We are **anticipating reopening** our office complex to visitors this fall, however it is important to recognize the potential of a fourth COVID wave and an increase in the prevalence of the Delta variant.

Even if our office remains closed to the public, we still love to hear from you. We are only an email or a phone call away! If you need to see us in person, you can set up an appointment by email.

Have a question or comment about something in the Marsh? Email us! Captured the best ever picture on your hike? Tag us on social media!

FOH works hard to make this property the best that it can be for everyone; hunters, hikers, kayakers, and wildlife alike. With that being said, community support is integral to keeping Hullett at its finest.

When you're out and about in the marsh, consider what it means to you. Send us an email to find out what you can do to get involved and volunteer. No matter if it's winter, summer, fall, or spring, there is always plenty to do at Hullett Marsh. Too busy to volunteer? You can also support the Marsh with a monetary donation by becoming a member.

Connect with Hullett

Stay up to date with what's happening at the marsh by checking our website, Facebook, and Instagram pages! Consider becoming a member, or encouraging your friends and family to become members, to receive newsletters and other updates straight to your inbox throughout the year!

[Click here to fill out our membership form!](#)

