

HULLETT NEWS



SPRING 2022

Board of Directors

Message from the Board

The winter left Hullett marsh late in 2022 with persistent late snows. Permanent staff had great safe ice **late in the season** with good travel conditions to complete the winter waterfowl nesting structure work along with dedicated help from Lucas and Kirsten our co-op students.

As many of you have noticed, the **Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area (HPWA)** was logged over the winter months at 4 different locations with a focus on salvage of dead White Ash. Care was taken by the loggers to leave a minimal footprint on the landscape. HPWA is a **“Multi-Use”** property and respecting each other’s activities safely is important. FOH has published these 2 **“tip sheets”** to help you research, understand and enjoy your visits!

I would like to thank the volunteer Board of Directors, staff and most importantly, the membership and volunteers for their efforts and donations since the end of 2021. **Special thanks goes out to Trevor Latta for enduring the thankless task of Secretary over the last year recording minutes for our monthly meetings.**

Looking ahead to the summer Scott and Amber are building a team of students to work at the HPWA. We have 3 funded **Canada Summer Jobs** positions open to Canadian residents between 15-30 years of age. Currently staff are hosting 2 part-time high school co-op positions from **CHSS and St. Anne’s in Clinton.**

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



What’s Inside?

Page 1

- Board of Directors Overview

Page 2

- Water Access Restrictions
- Turtle Nest Protection
- Brake for Turtles
- Online Auction Donations

Page 3

- Membership Renewals
- Summer Volunteers Needed!
- Youth Waterfowl Clinic

Page 4

- 2021 Nesting Season Report

Page 5

- 2022 Fall Pheasant Release
- Vanessa Palmer Award
- Annual General Meeting

Page 6

- Photo Contest

Page 7

- CHSS Co-op Student
- St. Anne’s Co-op Student



Water Access Restrictions

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.



Turtle Nest Protection

Our nest protector boxes are in the process of being installed throughout the marsh over nests to help increase the survival rate of their eggs. Nest protectors help defenseless eggs of our two known native species in the marsh, **Common Snapping Turtles** and **Midland Painted Turtles**. It is important to protect these turtles and their eggs because it takes turtles about 10 years to reach sexual maturity!

We will keep everyone updated on this project as it progresses through our social media.

Brake for Turtles

As temperatures are on the rise, so is activity of snakes and turtles throughout Hullett Marsh. Hullett is home to a variety of different species of turtles, snakes, and amphibians. A majority of these species are listed as Species at Risk in Ontario.



Online Auction Donations

Our “**Virtual Online Instagram Auction**” as noted in the winter newsletter continues to be a huge success. **Since the online auction began in spring 2021 almost \$6000 has been raised for FOH.** Happy bidders have so far purchased clothing, snowshoes, turkey & goose calls, collector decoys, tools, dog blind, trail camera and the list goes on!

We are seeking donations of potential items from individuals and businesses to keep this auction going. Charitable income tax receipts will be issued for your donation. Please **contact** us if you would like to donate to the Instagram Auction.

Auction Details:

- **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**
- **This auction is held on most Tuesdays with posted items open for bidding for 7 days starting on a Tuesday morning with a 9 a.m. cut-off for bids the following Tuesday**

Connect with Us

Friends of Hullett continues to use various forms of Social Media to communicate with our users! Keep informed by checking out our website, Facebook or Instagram. Links to these accounts can be found at the bottom of each page of this newsletter.



Membership Renewals

As of December 31, 2021, memberships that were purchased prior to September 1st, 2021 have **expired**.

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 (auto-deposit, no password required) to fohoffice@tcc.on.ca and PayPal!

Please complete the **new simple** auto-fill enabled [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 Maintenance/August and September

- Cutting and marking walk in trails to hunting stakes
- Repair and cut shooting lanes at accessible hunting stands

If you would like to help out with any of the above tasks please **send us an email** to fohoffice@tcc.on.ca to get the ball rolling!

Youth Waterfowl Clinic



The Youth Waterfowl Clinic (YWC) was developed in 2016 thanks to funding from Wildlife Habitat Canada to promote and encourage youth waterfowl hunting and teach wetland conservation. Last year we hosted the clinic at a reduced capacity but we are excited to be back at full capacity this year, hosting 10 youth and 10 mentors!

This event will celebrate “Waterfowl Heritage Day” for licenced youth hunters who are between the ages of 12 and 17 on September 17, 2022. Youth must participate in a wetland education/conservation day prior to the event in **August or September** helping staff gather data on waterfowl nesting structures. **A hunting seminar will occur on Friday September 16** matching youth with their mentors and teaching gun safety, hunter etiquette and hunting techniques. **In the morning on Saturday September 17**, the youth and their mentors will hit the marsh for the hunt! **After the mentored hunt** the youth will learn duck species identification by gender and cleaning techniques to prepare the harvest for the dinner table.

Experienced mentors (police check required) and **eligible youth** are encouraged to contact FOH via email if they would like to register for the 2022 YWC.

2021 Nesting Season Report

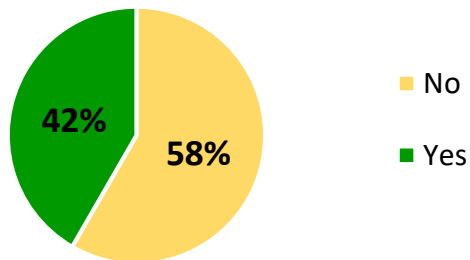
Another nesting season has come and gone at Hullett Marsh and we have continued to see our Mallard Tube and Duck Box Nesting Programs thrive. This data helps us to better understand what the birds are looking for in nesting habitat, as well as to better position boxes and tubes to allow for the highest possible usage and success rates possible. We would like to thank all of those who help to make these programs so successful year after year, without your help this would not be possible.



Mallard Tubes

The Friends of Hullett observed a **42% usage rate in our Mallard Tubes during the 2021 nesting season**. Of the 36 tubes that were placed in the marsh **31% were considered to be successful nests**. These tubes have been replaced in the marsh and hopefully we continue to see an upward trend in usage and success in the 2022 season.

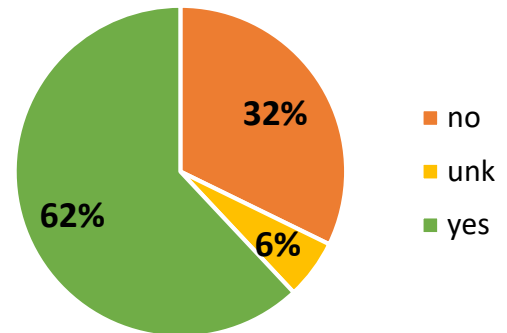
2021 Mallard Tube Usage



Duck Boxes

The Friends of Hullett observed a **62% usage rate** in our Duck Boxes during the 2021 season. Of the 123 duck boxes, **12% were considered to be successful nests**. Of the boxes that were used, it was found that **32% were used by Wood Duck, 40% were used by Hooded Merganser, 15% were used by both species and 15% had unknown duck species usage**.

2021 Duck Box Usage



With the continued help of our amazing volunteers, we will make sure that these ducks have ideal nesting grounds for years to come, and in doing so, ensuring that there will be stable populations of these birds for all outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy. We hope to see you all again in the 2022 season.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact us at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca for more information.



2022 Fall Pheasant Release

The Friends of Hullett are pleased to announce that due to **record 2021 financial support** we have been able to increase the release from 1000 to **1200 pheasants** for the 2022 hunt.

You can easily purchase your **Pheasant Challenge** tickets [here](#) via **PayPal with your credit card** to place your order. You can also send us an e-transfer with instructions to mail them to you.

Big thanks goes out to our sponsors

<https://clintonsporting.com/> and
<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!**

Vanessa Palmer Award

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

This year, we had the honour to offer the award to a student who displays a knowledge, passion and awareness for the environment. **FOH congratulates our award recipient:**

Kirsten McIntosh

As part of being a recipient of the Vanessa Palmer Award, the student will receive a **Certificate of Recognition**, plus \$200.00 to go towards their education. Their name will be added to our Vanessa Palmer Award plaque. Student will receive their award on the day of the AGM.

Annual General Meeting

Join us 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 and current projects. The Vanessa Palmer Award will be presented, followed by an open discussion with all members and then elections for **three (3) Board of Directors (BOD)** positions. We will close with a guest presentation by **John Gibson, Tremendous Tree Sales and Transplanting** to discuss reforestation within Hullett.

After this meeting, members are welcome to join for a barbeque lunch provided by FOH. All are welcome!

The AGM will be held on **Sunday, May 29, 2022** at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be at the HPWA Office Complex, located at **41378 Hydro Line Road** outside of Clinton.

Agenda

- 1/ Introduction of **Board of Directors and Guests**
- 2/ Report from Marsh Staff/**Scott Austin and Amber Frak**
- 3/ Financial Report/**Chris Ambrose**, Treasurer
- 4/ Report from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- 5/ Report from the Friends of Hullett **Board of Directors**
- 6/ Past service award presentation/**Duane Inkpen**, Chairman
- 7/ Presentation of Vanessa Palmer Award/ **Scott Austin**
- 8/ Questions, Comments and Suggestions from **Membership floor**
- 9/ Election of officers to the **Board of Directors**
- 10/ Guest Presentation/**John Gibson**, Tremendous Tree Sales and Transplanting
- 11/ Lunch provided for all/**Jim Bayne** master mobile chef

Photo Contest

March 31st marked the deadline for submissions to our 2022 photo contest. We would like to thank everyone who participated in this contest and would like to congratulate everyone on your amazing photos.

This year, FOH modified the way that winners were chosen and let the community vote for their favourite photo. Your participation led to a very close race, here are your winners for the 2022 photo contest:

1st Place: Conrad Kuiper



2nd Place: Doug Gordon



3rd Place: Kyle Daun



4th Place: Elizabeth Profit



5th Place: Mike Verhoef



6th Place: Cristina Ralph



CHSS Co-op Student

Hey, my name is Kirsten, a 4 credit co-op student taking a fifth year attending Central Huron Secondary School. I will be attending post-secondary in September in hopes to pursue my dream to work in the water field in my future for a water treatment plant or conservation authority.

I have learned that Hullett Marsh promotes foraging and wildlife awareness by providing people with a wonderful property for many activities to take place. During my first weeks here I have totaled up memberships, donations and auction items, cleaned up the workshop, and collected data of the usage in duck boxes. Friendships which I have developed are with Lucas, another co-op student from St. Anne's and can't forget about Scott & Amber. I think I made a good first impression when I showed up to co-op on the first day with my high-vis coat and Scott was really impressed how prepared I was for any task.

I couldn't be happier with my co-op experience so far this semester. I was surprised how big the marsh was, I thought it was small but the marsh is 5420 acres. I really felt part of the team when the four of us were out cutting and stacking firewood together. We had a great system down. We kept working as a team together as the snow fell around us. Hullett Marsh promotes physical and mental well-being in the outdoors. I feel that I have gained so much thanks to Amber & Scott. Co-op is great for anyone wanting hands on experience in any area you're interested in.

Kirsten McIntosh



St. Anne's Co-op Student

My name is Lucas and I am a grade 11 student at St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School. I started working at the Hullett Marsh in summer of 2021 through the Youth Job Connection summer program and enjoyed it so much that I decided to do my school co-op placement here in 2022.

The Hullett Marsh provides habitat to an extensive variety of species of plants and animals which attracts hunters, photographers, birdwatchers and people from all over. It is free public access land within the rules of Ontario MNR and Friends of Hullett featuring various outdoor activities like walking trails, canoeing and seasonal hunting. It has been a very positive working environment provided by my supervisors Scott Austin and Amber Frak, who both always encourage and challenge me to learn new aspects of the job.

As far as my experience at the Hullett Marsh goes, I've enjoyed showing up everyday and looking after the property. After high school I am thinking about attending Fleming College for Fish and Wildlife and I think that my experience at Hullett will help me a lot and give me a great head start at pursuing school and a future job in the Fish and Wildlife industry.

Lucas Preszcator

