

# HULLETT NEWS



FALL 2023



## Board of Directors

### *Message from the Board*

#### **Hello FOH members:**

As always, this summer has flown by. With extra help from our summer students and volunteers, we finished many priority jobs. For example, hiking trails were pruned and blazes were repainted, roadways and parking lots were trimmed and graded, and a large pheasant flight pen was demolished and removed by staff at the office complex. On top of this, staff also completed the Hullett User Guide for another year. We are very thankful for our high school co-op students and for the funding from Canada Summer Jobs which provided some much needed extra hands around the marsh.

**Please remember to visit our website homepage often to stay up to date and informed with many clickable links and PDF downloads!**

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 strongly recommend that all users of Hullett Marsh wear bright colours to increase visibility while enjoying this space.**

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](mailto:fohoffice@tcc.on.ca). We hope you enjoy your time here at Hullett Marsh.

**Duane Inkpen**  
*Chairman*  
*Board of Directors*

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## 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 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.

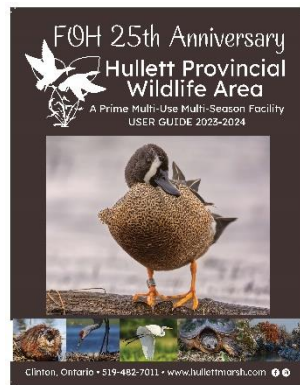
## User Guide

**Emily Dearing** worked very hard this summer to produce the Hullett Marsh User Guide for 2023-2024.

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 editing of numerous drafts!

**\$2200 of funding was provided by the Municipality of Central Huron through their "Donation Fund". This contribution allows us to print 5,000 copies of the Hullett User Guide for the public.**

Finally, a huge thank you to all of the local businesses who supported the User Guide by purchasing an advertisement: Artech, China Palace, Nature's Rejuvenating Garden Sanctuary, Bayfield Berry Farm, Bluewater Taxidermy, Clinton Sporting Goods, Ducks Unlimited, Exeter Game Farm, Hill & Hill Farms, Varna Grain, Huron Fish & Game Conservation Club, Huron/Perth Youth Pheasant Hunt Committee, Kelly Auto Service, Maelstrom Winery, MicroAge Basics, the Municipality of Central Huron, Munro Honey & Meadery, Nahuel Painting, Nature's Nest, Sommers Generator Systems, Tim Hortons, Remax, Blyth Printers, Millroad Manufacturing, Creekside Pheasantry, and Royal Game Birds!



**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](http://hullettmarsh.com). First prize for the draw is a **Stevens 555 O/U 3" 20ga** shotgun provided by Clinton Sporting Goods and second prize is a **Briggs & Stratton 2200W portable inverter generator** donated by Sommers Generator Systems!

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. This year **we were able to release 1,200 birds!** We thank everyone who has bought tickets for their overwhelming support and encourage you to spread the word. The future of the pheasant hunt is in your hands!

## Thank You Sommers Generator Systems!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Sommers Generator Systems. Sommers Generator Systems has donated a 2200W Briggs & Stratton Inverter Generator for the 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize in our Pheasant Challenge draw this year. FOH is extremely grateful for this support and strong community partnership.



## Summer Students

Thanks to funding received from **Canada Summer Jobs**, Hullett Marsh was able to hire three summer students. Hired on after his co-op placement, was **Denver Fisher**, who took over the role as **Maintenance Supervisor**, along with **Luke Wammes**, who took over the role of **Maintenance Worker**. Last but certainly not least, **Emily Dearing**, who took over the role of **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.



**Denver and Luke** worked hard every single day on upkeep of the marsh. They completed weed whacking, clearing water structures, dyke maintenance and timber removal, mallard tube retrieval, painting and much more. The marsh has never looked so good thanks to their dedication and work ethic.

**Emily's** work for this summer included managing the production of our 2023/2024 User Guide, coordinating the Youth Waterfowl Clinic, running the turtle nest protection program, helping with mallard tube retrieval and duck boxes, and any other field work she could get her hands on.

**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.



## Major Property Improvements

FOH has been busy this summer putting your membership dollars to work! Generous donations from our members have funded major projects such as **the demolition and removal of a large pheasant flight pen at the office complex and roadway repair and grading.** 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 6 of this newsletter.



## 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 a safe and successful hunting season!

## Youth Waterfowl Clinic



Friends of Hullett once again hosted our annual Youth Waterfowl Clinic. The 2023 clinic was back to full capacity this year, however due to changes made to federal regulations, there was no actual hunt once again. This year, 12 youth participants were provided the experience of engaging in nesting activities, canoe and water safety, gun safety, learning about waterfowl, decoy and retrieval demonstrations, and even got to do shoot sporting clays!

Youth learned waterfowl identification, ethics, decoy placement, concealment, calling, and retrieval methods.

In September, youth participants learned about Hullett Marsh's Mallard Tube program. They observed a staff member and volunteer as they retrieved a tube via canoe and then got to examine the contents and the story that they tell.

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



## 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 6 of the 2023-2024 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



## Phragmites Removal

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, Ben Elliott, 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 several stands of Phragmites throughout the marsh, and have observed a notable improvement since mapping began in 2016 and spraying began in 2017.

FOH thanks the Huron Clean Water Project and Ducks Unlimited Canada for their financial support, and the ABCA for their assistance in controlling Phragmites stands within the HPWA.

## Happy BOD Retirement

FOH would like to thank **Jim Bayne (23 years)** and **Wade Beaudoin (6 years)** for their dedicated volunteer service on the Board. There are not many people who know the property as well as **Jim**. His mechanical expertise and common sense will be missed around the marsh. **Wade's** razor sharp business skills and biological wetland knowledge will be devoted to another significant public wetland volunteer organization in southern Ontario.

## 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 2023, a total of 35 Mallard Tubes were installed in the marsh. While most of the tubes have been retrieved, staff are still working diligently to collect the remaining few that are scattered throughout the marsh.

Over several days, staff and volunteers have been busy driving, wading, and canoing all over the marsh to collect the mallard tubes. The data will then be collected and analyzed by staff and the tubes re-stuffed for next year.

FOH would like to thank everyone who who has taken the time to assist in the retrieval of Mallard Tubes during the 2023 nesting season.

## Limited Edition 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary FOH Hats

2023 marks the **25th anniversary of Friends of Hullett incorporation as a registered charitable organization**. To commemorate this momentous achievement and celebrate all the hard work of past and present staff, volunteers and members of the Board of Directors, FOH has **commissioned 4 unique styles** of ball caps. These hats can be purchased online, via PayPal or EMT on our website [www.hullettmarsh.com](http://www.hullettmarsh.com) (pickup only), or at the Hullett Office (41378 Hydro Line Road) for a price of \$25 each.

### Available styles:



- Blaze mesh back
- Blaze solid back
- Camo mesh back
- Camo solid back.

## 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 mallard tube retrieval 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](mailto:fohoffice@tcc.on.ca) or call us at 519-482-7011.

**REMINDER: 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.**

## 2024 Photo Contest

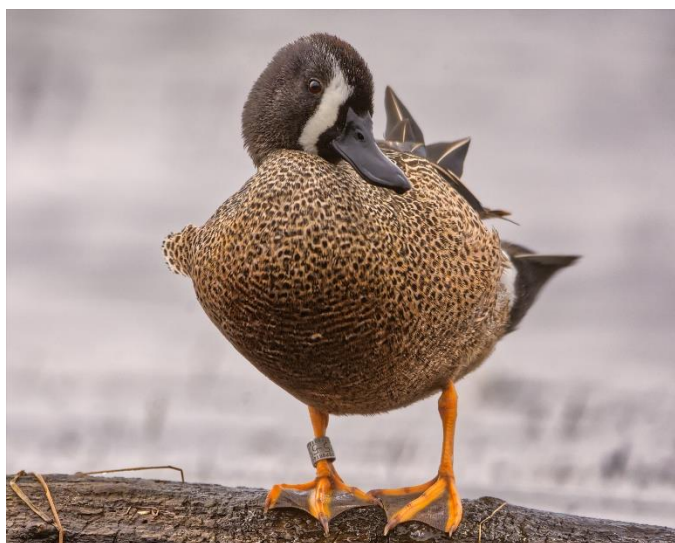
Hullett Marsh is encouraging our users to submit their photos for a chance to be on the cover of our 2024-2025 Hullett Marsh User Guide. Follow the guidelines below and submit your photos to [fohoffice@tcc.on.ca](mailto:fohoffice@tcc.on.ca). By sending us your photos, you give FOH the right to use them 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.**



**2023 Winner:  
Doug Gordon**

## Turtle Nest Protection Program

This marks the 5<sup>th</sup> year of FOH's turtle nest protection program. Staff successfully placed 20 turtle nest protection boxes this year.



## 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!](#)**

