

# HULLETT NEWS



## WINTER 2024

### 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 your financial membership support. Our community-based organization continues to grow from a varied base of different user types. The annual **Pheasant Challenge** showed FOH once again that supporters want to see the continued release of pheasants for public hunting opportunities!

This past year saw many projects completed with the preparation of land for reforestation, Phragmites control, invasive buckthorn control and wood lot health assessments. As we move ahead in 2024, major projects include reforestation, habitat maintenance, removal of old pheasant pens and a new roof for the accessible viewing stand. FOH staff have applied for 3 Canada Summer Job positions for 2023.

Excitement is building for the **9th Annual Spring Fundraising Dinner and Auction**. Please see page 4 of this newsletter for details.

**The AGM will be held this spring and final details are to be sent out via email in April.** This is your chance as a member to express your ideas and concerns in person. Members can choose to run for Board positions at the AGM as outlined in page 6 of this newsletter.

**Scott Austin** has accepted his contract and will continue to manage, market and maintain at the HPWA. **Ben Elliott** our **Wildlife & GIS Technician** has signed on for his third year and is the backbone of daily operations, learning management roles and working with volunteers, contractors, summer students and partners.

To conclude, I hope you enjoy this **Multi-Use** property and the winter wonders of Hullett. Be sure to read and understand the property regulations as outlined in the revised **User Guide**.

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

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## Membership Renewal

As of December 31, 2023, memberships that were purchased prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 have **expired**.

For a simple renewal option, you can renew or purchase 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](mailto:fohoffice@tcc.on.ca) and PayPal!

Funds from your **membership donation** are used for property maintenance, infrastructure upgrades and repairs, trail work and signage.

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** receive 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 as staff time and availability permits. 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 out 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 create 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](http://www.ofsc.on.ca)





## 2023 Pheasant Challenge

The **23rd Annual Pheasant Challenge** was another strong year for ticket sales and ensured the **2024 pheasant hunt**. FOH would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets and embraced our online **PAYPAL ordering system**.

A huge thank you goes out to our sponsors [Sommers Generators](#) for generously donating the generator and [Clinton Sporting Goods](#) for providing the shotgun and allowing physical ticket purchases at their store. We would also like to thank Liz at [Seaforth Sewing Centre](#) for selling **FOH 25th Anniversary Hats** in her storefront.

Breaking last year's record once again, 1097 tickets were sold this year! **Congratulations to our winners drawn on January 17th, 2024!**



**Stevens 555 O/U Shotgun: Jeff Scalise**

**Briggs and Stratton Generator: Justin Vanderleest**

Over the past season, **1200 pheasants** – supplied by Sarah and Audrey Jackson of [Uplands Pheasantry](#), Ralph Gerber of [Creekside Pheasantry](#), and Andy and Laura Lancaster of [Royal Game Birds](#) – were released into **Zone B** between **September and December**.



## Pheasant Release Program 2024

The release program will continue for the fall 2024 pheasant hunt! **In 2023, hunters blew us away once again in with their financial support for the program.** With \$1,077 in direct cash donations and \$10,970 from the Pheasant Challenge, we have funding for a **1000 bird release**. Each pheasant has a price tag of approximately \$14.10 per bird plus administration and release costs.

## 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](mailto:fohoffice@tcc.on.ca)). Applicants must submit their letters by **April 12, 2024**.

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

## 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.

## 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](#)

## FOH Charity Dinner and Auction – 30 Seats Left!

FOH would like to thank those who have already purchased their ticket to the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Charity Dinner and Auction** and remind those who want to attend but do not yet have tickets that seats are limited and **tickets are more than half sold!**



This year's event will be held on **Saturday, April 20, 2024** at the **Bluewater Golf Course** with the meal being prepared by **Pineridge BBQ** of Hensall.

If you are unable to attend but still want to contribute to the event, don't worry! You can still support Friends of Hullett and this great event by **donating items** for the **silent and live auctions**. We welcome a variety of items as the more unique and interesting items we have, the more fun the night will be!

If you have something that you think would make a good addition to the auction please email staff at [fohoffice@tcc.on.ca](mailto:fohoffice@tcc.on.ca). **Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations.**

### Bonus:

If you purchased tickets to this event you will also received free admission to the **Big Buck Day and Gun Show** on Saturday, April 13, 2024. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Larry "Mouse" Dolmage for providing these passes.

<p>Friends of Hullett 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Dinner &amp; Auction</p> <p>Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ Province: _____ PC _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____</p> <p>#001</p>	<p>#001</p>  <p>Friends of Hullett 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Dinner &amp; Auction</p>	<p><b>Saturday April 20, 2024</b> Reception 4pm • Dinner 5:30pm Live Auction 7pm</p> <hr/> <p><b>Cost \$135 per person</b> with only 85 seats available</p> <p>Location: Bluewater Golf Course 77416 Bluewater Hwy. Bayfield, ON</p> <p>Sponsored By:</p> 
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## Geocaching at the Marsh

If you and your family are looking for another way to enjoy Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area, why not try Geocaching? Geocaching is a recreational activity that can be enjoyed by all ages. It is the world's largest treasure hunt, with 3 million active geocaches worldwide. Caches are hidden containers that can only be found by using GPS coordinates. They are various sizes and can contain small trinkets that can be exchanged or left for the next geocache explorer. You can sign up at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) or download the Geocaching app.



Through the app, you will be able to see the location of these caches, the distance to them from where you stand, their size, the surrounding terrain and level of difficulty. The basic Geocache app is free for anyone to use.

There are eight Geocaches located within Hullett Marsh. These caches can be accessed by visiting our website at [hullettmarsh.com](http://hullettmarsh.com), which will give you a PDF download of clues and coordinates. Or you can scan the QR code found in our Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area User Guide. Hullett Marsh is home to many migratory birds, waterfowl, mammals, reptiles and amphibians and their habitats. Each cache will take you to a different area of the Marsh, where you can see the various natural territories of all creatures as well as the grasslands, vegetation, dyke system and wetlands that make up Hullett Marsh. All elements of the Marsh work together to provide a safe environment for birds and other critters while providing a unique opportunity to learn more about the interaction of wildlife and their surroundings.



For a great day of outdoor fun and the experience of seeing wildlife up-close, sign up at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com), individually or as a family, grab your pencils for the cache logs and see what makes Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area such a beautiful and vital ecosystem.

**Barb Orchard**  
Friends of Hullett Board of Directors

## Tree Planting & Forestry

Friends of Hullett has been working in coordination with Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) to develop and implement a new tree plantation north of Conservation Road, near the White Trail.

This plot, consisting of just over 3 acres, will be the new home of approximately 1850 trees and will be largely dominated by coniferous species such as white pine, white cedar, white spruce and Norway spruce. A lesser amount of hardwood species such as red oak, black cherry, sugar maple and sycamore will be planted along with the conifers as well, helping to increase biodiversity within the plot.



Infilling of this area will help to eliminate gaps in the canopy, provide a more continuous forest, and reduce the

ability for invasive species such as autumn olive and glossy buckthorn from dominating the area.



FOH staff have been working diligently to prepare the site for planting by mowing the existing groundcover to eliminate undesirable species and create fresh ground, felling existing trees of undesirable species, and creating a water access point for watering the trees as they are planted. Staff plan to proceed with this planting in the spring of 2024.

## Friends of Hullett Board of Directors 2024

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](mailto:fohoffice@tcc.on.ca) for an application.

- 3 BOD positions are up for renewal/election on Sunday, May 26, 2024
- 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 David Denyes at MNRF Vineland Field Office.

Please note that applications must be received by David Denyes by May 1st 2024.

**David Denyes**  
**Management Biologist**  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Vineland Field Office  
4890 Victoria Avenue North.  
Vineland Station ON  
LOR 2E0  
289-241-6872  
[david.denyas@ontario.ca](mailto:david.denyas@ontario.ca)



## Photo Contest

### 2024 Photo Contest

We want to see your pictures of Hullett Marsh!

From nature walks to family fun, and everything in between, FOH wants to see your best. New or old, member or not, show us what makes Hullett great to you.

1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner receives a FREE Hullett Membership AND their winning photo in the next User Guide

2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Place Winners receive their winning photos showcased on the cover of the next User Guide

#### Images must:

- Must be in Hullett Marsh
- Depict safe practices
- Not contain gore
- Contain the name of the person entering the photo (John\_Smith.jpg for example)

Send us your pictures of Hullett Marsh to [fohoffice@tcc.on.ca](mailto:fohoffice@tcc.on.ca)

**Deadline is April 30, 2024**



By entering your photos, you are giving FOH the right to use them (with photo credit given to you)

## 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

