

HULLETT NEWS



SPRING 2025

Board of Directors

Message from the Board

After a harsh winter, Friends of Hullett (FoH) are eager to get out and make an impact on Hullett Marsh in 2025. *This year brings some exciting changes:* the prairie grass fields are beginning their transformation, grants from the **Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters** will contribute much needed equipment and property improvements, and funding from **TD's Friends of the Environment Foundation** is helping FoH protect turtles within and beyond Hullett Marsh. At the time of writing, FoH has already planted 158 trees and shrubs in Zone A, begun acoustic monitoring for bats, repaired bridges, and surveyed and serviced all of Hullett's mallard tubes and duck boxes! This building momentum brings exciting new possibilities to Hullett and helps deliver on FoH's mandate.

HPWA is a *Multi-Use* property and *respecting each other's activities safely is important*. FoH has published [hunting](#) and [hiking](#) "tip sheets" to help you research, understand and enjoy your visits! We hope to see you at the **Annual General Meeting on May 25** (page 5).

I would like to thank the volunteer Board of Directors, staff and most importantly, the membership and volunteers for their efforts and donations. This year's **Charity Dinner and Auction** is a testament to the commitment of our supporters – be sure to read more about it on page 6 of this newsletter!

Looking ahead to the summer, **Justin Johnson** and **Ben Elliott** are building a team of students and volunteers to work at the HPWA. **Emily Dearing** has returned to helm the creation of the 2025/2026 Hullett User Guide and run our 2025 Turtle Nest Protection Program. We also have 2 funded Canada Summer Job positions for 2025 with a third position that will be funded by FoH. These positions offer exciting early career opportunities to explore the potential of the Wildlife Conservation field and help FoH deliver stewardship projects both large and small. We are currently hosting a two-credit co-op student from St. Anne's; you can read more about **Ethan Willert** on page 2 and be sure to say hello if you see him in the Marsh!

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* 🐾

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Membership Renewals

As of December 31st, 2024, memberships that were purchased prior to September 1st, 2024, have **expired**.

There are various payment options available, including cash in our drop box at the office gate, cheque (made out to **Friends of Hullett**), e-Transfer (auto-deposit, no password required) to fohoffice@hullettmarsh.com and PayPal!

Please complete the **new simple** autofill 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 and Canoe Channel Maintenance/August and September

- Cutting and marking walk-in trails to hunting stakes
- Repair and cut shooting lanes at accessible hunting stands
- Canoe channels to ensure proper signage and navigability

If you would like to help out with any of the above tasks, please **send us an email** at fohoffice@hullettmarsh.com to get the ball rolling! 🌿

New Co-op Student!



My name is Ethan Willert and I am set to graduate from St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School this coming June. My plan was to go to school to be a firefighter until I was introduced to the conservation work field. Last January, I was accepted to Fleming College to study Fish and Wildlife; I start in September. I started my co-op placement for

the marsh in February, mainly helping Justin and Ben with projects around the marsh and have had so much fun with them learning about all the different species and crazy things you'll find around the marsh. Since the snow is gone, I've participated in duck box surveys, tree planting, patrolling parking lots, and clearing/maintaining trails.

My favorite thing to do at the marsh is meeting all sorts of people enjoying the land, and all the wildlife that comes with it.

Working at Hullett gave me the idea to get my chainsaw licence, my PAL, and First Aid. For the next month and a half of my placement I am ecstatic to see and hear about all the crazy things around the Marsh, along with meeting board members, Hullett members, hunters, and trail goers.

- **Ethan Willert** Co-op Student 🌿



OFAH Funded Projects

Invasive species of Hullett Marsh beware! Friends of Hullett have received \$6000 for equipment to support our invasive species control program! This funding from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH)'s Community Conservation Fund will support the purchase of new backpack sprayers, a vehicle mounted tank sprayer, chemical storage lockers, mixing tables and more! Many of the invasive species at the Marsh have reached an abundance that requires chemical control. These species, including invasive *Phragmites*, Garlic Mustard, and Buckthorn, are best controlled through careful application of chemical spray; however, plant pulling is still an effective control method for some species and under certain circumstances. The equipment will be critical this fall as we plan to battle invasive *Phragmites* again alongside the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority – more to come soon!



Additionally, Friends of Hullett recieved \$5000 from OFAH's Community Projects Fund to rebuild another accessible hunting blind. Pictured above, this blind will be removed and replaced with a brand new struture that will provide additional opportunities for hunters, hikers, and photographers to experience the best of Hullett Marsh! Thank you to OFAH for all the support in making this project a reality! 🦋



OFAH

Field Conversion

Friends of Hullett are breaking ground on a large-scale restoration project in 2025. The prairie grasslands adjacent to parking lots 40672 Hydro Line Road and 81044 Wildlife Line will be transformed into a fresh and reinvigorated grassland! The existing fields will be sown into soybeans in 2025 to prepare the space for grassland planting in the coming years.



The transition from dense monoculture Bluestem grassland has been long overdue as the density of the vegetation made the space unsuitable for birds to forage and breed. This new grassland will support a variety of species including Mallard, Eastern Meadowlark, and Bobolink! Friends of Hullett are very excited to watch the grass grow and make hay for habitat at Hullett Marsh! 🦋

2025 Fall Pheasant Release

Based on available funding, the 2025 hunt will see **1000 pheasants** released throughout the fall season! Friends of Hullett is appreciative of the continued support from hunters and other supporters of the program as they make this hunt possible.

To support the 2025 release, you can easily purchase your **Pheasant Challenge** tickets [here](#) via **PayPal with your credit card** or buy them in person at **Clinton Sporting Goods**.

Big thanks goes out to our sponsors Clinton Sporting Goods (<https://clintonssporting.com/>) and Sommers Generator Systems (<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 submit a letter to FoH stating their contributions and/or achievements, plus a reference to validate their contributions.

This year, we received three applicants for this award. After careful consideration, the Friends of Hullett are proud to present this award to **Olivia Decker!** Olivia found her passion for the environmental field through her time working at Falls Reserve Conservation Area controlling invasive species and has made further steps including tree planting at her home, surveying local species at risk, and participating in the Envirothon. She is attending Fleming College this fall to begin the Fish and Wildlife Technician program with the goal of one day becoming a conservation officer.

We encourage students who display impressive knowledge, passion and awareness for the environment to apply for this award again next year.

As a recipient of the Vanessa Palmer Award, Olivia will receive a **Certificate of Recognition**, plus **\$500.00** courtesy of Friends of Hullett to go towards her education and her name will be added to our virtual Vanessa Palmer Award plaque. Olivia will receive her award on the day of the Annual General Meeting we wish her all the best for her future studies! 🦋

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 followed by an open discussion with all members and then elections for **five (5) Board of Directors (BOD)** positions.

We will close with a presentation by **Dr. Kyle Daun** of University of Waterloo. Dr. Daun's research concerns the value of wetlands as carbon stores and the presentation will explore some the equipment, he and his team use in the Marsh to assess wetlands. Dr. Daun is also an accomplished photographer and frequent visitor to Hullett Marsh.

After this meeting, members are welcome to join for a Subway lunch provided by FoH.

The AGM will be held on **Sunday, May 25, 2025** at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be at the HPWA Office Complex, located at **41378 Hydro Line Road** outside of Clinton.

We look forward to seeing everyone there! 🦋

Agenda

- 1/ Introduction of **Board of Directors and Guests**
- 2/ Report from Marsh Staff/**Justin Johnson**
- 3/ Financial Report/**Chris Ambrose**, Treasurer
- 4/ Report from the Friends of Hullett **Board of Directors**
- 5/ Past service award presentation/**Duane Inkpen**, Chairman
- 6/ Presentation of Vanessa Palmer Award/**Justin Johnson**
- 7/ Questions, Comments and Suggestions from **Membership floor**
- 8/ Election of officers to the **Board of Directors**
- 9/ Guest Presentation/**Dr. Kyle Daun – UWaterloo**
- 10/ Lunch provided for all/**Subway**

Limited Edition 25th Anniversary FOH Hats

2023 marked the 25th anniversary of Friends of Hullett becoming 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 commissioned **4 unique styles of ball caps**. A few of these hats are still available and can be purchased at the Hullett Office (**41378 Hydro Line Road**) for a price of **\$25 each or 2 for \$40**. 🦋

Available styles include:



Blaze Mesh Back Blaze Solid Back



Camo Mesh Back Camo Solid Back

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. 🦋

TD FEF: Turtle Nesting Program and Workshop

Despite their slow pace, work dedicated to protecting turtles is gaining ground. Friends of Hullett were honoured to receive a \$5000 grant to support turtle work in Hullett Marsh courtesy of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Funds will be used to construct fifty additional nest protectors, initiate a photomonitoring program, and improve signage to inform visitors about turtles in the Marsh! If you're interested in assisting us with turtle monitoring, please reach out to fohoffice@hullettmarsh.com to learn more.



We will also be hosting a nest protector building workshop on **May 14th** where you can learn about the use of protectors, how to build them, and bring a completed nest protector home with you! Space at the workshop is limited so please contact **Emily Dearing** at outreach@hullettmarsh.com if interested! 🦋



PC: Doug Gordon



**Friends of the
Environment
Foundation**

Charity Dinner 2025

The **10th Annual Charity Dinner and Auction** has come and gone and was an overwhelming success! This event was made possible by the strong support from our membership and their many **generous donations**.

This year:

- **75** tickets were sold
- More than **30 door prizes** were generously donated
- **Almost \$11,000** was raised to help maintain and improve the HPWA
- Fun was had by all with many interesting items up for auction
- A **special thanks** goes out to – **Clinton Sporting Goods, Bluewater Golf Course, West Coast Leisure Sales, and Pineridge BBQ** for helping to make our event a success! 🌟

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. Click the images below to visit us on Facebook, Instagram or the Hullett Marsh website! 🌟



Photo Contest

April 30th marked the deadline for submissions to our 2025 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 once again created an online poll to let the community vote for their favourite photo. Your participation led to a very close race, here are your winners for the 2025 photo contest 🌟:

- **1st Place: Doug Gordon**



- **2nd Place: Conrad Kuiper**



- **3rd Place: Doug & Suzan Johnson**



- **4th Place: Mario Coniglio**



- **5th Place: Darryl Boyer**



- **6th Place: Melody van Dorp**

