

HULLETT NEWS



WINTER 2019

Board of Directors

Message from the Board

Hello Friends of Hullett Members

2018 was an eventful and successful year for Hullett Marsh and Friends of Hullett (FOH). I would like to thank the Board of Directors, staff and most importantly, the members and volunteers for all of their efforts and donations throughout the year.

Winter came early for the 2018/19 season with a broad range of temperatures. The recent cold with minimal snowfall has established safe ice for volunteers and staff to work on maintaining waterfowl nesting structures and collecting data on success rates.

The Board of Directors have approved the annual budget for 2019. Both Scott Austin and Greg Urquhart have accepted their contracts and will continue to lead summer students and volunteers working at Hullett Marsh.

FOH has been very fortunate over the past few years to have a core of volunteers in our community willing to offer their time to help with activities at Hullett Marsh. If you are interested in volunteering with FOH, be sure to contact FOH staff.

To conclude, I hope to see many of you at our **Annual General Meeting on May 26th, 2019**. Please find details about our AGM in this newsletter. This will also be the time that FOH members will have the opportunity to elect **FOH Board of Directors**.

We hope you enjoy this Winter Newsletter and that it encourages you to participate in Marsh activities.

Duane Inkpen
Chairman
Board of Directors



What's Inside?

Page 1

- Board of Directors Overview

Page 2

- Funding
 - Accessible Privy
 - Phragmites
 - Turtle Nesting

Page 3

- Pheasant Challenge and Release
- Membership Renewals
- 20 Years in the Making

Page 4

- Roads and Parking Lots
- Volunteer Work Day
- Volunteers

Page 5

- Annual General Meeting
- Vanessa Palmer Award

Page 6

- FOH Charity Dinner and Auction
- Winter Activities
 - Nordic Skiing Event

Page 7

- Snowmobiles in Hullett
- Eagle Buffer Zone
- Species Profile: Bald Eagle

Page 8

- Youth Pheasant Hunt

Page 9

- Youth Waterfowl Clinic

Page 10

- Youth Waterfowl Clinic
- Call for Photos!
- Connect with Hullett Marsh

Friends of Hullett

Funding

Accessible Privy

In 2018, Friends of Hullett received funding from both the **Municipality of Central Huron** and the Government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) to assist in the construction of our new privy at **40905 Summerhill Road**.

Hand rails inside the privy, along with a gradual packed gravel slope to the privy, provides easier access for all users that frequent the Hullett Marsh.

FOH would like to thank the contractors, volunteers and funding partners for making this privy possible.



Phragmites

2018 marked the second successful year of combatting Phragmites at the Marsh. With the assistance of Giles Restoration and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, approximately **94 different patches of Phragmites** varying in size were controlled by FOH. Since herbicide was used to combat this invasive species, patches that were found in areas where no water was standing were targeted.

Although 2018 was a successful year for Phragmites removal, control will still continue into 2019. FOH would like to remind users that if you find a hiding patch of Phragmites, you can contact FOH staff with the location of the patch at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca.



Turtle Nest Protection Project

2018 was a difficult year for turtle species throughout Ontario. In April, the **Midland Painted Turtle** was added to the Species at Risk list, placing all of Ontario's turtle species on this list. Nest predation by birds and mammals, such as raccoons, is a limiting factor in turtle populations.

In August, FOH received funding from **Huron Fish and Game Association** to construct turtle nest protectors. These protectors will sit overtop of the recently laid nest to help deter predators of these turtles. We would like to thank Huron Fish and Game for their financial contribution in assisting with turtle conservation at Hullett Marsh.

Board of Director, Wayne Hanson, is leading the project by gathering materials to build these protectors. With the help of staff and students at **St. Joseph's Elementary School in Clinton**, a total of 20 turtle protectors will be built. Students will assemble these protectors with the guidance of Wayne and Jeff Thuss (teacher).

FOH would like to thank Wayne for taking the time to collect materials and lead this project. **We would also like to thank Jeff Thuss and his students from St. Joseph's Elementary for assembling these protectors.**

FOH are seeking volunteers to help set up these protectors. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact FOH via email at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca or phone at (519) 482-7011.



Friends of Hullett

Pheasant Challenge and Release

December 31st, 2018 was the last day to buy a ticket for our Annual Pheasant Challenge. FOH would like to thank all of those who bought tickets. A special thank you to **Ideal Supply**, **Clinton Sporting Goods** and all of those who sold tickets to ensure funds were generated to continue the release in 2019.



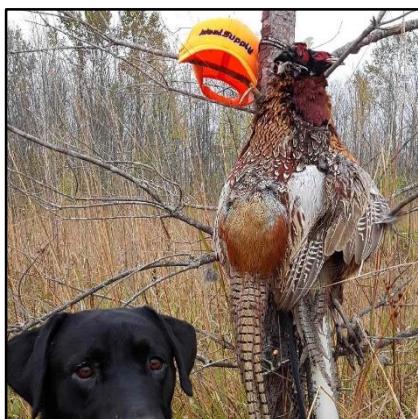
A record of 469 tickets were sold in 2018. Congratulations to our winners drawn on January 16th, 2019!

Savage 555 Over/Under 20ga.: Sean Thomas of Goderich
Generac 2000W Generator: Tony Chimirri of Hamilton



This past season, 1000 pheasants - supplied by Sarah and Audrey of **Uplands Pheasantry** - were released into Zone B from September to December. Of these birds, 100 were banded. During the hunt, 25 of the 100 banded birds

were recorded at FOH. Congratulations to all the successful pheasant hunters! A special thank you goes out to **Ideal Supply** for donating orange hats as the band prize.



Membership Renewals

As of December 31st, 2018, memberships that were purchased prior to September 1st, 2017 have expired (grace period).

With the renewal of your membership, FOH will have the financial resources to continue the maintenance of the property, host educational events and release pheasants.

There are various payments options available including cash, cheque, debit, credit card, e-Transfer and PayPal!



This fillable [FOH Membership Form](#) can be sent via mail to (fohoffice@tcc.on.ca). As always you can mail your form and cheque to “**Friends of Hullett**” or place in our Hullett Dropbox located at the entrance of our office complex.

20 Years in the Making

On **December 16th, 1998**, 7 Board of Directors gathered together to sign charitable incorporation papers creating Friends of Hullett. 20 years later, FOH continues to work hard in caring for and maintaining Hullett Marsh.

FOH would like to extend our gratitude to our **members and volunteers** for the continuous support. Without this support, Hullett Marsh would not be possible. We look forward to what the next 20 years has in store!



Friends of Hullett

Roads and Parking Lots



With winter well underway, various parts of Hullett Marsh can be difficult to access. Interior roads including Front Road, Conservation Road, Burns Line, Sanctuary Line and Bridge Road do NOT have winter maintenance within the Hullett Marsh boundaries.

FOH would like to remind members to use interior roads at your own risk. Please follow any road closures that may occur within the Marsh.

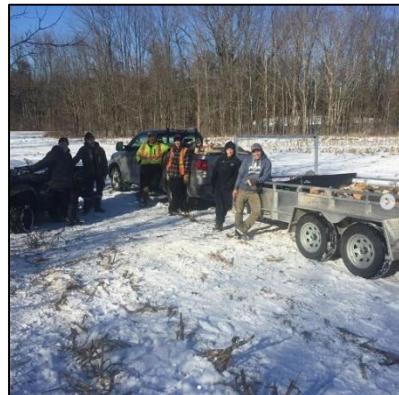
During the winter, there are two parking lots that snow will be removed from: **40672 Hydro Line Road** and **80602 Wildlife Line**. Please be patient with FOH staff as we remove snow from these parking lots.

Volunteer Work Day

On January 4th, 2019, FOH staff and 7 volunteers completed a Volunteer Work Day. This was an opportunity for high school students to come out and gain hours towards their required community hours.

The day consisted of removing trees that could potentially fall onto one of Hullett's agricultural fields. Due to the Emerald Ash Borer, a number of White Ash trees needed to be removed from the field edge. To ensure these trees did not go to waste, FOH staff cut and split them while volunteers collected and stacked wood inside our main barn. The wood will provide heat in our work shop.

FOH would like to thank all of the volunteers that came out to help. Special thanks to **John Leppington** for bringing his ATV to transport firewood!



Volunteering

Since FOH is a non-profit organization working with only **2 full-time staff members**, we rely on our members and volunteers for help.

During the 2018 season, FOH had the opportunity to work with volunteers on different tasks. Many of these tasks can be completed all year round inside and outside.



If you are interested in volunteering at Hullett Marsh, contact FOH for more information at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca. Staff will email members and volunteers when a workday is being hosted at Hullett Marsh.



Friends of Hullett

Annual General Meeting

On **Sunday May 26th, 2019** Friends of Hullett will be hosting their Annual General Meeting. Come out to join fellow FOH members and voice your opinion to make a difference at Hullett Marsh.

This meeting will run as follows:

- Updates and conditions within the Marsh
- Presentation of the Vanessa Palmer Award
- Board of Director elections

The AGM will be hosted at our office complex at 41378 Hydro Line Road just outside of Clinton. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. with a barbecue lunch to follow.



AGM Agenda

- 1/ Introduction of Board of Directors and Guests
- 2/ Report from Marsh Staff
- 3/ Financial Report
- 4/ Report from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- 5/ Report from the Friends of Hullett Board
- 6/ Presentation of Vanessa Palmer Award
- 7/ Questions, Comments and Suggestions from members floor
- 8/ Election of officers to the Board of Directors
- 9/ Guest Presentation (TBA)
- 10/ Barbeque Lunch

Vanessa Palmer Award

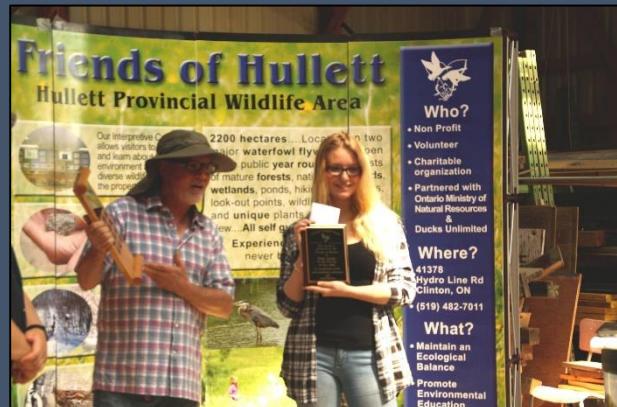
Friends of Hullett will be accepting application letters for the Vanessa Palmer award. The award was created in 2005 in memory of Vanessa Palmer and is awarded to deserving youth on an annual basis.

Vanessa Palmer was born and raised in Southern Ontario. She developed a love and passion of the outdoors. In 2002, Vanessa was elected to sit on the Friends of Hullett Board of Directors. As a director, she was instrumental in developing a place for the public to learn about the natural environment.

In recognition of Vanessa's outstanding commitment and achievement to environmental awareness and education, the Vanessa Palmer Award was created. This award is ideally suited for students beginning their post-secondary education in environmental studies. Students are asked to write 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 email your submission to fohoffice@tcc.on.ca. Applicants must submit their letters by April 26th, 2019.



Friends of Hullett

FOH Charity Dinner and Auction

FOH would like to announce the 6th annual **2019 Spring Dinner and Auction**. This year's event will be held at the **Bluewater Golf Course in Bayfield on Sunday, May 5th, at 4:00 p.m.**

Based on last year's success, FOH chose to continue with Bluewater Golf Course as the venue. The evening includes: dinner prepared by Chef Devon Taber (Bon Vivant Catering), a silent and live auction, door prizes and a free FOH membership.

If you are interested in attending this event, contact FOH staff via email (foohoffice@tcc.on.ca) or phone at (519) 482-7011. You will receive a \$50 charitable tax receipt with the purchase of your ticket. Tickets are on sale now!



Early Bird Prizes

Similar to last year, if you purchase your ticket by **Friday March 8th**, you will automatically be entered to win one of two **Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH)** memberships or a **\$50 gift certificate to Maelstrom Winery** located 2 km from Hullett Marsh.

To continue with the success of this fundraiser, we are seeking [your help](#) in the collection and donation of prizes for both the silent and live auctions. **Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations.**

Winter Activities

Even though winter has a grasp over Hullett Marsh, there are still many winter activities to participate in. Since 2 of our parking lots have snow removal, some of our trails are accessible; Blue, Yellow, White, Green & Purple trails can all be accessed.

You can:



- Snowshoe
- Cross country ski
- Hike
- Geocache
- Hunt (must follow Hullett & Ontario Regulations)

Come on out and enjoy Hullett this winter!

Nordic Skiing Event

On **January 27th, 2019**, come and join the Maitland Trail Association for a Nordic ski outing at Hullett Marsh.

Participants will meet and embark from the parking lot at 80602 Wildlife Line, then:

- Ski East on the Blue trail
- North on the Green trail
- South on the White trail
- Return to the parking lot (Blue trail)

A trail will be previously set.

Washrooms are available at the parking lot. Please dress in layers and bring a snack and drink for a mid-way break.

For more information or to register, contact Doug Ellacott at dou�ellacott@gmail.com.



Alternative date will be February 16th, 2019.

Friends of Hullett

Snowmobiles in Hullett

Snowmobiles are permitted within Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area on registered Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club (OFSC) trails **only**. The North Huron Trail Groomers Club are responsible for trails within Hullett Marsh and surrounding areas.



Snowmobiles leaving marked OFSC trails create a safety concern and disturb wintering wildlife. **Please ensure you follow marked OFSC trails.**

For more information about OFSC, please visit:
<http://www.ofsc.on.ca/>

Eagle Buffer Zone

FOH established a **400 metre buffer zone** in the fall of 2013 to help protect our resident Bald Eagle from human disturbance.

In Ontario, the Bald Eagle is a species of 'Special Concern' under the *Endangered Species Act*, which took effect in 2008. Our resident female is banded and now over 10 years old. As of last nesting season, 12 eaglets have fledged since the spring of 2013.



Please respect the privacy of the eagles and the perimeter around the nest site during the posted time period. This buffer zone is in effect from February 1st to June 15th.

Species Profile: Bald Eagle

With a wing span of up to 8 feet, a lifespan of 25 to 40 years, and a distinctive appearance, the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), is an iconic bird of prey found throughout North America. Bald Eagles have had a challenging history in Ontario.



Beginning in the 1960's, the Bald Eagle was an endangered species throughout Ontario. This species has since rebounded and is now listed only as special concern.

A harmful pesticide known as DDT (Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) is what led to this drastic drop in population numbers. DDT was one of the very first pesticides to be approved for use in Ontario and was glorified as a "wonder-chemical"- a perfect solution to all pest problems. Unfortunately, when introduced to the food chain, bald eagles suffered tremendously.

Bald Eagles are a sea-bird, meaning their primary source of food is fish. When DDT residues washed into nearby waterways, aquatic plants and fish absorbed the chemicals and Bald Eagles would eat the contaminated fish. The effect of DDT on eagles was seen in their reproduction process as they were unable to produce strong eggshells. As a result, the eggs easily broke during incubation, or for other reasons, failed to hatch. With no new bald eagles being born, the population was in jeopardy.



Quickly, the federal government banned DDT and began to clean up its effects on the environment. Hullett Marsh is blessed to have our own nesting pair of eagles and it depends on all users to protect these beautiful creatures.

Written by: Cassie Eveland

Friends of Hullett

Youth Pheasant Hunt

On November 17th, 2018, the 12th annual Huron-Perth Youth Pheasant Hunt was held at Hullett Marsh. This year we had 19 apprentice hunters participate.



Even though they had shot at least one round of trap previously, after a quick refresher on gun safety, they started the hunt off

with a few shots at some clay targets as practice and to make sure everything was working safely. Then off to the hunt fields they went.

Mother Nature may not have given us a perfect sunny fall day. There was snow on the ground and it was cold, but that is all part of the hunting experience. After the hunt in the field, the apprentice hunters returned to clean and process their pheasants (nice to have everything cleaned and bagged to take home!). A great lunch was served between the morning and afternoon hunts. Deane Waite from the MNR gave a short talk at this time.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that make this hunt possible every year. From the dogs, dog handlers, bird planters, marshals, mentors, cooks, speakers, instructors and clean up people, you make it work smoothly. Thanks also to our sponsors and ticket sales people who keep us in funds. And also thanks to Anthony Edwards, one of our past participants who was our photographer and took the great photos.

Thanks again for all those smiling faces.

Until next year,

Mike Leitch

**Youth Pheasant
Hunt Chairman**



Youth Pheasant Hunt



For more information on registration for the 2019 Youth Pheasant Hunt, please visit: <http://www.loop-perthhuron.ca/youth.html>.

Friends of Hullett

Youth Waterfowl Clinic

As discussed in our last newsletter, FOH hosted our 4th Annual Youth Waterfowl Clinic in September. As a final part to their participation, we asked youth to provide a statement about their experience.

"The FOH were very generous and taught us about duck habitat and gave us things to get started on our waterfowl hunting. The day of the hunt was very exhilarating hunting with experienced people. I liked how they teach you step by step how to do it." - Gabriel

"The staff at Hullett Marsh do a great job of maintaining the property, it was fun seeing all the ducks during our duck box collection. I enjoyed hunting with my mentor and shooting my first duck." - Benjamin

"I had a lot of fun, I got to go outside and wake up early and see all the wildlife in the morning. I got to shoot a Blue-winged Teal. I had a wonderful mentor who taught me a lot about being patient and to watch out for Blue Herons. It was truly an amazing experience and I hope to go again next year. Thank you very much for providing me with this opportunity." - Deborah



"This year was my second year doing the clinic and I still look forward to it every year. It is an extremely useful and informative clinic that not only taught me most of the things I know about waterfowl hunting but also really got me into hunting ducks and geese." - Luke

"During the 2018 Youth Waterfowl Clinic I had the opportunity to remove a nesting box and learned to look for eggs shells which was very interesting. I had the opportunity to practice shooting before the hunt and learned how to set up decoys for a successful hunt. This experience helped me to have a safe and successful fall hunting season."

- Connor



"I really enjoyed the Youth Waterfowl Clinic and learned about hunting safety when setting up your decoy spread so the waterfowl is more likely to land in front of me for a safe harvest. I also enjoyed getting new information from other hunters. I would recommend this program for new youth hunters as it helps them to learn new facts about hunting and waterfowl." - Cameron

"The Youth Waterfowl clinic was a great experience that gave me an understanding of waterfowl hunting, identification, calling and decoy spread. It was nice to have practical experience from a knowledgeable mentor. Hopefully I can put this knowledge to good use in future years of waterfowl hunting." - Jake

"Friends of Hullett Youth Waterfowl Clinic was an amazing experience for all of us. It was an opportunity for learning and excelling, guided by outstanding mentors who



encourage us in every aspect. From learning how to protect bird species to target practice and the hunt. I'd like to thank all Hullett members for an awesome time. I would recommend the Youth Waterfowl Clinic to anyone!" - Cody

"Being a two time participant in the Youth Waterfowl Clinic at the Hullett Marsh is something I have learnt a lot from as I got my very first duck the first time I attended this event and it turned out to be a uncommon duck (Female Northern Shoveler) which convinced me I wanted to continue to waterfowl Hunt so I applied to come back for a second time to hunt and I proved how much I had learned by using all the bonus waterfowl gear I have received from Youth Waterfowl Clinic I attended and I shot a limit of ducks on my second year at the waterfowl hunt. So I can now say I have gained a passion from attending the Youth Waterfowl Clinic and will continue to hunt waterfowl because of this amazing experience being able to see the land that the Hullett Marsh offers hunting access to and also the tips I have received from the mentors, but also seeing their dogs in action is something all on its own." - Bailey

"The 2018 youth waterfowl clinic was an incredible experience for me. It not only informed me of the rules and regulations but also allowed me to shoot my first duck and see how fun duck hunting is." - Ryan

Friends of Hullett

Youth Waterfowl Clinic

"Mentorship is a crucial part in keeping our hunting heritage alive; having experienced a youth hunt from the apprentice perspective in the past, it is very rewarding to now be a mentor in the Youth Waterfowl Hunt. Teaching the next generation how to successfully maintain waterfowl habitat in addition to

hunting techniques and strategies plays an imperative role in the continuation of the sport of waterfowling. It is especially important for organizations like the Friends of Hullett to foster a passion for the sport in order to have adequate volunteer support to maintain habitat and nesting structures." - **Chris Ambrose, 2nd year mentor**

"I've had the privilege of mentoring for the past three years. We haven't always left the stakes with ducks, but if the youth had fun and gained some knowledge I consider it a success. I look forward to mentoring for years to come." - **Jason Bayne, 3rd year mentor**

Again, Friends of Hullett would like to thank our youth participants for providing statements to put in our Winter Newsletter. We would also like to thank our mentors and volunteers for taking time out of their busy schedule to help provide such a great opportunity for our youth. Special thanks to our sponsors: Clinton Sporting Goods, Huron Fish and Game, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Delta Waterfowl, Northern Exposure, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and donations by various individuals for the support of this event. The 2019 Youth Waterfowl Clinic registration is open. Please contact FOH staff for more information.



Call for Photos!

Once again, Hullett Marsh is requesting our users to submit their Hullett Marsh photos for a chance to be on the cover of our 2019/20 User Guide. Follow our simple guideline and submit your photo with the best quality possible to fohoffice@tcc.on.ca!

Guidelines:

- Must be in Hullett Marsh
- Depict safe practices
- Not contain gore
- Contain the name of the person entering the photo contest as the title. (Example: John_Smith.jpg)

The winner will receive a free FOH membership.

**Deadline for the Photo Contest
is March 31st, 2019!**



Connect with Hullett Marsh

Friends of Hullett continues to keep 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.

