

WELCOME TO THE MARSH MATTERS NEWSLETTER, A MONTHLY PUBLICATION TO KEEP OUR VALUED MEMBERS, VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE LOOP ABOUT THE HAPPENINGS OF THE WYE MARSH!



DID YOU KNOW?

Blue Jays are a beloved sight to both birders and sports fans alike. These common song birds are easy to identify by their vibrant blue colouring and crested head.

Blue Jays are known for their intelligence. They also known to have complex social systems and tight family bonds. Blue Jays often mate for life.

Acorns are a preferred snack for Blue Jay.

They are credited to helping spread oak trees because of this.



On November 11, we commemorate Remembrance Day, honouring the bravery and sacrifice of the men and women who have served and continue to serve Canada.

Although this year we cannot attend in-person events, we can all pay tribute by observing a moment of silence at 11:00am on November 11 wherever we are, wearing a poppy, or by following the provincial virtual event. **Lest we forget.**



FALL/ WINTER HOURS AT WYE MARSH

Wye Marsh is open 7 days a week
Trails & Birds of Prey open 9:00am-4:00pm
Visitor Centre open 9:00am-5:00pm

ON THE WILD SIDE:

With the cooling weather and winter on the way, everyone in the marsh is making the necessary preparations. Here's where and how your favourite wetland residents spend the winter:

- **Chipmunks** > spend the fall gathering a cache of nuts and seeds, then spend the winter in a deep hibernation-like sleep, waking up to snack on their cache
- **Snapping Turtles** > hibernate in the mud at the bottom of marshes or ponds, dropping their heart rate and temperature
- **Garter Snakes** > hibernate in underground dens/ burrows, sometimes in large groups
- **Great Blue Herons** > migrate south when the weather gets cooler, some even as far as Florida
- **Beavers** > do not hibernate, but are less active during the winter, spending the majority of the season in their lodges
- **Snowy Owls** > migrate from the northern tundra into more southern winter grounds, including Simcoe County
- **Leopard Frogs** > hibernate at the muddy bottom of oxygen rich bodies of water, on top of the mud so the oxygen in the water can get in through their skin
- **Red-Wing Blackbirds** > migrate south for the winter to southern United States or Central America

Winter Feeder Tips

Putting up a feeder with seed or suet is great for winter birds. However, no one likes to hear the thud of a window collision.

To make your windows bird-safe, consider hanging your feeders well away from windows, or applying window markers to the outside of windows such as decals or window paint.

Wondering what type of feed to put out? Consider a mix of nyger seed, black oil sunflower seed, and suet to attract different songbirds and woodpeckers!



SWAN LANDING REVITALIZATION PROJECT



**TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation**

Trumpeter Swans are one of the most iconic birds that call Wye Marsh home. Wye Marsh is working to repair, revitalize, and re-brand the current Swan Monitoring Centre to **Swan Landing**, making it an educational hub. This includes new signage and repairs to the building for use of the public, visiting school groups, and our Swan Monitoring Volunteers.

Staff are applying for grants to fund this work. We are happy to report that we have received funding from the TD Friends of the Environment Fund for the educational signage that will tell the story of the re-introduction of Trumpeter Swans, provide information on their species, and outline life in the marsh in all four seasons. We are very excited about this project, and will be providing updates as it takes shape. The planned completion for the project is Fall 2021.



E84 & V71 at the Swan Monitoring Centre.

Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser:

CONNECTING FOR CONSERVATION



\$9,475.00 RAISED!



Thanks to you support, Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser has raised **\$9,475.00** so far with our online auction, Dine at Dock Lunch specials, donations, and sponsorships. **THANK YOU!**

We are humbled by the support of our community, and deeply appreciate these contributions that will support Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre's conservation, stewardship, and environmental education efforts.

2020 was Wye Marsh's first online fundraiser. As with everyone, we had to pivot our major events this year to a format that was safe for all. This meant moving our auction and raffle online, and partnering with the

World Famous Dock Lunch to host take-out dinner specials. It was a challenge that we tackled as a team, and thanks to the support of those who bid, those who spread awareness of the fundraiser, those who donated, local businesses who donated prizes, and the local businesses who sponsored the fundraiser, it was a success.

Where possible, please consider supporting these local businesses who have generously supported Wye Marsh. Local business is at the heart of every community, so please shop local.

Stay tuned for the 50/50 raffle to be launched in the coming weeks, and help us reach our \$10,000 goal!

MARSH SCHOOL

November 19 - December 11

Full Day & Part Day Programs

Outdoor, Hands-on Learning | Small Groups

Certified Teacher | Linked to Ontario Curriculum

Register online at www.wyemarsh.com/marsh-school or by emailing education@wyemarsh.com



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

As usual Wye Marsh put on a vivid display of wonderful fall colours and the change in seasons has been enjoyed by the hundreds of visitors that came through the Centre in the past five weeks that our doors have been open. It has been great to see familiar faces as well as a lot of newcomers that are discovering Wye Marsh for the first time. The chickadees have done their part in welcoming people and we are happy to be handing out sunflower seeds to people so these lovely little birds can build up their stores for the coming winter.

Thanks to everyone that participated in the on-line auction, please stay tuned for the upcoming 50/50 draw. These on-line events replaced our regular Annual Dinner and are integral to Wye Marsh's overall fundraising efforts.

Marsh School successfully completed its first four weeks, and we are busy planning the next round of classes as well as upcoming winter activities. If there are any virtual nature-based workshops you think you would be interested in please drop us a line at info@wyemarsh.com and let us know your ideas.

- Mary Ann Milne, Executive Director



The cattails turn golden as the seasons change.

Nick Laferriere - Photography for Barrie Tourism.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

I would like to offer the Board's congratulations to the staff and all of you supporters for the tremendous success of the Connecting for Conservation Fundraiser. Your response and support is very much appreciated. I hope all you successful bidders enjoy your purchases. I know we will ours. We also want to acknowledge the generous response from all the organizations and individuals that donated the many diverse items for the sale.

The board is still working on preparing a fundraising effort targeting industrial and larger commercial entities. This is taking much longer than I imagined but we are getting closer.

One of the Wye's long time supporters, Joep Diening, has volunteered to head up a committee charged with a long term and important task for the board. In addition to that effort Joep is also assisting the board in organizing a group we are calling "Wye Elders". The concept is to identify and solicit the help of community members with expertise in several areas to provide advice and guidance to the board and organization on an as needed basis. If successful this should give the organization a very diverse level of expertise to improve policy and action decision making.

Hope you can come visit and enjoy the Marsh. Keep safe and healthy.

- Dave Robertson, President of Friends of Wye Marsh Inc. Board of Directors

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Consider becoming to be part of our enthusiastic team! To sign up or inquire about volunteering, contact Amanda at ASWICK@WYEMARSH.COM or 705-526-7809.

FRONT DESK VOLUNTEERS

ROLE: Greeting visitors, answer the phone, provide direction, and process admission and gift store purchases. Training provided.

TIME COMMITMENT: Between 4-12 hours per month.

Shifts are either 9:30am-1:00pm (AM) or 1:00pm- 4:30pm (PM).

We are currently looking for volunteers to fill shifts Monday-Fridays, and can work with your schedule for what suits you best—either a weekly, or on call commitment.



When hiking the trails at Wye Marsh, don't forget some sunflower seed for the Chickadees!



FROM THE WOODCARVERS

Thank you to the Wye Marsh Association of Woodcarvers for this this beautiful wooden sign (left), carved for Wye Marsh by the talented carver Murray Potts and members of the Wye Marsh Association of Woodcarvers. What beautiful craftsmanship!

For more about the Wye Marsh Association of Woodcarvers, visit:

<https://www.wyemarsh.com/woodcarvers>



FROM THE WILDFLOWER GARDENERS

The Wye Marsh Wildflower Gardeners have had a busy season this year! They were hard at work in the summer tending to the wildflower gardens at the entranceway to the Wye Marsh, directing visitors who came through the gardens, selling seeds online, and have spent the fall collecting their seeds for next year's sales. The group volunteered ~800 hours this year. We are very grateful to have such dedicated gardeners volunteering at Wye Marsh. Their work in the garden is appreciated by staff, visitors, and many different pollinators alike.

Join us in welcoming Joan Whitman as the incoming President of the Wye Marsh Wildflower Gardeners.

VISITING WYE MARSH DURING COVID-19:

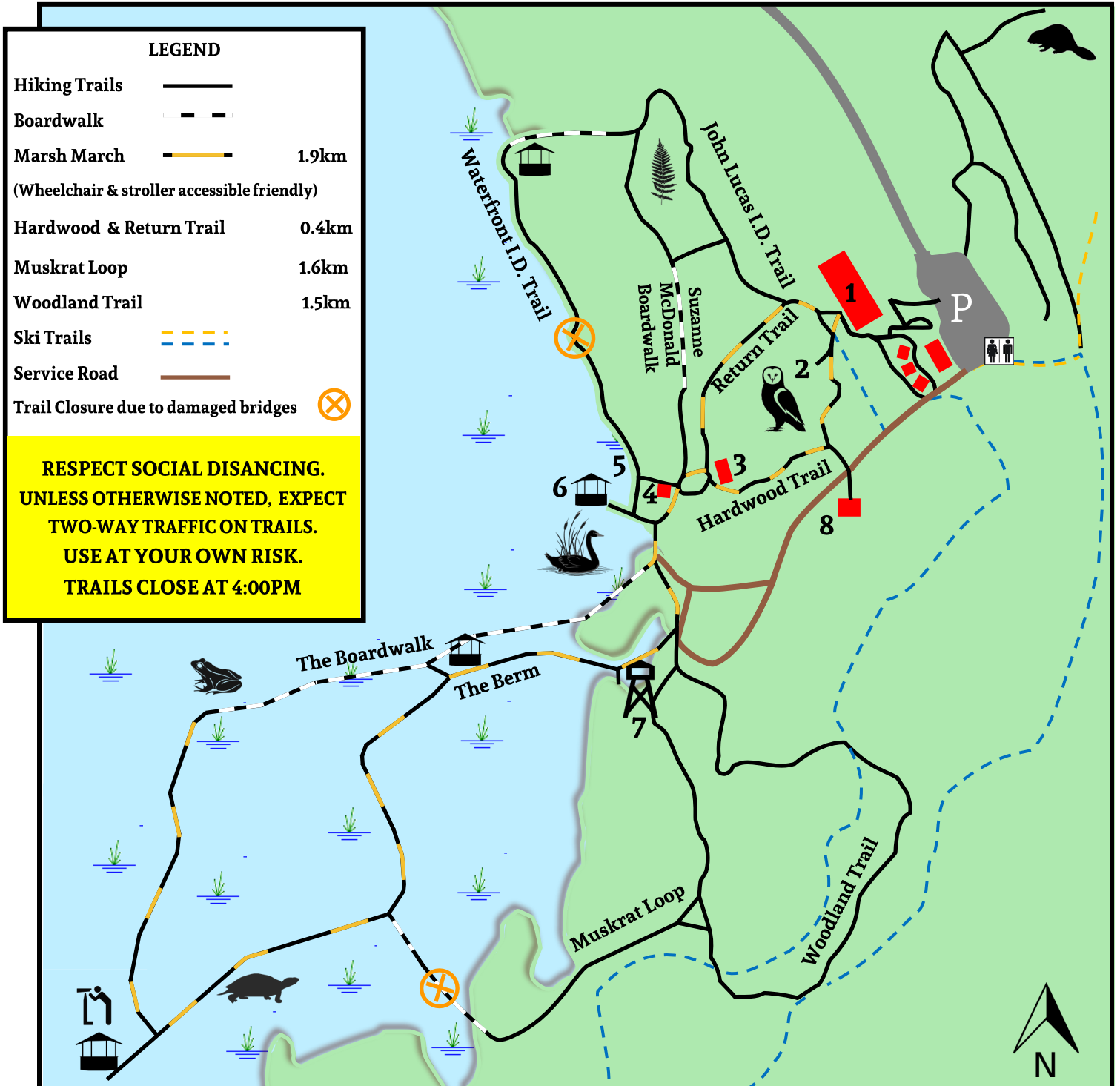
Wye Marsh is pleased to have the Visitor Centre, Birds of Prey Field, and Trail System open 7 days a week!

Trails & Birds of Prey Open: 9:00am—4:00pm

Visitor Centre Open: 9:00am - 5:00pm

- 1 Visitor's Centre - OPEN
(Masks or face coverings required)
- 2 Birds of Prey Field - OPEN
- 3 Sugar Shack - Closed
- 4 Log Cabin - Closed
- 5 Canoe Dock - Closed
- 6 Waterfowl Monitoring Station - One Family at a time
- 7 Observation Tower - One Family at a time

-  Open Land/ Forest
-  Wetland/Open Water
-  Building



Please use caution on all trails, walkways, boardwalks, waterways and property of the Wye Marsh. Appropriate hiking footwear is recommended. Slippery conditions exist when wet. Be aware that plant roots and loose rocks can create natural trip hazards when extending above paths. Immediately exit the trails if foul weather conditions threaten.