

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?

November 7 marks the end of day light savings for 2021 (which began on March 14). This means we set our clocks back an hour, and enjoy the 'extra' shut eye, and then spend more time in the daylight as our hours of darkness shift based on Earth's rotations.

Did you know that day light savings was first officially observed in Port Arthur, Ontario in 1908? This was followed by Orillia in 1911, which the begun a global trend that was largely adopted during World War 1 as a resource conservation method. The idea was that if people's regular day took place when there was more natural light, less energy was needed. Following the war many countries abandoned day light savings, with some exceptions like Canada, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

With the reminder to fall your clocks back an hour is the reminder that Wye Marsh's trail system will be closing at 4:00pm as of November 7 to account for the shorter hours of daylight. The Visitor Centre will remain open to 5:00pm.

MARSH SCHOOL

Registration for December 2021 - April 2022 sessions is **now open!** Students learn science, art, and more through the lens of nature in small groups and hands-on classes!
To learn more or register, [please click here.](#)



ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser is happening virtually this month - join us for an online silent auction and a 50/50 Draw!
For more info see page 4, [or click here.](#)



Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre is **open daily**, from **9:00am-4:00pm.**

Updated safety precautions are in place. For more information, [please click here.](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARSH?

Auction:
Oct. 23 - Nov. 20

Annual Fundraiser: Connecting for Conservation—Silent Auction & 50/50 Draw

Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser goes virtual again this year! Place your bids online for incredible prizes including local artworks, gift certificates, unique items, and more! There will also be a 50/50 draw. 50/50 tickets are 1 for \$10, 5 for \$25, or 15 for \$50, and are available for purchase at Wye Marsh. For more information on the fundraiser, [please click here](#).

50/50 Draw:
Oct. 23 - Dec. 30

Art in the Marsh—Stone Carving

November 13
1:00pm-3:00pm

Be inspired by nature at this introductory class for carving alabaster & soapstone. Participants will create pendants and small sculptures, and learn how to finish and mount their pieces. \$47 pp. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

Fridays in
December, January,
February, March,
& April

Marsh School

Marsh School offers safe, inquiry-based learning in small groups with an Outdoor Naturalist. Students experience nature at their own pace, making greater connections to nature through art and discovering the wonders of nature through a scientific lens. Pre-registration is required. To learn more about Marsh School or to register, [please click here](#).

November 20
10:00am-4:00pm

Badge Day

Badge Days are the perfect opportunity for Guiders and Scouters to perfect or learn new skills towards their chosen badges. Pre-registration is required. Participants must register 2 weeks in advance (on or before November 6, 2021). To learn more or to register, [please click here](#).

December 5
1:00pm-2:30pm

Art in the Marsh—Wreath Making

Just in time for the holidays - create and hang a homemade wreath this year! Enjoy an afternoon creating evergreen wreaths with cedar, blue spruce, and painted pine cones. \$30pp. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

December 11
10:00am-12:00pm

Backyard Birding: Feeder Birds Workshop

This workshop is a great opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts to get involved in a winter activity! On the chilliest of days this winter you will be able to witness the splendors of nature, even if you aren't willing to leave your cozy home. Birding can happen in all weather! \$20pp. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

December 18
10:00am-12:00pm

Winter Raptor Review

Join us for a comprehensive overview of identification and conservation around Central Ontario's exciting raptor species, including identifying probable habitat and behaviours. \$25pp. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

December
20, 21, 22,
27, 28, 29

Winter Break Camp

Get your nature lovers outside this winter break! Campers will be given so many opportunities to connect with nature that they will forget all about connecting to their devices! Ages 6-12. Register for whole camp or individual dates. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

Saturdays
in December,
January & February

Winter Wildthings For Kids

Exclusively run outdoors, this program will focus on embracing all that winter has to offer! From snowshoe obstacle courses & bannock roasting to shelter building & animal tracking, participants will learn new skills & uncover some of winter's mysteries! Ages 6-12. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

ON THE WILD SIDE:

Can you ever feel the chill in the air! Well, so can nature. Different species are doing their part for the cooler temperatures including building up their caches, lining their burrows or nests, finding hibernation or brumation sites, and fattening up for the harsher season.

Bird feeders are an excellent way to lend a hand- or wing - to the feathered friends who may visit your yard this fall/ winter. Placing feeders at different heights, of varying types, filled with different seeds will accommodate and attract different types of birds.

- **Lower, platform feeders** with blends including **millet** are suited for ground feeding birds like **sparrows or juncos**.
- **Hopper or tube feeders** with blends including **nyjer seed** placed at shoulder height suit shrub feeding birds like **cardinals and finches**.
- **Suet feeders** with **peanuts and dried fruit**, placed high off the ground suit birds used to feeding in tall trees, like **chickadees, nuthatches, or woodpeckers**. Be sure to only put out suet in freezing temperatures to avoid bacteria.
- **Black oil sunflower seed** appeals to the greatest number of birds and can be used in most types of feeders to attract most birds. Wye Marsh uses black oil sunflower seeds our feeders. Millet and cracked corn are also popular with different species - but avoid oats, milo, or wheat.

WOODPECKERS OF ONTARIO

Named for their behaviours of drilling into trees and logs for food, woodpeckers are incredible birds. There are 9 woodpecker species that can be found in Ontario.



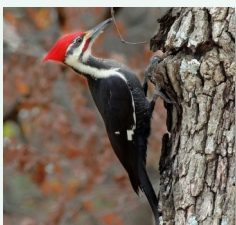
Downy Woodpecker

Downy Woodpeckers are one of the most commonly sighted woodpeckers in Ontario. ID by white belly, and mostly black back with small white markings. Males have a small red patch on the back of their head.



Northern Flicker Woodpecker

Roughly the size of a Robin, ID Northern Flickers by their golden plumage with black spots and black bib. Northern Flickers can often be found on the forest floor pecking soil for ants.



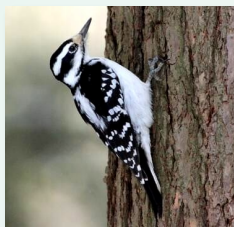
Pileated Woodpecker

The largest woodpecker species in Ontario, ID by their vibrant red "mohawk" crest, deep black plumage, and size.



Red-bellied Woodpecker

ID by red head & black and white barred back/ wings. The name can be confusing since their bellies don't actually contain much red coloring, other than an indistinct red wash.



Hairy Woodpecker

Similar plumage to Downy Woodpecker, you can differentiate a Hairy Woodpecker by their longer beak and larger size.



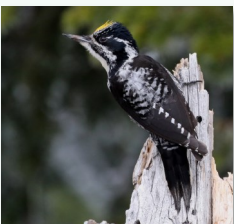
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

ID yellowish-white belly with red head, white shoulder cap and black & white back. Males have a red throat, females have a white throat.



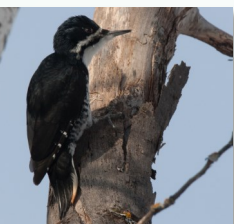
Red-headed Woodpecker

ID by burgundy-red head & neck, and black wings with white bar, and white belly. Sadly, populations have decreased 70% in the last 50 years due to habitat destruction.



American Three-toed Woodpecker

ID by black body and wings with white barring. Unlike most Ontario woodpeckers, this species does not have red plumage. Males have yellow crown, females do not.



Black-backed Woodpecker

ID by all black back for which species is named, with no barring. Black-backed Woodpeckers are commonly found in recently burned forests feeding on grubs in dead trees.

Presented by:

THE
SEASONS
ON LITTLE LAKE

MIDLAND

Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser:
**CONNECTING FOR
CONSERVATION**

Funds raised will support Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre's conservation, stewardship, and environmental education efforts.

Online Silent Auction

Oct 23 - Nov 20

Place your bids online for incredible prizes!

Prizes include art, gift certificates and local prize-packs. Bidders over the posted value will be entered in a High Bidder's Draw!

50/50 Draw

Oct 23 - Dec 30

Get your tickets to win!

Tickets are 1 for \$10, 5 for \$25, or 15 for \$50. Available for purchase at Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre.

WWW.WYEMARSH.COM/ANNUAL-FUNDRAISER



THANK YOU to our friends at World Famous Dock Lunch for their support and donations to Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser: Connecting for Conservation!

THANK YOU to everyone who purchased one of the Wye Marsh dinner specials. We hope you enjoyed your meal as much as we did!

World Famous Dock Lunch is open at the Penetang Waterfront year-round. Consider them when you're looking for some great, local food!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Each of our volunteers is invaluable to the success of the Wye Marsh, and we appreciate every role that is taken up. This monthly volunteer spotlight is meant to highlight some of the great work done by our volunteers.

Thank you to all!

ELLEN DENNIG

Ellen Dennig (right) laughs as another Chickadee swoops down and plucks a seed from her hand.

"The Chickadee is not as spectacular as some birds, but it works its way into your heart," she says, knowingly.

As a long-time Outreach Committee Member, Ellen knows the secret to fostering environmental stewardship is to give people the chance to connect with nature. That is why she volunteers at Wye Marsh special events like our Sweetwater Harvest Festival, as well as at Tugfest, the Coldwater Steampunk Festival, and other special events to promote the Wye Marsh and invite people to walk our trails.

"If they don't get out, how will they learn to appreciate and care about nature?" she asks.



An avid hiker, and member of the Midland-Penetanguishene Field Naturalists, Ellen is passionate about the environment and conservation efforts. She has been a Trumpeter Swan Monitor for many years and seeing these magnificent birds in Port Severn, Washago, and the surrounding area is deeply rewarding.

"This is something we have done," she says with satisfaction. She is proud to be part of the Marsh, and of its role in re-introducing an extirpated species back into the heart of Georgian Bay.



Thanks to the dedication of volunteers like Ellen, and the Swan Monitoring Volunteer Team, Trumpeter Swans have gone from an extirpation to a steadily growing population. There are now over 1,500 of these majestic birds in the wild in Ontario. Their population size and health is tracked via leg bands and wing tags by volunteers.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

The leaves are falling, the birds are heading south, and I'm pretty sure I saw snow the other day. All of nature, and the staff at Wye Marsh, are getting ready for the coming winter. The canoes are put away, the ski trail groomer is tuned up, the toques are ordered for the gift shop, and Wodin the Snowy Owl is back on display.

We have been hard at work making and installing new signs around Wye Marsh with the purpose of providing more information on the ducks, turtles and bats that call Wye Marsh their home. We hope you learn a little something new on your next visit!

The big news this month is our fundraising auction – Connecting for Conservation. We are grateful to the Dock Lunch for providing us with donations from meals sold

the weekend of October 23-24, and encourage everyone to check out the auction through our website. There are great packages, items and experiences on offer from a wide variety of local businesses – something for everyone! The auction closes November 20, so be sure to bid, and keep checking back. Sincere thanks go out to all the people, groups and businesses who provided items for this year's auction. We are also selling 50/50 tickets in the Visitor Centre at Wye Marsh – tickets are 1 for \$10, 5 for \$25, or 15 for \$50, and are on sale until December 30. They make great gifts!

Until next month, stay warm and dry... and don't forget to dig out those mittens!

- Kim Hacker, Executive Director



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

As we reluctantly put away our summer things for yet another year, let us give thanks for the progress which has been made in the last few months, that has given us all more possible occasions to enjoy our amazing outdoor environment and all that it holds.

Even though many people regard November as a "bridge month", between the beauties of Fall and the impending excitements of the festive season, it nevertheless offers us yet another opportunity to appreciate the Wye Marsh in all its seasons. The tracery of the bare tree branches stands out against the grey sky, the pale light enhances the subtle colours of the autumnal vegetation, and the rich scents of the marsh are not yet diminished by frost and snow.

I would also like to urge you to support our fundraising initiatives which have recently launched; and remind you that the gift shop has been "stocking up" in preparation for the festive season!

Please do not forget that as of Sunday November 7th, because Daylight Saving Time ends and it gets dark earlier, our Trail Closing Time will move to 4 p.m.

Enjoy and celebrate your Marsh!

- Alasdair MacLean, President of Friends of Wye Marsh Inc. Board of Directors

THANK YOU!

Wye Marsh would like to say thank you to Lu LaFrance and the Butch LaFrance Memorial Georgian Bay Land Trust Endowment Fund.

Since 2010 the Butch LaFrance Memorial Georgian Bay Land Trust Endowment Fund at the Huronia Community Foundation has been supporting organizations that help protect the environment of the Southern Georgian Bay area. One of this year's recipients is the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre.

Pictured (L to R) Kim Hacker and Lu LaFrance.



Thank you to The Seasons on Little Lake for their generous contribution as the Title Event Sponsor of Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser: Connecting for Conservation.

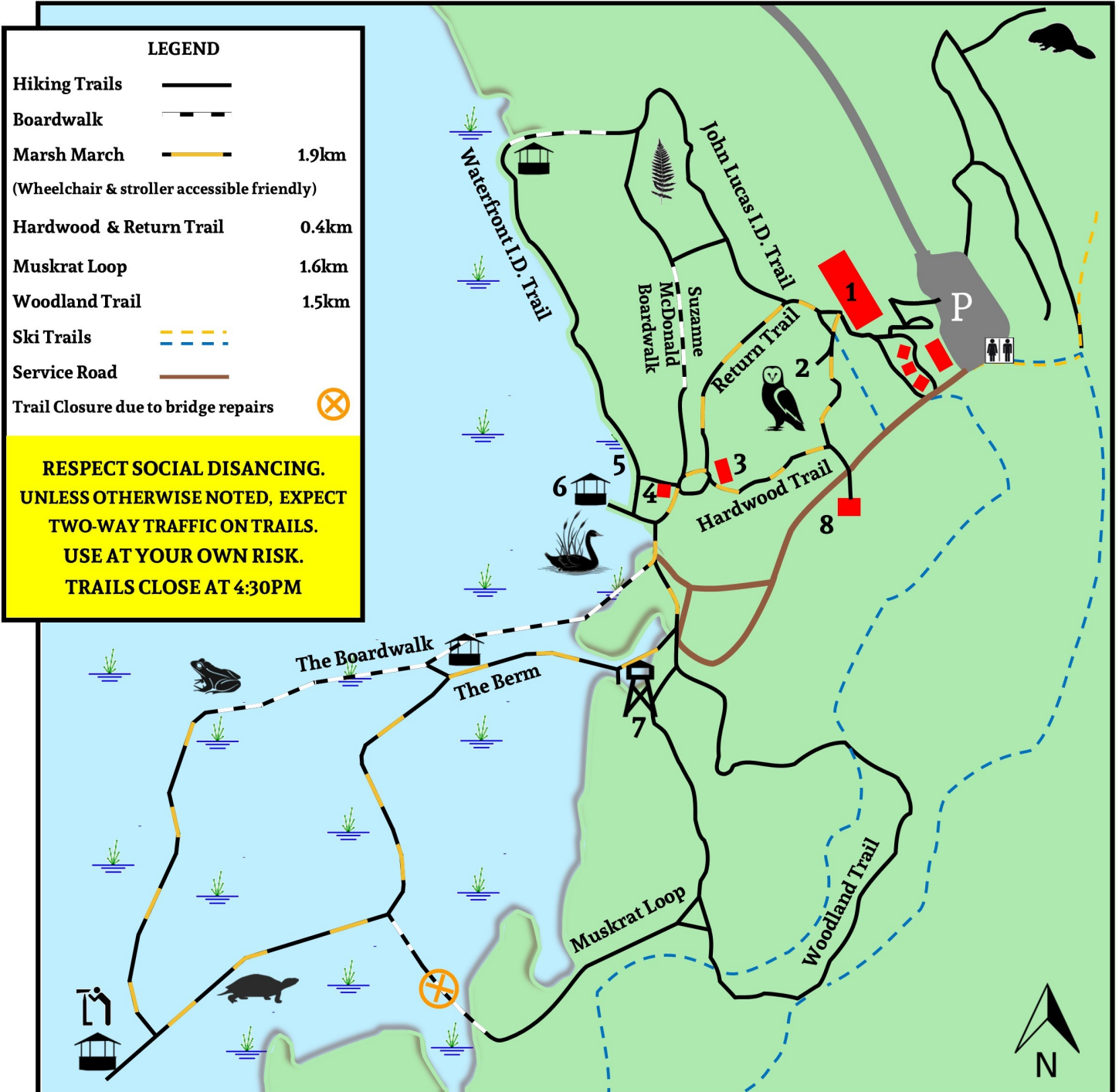
www.seasonslittlelake.com

VISITING WYE MARSH DURING COVID-19:

Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre is open to explore 7 days a week, in all seasons!
Trails are open daily from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

- 1 **Visitor's Centre**
(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
- 8 **Bee House** - 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.