

*escape...explore...experience*

**WYEMARSH**

*January 2009*

*Wye Marsh Newsletter*

*P.O. Box 100, Midland ON L4R 4K6*

*Phone: (705) 526-7809*

*Email: [info@wyemarsh.com](mailto:info@wyemarsh.com)*

*[www.wyemarsh.com](http://www.wyemarsh.com)*

## Making the Environmental Stewardship Connection for 25 Years Let the Celebration Begin!

*Welcome to the beginning of what promises to be a fantastic celebration year for Wye Marsh.* In 1984 Friends of Wye Marsh was established and here we are 25 years later. Some things have definitely changed over the years, we now offer extensive recreational programs including mountain bikes and kayaks, providing a unique way to experience the amazing environment of Wye Marsh.

Even with all the changes, we have always remained true to our original ideals and the reasons we began this journey in the first place: *to spark a commitment to conserving wetlands, woodlands and wildlife by creating exciting learning opportunities in a natural setting.*

This dedication to preservation, education and awareness is strongly embedded in the Wye Marsh culture and we uphold this with everything we do.

In today's global environment, it is impossible to not be responsive to what's happening with our increased awareness and the need to cultivate our next generation of environmental stewards.

The Marsh is a special place which has been gifted to us. We are fortunate that a group of thoughtful people had the foresight to want to preserve this gift for generations to come.

With the unwavering dedication and support from our volunteers, members, donors,

guests and staff, we have been able to keep this vision going strong. Together we understand the importance and necessity for maintaining this wonderful planet and the spaces we inhabit and share with other species.

In this issue and each issue this year, we will share the history of Friends of Wye Marsh with you. We hope that you appreciate what Wye Marsh represents as much as we do and we welcome you to join the celebration. Send us your memories, pictures and memorabilia from past visits, as we commemorate the past that has brought us to a promising future.

Happy Anniversary!  
Laurie Schutt  
Executive Director

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## World Wetland Day February 2, 2009

*“Upstream...Downstream”*  
Wetlands Connect Us All

Monday, February 2nd is the official day for raising awareness and learning about the importance and interconnection of river basins, wetlands and the environment.

Wye Marsh is proud to be participating in this special global event and to continue educating and imparting our love of the Marsh with our community supporters.

The Ramsar theme for 2009 is designed around wetlands and river basin management and the role our wetlands play in their surrounding environments.

For more than 25 years Wye Marsh has been a valuable tool for educating thousands of people about the importance of wetlands. This has been a direct contribution in strengthening the connection between individuals and nature.

Join us in celebrating the natural beauty and importance of maintaining a healthy environment at the Wye Marsh.

For full details on this exciting events, visit our website at [www.wyemarsh.com](http://www.wyemarsh.com).



## Open House Celebration

What better way to start the celebrations then with a fun-filled Open House and Membership Drive. Attending this event will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the benefits of joining the Friends of Wye Marsh family by becoming a member.



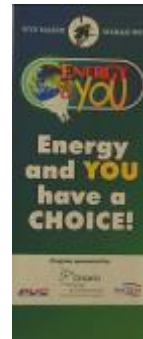
Environmental Stewardship of our natural resources is something that we all directly benefit from. In celebration of our 25th anniversary, Wye Marsh continues to teach the importance of preserving the connection between our community and environment.

During our Open House and Membership Drive held on Saturday, January 24th 10:00am–4:00pm our programs and activities will be available FREE for your family and friends. Our aim is to expose the benefits of becoming a member of Wye Marsh to families living in the Simcoe County community and beyond.

This is our kick-off to many more events and activities showcasing Wye Marsh and the diverse activities available.



Come and meet existing members, volunteers, board of directors and staff of Wye Marsh. Learn about educational initiatives provided to school children by participating in our Energy & You program.



Obtain informative literature about the importance of environmental conservation as well as detailed brochures outlining our winter programs including: winter snowshoe ecotours, children's winter camp programs, birds of prey workshops and the retrofitting of the swan rehabilitation centre, taking it completely off the grid.

The Wye Marsh Open House is an opportunity for us to share our excitement and successes of the past twenty-five years and our enthusiasm for the next twenty-five and beyond.

You are cordially invited to be our guest, and please, bring a friend!

## Event Reminders

**Friday, January 2, 2009**  
Falconry Workshop 10am–5pm  
\$50 per person

**Friday, January 9, 2009**  
Moonlight Full-Moon Ski 7pm-9pm

**Saturday, January 10, 2009**  
Falconry Workshop 10am–5pm  
\$50 per person

**Thursday, January 22, 2009**  
Southern Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce  
Business After 5

**Saturday, January 24, 2009**  
Open House & Membership Drive

**Wednesday, January 28, 2009**  
Annual General Meeting 7pm–9pm

# Marsh Matters

## January: Chickadees Claim Territory

Chickadees are a favorite friend when visiting Wye Marsh. They like to keep you company as you walk the trails and sing their special *chick-a-dee-dee-dee* song in hopes of obtaining some yummy seeds from the comfort of you cupped hands.

January marks a special time for Chickadees as this is the time for mating pairs to claim their territory in preparation for their chicks.

Both parents work together to mark their territory and to search out an old tree stump or an

abandoned woodpeckers hole for a nesting site.

During mating season the male Chickadee will bring food to the female and will continue to do so while she incubates her eggs.

Once hatched both parents will continue to feed and care for the chicks for approximately four weeks.

Wye Marsh is an ideal environment to observe and meet these sweet little birds as their natural habitat includes both deciduous and coniferous forests.

To learn more about the Chickadees and their habitat come on out for a guided walk available with admission Saturday's & Sundays.

And to bring home the fun, pick up a copy of *That Chickadee Feeling* by Frank Glew in the Marsh Memories store. You'll love it!



## Follow-Up's & Thank You's

As we've mentioned in previous newsletters, the holiday season was a month for giving and sharing special events. Thank you to our volunteers for their huge efforts in making our Holiday Gift Wrapping event an annual success. The weather seemed to be working against us, but we managed to raise just under \$8,000. And many thanks to Helen Riggan for donating her time and the materials for 2,000 bows and making a special appearance on the A-Channel's Breakfast Television.

In addition, our first presentation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol was a hit, not only with the audience, but Jowi Taylor of CBC Radio said "this was the best presentation that I've ever done, and I'm looking forward to coming back and doing it again next year." Thank you to the Huronia Players and the Children's Community Choir for their contribution.

## Swan Centre - Off the Grid

In our continued efforts of conservation, Wye Marsh is pleased to announce the Swan Rehabilitation "Power Project" was awarded \$4,305 as part of the Shell Environmental Fund (SEF) initiatives.

Taking the rehabilitation centre completely off grid by eliminating the use of electrical energy consumption, reduces greenhouse gases and improves the affect of climate change.

In addition, 'Wye Marsh Comes

to You' programs have now received funding enabling the cost of each exciting program to be reduced to \$150.00.

This is an excellent opportunity to experience the benefits of Wye Marsh in class rooms, boardrooms or special event at a location of your choice.

As always, Wye Marsh greatly appreciates the support received through grants, donations and subsidies from the government, private and public sectors.

✂ -----

Yes! I would like to Support  
**Wye Marsh**  
Chickadee



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Yes! I would like to give a gift of...*

\$25  \$35  \$50  \$100 or Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a **Monthly Donation** of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a cheque made payable to:  
Friends of Wye Marsh

I prefer to make my gift by  Visa  Mastercard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your support!*

Please return this form with your donation or fax: 705.526-3294.

An official tax receipt will be issued for income tax purposes.

Charitable # 101894426RR0001

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16160 Hwy. 12, P.O. Box 100, Midland, L4R 4K6

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Email: info@wyemarsh.com www.wyemarsh.com