

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?

Cattails are actually floating! Their roots intertwine with each other to form a woven matting with decomposing cattails from the previous year, as opposed to anchoring in the mud. From year to year you may notice that the shorelines and small cattails 'islands' within wetlands shift. During the winter the ice flows move things around.

Cattails are home to many species, like nesting Red-Winged Blackbirds. They also provide a food source, shelter for species who hide within (or underneath) them, a spot for reptiles to bask, and even help regulate water flow and water levels of wetlands.



*Juvenile Red-Winged Blackbird.*



Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre is  
**open daily, from  
9:00am-4:30pm.**

Updated safety precautions are in place. For more information on Wye Marsh's reopening & visiting Wye Marsh during COVID-19, [please click here.](#)



# ON THE WILD SIDE:

It's still summer! The Fall Equinox will take place on September 22 at 3:21 pm, to usher in autumn and the wonderful colours that come with it. For now, let's enjoy the last of the heat, sunshine, and wildlife that are out and about in summer.

September 4 is National Wildlife Day, a celebration of

Canadian wildlife in all forms - from feathers to fur, scaled to shelled, big to small. Wildlife to keep an eye out for while exploring Wye Marsh and surrounding Georgian Bay continue to be basking turtles and snakes on sunny days, Trumpeter Swans, herons, beavers, muskrats, the elusive otter at the boardwalk (if you're lucky and *very* quiet!), and of course lots of frogs. The wildflower gardens are a-buzz with bees after the nectar of late blooming wildflowers, and Monarchs can be found around the Milkweed before they begin their migration south.

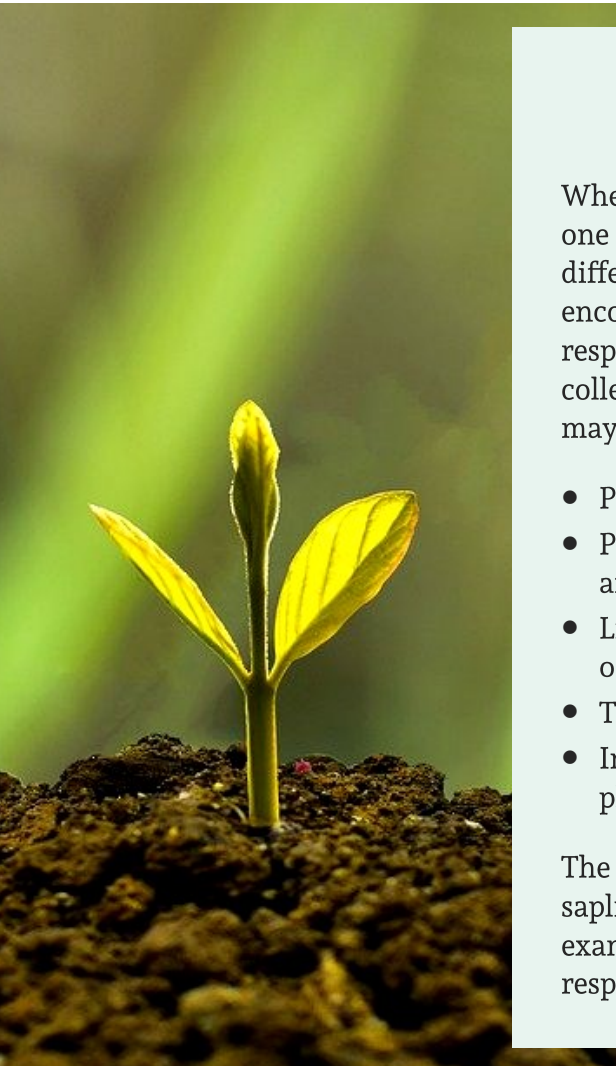


## How much does one tree *really* help?

When considering the massive scale of the climate crisis we are faced with, one can often feel overwhelmed. There are so many things that can make a difference, and we encourage you to do as many as possible - but we also encourage you to just *try one*. Thousands of people practising environmental responsibility imperfectly is better than one person doing it perfectly. It's a collective effort, and even the smallest actions can *grow* into more than you may think! Consider planting a sapling. As it grows, this single tree can:

- Provide 1 day's oxygen for up to 4 people once it matures
- Provide habitat to upwards of 20 different species - including birds, insects, and small mammals
- Lift up to 750L of water out of the ground and discharge it into the air in one day
- Take in (sequester) more than 1 ton of carbon dioxide in its lifetime
- Improve soil quality to provide better growing conditions to surrounding plant life

The smallest actions can ripple into incredible effects in our world. Planting a sapling in your yard can provide benefits for decades to come, and is only one example. There is no action too small in support of environmental responsibility and the stewardship of our planet!



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARSH?

## Explore the Trails + Visit Birds of Prey

**Daily**  
9:00am– 4:30pm

With over 25km of trails to explore, enjoy a hike out onto the floating boardwalk to search for turtles and frogs, through the woodlands listening for songbirds, up the Observation Tower for panoramic views, or to Birds of Prey to meet the Raptors. There are live animal demonstrations on Saturdays & Sundays at 1:00pm.

## Nature Nook Self-Guided Discovery Activities

**Daily**

The Wye Marsh Nature Nook has scavenger hunts, birding booklets, the Great Tree Challenge and other *FREE* activities to compliment your exploration of Wye Marsh and prompt you to experience nature in different ways. The Nature Nook is located in the Visitor Centre.

## Introduction to Birding Workshop

**September 18**  
9:00am - 11:00am

If you are a beginning birder, or you just want to brush up on your skills, join us for a birding ID workshop. We'll look at habitat, behaviour and "diagnostics" to identify species, and end with a walk through the Marsh to see what's around! Pre-registration is required, \$20.00 per person includes admission to Wye Marsh for the day. For more info, [please click here](#).

## Maples & Other Delights: The Wonders of Wye Marsh Reception

**September 25**  
2:00pm-4:00pm

Wye Marsh is currently partnering with Quest Art School + Gallery to host 3 regional artists as artists-in-residence on site at Wye Marsh to capture and explore the beauty of wetlands, nature, and specifically maple. Learn more about the residency and the artists on page 4.

**Artist's Remarks**  
2:30pm

The residency will culminate in an exhibition of the work by the artists at Wye Marsh. The event will take place on Saturday, September 25 as part of the province-wide Culture Days Celebration. The event will take place in the Wye Marsh's Visitor Centre, with the artists speaking at 2:30pm. Guests are welcome to drop-in any time between 2:00pm and 4:00pm.

## Migratory Birds Workshop

**September 25**  
9:00am - 11:00am

This workshop will explore the mechanics and theories (the "why") of migration, as well identifying migrating species, and end with a hike in search of migratory waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds. Pre-registration is required, \$25.00 per person includes admission to Wye Marsh for the day. For more info, [please click here](#).



*A wonderful aerial shot of some of the wetlands at Wye Marsh—specifically Mud Lake. This shot was taken as part of the Wye Marsh Stewardship Department's project to locate, map, and remove invasive species.*

## MAPLES & OTHER DELIGHTS: THE WONDERS OF WYE MARSH

Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre and Quest Art School + Gallery are pleased to announce a collaborative artists-in-residence programme titled *Maples & Other Delights: The Wonders of Wye Marsh*.

This residency is being undertaken by three regional artists: Holly Archer, Kasia Latos, and Aaron White. Beginning the week of August 9, the artists have been exploring, engaging with and interpreting the natural beauty and ecological systems at Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, with a focus on maple trees.

Members of the public can meet with the artists while they work. Times that the artists will be on site will vary from week to week and may be weather-dependent. Quest and Wye Marsh will post on our social media times that the artists will be on site.

Wye Marsh and Quest have a history of successfully collaborating together on other projects and we welcome this opportunity to bring together art and nature.

**The residency will culminate in an exhibition of the work by the artists at Wye Marsh. The event will take place on Saturday, September 25th at 2:00pm as part of the province-wide Culture Days Celebration. The event will take place in the Wye Marsh's Visitor Centre, with the artists speaking at 2:30pm. Guests are welcome to drop-in any time between 2:00pm and 4:00pm.**

Wye Marsh and Quest Art gratefully acknowledge the support from the Government of Canada – Building Communities Through Arts & Heritage funding for this project.



*Holly Archer captured shoreline scenes at the Canoe Dock.*  
@hollyarcherart



*Aaron White, with his fabulous easel on wheels, painted wooded scenes near the Sugar Shack.*  
@aaronwhitesart



*Kasia Latos explored the shapes and forms of wetlands on the boardwalk.*  
@kasialatatos\_art



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

What a whirlwind August has been! We set a 2021 record for attendance on the August long weekend, and have continued to be busy despite the unpredictable weather this month.

Our Stewardship Department, led by Stewardship Manager Patrick Jackson, has been working hard to eliminate invasive phragmites in the Marsh, and their removal season is now almost at an end as the seed heads are about to open and moving plant matter can do more harm than good at that stage.

Our Day Camp has just concluded an amazing eight weeks of activity for 135 campers, many who came for more than one week. We are sad to say goodbye to the Counsellors and CITs (students who volunteer as Counsellors in Training) who made the summer memorable for our campers. We say a special thank you and congratulations to first-year Camp Director Abigail Lenehan (Tadpole) who made sure everything ran safely and smoothly all summer long.

Now our attention turns to fall. We are pleased to be continuing to provide outdoor educational programming to Simcoe County District School Board schools, and are looking forward to resuming some (socially distanced) public programming this autumn.

We are also excited to be in a partnership with Quest Art this month. Local artists Kasia Latos, Aaron White, and Holly Archer are spending time on site this month creating works of art for our Maples and Other Delights art show on September 25 and we hope to see you there!

And speaking of events, I'd also like to introduce our new Event & Volunteer Coordinator, Heather Keery. Heather has previously worked for other non-profit groups such as the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority, the Coldwater Steampunk Festival, and Gateway for Learning. Heather is currently hard at work planning our fundraising online auction for early October – stay tuned for more details. If you have items you'd like to donate for auction, please speak with Heather at [hkeery@wyemarsh.com](mailto:hkeery@wyemarsh.com).

I wish you a very happy September! I hope all of the students and teachers heading back to school have an excellent and safe start to their year, and I look forward to seeing many of you here at Wye Marsh to enjoy the colourful transition to fall.

**- Kim Hacker, Executive Director**



(Lto R): Bambi (Christian), Bear (Jessica), Lynx (Rose), Toad (Danielle), Pebble (Cameron – CIT), Nemo (Talia – CIT), Chipmunk (Kim Hacker - ED), Dory (Livia), Mink (Bethanie – Assistant Director), Tadpole (Abby – Camp Director).



# 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 team of volunteers.

**Thank you to all!**

## BEN HUTZUL-DYER

This month Wye Marsh would like to celebrate Ben Hutzul-Dyer as our Volunteer of the Month. Ben and his family have been visiting Wye Marsh for years. When asked what he wanted as his Grade 8 Graduation gift last year, Ben responded that he wanted to adopt Hans, our Harris Hawk, as his gift. Most kids would have asked for an iPhone, but Ben wanted to pay his gift forward and that tells you everything you need to know about him.

Ben has served as a Junior Trail Ambassador this summer. He provided numerous visitors with guided tours, answered questions on the boardwalk and in the Bird of Prey area, and even covered at the front desk so he could get cash experience to build his resume.

We are grateful to Ben for spending so many hours of his summer and sharing so much of his knowledge with the visitors here at Wye Marsh, and look forward to seeing him again next summer.



## Thank you Delta!

Funds raised through charity gaming at Delta Gaming support Wye Marsh, and other local charities. Funding supports Wye Marsh's Animal Ambassadors through enrichment programs, feed, and enclosure improvements, as well as outdoor educational programs for youth.

We are grateful for their generosity and support of our community's charitable organizations!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

As you read this, we have completed our first summer season for two years. Despite somewhat turbulent and unpredictable weather (and other events!) it is gratifying to see so many people turning out to sample the activities that the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre offers at this time of year.

Moving forward into the fall and (dare I say it!) winter programs, we are hoping to offer even more of the events that have made the Wye Marsh so special to so many people over the years. The next two months (September and October) are usually very exciting times to be out on the Marsh, as the southerly bird migrations begin, the temperatures moderate, and the insects disappear. So, altogether an excellent time to remind yourself that the Wye Marsh is not only a summer destination.

We look forward to welcoming you and your families!

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


### Wye Marsh Welcomes Heather Keery as Event & Volunteer Coordinator

Creative, dynamic, and resourceful, Heather Keery joins the Wye Marsh as its new Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator. With a degree in Biology and English combined, she has helped mobilized communities to embrace the arts and the environment.

After graduating from Carleton, Heather volunteered with the Severn Sound Remedial Action Plan's Public Advisory Committee, and Wye Marsh Environmental Festival. She moved away to work as a Green Home Tune-Up Advisor in Hamilton, and then organized community tree-planting events, maple syrup festivals, and awards galas for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

"I am so happy to be returning to my environmental roots with the Friends of the Wye Marsh," she said, "I am looking forward to working with all of you to foster a love of nature in the community and support environmental stewardship across Severn Sound."

Heather can be reached at [hkeery@wyemarsh.com](mailto:hkeery@wyemarsh.com) or 705-526-7809 ext. 217.



*Ziibi's white "bald" plumage is vibrant in the sunshine!*

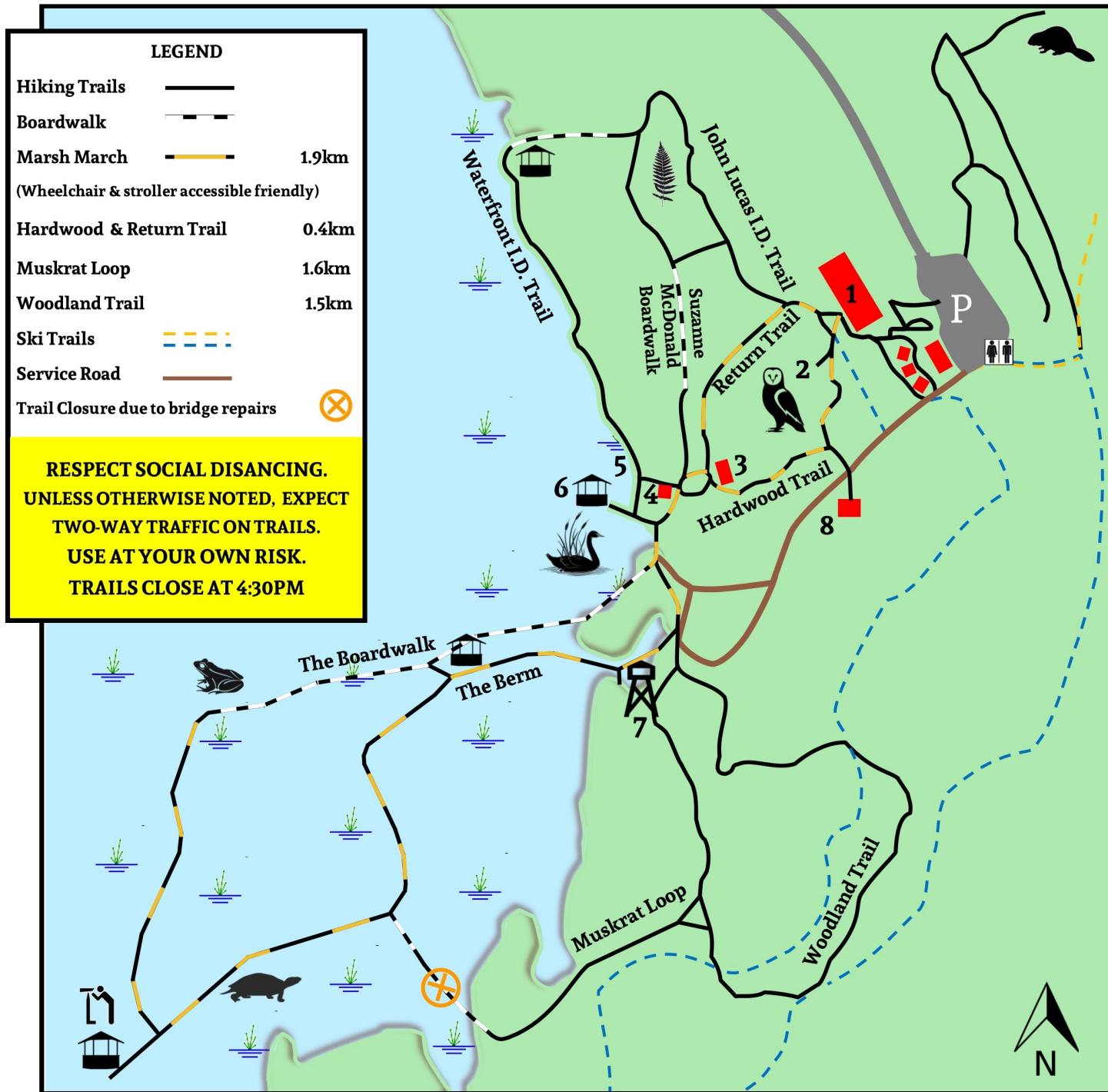
VISITING WYE MARSH DURING COVID-19:

Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre is open to explore 7 days a week, in all seasons!  
Trails are open daily from 9:00am –4:30pm.

- 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.