

ISSUE 68  
AUTUMN 2025

Thank you for your interest in the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. Our Seasonal newsletter, "Marsh Matters," will keep you up-to-date on what is happening at Wye Marsh!

Community Planting  
Party was a great success!



Check out our upcoming  
Fall Programing!



Meet Ruby our Red-Eared  
Slider and why she lives  
at the Marsh.

## MUSIC FOR THE MARSH

September 13th, 2025



12-1PM

Birds of Prey Field Grand  
Re-Opening Celebration



1-4PM

Marsh Melody Trail -  
Afternoon Family Program



7-9PM

Music for the Marsh  
Evening Fundraising Concert

Wye Marsh is open daily at 9:00AM. Our Trail Systems close at 4:30PM and the Visitor Centre at 5:00PM.



## A Message from the Executive Director

Hello members, volunteers, supporters, and all friends of the Wye Marsh.

As the seasons begin to shift and September settles in, we are reminded of the beauty of transition here at the Marsh. The summer months brought energy, visitors, sunshine, and of course, hundreds of eager children ready to experience summer camp at the Wye Marsh for the first time. As we soak in the final remaining weeks of our busiest season, I am grateful for the life that this time of year has brought to the marsh, and many of you who have come to experience it with us.

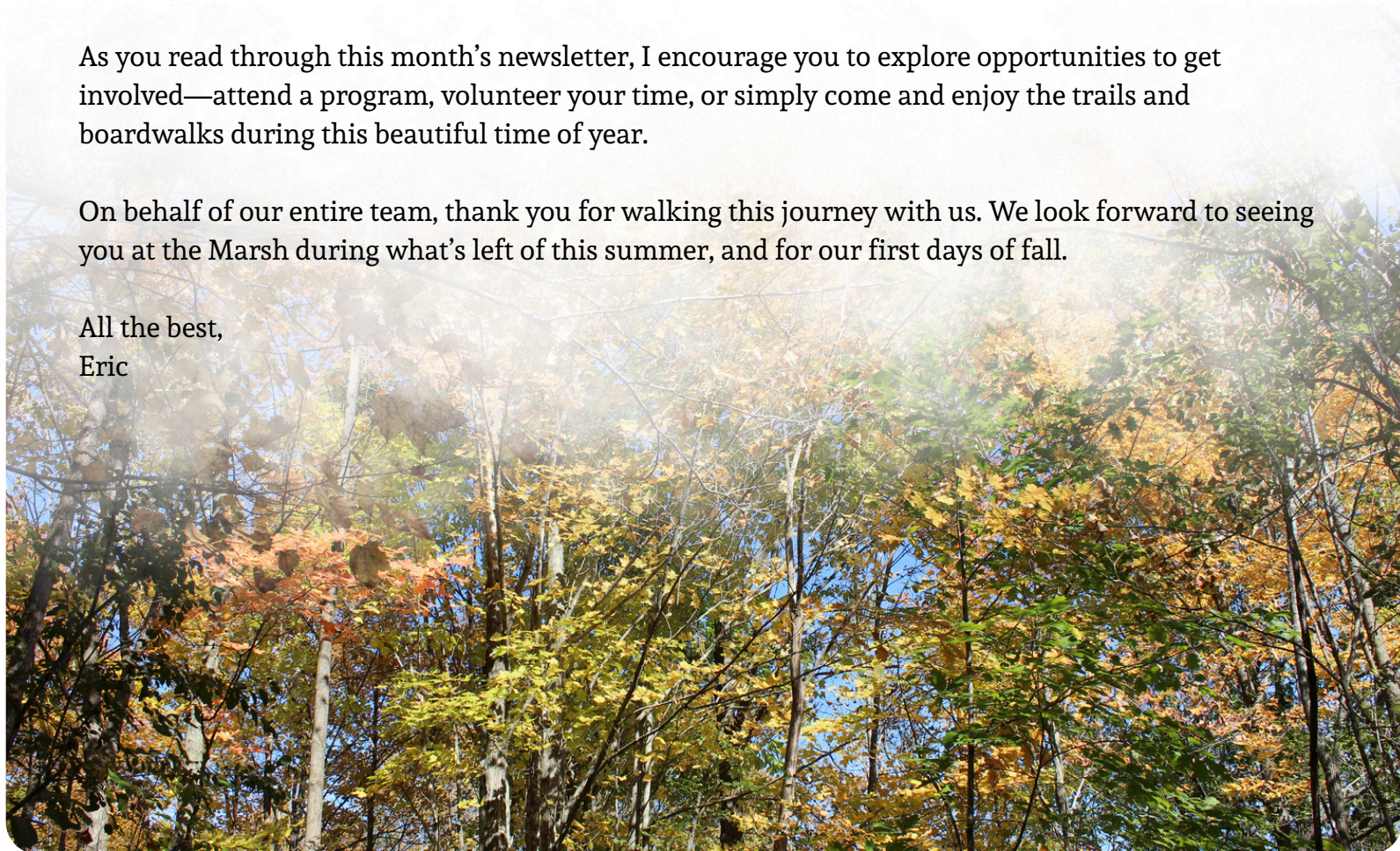
This September, we are excited to share updates on our ongoing conservation initiatives, upcoming programs, and the many ways that your support—whether through volunteering, membership, donations, or participation—helps Wye Marsh thrive as a place of connection, learning, and stewardship.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each of you. Your commitment ensures that the Marsh continues to be a sanctuary for wildlife and a space where people of all ages can connect with nature. Together, we are not only protecting wetlands and woodlands but also nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards.

As you read through this month's newsletter, I encourage you to explore opportunities to get involved—attend a program, volunteer your time, or simply come and enjoy the trails and boardwalks during this beautiful time of year.

On behalf of our entire team, thank you for walking this journey with us. We look forward to seeing you at the Marsh during what's left of this summer, and for our first days of fall.

All the best,  
Eric





## A Fond Thank You to Rick Brady

The Friends of Wye Marsh would like to share with our community that Rick Brady has stepped down from his role as President of the Board of Directors. Rick has been a steady leader, guiding the organization with dedication, wisdom, and heart. His thoughtful stewardship and deep commitment to the Marsh have helped us navigate important milestones and strengthen our mission of connecting people with nature.

Rick's tenure on the board has been one of growth for the organization and the impact that the Wye Marsh, and this important volunteer role has on the community, has not been lost on him over these years.

While we are sad to see him step away from his board role, we are delighted that this is not goodbye. Rick will continue to share his time and talents with Wye Marsh as a volunteer at our front desk, where visitors will still be greeted by his warm smile and welcoming spirit.

On behalf of the board, staff, and volunteers, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Rick for his years of service, leadership, and passion for the Marsh. He has been a steady presence for staff, has been a welcome familiar face to our members and visitors, and has been a source of wisdom and guidance for the hundreds of other volunteers he has crossed paths with during his years. We are grateful for his ongoing presence in our community and look forward to seeing him continue to inspire others through his volunteer work.





## COMMUNITY PLANTING PARTY

THANK YOU!



**Our Stewardship Team is SO THANKFUL for everyone who attended our Community Planting Party.**

The Wye Marsh has been fighting the battle against Buckthorn since the 70s! Buckthorn came to North America in the 19th century, when colonial ships brought ornamental shrubs from Europe, mainly to plant as hedges. The plant quickly adapted the ability to thrive in many new conditions: from shade to bright sun, from sand to clay. Predictably, this plant escaped yards and began its menacing conquest. Over the years multiple control methods have been tried to minimal avail.

Regardless of how one eradicates Buckthorn, removal of the invader is only half the job. Having ripped out the buckthorn, the volunteers of the Wye Marsh came back to plant native species, specially designed for each area's unique micro-habitat. The Marsh will then care for the areas surrounding the new native seedlings and install tree protectors, to suppress the return of unwanted species and give the domestic trees a head start with positive hopes of bringing biodiversity back to the marsh.

If you are interested in joining future Stewardship volunteer opportunities, contact [info@wyemarsh.com](mailto:info@wyemarsh.com)





# Stewardship Sundays!



## Steward Sunday Dream Team

To everyone who joined us for Stewardship Sundays this summer or participated in our recent community tree planting event- Thank you for showing up and showing what's possible when we work together.



Every invasive species you removed and every native plant you helped establish brings Wye Marsh one step closer to renewed ecological health. Your hands-on efforts are laying the foundation for a more resilient landscape that can better support wildlife, absorb climate impacts, and flourish for generations to come. With a Stewardship team of just two people, your involvement means the world to us. Your time, energy, and commitment amplify our capacity to care for this land, and the impact is already visible. It doesn't end here: the buckthorn you've helped clear will be chipped into mulch, fueling future restoration and ensuring that even what's removed continues to give back.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**Share your love of nature with kindred spirits as a Wye Marsh volunteer, and invite a friend to join you on our incredible team!**

Apply now to have fun this Spring and Summer. Explore the possibilities with our: Community Outreach Team, Wildflower Gardeners, Hike Assistants, Trail Ambassadors, Wildlife Monitors, Habitat Restoration Team, Canoeists, Front Desk and Special Events Volunteers. Plus high school students can earn community service hours removing invasive species.

For more information please visit [www.wyemarsh.com/volunteer](http://www.wyemarsh.com/volunteer)  
Call 705-526-7809 ext 217 or email [hkeery@wyemarsh.com](mailto:hkeery@wyemarsh.com)





# MUSIC FOR THE MARSH

September 13th, 2025



12-1PM

Birds of Prey Field  
Grand Re-Opening Celebration



1-4PM

Marsh Melody Trail  
Live Music and Family Fun



7-9PM

Music for the Marsh  
Evening Fundraising Concert

## Ticket Pricing

**Afternoon programs:**  
Included with admission

**Evening program:**  
Regular Price: \$20 Members | \$40 Public

**Purchase Tickets Today!**

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

Call us for more info at  
**705.526.7809**

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*Alexandra Seaton*  
& Paddy Hanlon





## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Meet our 2025 Volunteer of the Year **Gerrit Huvers!**

### WE'RE SO LUCKY!

We have so many wonderful volunteers at Wye Marsh, connecting people with nature and fostering environmental stewardship at a grass roots level both on and off site. We are blessed with their talent and good cheer, and grateful for their ongoing support. Volunteers make the difference at Wye Marsh!

We love celebrating our good fortune and recognize everyone's contributions to our success at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Day. This year, we turned the spotlight on someone who embodies kindness and community spirit. As a key member of our Community Outreach Team, we introduced our Volunteer of the Year as someone who:

- has a truck... and an even bigger heart!
- is on the road most Saturdays, on our behalf, by 6, 7 or 8 am
- takes turns with Dave to haul our Community Outreach gear to Duck Races, Canada Day Celebrations, Special Events & Fall Fairs across Simcoe County all summer long;
- Endures the heat and humidity with a smile on his face, inviting everyone to escape to, experience, and explore Wye Marsh 360 days of the year.

Gerrit invests so much in Wye Marsh, because he believes in what we do. He once explained, "You can come here and see what a wetland looks like. It's a pretty special place.... when people learn about the Trumpeter Swans and the incredible biodiversity of the marsh - they want to protect it."

And Gerrit is right! What we all do together makes a difference.

From setting up sap collection lines, to operating the sugar shack and making presentations, this year's Volunteer of the Year knows how to generate smiles and connect people with nature. We are grateful to Gerrit for all he does. And we extend our thanks and admiration to him. And to all our Wye Marsh Volunteers – You ROCK!



# THANK YOU!

To our AMAZING Summer Camp Counselors-in-Training invested more than 2,000 volunteer hours in:

- Building Skills
- Helping Kids Grow and
- Generating Smiles
- Leading by Example!
- Learning About Nature



## MEET RUBY Red-Eared Slider

**AGE:** Unknown

**REASON FOR LIVING AT WYE MARSH:** Surrendered pet

**FUN FACT:** Red-Eared Sliders are not indigenous to Canada. They originate from the Mississippi River region, ranging from Illinois down to the Gulf of Mexico.

They are the most commonly kept pet turtle species and can live up to 60 years with proper care!

Sadly, many people are unaware of their long lifespan and the intensive care they require, including specialized lighting, a proper diet, and a large aquatic habitat.

Because of this, many pet turtles are neglected, surrendered, or released into the wild, where they can outcompete native species like the Midland Painted Turtle. Red-Eared Sliders are larger and more resilient, which puts pressure on our local ecosystems.

**A Note on Turtle Care:** While turtles like Ruby are fascinating creatures, they are not ideal pets for most people. Their long lives and complex needs make them a long-term commitment. Sadly, many captive turtles don't live even half as long as they would in the wild.

Before adopting a turtle, we encourage you to:

- Research their care thoroughly
- Consider adopting an adult turtle from a rescue
- Think long-term — it's a decades-long responsibility!

## CONNECTING FOR CONSERVATION

Our Friends of Wye Marsh Annual Online Auction is set to take place November 14-23 this year. And with you on our team - we are hoping to raise more than \$10,000 to help take care of our Animal Ambassadors, deliver dynamic programs, maintain trails and raise environmental awareness.

**Please donate. Your auction item could make the difference!**

With your support we can raise funds and continue to...

- Share the wonders of Wye Marsh with more than 30,000 visitors per year as they hike, snowshoe, canoe and kayak with us;
- Foster environmental stewardship at a grass roots level, by delivering meaningful curriculum-based environmental programs to more than 6,000 students per year; and
- Protect and restore vital habitat for threatened and endangered species living in our beautiful National Wildlife Area.

Call Heather at 705-526-7809, Ext. 2017 or email [hkeery@wyemarsh.com](mailto:hkeery@wyemarsh.com) to make a gift that makes a difference at Wye Marsh.

## ONLINE AUCTION





## LAKE SIDE DREAM DRAW

### GRAND PRIZE:

Two 12ft kayaks. Paddles, safety gear  
Two Adirondack chairs

\$10 EACH, OR 3 TICKETS FOR \$25

Valued At

\$3,600

Sponsored by

**Trombly's**



## SUNSET PADDLE WRAP UP

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Friday evening Sunset Paddles, and an extra special shoutout to the incredible volunteers who made this event possible week after week.

Your support helped create such memorable evenings on the water, and we couldn't have done it without you.

We hope you enjoyed paddling into the sunset as much as we did and we look forward to bringing this tradition back again next year!



## WHATS HAPPENING AT THE WYE MARSH THIS FALL



### MUSIC FOR THE MARSH

September 13<sup>th</sup>

An Open-Air Fundraising Concert! Let the sweet sounds of acoustic guitars, soft rock ballads, and country melodies lead you along the trails for a magical night at Wye Marsh.

Members: \$20 + HST | Non-Members: \$40 + HST



### FOREST BATHING

September 17<sup>th</sup> - 2:30pm-4:30pm

Join our certified Forest Therapy Guide as she guides you through a gentle transformative experience of “taking in the atmosphere of the forest.”

Members: \$20 + HST | Non-Members: \$30 + HST



### BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS

September 20<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am - 12:00pm

Want to be more self sufficient? Want to connect with nature? Learn the basics about keeping bees. Not only does this 10,000 year old tradition provide honey, the bees from each hive also pollinate tens of thousands of plants! This is one workshop you don't want to miss. All materials are included.

Members: \$30 + HST | Non-Members: \$40 + HST



### FUNGI: THE FABULOUS KINGDOM THAT BINDS ALL LIFE TOGETHER

September 28<sup>th</sup> - 1:30pm-3:30pm

This is not the usual “can I eat it?” mushroom event... Fungi have a fascinating role within the ecology of our local landscape and this event will be focused on learning to observe and appreciate the many fungal forms encountered along the trails at Wye Marsh.

Non Member \$35+HST | Member \$25+HST



### AUTUMN COLOURS STAINED GLASS WORKSHOP

October 19<sup>th</sup> - 12:00pm-4:00pm

Bring the beauty of Autumn indoors, all year long. Enjoy “bending light” as you create your stained-glass Maple leaf suncatcher! Learn how to cut, grind, foil and solder your own piece of art during this introductory 4-hour workshop with local artist, Susan Dalrymple. All materials and tools provided.

Members: \$55 + HST | Non-Members: \$65+ HST



## HALLOWEEN

October 26<sup>th</sup>

All things spooky, silly, and sparkly are invited in costume to celebrate Halloween in the marsh! Put on your Halloween finery. Teleport to Wye Marsh. Explore the trails to collect stamps in your Halloween passport.

Price: Admission



## STAINED GLASS CARDINAL WORKSHOP

November 23, 2025 12:00-4:00 pm

Discover the world of “bending light” at as you create your own Cardinal suncatcher! Join local artist, Susan Dalrymple, for this introductory 4-hour workshop and learn how to cut, grind, foil and solder your own piece of art. All materials and tools provided.

Non Member \$65+HST | Member \$55+HST

## PROGRAMS FOR CAREGIVERS AND OLDER ADULTS

### Come connect with nature, unwind, and discover something new

Join us at the Wye Marsh for a series of free programs specially designed for caregivers and older adults. Enjoy a variety of enriching experiences, including: Chair Yoga, Forest Bathing, Bird Identification Hike, Turtle Demonstration, and more!

**All programs start at 10am unless otherwise noted**

**Price: Free!**

September 16<sup>th</sup> - Walk the Marsh

September 26<sup>th</sup> - Chair Yoga

September 30<sup>th</sup> - Bird Identification Walk

October 6<sup>th</sup> - Tree Identification Walk

October 16<sup>th</sup> (2pm) - Forest Bathing

October 24<sup>th</sup> - Bonfire

October 30<sup>th</sup> - Turtle Demonstration

November 7<sup>th</sup> - Chair Yoga

**Please register by calling 705-526-7809 or email [cleblanc@wyemarsh.com](mailto:cleblanc@wyemarsh.com).**

**Walk-ins are also welcome.**



# WYE MARSH TRAILS SYSTEM

16160 Highway 12 East, Tay, ON (705) 526-7809



## LEGEND

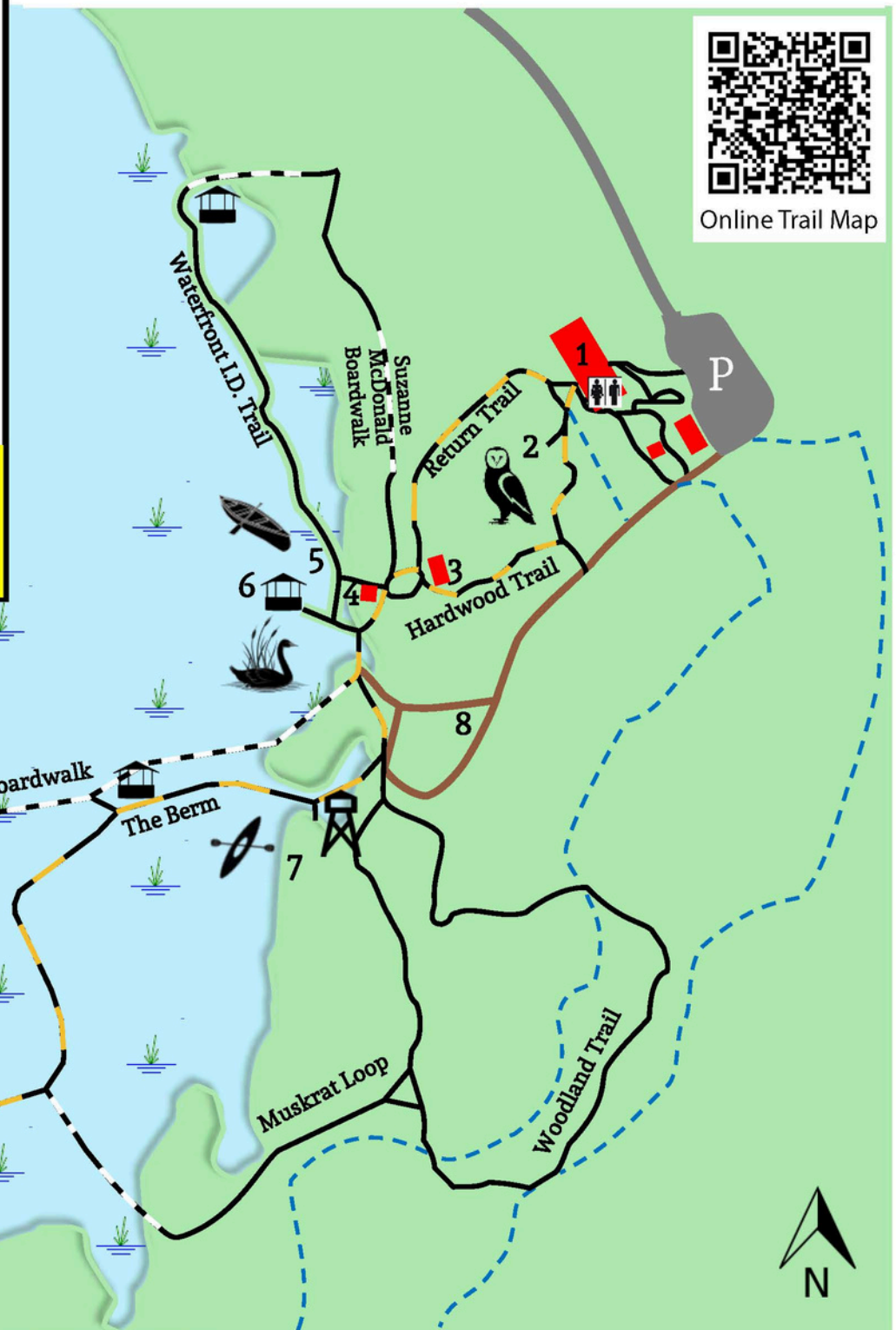
Hiking Trails	—————	
Boardwalk	- - - - -	
Marsh March	—————	1.9km
(Wheelchair & stroller accessible friendly)		
Hardwood & Return Trail	—————	0.4 km
Muskrat Loop	—————	1.6 km
Woodland Trail	—————	1.5 km
I.D. Trails	- - - - -	0.9 km
Snowshoe Trails	- - - - -	
Service Road	—————	

- |                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Visitor's Centre | 2 Birds of Prey Field          |
| 3 Sugar Shack      | 4 Log Cabin                    |
| 5 Canoe Dock       | 6 Waterfowl Monitoring Station |
| 7 Kayak Dock       | 8 Tenting Field                |

	Open Land/Forest
	Wetland
	Building



Online Trail Map



TRAILS CLOSE Nov-April at 4:00 PM  
TRAILS CLOSE May-Oct at 4:30 PM

GATES LOCK AT 5:00PM

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 return to the Visitor's Centre if foul weather occurs.