

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?

While they are best known at this time of year as the host of your holiday décor, pine trees are also very important to a winter forest!

There are over 120 species of pine trees, which are coniferous or 'ever green' trees. Pine trees grow needles as opposed to leaves which remain in all seasons. Pine trees can live up to 100 or even 1,000 years!

In the winter, pine trees act as host to bird species to nest, or in the case of woodpeckers, to drill into the soft wood in search of larvae between the bark. Small mammals like chipmunks or squirrels enjoy eating the seeds of the pine cones, and deer will occasionally eat the bark. For all of these reasons, Pine trees are a spectacular thing - indoors and out!

Happy Holidays!

From all of us at Wye Marsh, we wish your holidays to be merry, bright, and hopefully filled with memories made in nature!



50/50 TICKETS

Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser 50/50 tickers are on sale until December 31! One lucky winner will start 2022 with some extra cash, and every ticket supports Wye Marsh! Tickets are available at Wye Marsh's Visitor Centre. \$10 for 1, \$25 for 5, \$50 for 15.



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?

December 4
9:00am—4:00pm

Wye Marsh's Open House

Join us at Wye Marsh to escape, explore and experience for FREE! Hand feed chickadees, roast bannock, hike the trails or finish up your holiday shopping in our gift shop. For more information on activities happening, [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. \$20pp. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

December 12
12:00pm-3:00pm

Wooden Sign Making Workshop

Just in time for the holidays - make and take a whimsical wooden sign. Create a custom holiday sign to add the perfect touch to your décor - or to give as the perfect gift! \$30- \$40pp. 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 19
1:30pm-3:00pm

Traditional Leather Workshops: Medicine Pouch

Join Marilyn George to create your own Medicine Pouch as we move through the darkest days of winter and into the light of spring. Tools and materials provided. \$30pp. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

December 23
10:00am-12:00pm

Trail Sketching

Explore the Wye Marsh through art. This interactive workshop will teach participants to draw what they see in nature, focusing on a landscape perspective. \$20pp. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

December 23
1:00pm-3:00pm

Learn to Nature Journal

Discovering the natural world for oneself is a wonderful way to learn more about it. This workshop will help participants to look closer at the natural world observation. \$20pp. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

December
24, 25 & 26

Wye Marsh is closed for the Holidays

The Trail System and Visitor Centre at Wye Marsh are closed.

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

Winter Break Camp

Get your nature lovers outside this winter break! From snowshoe obstacle courses & bannock to shelter building & animal tracking. Ages 6-12. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

January
22, 23, 29, & 30
February
5 & 6

Snowshoe EcoTours

Experience areas of the Wye Marsh that are otherwise not open to the general visiting public on this snowshoe tour guided by an Outdoor Naturalist! \$65pp. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

ON THE WILD SIDE:

In the first few snowfalls of the year keep a keen eye for animal tracks in the snow - they will help you discover who is sharing your yard or trail! Wildlife for the most part become more illusive this time of year, as they preserve their energy in the dropping temperatures. Birders on the other hand can rejoice as the cooler weather is some of the best time to view our feathered friends. Many birds are attracted to feeders and easier to spot without the forest's foliage. While nature rests, it does not cease to amaze! Snow dusted trees, and sparking icicles all make for a winter wonderland.

Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing can be excellent ways to explore in the snow - allowing you to explore different winter terrain!



Wye Marsh is pleased to announce that equipment rentals will be available for the 2021-2022 winter season to help you explore further!

Cross Country skis, poles, and boots as well as traditional wooden framed snowshoes and modern metal framed snowshoes will be available to rent for use on Wye Marsh's 25 km of groomed trails.

Procedures will be in place for the safety of staff, volunteers, and visitors regarding COVID-19. More details about this policy will follow.



WINTER OPEN HOUSE

December 4, 2021

Admission and special activities are free during the Open House. Join us to feed the chickadees, make a craft, taste bannock, and snap a selfie with a Snowy Owl!



WINTER BREAK CAMP

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

All the joys of summer camp remixed for frosty fun! From snowshoe obstacle courses & bannock roasting to shelter building & animal tracking, participants will learn new skills, uncover some of winter's mysteries and have fun outdoors!





THE NATURE OF GIVING:

Is there a nature lover on your holiday shopping list?

Consider giving a gift to *escape, explore, and experience* with Wye Marsh. From memberships, to adoptions, to a variety of unique nature based gifts - we have something that's sure to delight all levels of nature enthusiasts.



MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are an all access pass to nature, 362 days of the year. Give the gift to explore the Wye Marsh's wetlands and woodlands all year round, or seasonally. Individual, joint, or family memberships available.

Until December 31, save 25% on a special Holiday Membership!



ADOPTIONS

Symbolic adoptions are a meaningful gift for anyone in your life and support the Animal Ambassadors and wild wildlife populations at Wye Marsh through their feed, care, and enrichment.

Adoptable are Birds of Prey, Reptiles, Trumpeter Swans, and other wetland residents.



ADOPT ME!

GIFT STORE

If you are looking for something to wrap up under the tree, find unique local products like maple syrup or honey, bees wax wrap and candles, local art, Wye Marsh merch, plush animals, nature themed games, puzzles, books, ornaments, and more!



MAKE IT A GREEN HOLIDAY!



Shop Local

Shopping local helps our community thrive - and reduces carbon emissions and waste from shipping and packaging.



Recyclable Wrapping

Most wrapping paper and ribbon cannot be recycled. Consider fabrics or kraft paper with twine or fabric ribbon instead.



Skip the Glitter

Avoid glittery décor. It is a microplastic which is a big contributor to water pollution. Opt for décor from natural materials instead.



LED Lights

Opt for LED holiday lights, and put your holiday lights on a timer to help lower your energy consumption.

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!

GARRY VAN GELDEREN

Garry Van Gelderen flashes a smile as he tinkers with a bird feeder at the Wye Marsh. He enjoys working on special projects, taking people out on snowshoe tours, and paddling a canoe as visitors take in the beauty of the Marsh for the first time. And he is really keen to get back to cross-country skiing at the Marsh this winter.

He and his wife, Ann, moved to the area in 2007. They spent their first winter exploring the trails at the Wye Marsh, and decided to become volunteers. It was a wonderful social experience, and they made lots of new friends as they waited for their house to be built in the spring.

Over the years, Ann enjoyed being part of the Wednesday Afternoon Ladies Club, serving up pancakes at Sweetwater, and helping out with other special events. Gary was happy supporting



weekend programs, baking Bannock for Marsh by Moonlight, and joined Project FeederWatch after discovering his passion for birding. He built composters for the Wildflower Gardeners, and together the two re-shingled the club's potting shed. With Ann's passing in 2017, Garry still volunteers to this day because of the memories they shared, and friendships they made, at the Marsh.

"Basically," he says, "We kind of got married to the Wye Marsh!" And the Friends of the Wye Marsh are so glad you did. THANK YOU for your passion, dedication, and being part of our Wye Marsh family!



Looking forward to cross-country skiing at Wye Marsh?

So are we!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Consider becoming to be part of our enthusiastic team! To sign up for or inquire about positions available, contact Heather at **705-526-7809 ext. 217** or **HKEERY@WYEMARSH.COM**

Snowshoe & Ski Rentals

ROLE: Duties include assisting in sizing, and fitting guests for cross country ski equipment and snowshoes; organizing equipment; providing direction to guests. No experience is necessary, all training is provided. Safety procedures will be in place.

TIME COMMITMENT: Shift times vary, and can accommodate your schedule.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Winter is here! As I write this, snow blankets the ground and is drifting gently from the sky.

Here at Wye Marsh, we are excited to be welcoming back the swans from their summer breeding grounds, and our birdfeeders, thoughtfully filled by volunteers from CLH Developmental Support Services, are seeing lots of action from birds like chickadees, blue jays, mourning doves and nuthatches (and a big ol' black squirrel we have lovingly named Chubbs). Our project Feeder Watch volunteers are carefully recording their bird sightings a few times a week.

We invite friends new and old to come to visit us on our Open House on Saturday, December 4 for a chance to get holiday photos with Wodin the Snowy Owl, make Bannock by the fire, and enjoy a guided hike, with all activities including admission by donation.

A great opportunity for individuals and families to get to know us is by purchasing one of our Holiday Memberships – a four month membership (January 1, 2022 to April 30, 2022) for a fraction of the regular price. They make great holiday gifts, especially when combined with something special and unique from our gift shop. Memberships can be purchased online through our website, or in person at our Visitor Centre.

We are excited to announce that we will be renting snowshoe and cross country ski equipment again this winter. We are closely monitoring public health and will be publishing our procedures on the website later in December.

Although the weather is getting colder, there's still lots to see and do at Wye Marsh – we look forward to your visit!

- Kim Hacker, Executive Director



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

We are all hoping so much that the recent pandemic developments do not severely impact our planned activities over the Christmas season and beyond. As always, the safety and wellbeing of our staff and our guests are paramount, so we apologize in advance if some of our events have to change at relatively short notice; updates can be found on our website, which I am sure that you are all familiar with (if not, check it out!).

Like so many of you, I am waiting expectantly for the silver-lined clouds that will bring us snow suitable for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. As Kim has mentioned, we are planning to rent both skis and snowshoes once the right weather arrives. The procedures involved will be detailed as

we get closer to the time; but we may have to ask for your patience and understanding in the early days.

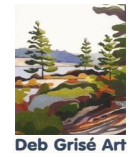
In the meantime, even at this season the Wye Marsh is still well worth a visit, as it continues to settle into winter mode. Some of the slower bodies of water are starting to freeze over; beavers are stocking their winter larders; and the Trumpeter Swans are preparing to overwinter in their pond.

It only remains for me, on behalf of the Board and all the staff of the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, to wish all of our readers a fulfilling festive season.

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

THANK YOU!

Thank you to these amazing local businesses and individuals for their donations to Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser's online auction!



- Tim Hook
- Jana Luker
- Louise Moody
- Winston Smith
- Melanie Dupuis
- Susan Molenda
- Alasdair MacLean
- Carol Szarga
- Margaret Hamelin
- Theresa Bourgeois

Many thanks to Nick Boudouris and Meaghan Sykes at World Famous Dock Lunch for their ongoing support of the Friends of Wye Marsh! Photo: Trinity Robitaille (L) and Meaghan Sykes (R).





WYE MARSH WINTER TRAIL SYSTEM

16160 HIGHWAY 12 EAST, TAY, ON | (705) 526-7809

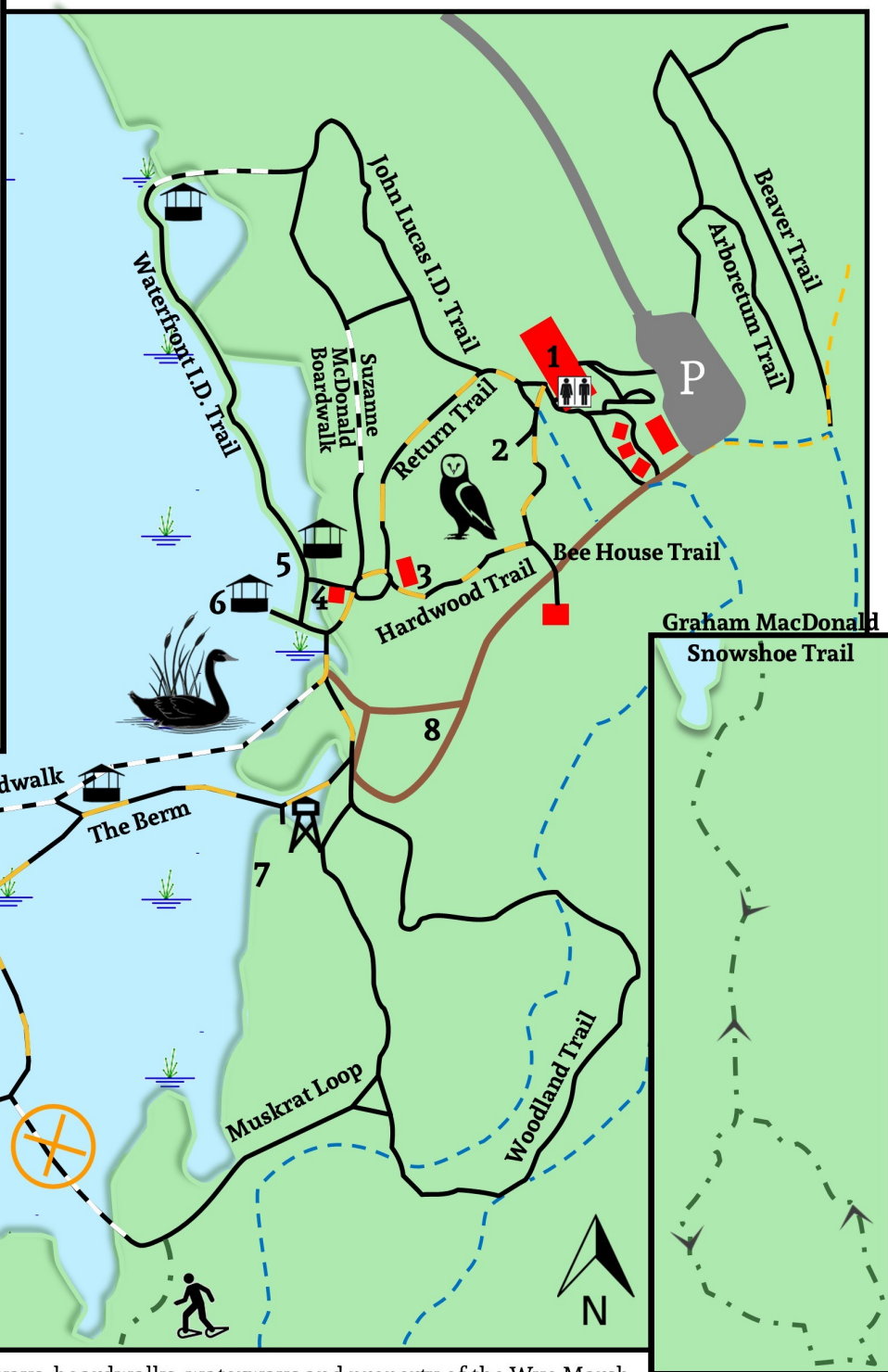
- 1 Visitor's Centre
- 2 Birds of Prey Field
- 3 Sugar Shack
- 4 Log Cabin
- 5 Canoe Dock
- 6 Swan Landing
- 7 Kayak Dock
- 8 Tenting Field

- Forest
- Wetland/ Open Water
- Building

LEGEND

- Hiking Trails
- Boardwalk
- Marsh March
- Hardwood & Return Trail 1.9km
- Muskrat Loop 0.4km
- Woodland Trail 1.6km
- Beaver Trail 1.5km
- Arboretum Trail 1km
- I.D. Trails 0.6km
- Ski Trails 0.9km
- Service Road
- Snowshoe Trail 2.72km
- Bridge closed due to maintenance

TRAILS CLOSE AT 4:00PM
GATES LOCK AT 5:00PM
DANGER
STAY OFF ALL ICE SURFACES



Please use caution on all trails, walkways, boardwalks, waterways and property of the Wye Marsh. Appropriate outdoor wear 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 conditions threaten.