



WETLANDS & WILDLIFE

JANUARY 2022



CELEBRATING WORLD WETLANDS DAY FEBRUARY 2



**WHY ARE WETLANDS IMPORTANT?
PLEASE SEE PAGE 2.**

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Second Marsh Wildlife Area and McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve are on the Treaty and Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation of the Mississauga Nation.

We respectfully honour the knowledge and understanding of the Indigenous stewards of these ancestral lands, and work to ensure that the voices of the first peoples are represented in our collections, programs and services.

Learn more about the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation here:

<https://www.scugogfirstnation.com>

THANK YOU

Friends of Second Marsh is the recipient of the 2022 Anchor Grant and the in-kind donation of office space. Thank you to the City of Oshawa for your continued support of the work that we do throughout the year at the Oshawa Second Marsh and in the Second Marsh watershed.



World Wetlands Day

2 February 2022

Wetlands Action for People and Nature



World Wetlands Day, celebrated on February 2 of each year, is meant to highlight the importance of wetlands and the role they play in the ecosystem.

What is a wetland? Wetlands are areas of land that are seasonally or permanently flooded with water. The depth and saturation of the water varies seasonally. Plants that live in wetlands are uniquely adapted to the wet conditions. Some of examples of wetlands are: marshes, swamps, bogs and fens. Oshawa Second Marsh is a wetland. See the section "About Second Marsh" below to learn more about this wetland.

Why are wetlands important? They are important for many reasons:

- Wetland plants help to clean the water by removing pollutants and excess nutrients.
- Wetlands act as carbon sinks and help to settle out pollutants.
- Wetlands act as sponges and help to mitigate against storms.
- Wetlands are also one of the most diverse habitats and they provide a home for a vast number of species.

Please take a look at these websites for more information about wetlands and their importance: www.worldwetlandsday.org and www.ramsar.org.

ABOUT SECOND MARSH

Oshawa Second Marsh is a 123 hectare coastal wetland on Lake Ontario - a hidden gem in an urban setting. It is designated as a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW), a Provincially Significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) and has been designated by Oshawa City Council under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for its Cultural Heritage Value.

In combination with the adjacent McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve in Oshawa and Darlington Provincial Park in Clarington, it is a significant ecological area comprising 400 hectares of accessible waterfront open space. Through its extensive trail system and viewing platforms, the area provides many opportunities for outdoor exploration such as birding, wildlife viewing, hiking and nature photography for our local and Greater Toronto Area communities.

PHOTOS: TOM ST-JEAN

Friends of Second Marsh **Project Announcements**

LET'S DE-PHRAG THE MARSH!



LET'S
DE-PHRAG THE
MARSH!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are interested in helping out with our Let's De-Phrag! the Marsh project, please email Wioletta at wwalancik@secondmarsh.ca to be added to our email distribution list.

It is hard to believe that we are in Year 3 of our Let's De-Phrag the Marsh! Project. Staff are working behind the scenes to prepare for the upcoming season of Invasive Phragmites management. Our focus continues to be the McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve (Zone 1).

Staff had an opportunity to attend the National Phragmites Conference in January. We learned what other groups are experiencing with their Invasive Phragmites management projects. There was a lot of great information presented.

Thank you to our sponsors (listed below) for supporting our work with Invasive Phragmites. We would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped in 2021 to map, monitor and try their hand at spading Invasive Phragmites. We have a lot of work ahead of us this coming year and we are looking forward to working with you this season.



Friends of Second Marsh gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Durham Community Foundation made possible by their endowment funds.



OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE SERIES DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF THE MARSH

Save the Date! The Discover the Magic of the Marsh event will be held on May 28, 2022.



SECOND MARSH VISITOR - SNOWY OWL

AJ GROEN

FAREWELL

Staff and Members of the Board would like to thank Susan Clearwater and Samantha Miller for serving on the FSM Board of Directors. Samantha also served as a member of the Outdoor Experience Series sub-committee and was involved in the planning of our Discover of the Magic of the Marsh event. Thank you for your contributions to FSM.

UPCOMING EVENTS - Due to the current restrictions, no events are planned at this time. Please watch our website - secondmarsh.ca - for more information.

FSM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Peter Taylor, President
- Joanne Brown, Secretary/Treasurer
- Susan Ellis, General Motors of Canada Company
- Ashley Fox, Ontario Power Generation
- AJ Groen, Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee
- Suzanne Elston, Clarington
- Nancy Muzik, Clarington
- Helen Break, Whitby

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

- Dr. Margaret Bain
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- Noel Hutchinson, Former Director of Oshawa Parks Services
- Glen Loates, noted wildlife artist
- Gord Miller
- Mike Shields, Director of Organizing, CAW Canada

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- Dr. Doug Holdway, OntarioTech
- Dr. Jacob Robinson, Durham College
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- James Kamstra
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- Owen Steele, Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Guy Morey, Senior Science Teacher
- Nancy Patterson - Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment
- Tim Rance

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER



AJ Groen hiking in the rain at Second Marsh.

Zusana, my life partner of 50 years and I have been in Oshawa since the beginning. We have 2 children and 4 grandchildren, all of whom bring us much joy and keep us young at heart. For 32 years I was a photojournalist for Oshawa Whitby This Week until a serious accident resulted in my retirement in 2009. My passion for photography only grew in the years following my recovery and it is what keeps me active. I love hiking and cycling with the Second Marsh, the McLaughlin Wildlife Reserve and Darlington Park a favorite destination. This has been my family's go to place for hiking for 40 years. One process that keeps me coming there is how the lake changes the shore line on an ongoing basis.

I am deeply concerned about environmental issues and the role capitalism and our consumer economy plays in its degradation. I am also deeply concerned about what we are leaving for our children. With that in mind, because of love for my children and grandchildren, I feel compelled to act and advocate for the environment.

I have been a member of the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee for about four years now and one of my primary concerns is the over use of road salt.

I look forward to working with the Board and I sincerely hope that I can be of benefit to FSM. - aj