



Ellice Swamp & Gads Hill Swamp USER GUIDE



*Friends of
Ellice and Gads Hill Swamps*

Introduction

Ellice Swamp and Gads Hill Swamp are Provincially Significant Wetlands that are home to a variety of regionally and provincially rare species of plants. These swamps are the largest natural areas in Perth County, and cover more than 1,700 hectares. These properties play an important role in protecting drinking water, by storing and purifying groundwater and surface water.

The Friends of Ellice and Gads Hill Swamps have worked with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) to develop guidelines for the protection and use of these unique areas. This User’s Guide outlines some basic rules to protect these wetlands from damage and to provide safe access for visitors.

Funding for this guide and for educational signs at Ellice and Gads Hill Swamps was provided by the Government of Canada through its partnership-based conservation initiative, the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.



Message from the Friends of Ellice and Gad Hill Swamps

This User’s Guide has been written to recognize acceptable traditional uses and present uses, as well as to consider potential future uses. The vision of the Friend’s Committee is to give people opportunities to use these areas while protecting the swamps’ biodiversity.

- Three goals have been set for Ellice Swamp and Gads Hill Swamp:
- Protect and improve ecosystem health
 - Promote community participation, awareness, and ongoing learning
 - Ensure public safety and wise use

The complete Guiding Document for Ellice and Gads Hill Swamp is available at www.thamesriver.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/NaturalAreas/Ellice-Gads-Hill-Guiding-Document.pdf

Code of Conduct

- Please follow these simple guidelines:
- Participate in permitted activities only
 - Leave no trace of your activities
 - Respect other users
 - Report any damage or inappropriate activity to:

OPP Crime Stoppers - 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)
Natural Resources TIPS Reporting Line - 1-877-TIPS-MNRF (847-7667)
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority - 519-451-2800



Visitor Activities

- Hiking:
Ellice Swamp
Designated hiking days are Wednesdays and Sundays, excluding Wednesday and Sunday during the December controlled hunt.

Activities Requiring Written Permission

- Hunting & Trapping:
Ellice Swamp
Designated hunting days are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. In addition, hunting is permitted during the full week of the December controlled deer hunt (i.e., Monday to Sunday).

Gads Hill Swamp

Hunting is permitted seven days a week.

All hunting and trapping activities will be in accordance with federal, provincial, municipal by-laws/ regulations, Conservation Authority regulations, and UTRCA policies. Specific dates of the December controlled deer hunt are published annually in the MNRF Hunting Regulations Summary.

Ellice Swamp and Gads Hill Swamp

- Conducting research
- Habitat altering projects
- Conducting educational programs
- Snowmobiling

ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED



How can I help?

- Contact a Friends of Ellice and Gads Hill Swamps committee member or the UTRCA to:
- Make a financial contribution to the Ellice Swamp and Gads Hill Swamp Fund
 - Volunteer for a project at Ellice Swamp or Gads Hill Swamp

Contact Information

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
519-451-2800
info@thamesriver.on.ca
www.thamesriver.on.ca