

***THE FRIENDS OF ELLICE & GADS
HILL SWAMPS
C/O 99 NORMAN ST.
STRATFORD, ON, N5A 5R8***

Ian Wilcox
General Manager
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
1424 Clarke Road
London, ON N5V 5B9

June 8, 2009

Dear Ian,

Based on consultation with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, the Friends of the Ellice and Gads Hill Swamps are pleased to put forward the following co-management pilot project proposal for the Ellice and Gads Hill Swamps.

We feel this pilot project proposal has merit and offers an alternative management model that the UTRCA would be interested in exploring.

In this proposal we have attempted to balance the legal responsibilities of the UTRCA, the energy and potential of the local community to help manage the Ellice and Gads Hill Swamps, and the need to offer fair and consistent recreational opportunities on UTRCA owned lands across the watershed.

We suggest this proposal be for a two year pilot term, subject to renewal, with the following responsibilities and expectations:

1. The UTRCA will remain responsible for the 'overall management' of Ellice and Gads Hill Swamps including inquiries, risk management, trail management, access signage, access gates, site visits, enforcement, property taxes, insurance, and communications.
2. The Friends will continue to provide input to the Authority as in the past, through regularly scheduled Friends of Ellice and Gads Hill Swamps meetings or through direct communications with UTRCA staff.
3. The Friends will establish a website with management and use information about the swamps, as well as highlighting the role of the Friends, and

encouraging new membership with the Friends. The Friends will strive for a target of 25 members by the end of the two year pilot.

4. The Friends will pursue opportunities for fundraising for education and conservation projects within Ellice and Gads Hill Swamps with a target contribution of \$500.00 in the first year and aim to increase this amount in year two. This is in addition to “in kind” contributions of labour, materials and equipment members of the Friends will provide to specific projects.
5. The Friends will participate with the UTRCA in a minimum of two annual clean up or conservation project days per year.
6. The Friends will establish a form of Neighbourhood Watch Program through its membership to assist in encouragement of appropriate recreational uses in the Swamps.
7. The Friends will develop an ‘Issues’ database for consideration by both the Friends and UTRCA.
8. No recreational user fees will be implemented.
9. Hunters will still be required to register with the UTRCA.
10. Special registration sessions can be set up by the UTRCA at Wildwood or at a location closer to the swamps, ie: Gads Hill Sportsman’s Club or Meadow Run Fish & Game Club.
11. Progress with the Pilot Project will be reviewed by the UTRCA Board of Directors annually and a decision regarding continuation of the project will be made at the end of the second year.

On behalf of the Friends I would like to thank you and the UTRCA staff, particularly Alex and Bill, for all the time and effort spent working with our group on this project and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Jane Boyce
Chair, Friends of Ellice and Gads Hill Swamps

