



Ellice Swamp and Gads Hill Swamp User's Guide



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
 Telephone: 519-284-2292 (St. Marys) or 519-451-2800 (London)
 E-mail: infoline@thamesriver.on.ca
 Web site: www.thamesriver.on.ca

Canada
 Friends of
 Ellice and Gads Hill Swamps



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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 sets 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/wetlands_and_natural_areas/ellice_gadshill_swamps.htm

Location & Access

Ellice Swamp and Gads Hill Swamp are located 7 km north of Stratford.

Please see the maps that show all official access points.

Code of Conduct

Please follow these simple guidelines:

- Participate in permitted activities only
- Leave no trace of your activities
- Keep your dogs under control at all times
- 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-MNR (847-7667)

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority - 1-519-451-2800



Permitted Activities

Berry and Fruit Harvest

Ellice Swamp & Gads Hill Swamp

Non-commercial picking of berries and fruit is permitted.

Hiking/Bird Watching

Ellice Swamp

Designated hiking/bird watching days are Sunday and Wednesday, except that no hiking/bird watching will be permitted on Wednesday during the December controlled deer hunt.

Hunting

All hunting activities will be in accordance with federal, provincial, local municipal by-laws/regulations, Conservation Authority regulations, and UTRCA policies. UTRCA access permit to hunt is required before hunting.

Ellice Swamp

Designated hunting days are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. In addition, during the full week of the December controlled deer hunt, hunting will be permitted from Monday through Saturday. Specific dates of the December controlled deer hunt are published annually in the MNR Hunting Regulations summary.

Gads Hill Swamp

Hunting is permitted seven days/week. No gun hunting on Sundays; archery hunting only.



Non-Permitted Activities

- Operation of a motorized vehicle (including but not limited to ATV's, motorcycles, dirt bikes, tractors, four wheel drive vehicles, trucks)
- Fires and fireworks
- Littering/dumping
- Cutting or removing vegetation
- Alcohol consumption
- Camping
- Horseback riding
- Cycling

Activities Requiring Permission

- Snowmobiling (permitted only on designated trails)
- Conducting research
- Habitat altering projects
- Conducting educational programs
- Hunting & Trapping
- Organized group activities/competitions (e.g. dog trials/training, adventure racing)
- Commercial activities
- Posting signs or notifications
- Trail development or pruning along existing trails