

# 2020 Impact Report



## **"Letters from our Leaders"**



This past year was a year of adaptation for Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT). With staff working from home, strict fieldwork protocols in place and many of our supporters stuck at home craving their nature fix, we had to get crafty! We shifted our in-person events to online webinars and engaged with many new people across the communities where we work. Our staff, board and committee members became experts at video-conferencing and saying things like "you're on mute!". We were still able to deliver a strong stewardship program, focusing on high priority work like invasive species removals, species at risk work and restoration. Our nature reserves also experienced a much higher level of visitor traffic than in previous years. We learned that the conservation sector needs more support to manage this influx of visitors and we're hopeful that our new visitors will see the intrinsic value of these special places and support us too! Our amazing team of staff and volunteers is looking forward to getting back outside in 2021. Somehow we're even busier being stuck at home! We've got a packed stewardship season, public webinars and Passport to Nature events all lined up to engage with our existing and new supporters. Whether we're outside or on the computer, we're looking forward to "meeting" you! - **Kaitlin Richardson, President**



The year 2020 was unlike any other. The unprecedented changes that were needed drove innovation and creativity at TTLT. We shifted to a much larger online presence and engaged with new audiences and our valued long time supporters in new ways. With determination, flexibility and your unwavering support we continued to meet our mission to create new protected areas, steward our nature reserves and provide nature when it was needed most. We also completed our new 5-year strategic plan with a focus on increasing our capacity in the core areas of our work. The year 2020 was also an important year for TTLT as we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 20 years of land conservation. Together, we have accomplished so much for nature and we have big plans yet to come. We are grateful for everyone's support, patience and good humour in this challenging year as we pivoted, adjusted and rescheduled (again and again). We're looking forward to connecting with you again in 2021! - **Daria Koscinski, Acting Executive Director**

## Protect | Restore | Nurture

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Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) acknowledges that the land on which it operates lies within the territories of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabeg, Lenapeewak, Attawandaron, and Wendat peoples. The First Nations communities in the area we work are Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee Delaware Nation, Delaware Nation at Moraviantown, and Kettle & Stony Point First Nation. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all the original peoples of Turtle Island.

### Our Mission

To protect, conserve, and restore nature within Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford and Perth counties, contributing to a stable climate, human wellbeing, and healthy habitats for all species.

### Our Vision

Network of permanently protected areas that are rich in biodiversity, sustain life and nourish a sense of wonder and inspiration for all people.

### Our Values

Integrity | Diversity, Equity & Inclusion | Passion & Commitment | Intention | Accountability & Transparency

### Number of Species at Risk Protected on our Nature Reserves:



17 birds



13 plants



9 reptiles/  
amphibians



3 mammals



8 aquatic species



1 insect

### **Vision 20/20 Campaign**

Our most ambitious campaign aims to protect more than 500 acres of land across seven nature reserves. Despite the pandemic we made great progress on the campaign in 2020, protecting the 6<sup>th</sup> nature reserve, MeadowWoods, and reaching 88% of our campaign fundraising goal. The last campaign nature reserve – Auzins Nature Sanctuary – is in progress and will be completed in 2021. Our fundraising efforts will continue through 2021 as well. We are grateful for the many supporters who share our vision and support our work. Together we can make the promise of forever for nature!



**2020 Nature Reserves:** We protected our 20<sup>th</sup> nature reserve, Ross's Woods, on our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

#### ***MeadowWoods***

Donated by Stan and Anita Caveney, MeadowWoods is a spectacular 42.5-hectare (105-acre) natural area located just 500 metres from the north shore of Lake Erie. With its combination of forests, thickets, ravines, meadows, and wetlands, MeadowWoods is home to a rich array of wild-life. This includes more than 200 species of birds as well as numerous species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. Part of an Important Bird Area, MeadowWoods is

situated within a natural corridor connecting Rondeau

Provincial Park to the Skunk's Misery Natural Area. The corridor's significance was recognized in Carolinian Canada's Big Picture project in 2000.

We protect  
almost 1900  
acres of land

#### **Looking ahead...**

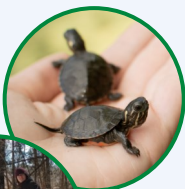
We plan to protect at least two new nature reserves in 2021 with more already planned for 2022!

#### ***Ross's Woods***

The 23-hectare (56-acre) Ross's Woods is part of the Five Points Woods Wetland Complex and an important wildlife refuge. The mixed deciduous/coniferous forest contains unusual habitats such as stands of hemlock. Streams support cold-water fish species, and spring-fed wetlands furnish essential habitat for amphibians and turtles. Rare species of dragonflies, butterflies, birds, and plants make their homes here. Wintering birds gain shelter from adverse weather conditions. A groundwater-fed stream remains open most of the winter, providing birds with water for drinking and bathing. The name Ross's Woods honours Oxford County naturalist and conservationist Ross Snider for his many contributions to bird inventories, wildlife rehabilitation, and nature education.

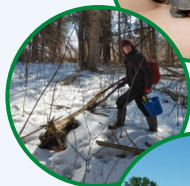
## Protect | RESTORE | Nurture

Restoration is important to ensure our local native habitats and the many plant and animal species that live within them can thrive. Each nature reserve is unique and requires different strategies to maintain and enhance the ecosystems it supports. With the help of our dedicated volunteers, we are able to provide evidence-based stewardship for the natural lands under our care.



### Species at Risk

We worked with turtle experts and volunteers to **protect 20 turtle nests**, incubate eggs, and **release 474 baby turtles** back into their habitat.



### Invasive Species

With the help of our Stewardship Volunteers and Stewardship Technicians, we controlled **5 major invasive species** at **9 nature reserves**.



### Restoration

We installed a **new wetland** at Blain Farm alongside the Thames River to provide habitat for plants and animals.



We **created 3.5 acres of meadow habitat** at Joany's Woods by removing non-native invasive shrubs and seeding with native plants.



We **converted 2.5 acres of farmland** at Blain Farm into a **pilot project for native plant seed production**, which will provide a seed source for local restoration projects, as well as some great pollinator habitat.

### Looking ahead...

We're planning a prescribed burn to restore rare plants in a grassland habitat, repairing bridges and upgrading trails at two nature reserves, and have a range of volunteer opportunities planned as part of our new Stewardship Volunteer program.

## Protect | Restore | **NURTURE**

We saw a record number of people this year at our outreach programs and events—mostly online of course. We made it a priority to offer opportunities to stay connected and experience nature even while people had to stay at home.

### Outreach Events

We transformed many of our events and workshops into online webinars, which had a major impact on the amount of people we were able to reach. We engaged **390+ participants** through **10 free Passport to Nature events** and **1000+ participants** through **20 other outreach events**.

### Volunteer Events

We hosted **15 volunteering events**, which resulted in **300+ volunteer hours**. Through Engagement Organizing programs, we were also able to launch our new Stewardship Volunteer Program and **re-cruited over 30 volunteers**.

### Looking ahead...

We will continue to offer a range of online programs, as well as resuming our in-person events when it's safe to do so. We're also committed to making our events and programs more inclusive and accessible by reducing and removing barriers to participation, and we will be launching our new Outreach and Office Volunteer programs.



### Nature Programming

We continued to provide nature education through virtual versions of our Schools Program and Biodiversity Boss programming, reaching **179 students** from **7 different schools** across Elgin, Perth, and Middlesex counties and training **18 new Biodiversity Bosses**.

### Engagement Organizing

Engagement organizing is an approach for optimizing the ways we reach, communicate, and enlist supporters. Through this program, we were able to improve many aspects of our **communications, volunteer programs, and fundraising**.

## 2020 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2020 was an unprecedented year due to the pandemic. The organization proceeded with caution as the impact on our revenue streams was a source of great concern. We are pleased to report that TTLT weathered the COVID storm quite well. We benefited from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and our loyal donors continued to support us. We are so grateful to report that during this challenging year our donation income increased.

Due to restrictions on some of our activities, we are reporting lower expenses for 2020. These changes, and a very significant land donation, have contributed to an increase in our net revenue of over \$380,000 from 2019.

### Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2020

|  | Total 2020       | Total 2019       |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                            |                  |                  |
| <b>CURRENT</b>                           |                  |                  |
| Cash                                     | 157,331          | 385,962          |
| Investments                              | 587,140          | 379,057          |
| Accounts Receivable                      | 26,062           | 28,270           |
| Government Remittances Recoverable       | 21,924           | 4,149            |
| <b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>                    | -                | 2,729            |
| <b>LAND</b>                              | 5,129,988        | 4,250,044        |
|  | <b>5,922,445</b> | <b>5,050,211</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                       |                  |                  |
| <b>CURRENT</b>                           |                  |                  |
| Accounts Payable and accrued liabilities | 19,902           | 29,793           |
| Government Remittances Payable           | 3,808            | 4,154            |
| Deferred Contributions                   | 239,026          | 196,314          |
|  | 262,736          | 230,261          |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                        | <b>5,659,709</b> | <b>4,819,950</b> |
|  | <b>5,922,445</b> | <b>5,050,211</b> |

### Statement of Operations as of December 31, 2020

|  | Total 2020       | Total 2019     |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>                           |                  |                |
| Donated land                             | 675,000          | 105,000        |
| Donations                                | 394,212          | 384,833        |
| Grants                                   | 118,094          | 363,268        |
| Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy            | 53,908           | -              |
| Fundraising                              | 36,165           | 43,082         |
| London Community Foundation distribution | 26,500           | 25,200         |
| Investments                              | 24,774           | 43,595         |
| Fundraising                              | 43,082           | 43,082         |
| Agricultural Rental                      | 8,004            | 9,048          |
| Membership Fees                          | 7,450            | 7,003          |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                     | <b>1,344,107</b> | <b>981,029</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                          |                  |                |
| Salaries and Wages                       | 215,938          | 243,811        |
| London Community Foundation contribution | 159,000          | 112,080        |
| Property Stewardship                     | 50,864           | 59,379         |
| Administrative and office                | 26,424           | 30,073         |
| 2020 campaign                            | 9,717            | 3,559          |
| Professional Fees                        | 9,185            | 20,488         |
| Automotive                               | 6,482            | 6,232          |
| Investment Management Fees               | 6,362            | 5,900          |
| Property Acquisition                     | 8,377            | 22,597         |
| Marketing and Promotion                  | 3,599            | 9,831          |
| Insurance                                | 3,442            | 3,134          |
| Membership Fees                          | 2,627            | 2,620          |
| Office Rent                              | 11,810           | 11,810         |
| Bank Charges and Interest                | 2,331            | 2,006          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                    | <b>504,348</b>   | <b>521,710</b> |
| <b>NET REVENUE</b>                       | <b>839,759</b>   | <b>459,319</b> |



## THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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Allegra London | Anderson Craft Ales | Apple Land Station | Archibald Gray & McKay Ltd | Breck Campbell Design | Camera Canada | Canadian Land Trust Alliance | Caradoc Dentistry | Carolinian Canada Coalition | Chippewas of the Thames First Nation | City of London | Crowder Wealth Management | Dorchester Pet & Country Store | Dr. Stephen Tait Optometrist | Dynamic Funds | ECHO Foundation | Elgin-St. Thomas Community Foundation | Featherfields | Fidelity Investments | Finch Auto Group | FLAP Canada | Ford Keast | Friends of the London Civic Garden Complex | Gosling Foundation | Government of Canada | Green Economy London | Hawk Cliff Raptor Banders | Hazel Sinclair, Royal LePage Triland Realty Brokerage | Highbury North Pet Hospital | Hyde Park Feed and Country Store | Ingersoll District Nature Club | Ivey Business School | Kettle Creek Conservation Authority | Lambeth Rod & Tackle | Leigh Shand Yoga & Ayurveda | Lerner LLP | Libro Credit Union | London Bicycle Café | London Community Foundation | London Environmental Network | London Foot Specialists | London Yarns | Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority | Mackenzie Investments | Magpie's Collected Creations | Middlesex County | MTE Consultants | Nature Conservancy of Canada | Nature London | Nicolucci Dentistry | North-South Environmental | Oakridge Animal Clinic | O'Neil Funeral Home | Ontario Land Trust Alliance | Ontario Trillium Foundation | Oxford Community Foundation | Pillar Nonprofit Network | Postmedia | Printer Plus | Quiet Legacy | RBC | ReForest London | Reimagine Co. | Sisters of St. Joseph | Smith Family Foundation | St. Clair Region Conservation Authority | St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club | Takla Foundation | TD Friends of the Environment | Thames Valley Trail Association | The Barbell Massage Therapist | Thomson Mahoney Delorey LLP | To Wheels | Town & Country Mutual Insurance | Upper Thames River Conservation Authority | Ursuline Sisters of Chatham | Van Luyk Garden Centre | VERGE Capital | Volunteers of Monarch Watch | Walter J. Blackburn Foundation | Western University | Westminster Ponds Centre | Wild Birds Unlimited | Wildlife Habitat Canada | Wilkinson Rodgers LLP | Willie's Café | ... and all of the individuals who support our mission.

### STAFF 2020

**Acting Executive Director,** Daria Koscinski

**Stewardship Coordinator,** Rebecca Launchbury

**Administrative Manager,** Colin Johnson

**Outreach & Communications Coordinator,** Darby Alderson

**Summer Outreach & Communications Assistant,** Ashley Turner

**Summer Stewardship Technicians,** Phil Brewster & Lauren MacDonald

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020

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**Vice-president,** Bernie VanDenBelt

Ric Symmes

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Iva Konjhodzic

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