

# 2019 Annual Report

Thames Talbot   
Land Trust



Photo by John St. Pierre

## Letters from our leadership

"I am honoured to take on the role of President of the Thames Talbot Land Trust for the next two years. TTLT has done amazing things for conservation and I am privileged to be a part of that. The last 20 years have been a period of tremendous growth for the organization and we have no plans to slow down. I hope to contribute to increasing our organizational capacity, building our supporter base and engaging with our volunteers. My goal is to help TTLT build on the success of the last 20 years; continuing our mission to acquire land to be protected in perpetuity, restore our ecosystems to their natural state and provide valuable habitat for local flora and fauna."

**- Kaitlin Richardson, President**



"At the end of 2019, Suzanne McDonald retired as Executive Director of the Thames Talbot Land Trust. She joined the organization in 2011, and since then our number of properties has doubled. Under her tutelage, our organization grew to a staff of four and successfully conducted several major fundraising campaigns. One in particular generated 1.6 million dollars for the purchase of Hawk Cliff Woods, one of our most prominent properties. Another highlight was a reception at the house of Architect, Brad Skinner, during which Suzanne outbid me in the live auction for a beautiful painting of a Canadian forest scene, now adorning a wall of her house. Then, out of the blue, she declared that the time had come for TTLT to acquire a truck and would the guests please pitch in the funds required; and so it was done! Suzanne's energy, optimism and grace made it a pleasure to work alongside her."

**-André Lachance, Past President**



Photos: Ron Kingswood, Stan Caveney, Bill Grant

## Protect | Restore | Nurture

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Thames Talbot Land Trust's (TTLT) objective is to protect lands and waters of significant natural, cultural or agricultural value. Our geographic area of focus includes the London/Middlesex, Elgin, Perth and Oxford County regions and their contingent watersheds. TTLT's mandate includes one of the most diverse and endangered ecosystems in the country, the Carolinian zone. This unique landscape contains 25% of Canada's human population, but holds less than 1% of its land area. Only 2.5% of the Carolinian Zone is formally protected. TTLT aims to play a pivotal role in conserving and restoring this diverse landscape.

TTLT is an established and highly capable organization. We currently manage nearly 1800 acres of lands including forests, wetlands, meadows, and two farms. These nature reserves are home to a high level of biodiversity including at least 40 species at risk.



14 birds



13 plants



7 reptiles



3 mammals



8 aquatic  
species



1 insect

Thames Talbot Land Trust acknowledges that the land on which it operates lies within the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabeg, Lenape, Attawandaron, and Wendat peoples. In addition, 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.

## PROTECT | Restore | Nurture

### Acquisitions in 2019

#### *Bebensee Tract Extension*

The Bebensee Tract Extension is a 75 acre property adjacent to TTLT's existing Bebensee Tract in the Skunk's Misery Natural Area. This extension ensures protection of large forest tracts needed by interior forest birds such as Wood Thrush and Hooded Warbler.

#### *Sitler Woods*

Sitler Woods has long been recognized by the Trust as a top priority for acquisition. Situated within the Skunk's Misery Natural Area, this parcel links two extensive woodlands. Sitler Woods is home to many rare interior forest birds such as Acadian Flycatcher and several rare plants.

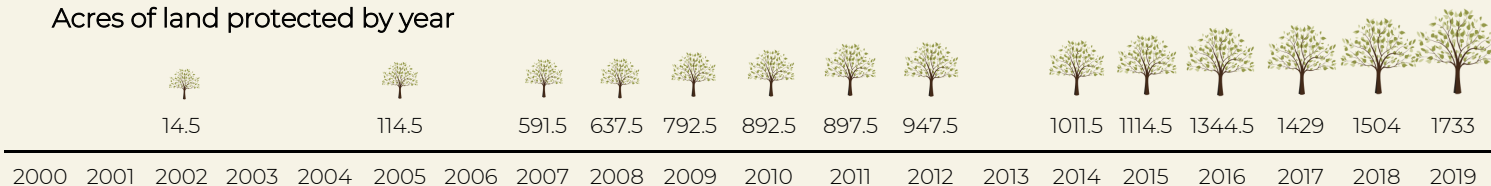
#### *Mud Lake Nature Reserve*

The generous donation of Mud Lake Nature Reserve is TTLT's first Oxford County property. This 104 acre nature reserve is home to many species at risk and rare wetland habitat.

### Looking ahead...

Continuing our Vision 20/20 Campaign, we will be finalizing the acquisitions of MeadowWoods and Auzins Nature Sanctuary, the last two of the seven properties that are part of the campaign. We are also evaluating and preparing additional acquisitions for 2020 and beyond.

### Acres of land protected by year



## Protect | RESTORE | Nurture

Stewardship is a defining aspect to TTLT. We promise to steward the land we protect to ensure ecosystems have the best chance at thriving. Every property we manage has its own unique property management plan guided by best scientific practices to ensure the property and its native species are taken care of.

In 2019 we hosted 16 work day events, with volunteers generously donating over **600 hours** of their time.

### Species at Risk work

- Species at Risk projects at 6 properties
- Monitoring and health assessments for Eastern Flowering Dogwood
- Rare plant inventories, forest bird counts, and turtle monitoring and hatchling release

### Invasive species work

- Removal of high priority invasive species at 11 properties
- Monitoring beetle release for control of Purple Loosestrife

### Restoration work

- Restoring 2 acres of agricultural fields to native savannah habitat at Bebenssee Tract Extension, a collaborative project with Western University's Restoration Ecology class

### Looking ahead...

- We will be adopting Conservation Standards for the development of Property Management Plans
- Assessing our properties for vulnerability to climate change and taking actions to adapt



Photos by TTLT Staff



## Protect | Restore | NURTURE

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In 2019, we...

- Educated more than **354 students** from **9 schools** across Elgin, Middlesex, and Oxford Counties on native plants, invasive species, seed collecting, and other restoration activities.
- Successfully launched our Passport to Nature program. We created a series of **13 free events** designed to get people outside and enjoying nature. We engaged over **140 new participants**.
- Hosted **29 community events**.
- Held **2 bus trips to our properties** in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association—Middlesex to emotionally connect people and nature.
- Hosted a **variety of workshops** including opportunities to learn about invasive plants, native plant gardening, Eastern Flowering Dogwood monitoring, and seed processing.

Looking ahead..

- We hope to develop online educational materials and handouts for teachers to provide programming with little support from TTLT.
- We're also planning on building on the success of the first Passport to Nature and expanding our reach.
- We're working on improving our supporter engagement with the help of the Engagement Organizing grant from Nature Canada .



Photos: Melanie Franke, Winnie Wake, TTLT Staff

## 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As our Vision 2020 campaign kicked off, our supporters came through. Financial donations, land donations and grants increased significantly in 2019. We are so grateful for the generosity of our many supporters.

Our investments with the London Community Foundation (LCF) performed very well. After a difficult 2018, we are very pleased with the positive results in 2019 and continue to see great value in our partnership with LCF.

### Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2019

ASSETS	Total 2019	Total 2018
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	385,962	572,678
Investments	379,057	235,722
Accounts Receivable	28,270	10,125
Government Remittances Recoverable	4,149	6,927
	797,438	825,452
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	2,729	3,898
<b>LAND</b>	4,250,044	3,656,461
<b>LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS</b>	913,658	758,733
	5,963,869	5,244,544
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts Payable and accrued liabilities	29,793	36,885
Government Remittances Payable	4,154	4,048
Deferred Contributions	196,314	84,247
	230,261	125,180
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	5,733,608	5,119,364
	5,963,869	5,244,544

Our staff and board members continue to work together to ensure that expenses are carefully monitored. During the year this careful monitoring allowed us to trim expenses in certain categories to ensure that we are using every donor dollar as effectively as possible.

### Statement of Operations as of December 31, 2019

REVENUE	Total 2019	Total 2018
Donations	384,833	123,267
Grants	363,268	30,117
Investments	123,846	-18,114
Donated Land	105,000	-
Fundraising	43,082	18,788
Agricultural Rental	9,048	9,048
Membership Fees	7,003	9,269
	1,036,080	443,375
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and Wages	243,811	276,991
Property Stewardship	59,379	78,501
Property Acquisition	22,597	15,453
Administrative and Office	18,263	27,468
Investment Management Fees	18,106	17,292
Professional Fees	15,488	22,607
Office Rent	11,810	10,283
Marketing and Promotion	9,831	6,386
Automotive	6,232	7,173
Consulting Fees	5,000	7,193
2020 Campaign	3,559	3,207
Insurance	3,134	3,956
Membership Fees	2,620	2,658
Bank Charges and Interest	2,006	3,360
	421,836	482,528
Net Revenue (Expense)	614,244	-39,153

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Aeolian Hall | AGM | ALUS Canada | Anderson Craft Ales | Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority | Be Balanced Wellness | Blackburn Foundation | Breck Campbell Design | Canadale Nurseries | Canadian Land Trust Alliance (CLTA) | Caradoc Dentistry | Carolinian Canada Coalition | Chippewas of the Thames First Nation | City of London | County of Middlesex | Crowder Wealth Management | Dan Hirschberger, Remax City Centre Realty Inc. | ECHO Foundation | Elgin County | Energy Profiles Limited | Featherfields | Forest City Image Centers | Friends of the London Civic Garden Complex | Gosling Foundation | Government of Canada | Hazel Sinclair, Royal LePage Triland Realty Brokerage | Hawk Cliff Raptor Banders | Ingersoll District Nature Club | Ivey Business School | Kiwanis Club of Forest City | Lambeth Rod & Tackle | Lerner's LLP | Little, Ingalls, Price & Ewer | London Community Foundation | London Environmental Network | London Foot Specialists | London Yarns | Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority | Middlesex County | Monarch Watch | Nature Conservancy of Canada | Nature London | North-South Environmental | Oakview Appraisals | O'Neil Funeral Home | Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) | Ontario Trillium Foundation | Optimist Club Fanshawe London | Parkway Gardens | Port Stanley Lioness Club | PWR Older Developments | ReForest London | Reimagine Co. | Sisters of Saint Joseph | Smith Family Foundation | St. Clair Region Conservation | St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club | TD Friends of the Environment | Thames Valley Trail Association | To Wheels | Township of South-West Oxford | Upper Thames River Conservation Authority | VanLuyk Garden Centre | Verge Capital | Western University | Wild Birds Unlimited | Wildlife Habitat Canada | Wilkinson Rodgers LLP | ... and all of the individuals who support our mission.

### STAFF 2019

**Executive Director,** Suzanne McDonald Aziz  
**Conservation Property Manager,** Daria Koscinski  
**Stewardship Coordinator,** Rebecca Launchbury  
**Administrative Manager,** Ashley Turner, Colin Johnson  
**Summer Outreach & Communications Assistant,** Darby Alderson  
**Summer Stewardship Technicians,** Colin Johnson & Phil Brewster



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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019

<b>President,</b> André Lachance	Greg Clark
<b>Vice-president,</b> Chris Leys	Bernie VanDenBelt
<b>Treasurer,</b> Adrienne James	Ric Symmes
<b>Secretary,</b> Sarah Hodgkiss	Carol Dyck
Vicki Hammond	Erin Zukiewski
Lenore Patterson	Iva Konjhodzic
Will Van Hemessen	



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