

# Thames Talbot Land Trust 2025 Impact Report



Thames Talbot Land Trust works on land within the territories of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabeg, Lenaapeewak, Chonnonton, and Wendat Peoples. These lands and waters have been cared for and remain under the care of Indigenous Peoples from time immemorial. We are committed to working in the spirit and practice of reconciliation while caring for nature with respect and collaboration to build a greener and more inclusive future for all people.



Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) is an environmental charity with a focus on land conservation. Established in 2000, TTLT has built a dedicated network of staff, volunteers, and community partners who work together to conserve important natural and agricultural lands and inspire a connection to nature. TTLT permanently protects more than 2,300 acres of land across 29 sites.

**Our Mission** is to protect, restore, and nurture nature in southwestern Ontario, contributing to a stable climate, human wellbeing, and healthy habitats for all species.

**Our Vision** is to create a 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** are Integrity | Diversity, Equity & Inclusion | Passion & Commitment | Intention | Accountability & Transparency | Sustainability



## Daria Koscinski

Executive Director

Thanks to your support, this was a remarkable year filled with important milestones and inspiring momentum. Together, we celebrated TTLT's 25th anniversary - a meaningful opportunity to reflect on how far this community has come and all that you've made possible. This year also marked another important milestone, as TTLT became the seventh land trust in Canada to receive Conservation Excellence Certification.

It was a year of reflection, but also one of ambitious goal setting. Because of your commitment, TTLT completed - and exceeded - its strategic plan, while also developing a bold new vision for the exciting path ahead. In the fall, you helped launch our most ambitious campaign to date: Nature Nearby, an initiative that will ensure the lands we love remain protected long into the future.

In 2025, together, we protected more land than in any other year in the organization's history - and with your continued support, we plan to break that record again in 2026.

I am truly honoured and thrilled to be part of such a passionate and dedicated community of staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters. Thank you for everything you do for nature and for our community.

Photos by: Hugh Casbourn and Skye Martineau. Photo courtesy of Jordan Banninga (Jordan).



## Jordan Banninga

Board President

2025 has been an important year of growth for TTLT. Growth is not only measured by the acres protected, although 2025 was an exceptional year for securement. It is also measured by the strength, capacity, and maturity of the organization behind that work.

Over the past year, TTLT advanced several significant land protection projects, supported by more than \$1.5 million in securement funding. We also ensured growth and capacity goals were on track through the Nature Nearby campaign, secured funds to complete the Catalyst Campaign and welcomed new donors, expanded unrestricted giving, and developed new corporate and funding relationships. These achievements reflect not only successful projects, but a growing organization with the relationships, reputation, and infrastructure needed to take on more ambitious conservation work.

This growth has also brought learning. As opportunities increased, so did the complexity and pace of the work. Staff strengthened their capacity and the Board saw progress in governance and continued work towards top land trust standards. Through partnerships with conservation organizations, funders, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and provincial and national land trust networks, TTLT is increasingly recognized as a strong and trusted conservation leader.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Daria, the staff team, volunteers, donors, partners, and members. The growth we saw this year positions TTLT for an even stronger future.

# Protect

To protect the land is to protect nature forever



## Land Securement

The first step in protecting nature forever is to protect the land. TTLT safeguards land in a variety of ways including land donations, land purchases, and Conservation Easement Agreements (CEAs). Through these mechanisms, we are able to hold land or add protections onto the land title, to guarantee its love, care, and protection forever.

At TTLT, we prioritize our efforts on protecting existing natural spaces and restoring the spaces in between to connect habitats across the landscape. In 2025, we secured three new sites: Birch Hollow, MapleCross-Bass Woods, and Bradshaw Conservation Lands. We also expanded two nature reserves: Jane Bowles Ecological Reserve (formerly Lakeview Wetlands) and Hawk Cliff Woods.

Photos by: David Wake, Avery Vojvodin, Payton Landsborough, Lily Vuong, Sarah Law, Joseph O'Neil, and Alexander Casciano

## Landowner Outreach

In 2025 we held two Landowner Workshops with 54 combined attendees. Landowner workshops are specialized info sessions on land protection and legacy planning. We are thankful to work with a number of partners and funding from the London Community Foundation to bring these sessions to the community.



## Upcoming Projects

We have seven projects underway for 2026. The upcoming projects include:

- 1 Conservation Easement Agreement
- 2 fee simple donations
- 4 fee simple purchases



## Bradshaw Conservation Lands

Located in the Township of St. Clair, this site is protected in partnership with the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation. Spanning more than 99 acres, the Bradshaw Conservation Lands are part of a larger complex of protected lands along Black Creek and provide a variety of habitats, including mature forest, wetland, and hawthorn thicket.



## MapleCross - Bass Woods

MapleCross - Bass Woods is an exceptional 74-acre nature reserve located on the Thames River near Wardsville, Ontario. At its core lies 45 acres of mature, undisturbed deciduous forest where Black Maple swamps and Sugar Maple-Basswood woodlands dominate. The site provides critical refuge for species at risk, including Wood Thrush, Butternut, and Monarch butterflies. Thank you to the Bass family for making sure this treasure is protected and cared for in perpetuity.



## Jane Bowles Ecological Reserve - Expansion

This site, a result of purchasing three neighbouring pieces of land, has grown by 3 acres. This coastal nature reserve is part of the Elgin-Kent Shoreline Area of Natural and Scientific Interest as well as the Southwest Elgin Forest Complex Important Bird Area, supporting the annual migration of birds and Monarch butterflies. Every acre of this ecological reserve is a botanical delight with many rarities now protected forever.



## Birch Hollow

Located at the eastern edge of the Five Points Woods Wetland Complex, a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW), this new 27-acre parcel is TTLT's fourth securement project within the complex. Birch Hollow contains mature forest, marsh and swamp habitats with a diverse understory of wildflowers and shrubs. Charismatic hollowed out yellow birch trees are scattered throughout the forest. The land was donated by 214 Carson Co. for ecological preservation.



## Hawk Cliff Woods - Expansion

The Hawk Cliff Woods Expansion project added over 75 acres to this iconic nature reserve. The project includes the creation of over 62 acres of grassland habitat, planting more than 60 species of wildflowers and grasses, to create a rich ecosystem for wildlife to flourish. A special thank you to Cheryl Barendregt, whose original vision of protecting and restoring the entirety of Hawk Cliff Woods is finally complete after more than 10 years of hard work and dedication.



The Hawk Cliff Woods: Expanding Nature's Horizons campaign raised more than \$2 million for the securement and restoration of Hawk Cliff Woods. Our sincere thanks for your dedication and support on this incredible journey.

For a complete list of all of Thames Talbot Land Trust's protected lands, please visit [tlt.ca/land](http://tlt.ca/land). We offer our continued thanks to the land donors and donors who ensure the permanent protection of nature.



# Restore

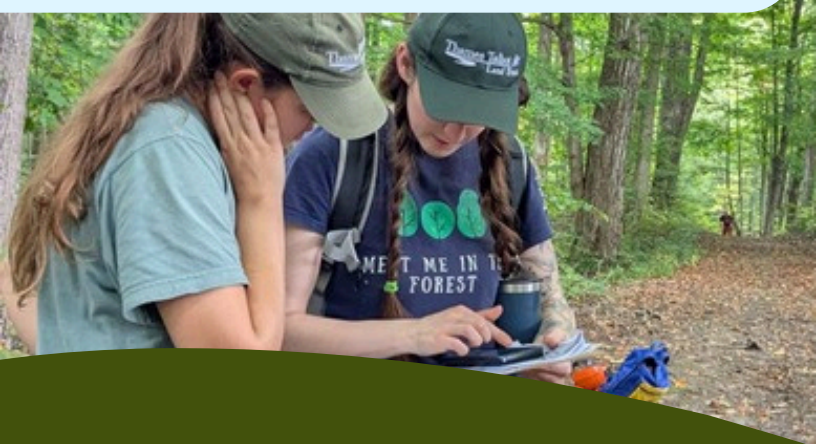
Restore today to thrive tomorrow

In 2025, your support helped TTLT not only protect important natural areas, but also restore and care for the lands already under stewardship. Every site has unique ecological needs, and through thoughtful restoration planning and hands-on conservation work, we continued improving habitat health across our nature reserves. From removing invasive species and planting native plants to collecting their seeds for future projects, these efforts are helping ecosystems become more resilient and biodiverse. While it would be impossible to capture every project completed this year, we are excited to share a few highlights that demonstrate the impact your support is making for nature.



- **Restoration activities** took place on 21 nature reserves (i.e. managing invasives, creating habitat)
- **Seeds** for restoration projects and community giveaways were collected from at least **22 species**
- At least **65 different plant species** were planted to restore and enhance meadow and wetland habitats (live stakes, plugs, and seeds)
- At least **15 non-native species** were managed in 2025
- **11 acres** of Wild Pear were managed at removal events
- **708 m<sup>2</sup>** of Chocolate Vine were managed at removal events





## Species at Risk

Our Nature Reserves are home to **105 known Species at Risk**. Our Monitoring and Restoration programs seek to improve their habitat and wellbeing.

- 2** amphibians
- 32** birds
- 1** bryophyte
- 10** fish
- 12** molluscs (terrestrial and aquatic)
- 14** reptiles
- 19** vascular plants
- 6** insects
- 9** mammals



The significant jump in the total number of SAR between 2024 and 2025 is attributed to an in-depth review of various data sources and the discovery of new SAR at nature reserves.

## Snake Program

We completed Year 4 of 10 for Ontario Nature's Snake Long Term Monitoring Protocol (LTMP). Participation in the LTMP has helped us collect population information about snakes in our area, and habitat health over time. The data accrued will help with future land management and protection as well as to educate and promote the importance of snakes to our ecosystems.

Over **8** visits to our monitoring site we collected data on **12** Eastern Gartersnakes.



## Turtle Program

TTLT's Turtle Monitoring Program continued to make a meaningful impact in 2025 through the dedication of nearly 20 volunteers committed to protecting local Species at Risk (SAR) turtles and raising awareness about their importance in healthy ecosystems. Volunteers monitored nesting areas throughout the season, with several specially trained team members conducting nest extractions to safely rescue vulnerable eggs. These eggs were carefully incubated and, once hatched, the young turtles were released to support the long-term recovery and growth of local turtle populations. In addition to hands-on conservation work, the program engaged the broader community through educational outreach at the Wild Child youth program, the Happy Habitats Festival, and public turtle release events involving volunteers and community members alike. Together, these efforts strengthened both turtle conservation outcomes and public understanding of the critical role turtles play in our ecosystems.

**Total number of turtle eggs rescued: 343 eggs**  
**Total number of turtle nests protected: 28 nests**



# Nurture

Community and care are key to protecting nature



24

## Community Engagements

Community is key in protecting nature. Being out in the community at booths and events allows us to connect with nature lovers and soon-to-be nature lovers. In 2025, we engaged with over 2,000 people at 24 community hosted events.



11

## Outreach Events

We want people to have fun in nature. The best way to learn about something is to have fun while doing it. In 2025, we connected with over 1,200 people through 11 outreach events that were catered towards members, volunteers, and the general public.



15

## Passport to Nature Events

Passport to Nature offers free, fun events all year long! Passport to Nature has been running since 2019, and every year we try to fill the program with as many interesting and fun events as we can. In 2025, over 250 members of our community joined us for 15 exciting Passport to Nature events! Some events included Beginner Birding, Songs of the Forest: Poetry and Cello, Aquatic Adventures, Nature Journaling and more!



36

## Stewardship Events

We take care of the land together. Stewardship events provide an opportunity to work on the land and learn new skills and knowledge in a hands-on setting. In 2025, more than 300 people attended 36 stewardship events, working hand-in-hand with nature. Some of these events included seed processing, live staking, invasive species removal, restoration seeding and planting, gardening, and more!



12

## Nature Education Events



6

## Corporate Events

Check out our upcoming events, please visit [ttl.ca/events\\_calendar](https://ttl.ca/events_calendar). We look forward to seeing you outside!





**Volunteers are Imperative to Impact.  
Thank you for giving your time,  
skills, and heart to nature protection.**

Congratulations to our 2025 Volunteer Award recipients: André Lachance, Ralf Heeren, and Ian Bailey



## Volunteer Events

TTLT had 66 organised opportunities to volunteer in 2025. Volunteers supported outreach events with nature crafts and games, were ambassadors for TTLT talking with the public at community booths, took on a major office archival project, and supported stewardship efforts – And that’s just the start!

66



## Volunteers

In 2025 we had 247 active volunteers, including 79 first time volunteers. It has been incredible to connect with the talented and passionate group of people giving their time to make a difference for nature.

- 130 Stewardship Volunteers
- 89 Outreach Volunteers
- 6 Office Volunteers
- 14 Board Members
- 41 Committee and Working Group Members



247

## Volunteer hours

Volunteers contributed an astounding 2,339 hours to supporting our ecosystems, community, and wildlife. 53% of volunteer time supports the Stewardship program, 31% supports Outreach, 3% Office, and 8% Board and committees. An additional 5% of volunteer time was spent in training, improving skills and knowledge. Some trainings included Tree ID, Advanced Aster ID, and protocol trainings for monitoring programs.

2339



# Grow

**The stronger we grow, the more we protect**

In 2025, TTLT continued to grow not only in the amount of land protected, but also in the strength, capacity, and reach of the organization itself. As conservation challenges continue to evolve, investing in organizational growth helps ensure we can protect and steward nature effectively for years to come. From expanding programs and partnerships to strengthening community engagement and organizational capacity, your support helped build a stronger foundation for TTLT's future.

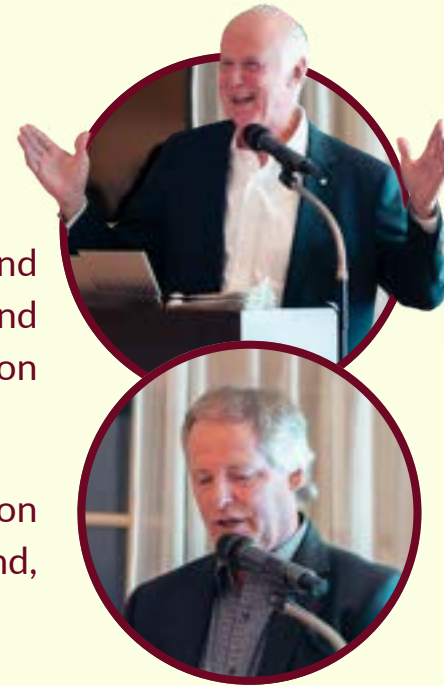


**TTLT Founding Members at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.**

## Celebrating 25 Years

In 2025, TTLT celebrated a remarkable milestone: 25 years of protecting the lands, waters, and wildlife of Southwestern Ontario. What began as a vision shared among a small group of passionate volunteers has grown into one of Canada's top 25 land trusts and we were honoured to celebrate this journey together and the passion and persistence of those who helped lay the foundation for everything TTLT has become.

Guest speaker John Lounds of the Centre for Land Conservation reminded attendees that this milestone is not where 25 years end, but where the next chapter begins.



**"Healthy landscapes are key to a thriving society, and it is gratifying to contribute to that." - Bernie VanDenBelt, Founding Member**

## Nature Nearby Campaign

In November 2025, Thames Talbot Land Trust launched its most ambitious campaign to date. Nature Nearby is a \$10 million, five-year initiative to protect 1,500 acres of land across Southwestern Ontario - doubling conservation impact and strengthening our connection to the natural world.

Thanks to the generous early commitments of the Campaign Catalysts, Nature Nearby got off to a remarkable start by raising \$6.5 million and securing 543 acres before the public launch. Through the end of 2025, the campaign reached \$7.1 million!

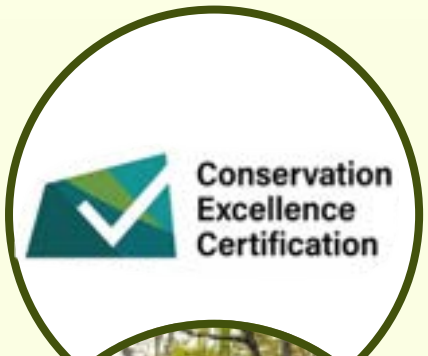
But Nature Nearby is about more than dollars raised. It is about volunteers giving their time on stewardship workdays, community members sharing their love of nature with friends and family, and a growing movement of people who believe that protecting local land is worth fighting for. That is what makes this campaign truly extraordinary.

## Conservation Excellence

In 2025, we became the seventh land trust in Canada to receive Conservation Excellence Certification from the Centre for Land Conservation. The Conservation Excellence Certification is awarded

to land trusts that demonstrate exceptional stewardship, sound governance, and meaningful community impact. Out of more than 150 land trusts across the country, only a select few have achieved this distinction. We are honoured to be among them.

This recognition belongs to all of us. It is a reflection of what can be accomplished when a community comes together around a shared purpose - protecting the irreplaceable natural places that make Southwestern Ontario home.



## 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

Your support is helping signal a new chapter of growth and maturity for TTLT. Our 5-year strategic plan was completed in 2025 – surpassing many of our targets. From land protection to land care to community engagement, we exceeded our expectations. We are now ready for a bold new vision to ensure more land protection, enhanced care of the lands and a growing community connected to our mission. The new strategic plan is launching in 2026. The pillars remain the same – Protect, Restore, Nurture, and Grow - but the goals are bigger and the strategies more innovative. We are growing our community impact with a laser focus on caring for land forever.



# Amy Graham

Treasurer

Over the course of 2025, the total value of land protected by TTLT increased from \$10.3 million to \$11.7 million. This increase comprised five land projects, acquired through a combination of land donations and purchases. In addition to a significant year for land acquisition, 2025 included progress towards multiple new land projects added in early 2026.

The financial position of the trust has continued to strengthen throughout 2025, and the year witnessed continuing expansion in events and outreach, as well as land stewardship activities. Of note, the trust continues to generate sufficient donation, grant, and other operating income to fund its cash operating expenses before amortization.

**"Every gift, pledge, and volunteer hour brings us all closer to a future where nature is protected, restored, and accessible to all."**

**Thank you for helping to keep nature nearby."**

**- Daria Koscinski, Executive Director**

## Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2025

	Total 2025	Total 2024
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	236,274	567,723
Investments	1,083,679	979,963
Accounts Receivables	367,765	100,452
Government Remittances Recoverable	9,778	7,940
Prepaid Expenses	17,227	12,012
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	574,461	598,859
<b>LAND</b>	11,374,380	10,333,772
<b>LAND HELD IN JOINT ARRANGEMENT</b>	377,105	-
	14,040,669	12,600,721
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	70,412	30,981
Government Remittances Payable	10,591	7,463
Deferred Contributions	456,582	569,466
	607,910	346,872
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	13,503,084	11,992,811
	14,040,669	12,600,721

## Statement of Operations as of December 31, 2025

	Total 2025	Total 2024
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Grants	1,614,798	667,820
Donations	509,858	210,126
Donated Lands	135,000	340,000
London Community Foundation Distribution	70,700	56,400
Investment	57,305	60,735
Fundraising	44,463	34,350
Rental	23,604	22,204
Farm	22,180	9,282
Sales and Events	9,520	1,969
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	2,487,428	1,402,886
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and Wages	543,020	410,822
Property Acquisition	73,959	95,333
Donation (Joint Ownership)	70,718	-
Property Stewardship	68,296	83,550
Administrative and Office	64,707	39,146
Marketing, Promotion and Events	60,503	51,861
Amortization	24,398	25,529
Professional Fees	18,877	15,098
Automotive	16,626	17,079
Farm	15,114	8,187
Insurance	8,683	9,060
Investment Management Fees	5,216	4,360
Bank Charges and Interest	3,777	2,208
Membership Fees	3,261	2,914
London Community Foundation Contribution	-	25,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	977,155	790,148
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	1,510,273	612,738

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

# 2025

AGM Surveying & Engineering | Alibi Roadhouse | Allegra London | Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts | ALUS Middlesex | ArtCal | Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority | AXIOM Mutual Insurance | Bakker Aluminum Limited | BackRoads Brews + Shoes | Bentley Hearing Services | BJ's Country Market | Camera Canada | Caradoc Dentistry | Carolinian Canada | Centre for Land Conservation | Chippewas of the Thames First Nation | City of London | City of Woodstock | Dorchester Pet & Country Store | Ducks Unlimited Canada | ECHO Foundation | ECO Canada | Elgin County | Elgin Middlesex Woodland Association | Elgin Pure Water | Elgin-St. Thomas Community Foundation | Finch Auto Group | Ford Keast | Friends of the London Civic Gardens Complex | Georgia Kortas - Thomson Mahoney Delorey LLP | Government of Canada | Government of Ontario | Gunn's Hill Artisan Cheese | GWG Resource Services | Hawk Cliff Raptor Banders | Hazel Sinclair - Royal LePage | Heeman's | H3ELP | Hickory Ridge Golf & Country Club | Highbury North Pet Hospital | Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy | Hunt Footcare | Hyde Park Equipment | Lambeth Rod & Tackle | Leigh Shand Yoga & Wellness | Lerner's LLP | Libro | London Community Foundation | London Environmental Network | Long Point Basin Land Trust | Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority | Mainstreet Credit Union | MEC | Middlesex County | MTE Consultants | Munsee-Delaware Nation | National Farmers Union - Ontario | Nature London | Nicolucci Dentistry | North-South Environmental | Oakview Appraisals | Ontario Conservation Accelerator | Ontario Farmland Trust | Ontario Land Trust Alliance | Ontario NativeScape | Ontario Nature | Ontario Trillium Foundation | Ontario Woodlot Association | Pillar Nonprofit Network | Pasto's Grill | Peggy Sattler, MPP | Pro Function | Quiet Legacy | ReForest London | Sisters of St. Joseph | Southern Ontario At Risk Reptiles | South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre | Stantec | St. Clair Region Conservation Authority | St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation | St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club | Takla Foundation | TD Friends of the Environment | Thames Valley Trail Association | Tourism London | Tourism Oxford | Tree Canada | Upper Thames River Conservation Authority | Visit Middlesex County | Volunteers of Monarch Watch | Walter J. Blackburn Foundation | Wayne Crowder - RBC Wealth Management | Western University | Wild Birds Unlimited | Wilkinson Rogers LLP | Williams Financial Group ... **and all of the individuals who support our mission.**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

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