

FREE
BOOKLET!

FREE ADVENTURES ALL YEAR LONG!
THAMES TALBOT
PASSPORT TO NATURE
LAND TRUST
APRIL 2020-MARCH 2021

Thames Talbot 
 Land Trust



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INTRODUCING THE THAMES TALBOT LAND TRUST



Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) is a not-for-profit corporation and a registered charity. Dedicated to the protection of environmentally significant lands, TTLT acquires high quality natural habitats and works to enhance any portions of these properties that are in need of landscape restoration. The Trust is active in London and the surrounding counties of Middlesex, Elgin, Oxford and Perth. Now in its 20th year of operation, TTLT owns or otherwise safeguards 740 hectares (1830 acres) of land, at 18 locations across the region.

The Trust protects woodlands, wetlands and meadows, providing habitat for a great diversity of native flora and fauna, including 38 at-risk species. With the assistance of volunteers, TTLT manages properties to protect natural ecosystems, often removing non-native invasive species. TTLT provides opportunities for school groups and the public to learn about nature and conservation.

WELCOME TO TTLT'S PASSPORT TO NATURE!

Events are subject to postponement depending on status of COVID-19. Please check www.ttl.ca for updates.

Here's how to Register for an Event

1. Review the Events (events start on page 12)

There are many ways to enjoy nature, including walking, birdwatching, photography, painting, flower finding, yoga, or just relaxing. At the Thames Talbot Land Trust we want you to experience some of the wonderful natural areas we are protecting. As you skim the passport, note the events and places that interest you.

All Passport events are free but require advance registration. There is a limit, usually 20 participants, to ensure the best possible experience. Registration opens a month before each event.

2. Register

At the Thames Talbot Land Trust website www.ttl.ca, click on Upcoming Events, look for Passport and select an event. You will receive

- A confirmation email reserving a space for you (soon after registration)
- Pre-event information including directions, and particular clothing or other requirements for this event, (48 hours before the event), and
- A message if we need to make changes because of weather or other developments (just before the event)

If you have difficulty with registration, email info@ttl.ca, or phone 519-858-3442.

3. Attend

Attend the event, enjoy and learn. Don't forget to bring water, appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear.

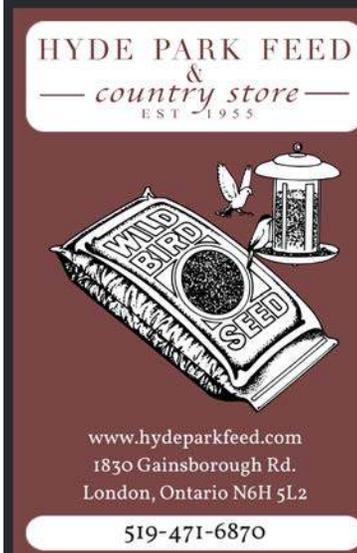
4. Share

Share your experience by sending us pictures at: info@ttl.ca, or #TTLTpassport online.

Cancellation: If you have to cancel, please let us know ASAP so your space can be used by someone on the waiting list. Please email Colin at info@ttl.ca.

There's More!

Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) also sponsors a series of open events, as well as stewardship projects on our properties. The TTLT open events are described on page 32-33 in this passport. Please visit www.ttl.ca and click on "Upcoming Events" to learn about each event and how to attend. We hope you will sign up and join us.



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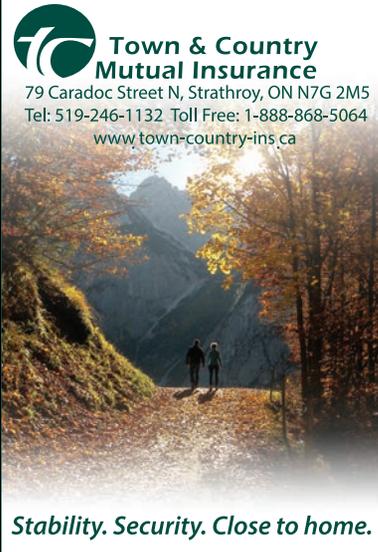
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HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE FIELD

It's always important to make sure you are safe when spending time outdoors. Here are some tips from the experienced TTLT volunteers and staff.

1. Cover Up! A hat, long sleeves and pants are the best protection from the sun and pesky bugs.
2. For all the areas you can't cover with clothing, use sunscreen to protect your exposed skin.
3. Use closed-toed shoes to protect your feet.
4. Bug spray! Use insect repellent that contains DEET to keep annoying biting insects away from you. Some of those bugs can carry harmful diseases.
5. Always carry lots of water and snacks.
6. If it's hot out, take breaks under the shade whenever you feel the need.
7. Tuck your pants into your socks. This will keep ticks from being able to access exposed skin.
8. Do a tick check! When you come home from outdoors, check your body for ticks. If you find one attached to your skin, don't panic. Just remove it by the head with a pair of tweezers and bring the tick to your local Health Unit for analysis.
9. A positive attitude. So long as you take the proper steps to take care of yourself outdoors there is no need for concern. There is a whole world to explore out there!

If you want to learn more about ticks, what they look like, how to remove them and how to submit them to the Health Unit, visit the Middlesex-London Health Unit's website

<https://www.healthunit.com/ticks>.



TIPS FOR TICK SAFETY

HOW TO REMOVE TICK



SANITIZE BITE AREA AND TWEEZERS



GRAB TICK CLOSE TO HEAD



PULL UP SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY



SANITIZE BITE AREA AGAIN

WHEN TO CALL A DOCTOR



FEVER



HEADACHE



RASH



YOU AREN'T ABLE TO REMOVE TICK

DON'T LET YOUR
WINDOW END
HER JOURNEY



TAKE ACTION TO
KEEP HER SAFE

FLAP.org/SaveBirds

LAND TRUSTS IN ONTARIO

Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) is a local land trust, one of 33 in Ontario, which together protect more than 34,000 ha (85,000 ac) of significant land. Sometimes called land conservancies, nature conservancies or conservation land trusts, organizations such as TTLT are private (non-government), not-for-profit charitable organizations. They act primarily through volunteers to conserve lands of significant natural or cultural value “in perpetuity” – that is, forever.

Private status is an important difference from other land protection agencies such as conservation authorities, and municipal, provincial and federal parks. As private entities with no government authority or power, land trusts are supported by a wide range of donors and volunteers.

Land trusts work mainly through securing land or an interest in the land, known as an easement. After securement, land trusts care for the land in ways that protect its natural values. Securement may be achieved through purchase or donation.

Since the late 1990s, when Ontario and Canada adopted tax incentive programs to encourage land protection, many new community-based land trusts have been established, and the amount of land protected has expanded greatly.

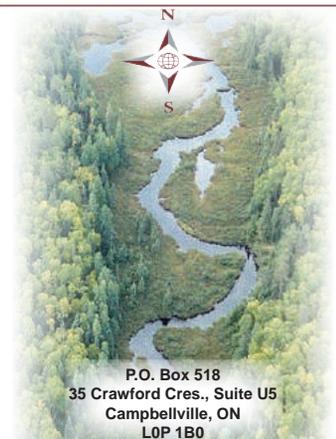
TTLT QUICK STATS

Protecting Nature since 2000	Reserves 18 Protected
Protecting the Habitats of at Least 38 Species at Risk	Supported By <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generous donors • Dedicated volunteers • Nature lovers

The Land Trust and Climate Change

Conserving natural heritage lands is one of the most effective ways to address climate change, the dominant issue currently facing planet earth. Thames Talbot Land Trust protects and restores woodlands, wetlands and meadows. These landscapes retain rain-water, create cooler microhabitats, provide homes for vulnerable species, absorb carbon from the atmosphere, and build resilience in natural communities. As the climate changes, many species will be forced to move into new areas in order to survive. Ensuring that adequate, protected migration corridors exist will be critical in preventing major extinctions as local climate conditions change. Proximity and/or linkage to other protected areas are among the factors considered by TTLT when new reserves are being reviewed for potential acquisition.

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Indigenous Acknowledgment

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 our area 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 of the original peoples of Turtle Island.

PROPERTIES WITH TRAILS INCLUDE

Meadowlily Nature Reserve
Joany's Woods
Five Points Forest
Tanager Tract
Wardsville Woods
Hawk Cliff Woods

Did you know that many of the properties the Thames Talbot Land Trust protects have marked walking trails? Ongoing care of these properties, including seasonal trail maintenance, is made possible by our members, volunteers and supporters. Marked trails and trail maps are available for a number of these properties on our website (www.ttl.t.ca).

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PASSPORT TO
TANAGER TRACT



**Birding for
Beginners
with Mhairi
McFarlane**

Enjoy the warblers and other spring migrants moving through the trees and woodland ponds of the Tanager Tract forest. Join birder Mhairi McFarlane for a morning of easy walking with frequent stops. Bring binoculars. A bird guide would also be helpful.



Meeting Spot:

11822 Kerr Road, West Elgin. Approx. 40 minutes southwest of London.

Registration is required and opens April 2020 at www.ttl.ca.



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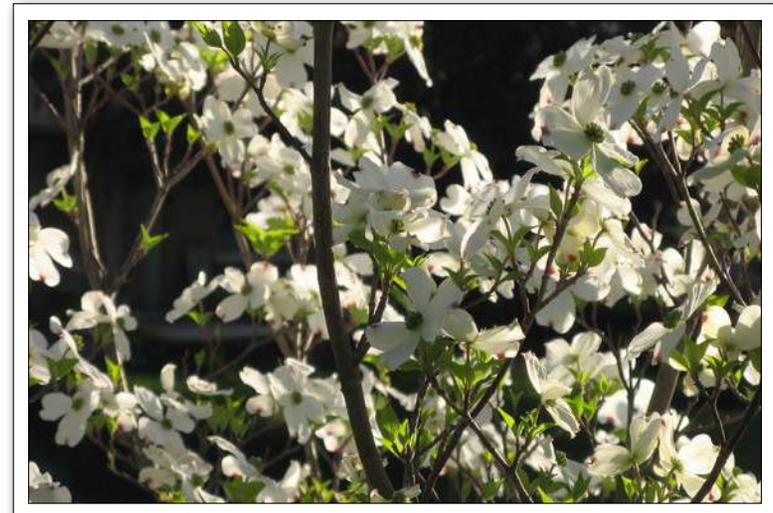
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West Lorne Woods

West Lorne Woods is widely regarded as one of the best examples of Carolinian forest in Elgin County and one of its top botanical sites. It is a precious remnant of the original, extensively forested landscape in this region. This rich forest covers 250 hectares (600 acres) and nurtures the growth of many hardwood trees unique to the Carolinian Zone. Large specimens of Eastern Flowering Dogwood, Black Gum, Sassafras and Swamp White Oak are abundant. The forest's upland and swampy sections have a rich understorey of Spicebush and Witch-hazel. The woodlands provide nesting sites for forest interior birds such as the Ovenbird and the Scarlet Tanager.

TTLT owns and manages more than one-third of West Lorne Woods. The 40-ha (100-acre) Tanager Tract was purchased in 2010 and is open to visitors. The 51-ha (128-acre) Lusty Family Tract was acquired in 2015 and 2018 and is open by invitation only. Watch www.ttl.ca for special events.



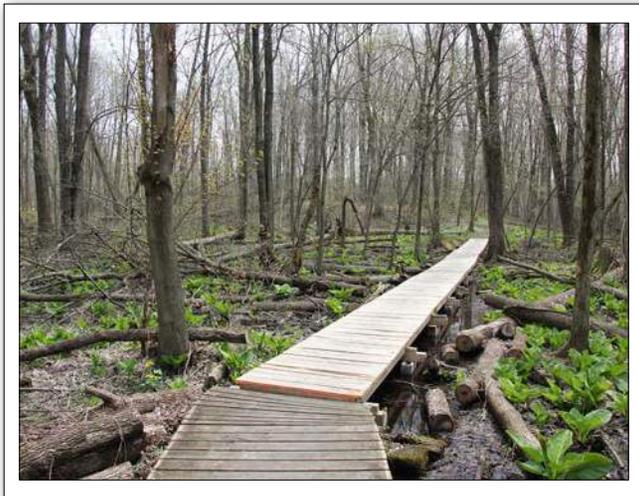


Joany's Woods

TTLT's largest reserve, Joany's Woods, is situated on the Ausable River, in the Municipality of North Middlesex. This nature reserve is within the provincially recognized Ausable River Life Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). Joany's Woods protects a significant portion of this ecologically diverse river corridor.

The undulating topography creates both lowland and upland habitat types, including swamps, forests, meadows, marshes and thickets. Most of this 148-ha (367-acre) property is forested. Over 30 species of trees can be readily found at Joany's Woods. Numerous coniferous and mixed forest plantations are located in the valley and tablelands. In the spring of the year, there is a good display of woodland wildflowers. The diverse landscape features provide suitable habitat for many species of birds during all seasons of the year.

The trails at Joany's Woods are open to visitors. Check www.ttl.ca for updates.



PASSPORT TO JOANY'S WOODS

Wildflowers and Walking with Will Van Hemessen

What blooms among the trilliums? Join Will Van Hemessen, botanist and ecologist, to learn about the beautiful array of spring wildflowers in the wetlands and woodlands of Joany's Woods, a scenic 150-ha (367-ac) property along the Ausable River.

Meeting Spot:

32546 Boothill Road,
Thedford. Approx. 45
minutes northwest of
London.

Registration is required and opens April 2020 at www.ttl.ca.



SATURDAY
MAY 9 2020
1 PM - 3 PM



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experience



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Skunk's Misery Natural Area

The Skunk's Misery Natural Area is a complex of high-quality upland forest, swamp and prairie. Skunk's Misery is one of the largest and most significant forested blocks remaining in the Carolinian region of southwestern Ontario. The Carolinian region has long been recognized for its unique

assemblages of species, many of which reach their northern range limit here. Most of the Skunk's Misery Natural Area lies within the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex, west of Newbury. Parts extend into Elgin County, Lambton County, and Chatham-Kent.

TTLT owns and manages 188 hectares (466 acres) of land at six locations within the Skunk's Misery Natural Area. Here you will find Sassafras and Tulip-tree, species that are characteristic of Carolinian woodlands. Species at Risk, including Eastern Flowering Dogwood, Butternut, and American Chestnut, are also present. Wardsville Woods is always open to visitors. Other TTLT reserves in Skunk's Misery are open by invitation only. Watch www.ttl.ca for special events.



PASSPORT TO NEWPORT FOREST



Butterflies and Bugs with Stan Caveney

Discover more about bugs, butterflies and other insects with Stan Caveney, enthusiastic entomologist and naturalist, while hiking at Newport Forest. Dress appropriately as biting insects and ticks are possible.



Meeting Spot:

22130 Fleming Line, West Elgin. Approx. 55 minutes southwest of London.

Registration is required and opens May 2020 at www.ttl.ca.



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PASSPORT TO
HAWK CLIFF WOODS



Yoga

led by Leigh Shand

Yoga has many benefits to the mind, body and soul. Nature offers similar benefits so why not combine yoga with nature? Join Leigh Shand, Certified Ayurvedic Yoga Therapist, Lifestyle Consultant, Holistic Practitioner and nature lover, for a 60-minute yoga practice at either 8:30 am or 10:00 am (two sessions). Please bring your own mat, comfortable exercise clothing, and a reusable water bottle. No experience required. Namaste.

Meeting Spot:

4435 Hawk Cliff Road, Union. Approx. 40 minutes south from London.

Registration is required and opens May 2020 at www.tlilt.ca.

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2020
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10 AM

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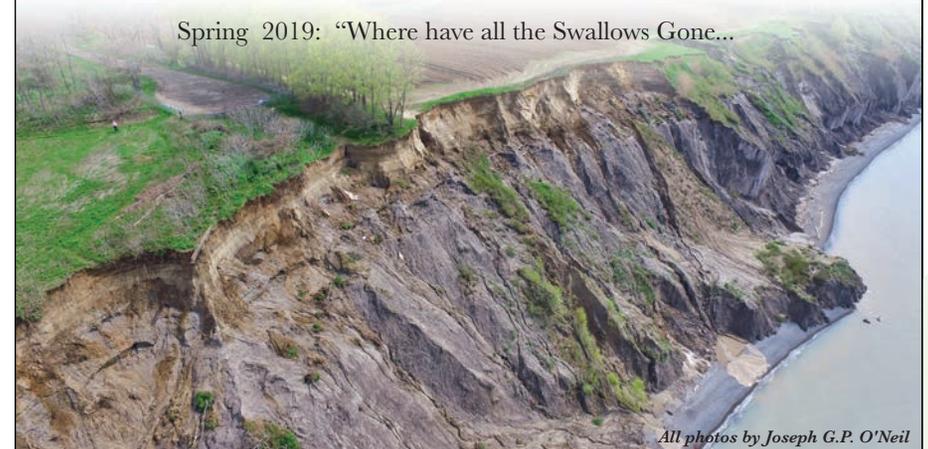
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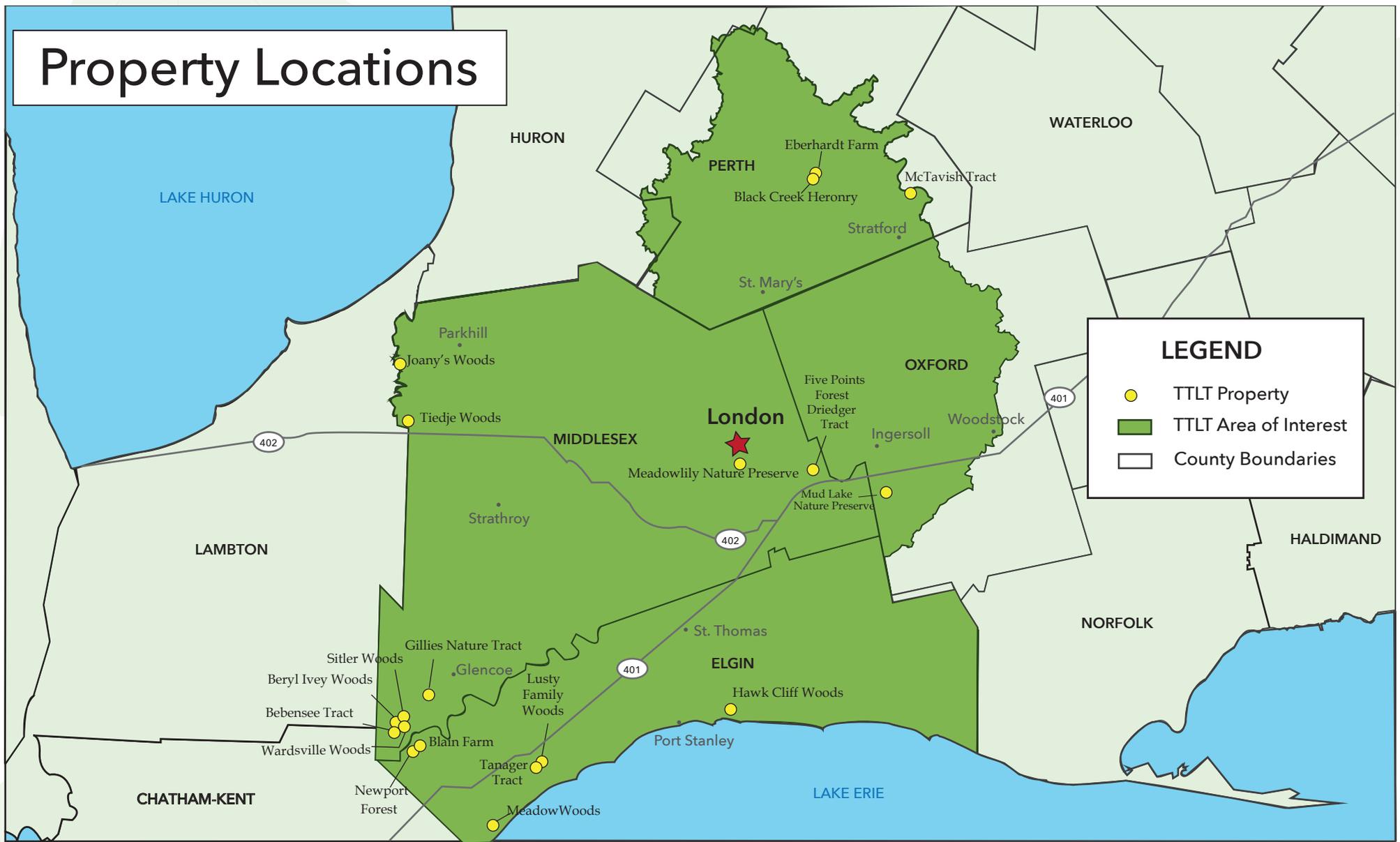
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Spring 2019: "Where have all the Swallows Gone..."



All photos by Joseph G.P. O'Neil

Property Locations



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PASSPORT TO
HAWK CLIFF WOODS



Wildflower Gardening with Kim McCabe

How do you garden with native wildflowers? Join Kim McCabe, landscape designer, for a tour of the Auzins Wildflower Garden. Learn how to select and grow native wildflowers that nurture birds, butterflies and wildlife in southwestern Ontario, and then tour the meadows of the Hawk Cliff Woods reserve to see which flowers and butterflies are thriving.



Meeting Spot:

4435 Hawk Cliff Road, Union. Approx. 40 minutes south from London.

Registration is required and opens June 2020 at www.ttl.ca.

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Mud Lake Nature Reserve

Situated in the Township of South-West Oxford, this 42-ha (104-acre) parcel protects most of the Mud Lake Marsh, a Provincially Significant Wetland that is an important refuge for birds, reptiles and amphibians. Mud Lake Nature Reserve is TTLT's first property in Oxford County, and was donated to the Trust in 2019.



Nearly half of this nature reserve is wetland, with cattail marsh covering 5 ha (12 acres). The marsh provides nesting sites for many birds, including Virginia Rail, Sandhill Crane, and Swamp Sparrow. Among other features on this property are the open aquatic habitat of Mud Lake, wetland thickets, hardwood forest, and plantation. Notable trees include Sugar Maple, Bitternut Hickory, Shagbark Hickory, as well as Bur, White and Red Oak.

To provide the best protection to its natural features, Mud Lake Nature Reserve is closed to the public. It is anticipated, however, that special public events will take place from time to time. Check www.ttl.ca for updates.



PASSPORT TO
WARDSVILLE WOODS

**Better Nature
Photography
with Antony Chodas**

Photography is a great way to explore nature. Your camera can snap a photo but, with skill and creativity, you can achieve much more -- an image that conveys the mood and essence of any particular scene. Antony Chodas of Camera Canada will help you get better photos and more from your camera. Antony's presentation will be particularly helpful to new and intermediate photographers but there will be opportunities for all among the wildflowers of our Wardsville Woods nature reserve. Bring your camera, walking shoes or boots, long pants, long sleeves, insect and sun protection.

Meeting Spot:

1632 Longwoods Road, Wardsville. Approx. 50 minutes southwest of London.

Registration is required and opens July 2020 at www.ttl.ca.

SATURDAY
AUGUST 8 2020
9 AM - 11 AM



VISION 20/20 CAMPAIGN

**Celebrating 20 Years of Land
Conservation**

Thames Talbot Land Trust is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2020. With the support of our amazing volunteers and donors, we will expand our network of nature reserves in southwestern Ontario through the addition of more than 200 hectares (500 acres). Funds raised through the Vision 20/20 campaign will



- Support the purchase of three conservation properties,
- Provide resources for long-term management of these properties, and for four new properties that are being donated to TTLT,
- Replenish TTLT's Opportunities Fund, a fund that allows the Trust to move quickly to purchase other significant properties as they become available, and
- Enhance the Jane Bowles Legacy Fund which funds property management staff.

You can contribute to this campaign. Your donation will help us acquire important natural habitats, restore ecosystems, and manage invasive species. Visit www.ttl.ca and click on Vision 20/20 Campaign.

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**Knitting in Nature
with Sarah Hodgkiss**

Knitting is therapeutic and relaxing. Make it more soothing by taking it outside! Bring a folding chair, your current project and join Sarah Hodgkiss and fellow knitting and crochet enthusiasts for two hours of crafting surrounded by beautiful scenery. All knitting and crochet levels welcome.

Meeting Spot:

17 Meadowlily Road South,
London.

Registration is

required and opens August 2020 at www.ttl.ca.

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20
2020
2 PM - 4 PM



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25
Yrs!**

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24



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SATURDAY
25



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your neighbourhood to pick-up litter
and help **clean up our city**.



Londoncleangreen.ca



PASSPORT TO WARDSVILLE WOODS



Forest Health with Donald Craig

Is this forest healthy? Join Donald Craig, a professional forester with over 40 years of experience in southwestern Ontario woodlands, for a walk in the woods as he explains how diseases, insects, invasive plants and other things affect our native trees and forests.

Meeting Spot:

1632 Longwoods Road, Wardsville. Approx. 50 minutes southwest of London.

Registration is required and opens September 2020 at www.ttl.ca.



PASSPORT TO HERITAGE

Heritage Hike with Dave Wake

Westminster Ponds is a complex of wetlands and woodlands, one of London's Environmentally Significant Areas and long appreciated by generations of Londoners. Join David Wake for an interpretive walk with a focus on the glacial and human history of this unusual property. Be prepared for winter walking which may include ice or mud.

Meeting Spot:

696 Wellington Road South, London at the Tourism London building.

Registration is required and opens January 2021 at www.ttl.ca.



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– Perry Esler, Executive Director of Jesse's Journey

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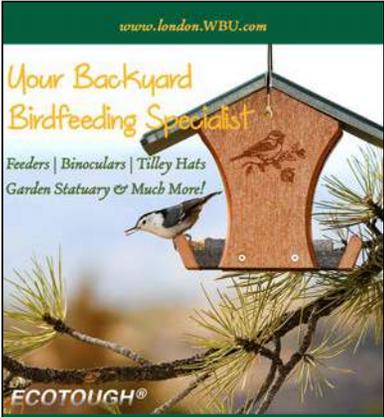
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Working Together for a
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PASSPORT TO NATURE ART

Nature Art for Kids with Maria Calleja

Get inspired by the colours, textures, and shapes in nature to create your own piece of unique art. Join Maria Calleja, Ontario Certified Teacher (OCT) and owner of "Budding Artists Studio", for an afternoon of discovery and creation in the outdoors. Come prepared for a fun and imaginative afternoon. For children/youth ages 6-12. Must be accompanied by an adult. All materials supplied.

Meeting Spot:

Westminster Ponds Centre, 944 Western Counties Road, London.

Registration is required and opens February 2021 at www.ttl.ca.



SATURDAY
MARCH 13
2021
1 PM - 3 PM



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OPEN PUBLIC EVENTS

Events are subject to postponement depending on status of COVID-19. Please check www.ttlc.ca for updates.

**Registration is required for all events. To learn more about these events and RSVP, visit our “Upcoming Events” page at www.ttlc.ca.
Check www.ttlc.ca regularly for additional events.**

TTLT Annual General Meeting

Gather with other nature lovers and conservation enthusiasts to celebrate the Thames Talbot Land Trust’s accomplishments over the past year. TTLT members can exercise their voting rights at the meeting. UTRCA Watershed Conservation Centre, at Fanshawe Park. Please check www.ttlc.ca to confirm time and location.

WEDNESDAY
MAY 20 2020
5:45 PM - 8 PM



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Nature London

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www.naturelondon.com

SATURDAY
AUGUST 15
2020
10 AM

MeadowWoods Celebration

We are very pleased to announce the acquisition of MeadowWoods, generously donated by Stan and Anita Caveney. Situated near Lake Erie in West Elgin, this diverse property includes ravines, wetlands, meadows, upland forests and more. Many species of wildlife make their homes here. The property is a hotspot for spring and fall bird migration. Celebrate with us during a guided tour of the property, an opening ceremony and refreshments.

Biodiversity Boss

Biodiversity Boss Youth Conservation Training is a skills development program offered by Thames Talbot Land Trust. Participants learn about conservation and restoration in the context of Canada’s Carolinian Zone. There will be hands-on activities in restoration, invasive species management, and Ecological Land Classification.

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 17
2020 &
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 18
2020

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 25
2020 2 PM

Eco Folk 2020

Eco Folk is an annual benefit concert for the Thames Talbot Land Trust held at London’s Aeolian Hall. The concert features noted local artists. Come for an afternoon of great music and bring your friends! Get tickets from aeolianhall.ca.

TTLT’s 20th Birthday

Friday October 30th 7 pm-9 pm
It’s been 20 years since TTLT was founded, and we have so much to celebrate! Join us to learn about TTLT’s history, hear stories of adventures and successes, and learn about our future ambitions. Refreshments will be provided.

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 30
2020
7 PM - 9 PM

FUN FACTS ABOUT TTLT

Show us your adventures!
#TTLTpassport



Five TTLT properties border rivers: Blain Farm, Meadowlily, Newport Forest, Joany's Woods and McTavish Tract. However, all our properties have water features of some sort.

For its first two years, TTLT was a "landless land trust" until the acquisition of the Meadowlily Nature Preserve in 2002.

Many of TTLT's properties are located in the Carolinian Zone, Canada's most biodiverse region. Comprising only 0.25% of Canada's land area, it is home to 25% of its population as well as more rare and Species at Risk than any other life zone in the country.

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TTLT covers a lot of territory. The distance between our most easterly and westerly properties is almost 100 km and that between our most northerly and southerly sites is 140 km!

To learn more,
visit www.ttl.t.ca

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CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

www.fanshaweconservationarea.ca
www.wildwoodconservationarea.ca
www.pittockconservationarea.ca

Step Into Nature

PASSPORT TO NATURE HOSTS IN ONTARIO

You may also be interested in the Passport to Nature programs operated by these environmental organizations. Information about these programs may be found at the links below.

Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory

Prince Edward County, Ontario
www.peptbo.ca/nature-matters.php

The Couchiching Conservancy

Lake Couchiching region (Orillia, Washago, Carden), Ontario
www.couchichingconservancy.ca

Wellington Water Watchers

2Rivers Festival
Guelph, Ontario
www.2riversfestival.org

Pelee Island Passport to Nature

Pelee Island (Lake Erie), Ontario
www.peleebuzz.eventbrite.ca

Rare Charitable Research Reserve

Waterloo region/Wellington, Ontario
www.raresites.org

Long Point Basin Land Trust

Treks, Tracts and Trees: Explore the Outdoors
Norfolk County, Ontario
www.longpointlandtrust.ca

Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington

Frontenac and L&A Counties South of Highway 7
www.landconservancyKFLA.org



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- Make a one-time donation: \$20 \$40 \$100 other: _____
- Sign up for Monthly Giving: \$10 \$15 \$20 (per month)
- Cheque enclosed

Cut this sheet out and mail it to the Thames Talbot Land Trust's office:

**Thames Talbot Land Trust
P.O. Box 25054
London, Ontario
N6C 6A8**

To donate online, visit our website (www.ttlr.ca) or call 519-858-3442.

THANK YOU!

Our sincere thanks to the individuals, businesses, agencies and organizations that have supported this edition of our Passport to Nature as well as our ongoing conservation efforts. These environmentally minded sponsors are making our region better for nature and for people.

Please consider supporting our sponsors. Shop Local. Support Local.

Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who have dedicated countless hours to developing this year's Passport to Nature: Muriel Andreae, Carol Dyck, Terry Grawey, Vicki Hammond, Adrienne James, André Lachance, Ric Symmes, Bernie VanDenBelt, David Wake and Erin Zukiwski. We would also like to recognize our trip leaders and volunteers for their efforts.

Special thanks to the Gosling Foundation for initial and ongoing support of the Passport to Nature program, and to the Couchiching Conservancy for leading the way, sharing their experience and providing advice.

As always, thank you to our Board of Directors for its support and to the volunteers for helping to make the Passport a success!

**Passport to Nature was designed
by Jill Bennett.**

Visit www.jillebennett.com
to find out more.



Thames Talbot Land Trust

We thank the talented photographers who contributed their images for this booklet: Stan Caveney, Cathy Gauthier, Scott Gillingwater, Daria Koscinski, Cathy Quinlan, Kaitlin Richardson, John St. Pierre, Ric Symmes, David Wake and staff of the Thames Talbot Land Trust.

How you can help:

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Visit our website or get in touch to learn more.

www.ttlc.ca

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