

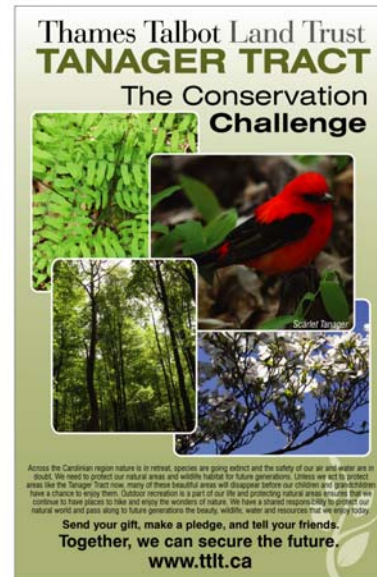
the TaTTler

A newsletter of the

Thames Talbot Land Trust

Working together to leave a legacy of healthy landscapes

Tanager Tract Legacy



On November 1st the Tanager Tract became the 9th property protected in perpetuity by the Thames Talbot Land Trust. This enduring green legacy could not have been created without the support of the community. To date we have received more than 125 gifts from private individuals and more continue to arrive.

Although we still need more donations in order to reach our goal and complete the stewardship fund for the property we were able to close the deal on time thanks to the Opportunities Fund created several years ago by Richard and Beryl Ivey.

A huge challenge for us in this campaign was the elimination this year of provincial funding for land protection. It is very disheartening that in the International Year of Biodiversity

there was no public funding available to secure the habitat of endangered species and create a new community recreation opportunity. Fortunately a number of

we still need more donations in order to reach our goal and complete the stewardship fund

organizations stepped up to help including: TD Friends of the Environment, EJLB Foundation, Nature London, Lower Thames conservation Foundation, West Elgin Nature Club, West Elgin Nature Trust, McLean Foundation, Thames Valley Trail Association, St. Thomas Field Naturalists, Sydenham Field Naturalists.

Contributions continue to roll in and we anticipate several more gifts from organizations in the coming weeks. If you haven't made your contribution yet, please consider doing so.

Tenth Anniversary Celebration

A very pleasant September 26 afternoon, thanks to good weather and great food was had by all who attended the *Slow Taste of Town and Country* experience held at Ilderton Fair Grounds. The food at the 15 booths came from breweries, wineries, cheese-makers, bakeries, restaurants, organic markets and farms was absolutely fabulous. These food producers concentrate on avoiding use of mass production of food additives and pesticides



to give us pure natural food and show us the taste is superb as well as being better for our health. 250 people attended and looked very happy to keep coming back for more. TTLT volunteers managed the gate and sales and still found time to sample. A great event to help celebrate TTLT's 10th year of existence. We will be doing this again in 2011, Don't miss it!
- Bill Maddeford

If you love the future, TRUST in the land.

The Opportunities Fund of the Thames Talbot Land Trust was established through founding gifts of \$1.5 million from Beryl & Richard Ivey.

Your legacy gift of cash, securities or insurance to the Opportunities Fund will support the acquisition of natural lands to be protected in perpetuity.

Nothing outlasts land.

519.858.3442
www.ttlit.ca

Thames Talbot Land Trust
Working together to leave a legacy of healthy landscapes

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Executive Director

Don Gordon

Eric Eberhardt by Bernie VanDenBelt

This past summer, TTLT lost a treasured friend and ardent supporter with the passing of Eric Eberhardt on July 9, 2010. Eric was born Houghton, Michigan in 1949 and grew up in Danville, Illinois. He attended high school with Marsha Jackson, whom he was to marry in 1970. Eric graduated with a degree in teaching from Illinois State University. In 1971, he immigrated to Canada with Marsha and their infant daughter, Erin.

Eric was first introduced to organic gardening by Mennonite friends with whom he had once lived. He pursued his interest in organic agriculture first on a small acreage in midwestern Ontario, then on Cape Breton Island (where his son, Ewen, was born) and finally for twenty years at the Eberhardt farm near Sebringville. His interest in organic agriculture and his entrepreneurial skills led him to assume proprietorship of *The Gentle Rain* natural health food store in Stratford. There, for thirty years, he served as a mentor to many aspiring organic producers whose products he also purchased and marketed through the store.

Eric's interest in sustainability led him to many other well-chronicled endeavours. He served on several environmental committees in Stratford and once ran as a candidate for the Green Party in the federal riding of Perth-Middlesex. When faced with costly renovations to their old farmhouse, Eric and Marsha instead built an environmentally sustainable new home that has been widely profiled. Recently, both the home and store have been outfitted with solar panels. In 2002, he was a recipient of an *Ethics in Action* award.

Eric and Marsha began their association with the Trust in 2003 when Eric approached TTLT regarding a potential conservation easement on their farm property. For years, they had been looking for a means to protect the natural and agricultural features of their property beyond the time of their own tenure. The easement agreement was concluded in 2005 and was the subject of a workshop at the 2006 Guelph

Organic Conference. It protects a 40 ha site whose conservation history dates back nearly a century.

In signing the easement agreement, Eric and Marsha sought to fulfill the wishes of Hamitage Richardson, the farm's previous owner, who entrusted the property to their care at the time of his own passing. It was the Richardson family who, in 1910, embarked on an 80 year effort that has transformed the face of the farm. It is a work Eric and Marsha faithfully continued. Today, the property stands as a testament to the remarkable stewardship efforts of these two families.

After being diagnosed with cancer in 2008, Eric continued to oversee his farm and the store, but made time with his children and grandchildren his highest priority. He and Marsha were also able to tour many

of the continent's most spectacular landscapes, often by canoe and kayak.

Over 700 people attended his visitation and the memorial service held at the farm of a friend on July 16, a testament to the impact he had within the local community. On that day, the flag at Stratford City Hall was lowered to half-mast in his honour.

In the seven years I was privileged to know Eric, I came to know him as a person of strong convictions and integrity, a person of good humour with a quiet yet firm resolve. He was principled yet entirely practical in his approach; perhaps this is because he always had one foot in the furrow.

In fulfillment of one of Eric's last wishes, TTLT is currently engaged in a campaign to secure a substantial portion of the Black Creek Heronry. The heronry is adjacent to the Eberhardt farm and provides one of the few suitable nesting sites for herons within Perth County. Eric was especially fond of this 5 acre wetland which is the source of much of the region's heron population.

In his time among us, Eric established a strong conservation legacy that TTLT was privileged to be a part of. Long may your legacy run, Eric. Long may it run.



Executive Director Retires

Our Executive Director, Don Gordon, will be leaving TTLT in April 2011 and moving to Victoria BC where he hopes to pursue work in the area of Marine Conservation. Don has been involved in TTLT since its inception, when as Executive Director of Carolinian Canada he provided staff support to the founding committee of the Trust. Don returned to TTLT as a consultant in 2006 and became our first Executive Director in 2008. "I am going to miss the terrific volunteers of TTLT who have provided me with so much inspiration." says Don.



TTLT will be conducting a search for a new Executive Director through the beginning of 2011 and information about the position can be found on the TTLT website as well as at CharityVillage.

Give Like a Millionaire

There is no getting around the fact that land is including TTLT in your estate plan, or through a gift expensive; even donated land requires surveys, of life insurance you are able to make a gift almost ecological studies and endowment funds. As a result beyond your imagination. Legacy Gifts are we often hear our generous donors expressing the transformative and will create an enduring Green wish that they could do more. "If I had a million Legacy. The recent success of our Tanager Tract dollars, I would buy you a Green Space". (apologies Campaign simply would have been impossible to BNL) without the money available from our Opportunities So you are not a millionaire, but we all have an Fund, the funds in which are used exclusively for land opportunity to give like one through a Legacy Gift. By securement.

NATURE IN THE CITY 2011

Mark your calendar for next year's Nature in the City, a free six-part series of illustrated talks on nature within the City of London. Co-sponsors are the London Public Library and Nature London.

Tuesdays, January 18th to February 22nd, 2011 7:30 – 8:30 pm

January 18	Talking Turkey – Karen Auzins
January 25	Invasive Plants – Ian Jean
February 1	The Elusive Badger – Ron Gould
February 8	Yeasts in the City – Andre Lachance
February 15	The Buzz on Social Insects - Graham Thompson
February 22	Meadowlily Nature Preserve - Don Gordon

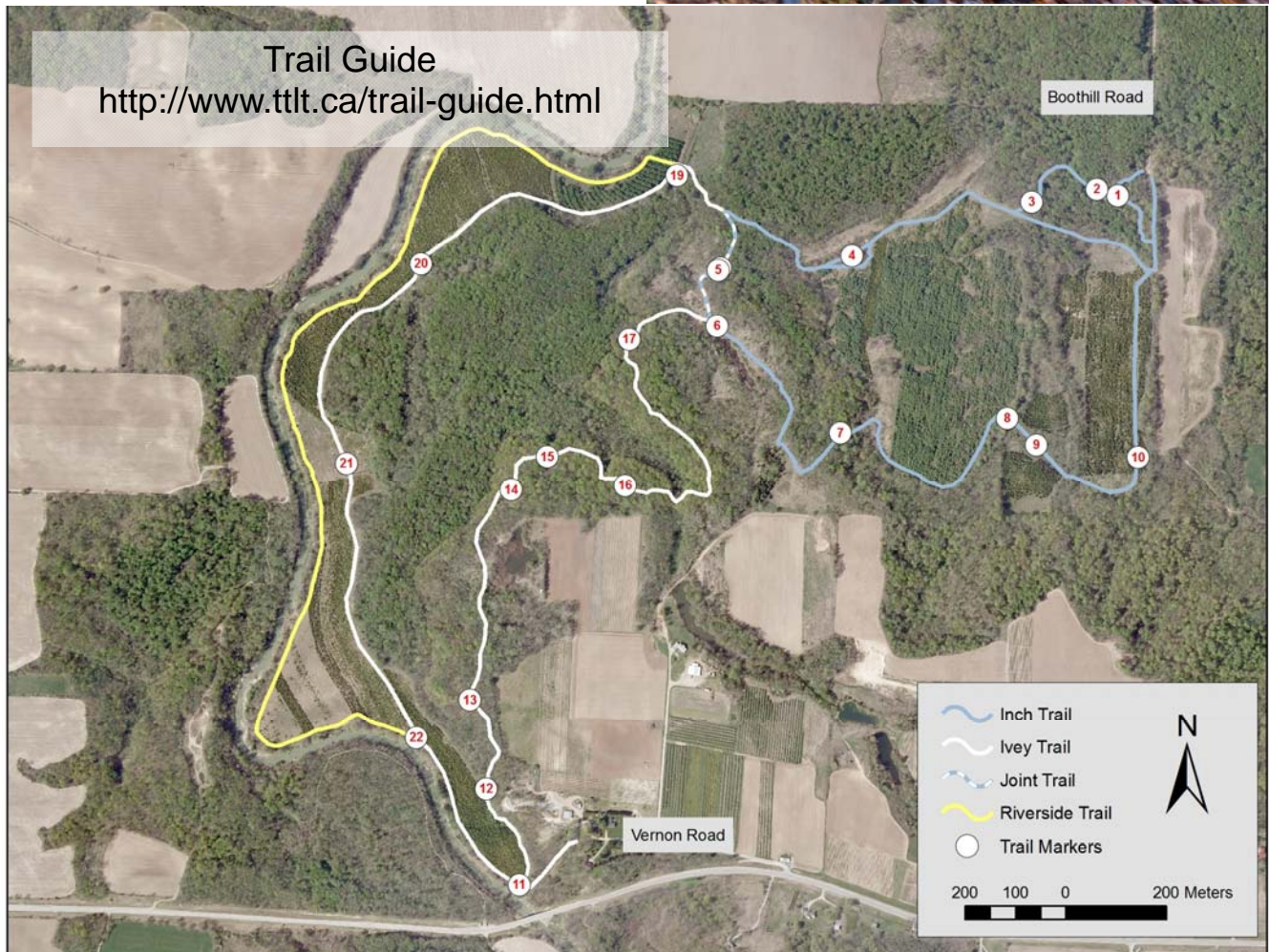
Everyone is invited to attend at the Central Library of London Public Library,
251 Dundas Street, in the Wolf Performance Hall

Visit Joany's Woods

The Stewards of Joany's Woods mark and maintain ~8km of walking trails that allow you to enjoy this 365 acre natural gem on the Ausable River. There are 3 trails, one along the river and then the Inch and Ivey trails which tour the property. Both the Inch and Ivey trails have a series of numbered posts that correspond to an interpretive guide available on our website. While you're at the website try the interactive version of the trail guide that has links to additional interpretive materials. Great for students and young naturalists!

The Ivey trail begins at the Vernon Road entrance and covers 4.4km; the Inch trail starts at the Boothill Road entrance and runs for 3.2km. At the Boothill entrance there is also a short loop trail suitable for a quick visit. This summer the boardwalk across the wetland area was extended so that this loop can now be walked

year round. The boardwalk extension was made possible by **TD Friends of the Environment Foundation** and the **Shell Environmental Fund** as well as the labour of the Stewardship Rangers.



Volunteer Power - The Key to Our Success



The TTLT has one staff and over 60 volunteers. Sustainability isn't just an ecological concept it is also the watchword for how we run the organization. TTLT plans to protect properties in perpetuity and to do so we need an organization that will also be around for the long haul and hence our celebration of voluntarism.



All the key positions in the Trust are filled with volunteers. In addition to enthusiasm and commitment they also bring a broad range of skills; the sum of which would bankrupt us if we tried to pay for it all. TTLT also invest in its volunteers by offering a variety of training opportunities such as:



Photometry Workshop: One of the most useful tools in managing properties through the years is to have a set of photographs that can be replicated exactly every few years to provide an accurate visible comparison. Volunteers learned how to precisely record the location, direction, angle and so on for each picture so that in a few years time another trained volunteer will be able to take exactly the same shot. The training involved hand held GPS, compass, digital camera and laptop computer.



Stream Monitoring Workshop: Water is a key feature of many properties and monitoring the health of aquatic ecosystems is a must for good management. Volunteers learned about the organisms in a healthy stream and other indicators of health as well as how these can be monitored.



Chainsaw Safety: Keeping trails safe requires the occasional removal of hazard trees. TTLT now has a cadre of safety-certified chainsaw operators who can address safety risks on any of our properties.



Certified Seed Collectors: Ecological restoration can require vast quantities of plant seed. Not just any seed will do as it must come from the right species in the right place. Then it needs to be gathered at the right time and stored or prepared correctly. Sound complicated? Not for our certified seed collectors.

Coming Soon. Hazard Identification Workshop to help identify small problems before they become big ones.

If this sounds like the sort of meaningful volunteer opportunity you are looking for, please give us a call.



Our Next Legacy Project

Black Creek Heronry A Natural Legacy



The Black Creek Heronry in West Perth has been the breeding grounds for a large colony of Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* for at least 30 years. It is one of only two heronries in Perth County and is thus the source for these well-loved and majestic birds through much of Perth County. In order to breed successfully Herons require a wetland in which they will be undisturbed, and this has become an increasingly rare habitat. The Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) is fortunate to have the opportunity to purchase this 5 acre wetland that abuts 100 acres already protected by a Conservation Easement held by TTLT. With your help, TTLT will raise \$15,000 in order to protect this wetland in perpetuity ensuring that future generations will be able to marvel at the sight of the Great Blue Heron.

Thames Talbot Land Trust

www.ttlit.ca

Fewer than 2% of Canadians give to Nature

*Charitable receipts are issued for all contributions
(Reg. # 86745 7475 RR0001)*

Membership Donations

Youth/Student (under 18):	\$25
Individual Member (18+)	\$50
Affiliate/Group/Corporate	\$100

Additional Donations

Donation amount: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____

Membership Information

Name _____
Address _____
City/Postal Code _____
Telephone (_____) _____
eMail _____

*You may also contribute online through our website, or
become a monthly donor and make a big impact.*

Supporters' Circle (Automatic monthly donations)

Advocate \$240 (\$20/month)
Protector \$480 (\$40/month)

Direct Bank Debit:

I (we) authorize the Thames Talbot Land Trust to process a debit, in paper, electronic or other form in the amount of \$ _____ on my (our) account on the first day of each month beginning 1, _____, 201____.

I (we) acknowledge that we have read understood and accepted all the provisions set out in the Terms and Conditions <www.ttl.t.ca>

I (we) enclose a cheque made payable to the Thames Talbot Land Trust and marked "VOID"

Signature(s) of Donor(s)

Date: _____

Please mail the completed application form and cheque to:

Thames Talbot Land Trust
PO Box 25054, London ON N6C 6A8

Privacy Policy

Thames Talbot Land Trust respects your privacy and will not share your personal information. From time to time we may contact you with information about the land Trust and its activities which we believe are of interest to our members and supporters. For more information about our privacy policy visit www.ttl.t.ca

The twin concerns of climate change and biodiversity loss seem to be in the news everyday and yet in Ontario government spending on conservation is at its lowest levels in a generation. Perhaps this reflects the real level of public concern as donations to conservation and environmental causes represent less than 2% of giving in Canada, a rate unchanged for two decades. These days we seem to have a huge amount of environmental awareness but not much action.

The TTLT is actively creating enduring natural legacies but we can only do so with the generous financial support of individuals like you, and the dedicated efforts of our volunteers.

If you are already a member, please renew, and consider increasing your gift. If you are not a member please join now—if you wait for government or others to act it will be too late.



**New and renewing members
prior to 31 Dec 2010 are eligible
to win this original framed
artwork donated by London
artist Kathy Dunn.**