

# the TaTTLeR

*a newsletter of the*

## Thames Talbot Land Trust

*Working together to leave a legacy of healthy landscapes*

### Ivey Natural Lands Legacy

When the Founding Members of the Land Trust gathered in October for a dinner to celebrate the successes of the Trust's first years they had little idea of the surprise that awaited them. Noted environmental philanthropists Richard and Beryl Ivey of London provided even more reason to celebrate when they announced their \$1 Million gift to the Opportunities Fund. The Ivey Natural Lands Legacy, as the gift is known, will be matched by other donations to the Land Trust in order to provide permanent protection to natural lands within the Thames Talbot region.

In announcing their gift, Richard Ivey said, "Ontarians feel strongly about the natural heritage of our province and one of the most effective expressions of these feelings is the development of a Land Trust legacy." Land Trusts are non-profit, charitable organizations, which secure land for public benefit. The President of the Trust, Bernie VanDenBelt, explained that, "The quality of life of present and future generations depends upon the continued health of our natural and agricultural lands. The Ivey gift will greatly assist the Trust in establishing a legacy of healthy landscapes."

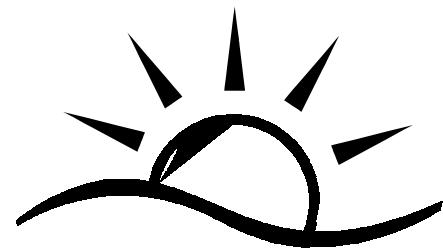
The Ivey Natural Lands Legacy will further the mandate of Thames Talbot as it protects lands and waters of

ecological, agricultural and cultural value through a variety of mechanisms such as land acquisition, conservation easements, landscape restoration and education. Residents of the London region are well aware of the philanthropy of Richard and Beryl Ivey through their many generous gifts to health, education and the arts. What may be less well known is that, throughout Ontario and across Canada, the Iveys are widely recognized for their leadership in giving to the environment. In nearly 30 years at the helm of the Richard Ivey Foundation, Richard and Beryl established the foundation as Canada's pre-eminent environmental grantmaker, a tradition proudly continued by their children.

Richard and Beryl have long recognized the need to conserve our natural heritage, both for its own intrinsic values, and as the key to our future health and prosperity. Through this gift, they are providing an example for others in our community to follow. The Thames Talbot Land Trust has established the Opportunities Fund to support the costs of securing and stewarding natural and cultural lands in perpetuity, and we encourage you to consider a contribution through bequests in wills, memorial gifts and other planned gifts.

### Thames Talbot joins Leave-A-Legacy

Leave-A-Legacy is a program of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners, which encourages people to plan gifts for their favourite charities through their wills or other vehicles such as insurance policies and gift annuities. Thames Talbot has joined in order to promote the concept of creating a natural legacy and we have created the Opportunities Fund to receive these gifts. Surprisingly, only half of the people reading this newsletter will have made a will in spite of the fact that most of us have spouses, children and assets. A quick trip to your lawyer will provide peace of mind and cost less than you think. Many financial planners and estate advisors now routinely include charitable gifts in their clients' plans in order to reduce tax liabilities. There are many ways to make a planned gift that will create a permanent natural legacy. You will be surprised to learn how big an impact you can make upon the future.



LEAVE A LEGACY™

Southwestern Ontario

# President's Report

*Bernie VanDenBelt*

The past six months have been a time of incredible growth for the Thames Talbot Land Trust. In addition to activities relating to the management of our existing programs and properties, your TTLT Board has been putting into place a series of new initiatives to allow us to take a leading role in the conservation of natural and cultural landscapes within the region.

This past summer, (through the generous assistance of Richard and Beryl Ivey,) we were able to retain the services of Don Gordon on a part time basis to coordinate our communications and fund raising efforts. Don is well known for his work among conservation organizations and the voluntary sector; and was instrumental in the establishment of TTLT.

With Don's assistance, we have been able to advance a number of initiatives to increase our organizational capacity and profile within the community. Among other things, he has helped us finalize our Case for Support and has begun to implement our Fund Development Plan, which includes establishing the funding base needed to carry out our ambitious conservation goals.

Earlier this year, TTLT established its Opportunities Fund to accumulate funds for the future securement of conservation lands. The inaugural contribution to the Fund is the million-dollar Ivey Natural Lands Legacy, which will put TTLT "on the map"—so to speak—and help us to take a leading role in the securement of conservation lands within the Thames Talbot region.

On a related note, I am also pleased to announce that TTLT has recently signed an agreement with the McIlwraith Field Naturalists, Inc.. A substantial portion of a bequest left to McIlwraith will be used to purchase a conservation property in honour of Helen and Spencer Inch, who were avid naturalists and long time McIlwraith members. We thank the McIlwraith club for their confidence in the Trust and we look forward to working together to recognize the substantial contribution of the Inches to conservation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our gratitude for your continued support. I hope this edition of the TaTTler will give you an appreciation for the many contributions TTLT volunteers are making to conservation within our region. We hope that we can count on your continued assistance in furthering this most important work.

## TTLT Board of Directors

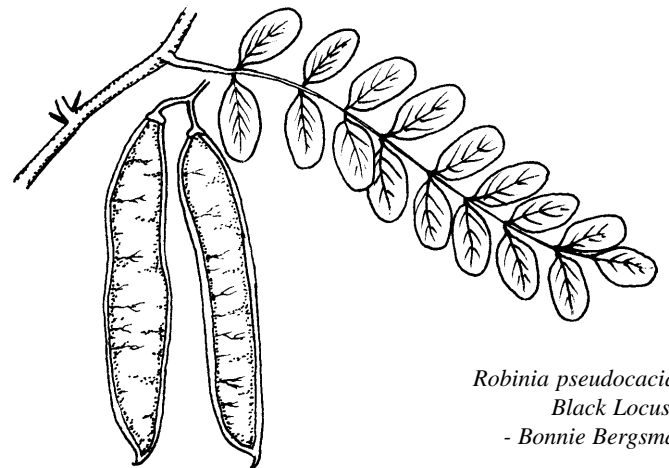
**2005 / 2006**

**Muriel Andreae  
Bonnie Bergsma  
Jane Bowles  
Stan Caveney  
Terry Grawey  
Michelle Kanter  
Mary Kerr  
Jim McCoomb  
Ian Seddon  
BernieVanDenBelt**

### to contact the Board

Tel: 519-858-3442  
eMail: thamestalbot@ttl.t.ca

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



*Robinia pseudocacia*  
Black Locust  
- Bonnie Bergsma

### Contributors to this issue

*Muriel Andreae  
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Stan Caveney  
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*the TaTTler*  
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London ON N6C 6A8

# Forest Threats

Stan Caveney



Road sign warning of EAB danger

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is one of the most destructive insects ever to invade southwestern Ontario. It has the potential to remove White Ash - as well as Green and Black Ash - from our forested landscapes. White Ash is a fast-growing and shade-intolerant tree that dominates many heavily-logged woodlots and secondary forests regenerating on abandoned farmland. It is distressing to hear that EAB infestations have spread beyond the Essex/Chatham-Kent regulated area into the Thames Talbot region. Biologists with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) found many new infestations in Lambton County and one site in Elgin County this last summer. The Lambton sites are in St Clair Township along to the St Clair River, and on Walpole Island. The Elgin County site is at the eastbound Highway 401 truckstop in Dutton/Dunwich township.

Unfortunately, it can't be long before EAB is reported in Middlesex County. EAB infestations are difficult to detect at an early stage as the symptoms show only in trees in serious decline. In all likelihood the EAB attacks on ash trees at the 401 truckstop and on Walpole Island began several years ago. Human activity is responsible for both the introduction and rapid spread of most exotic insects. Researchers in the US Midwest have concluded that the rapid spread of EAB (and other similar pests) is the result of campers moving infested firewood to pest-free recreational sites often hundreds of miles from the wood's origin.

Rondeau and Pinery Provincial Parks may soon become (or may already be) infested with EAB. To stem the movement of contaminated firewood, the CFIA quarantined Essex and Chatham-Kent and enacted federal regulations prohibiting the movement of ash products and

firewood from the regulated area. (see photo). Movement of Ash products from Elgin and Lambton Counties is not currently regulated, but this could soon change. Unless we find ways to control EAB populations in the meantime, restrictions of wood movement of wood will serve little purpose. Wood-boring beetles like EAB are notoriously difficult to control.

Chinese and American entomologists have recently identified two Asian wasps that parasitize EAB offering the possibility of effective biological control. To have any impact on the spread of EAB, they need to be introduced into Ontario soon. Our best hope may be to identify the rare ash tree with a natural resistance to EAB. The prognosis is not bright. Like the chestnut and the elm, both felled by fungal pathogens in the last century, the demise of the noble ash will leave substantial gaps in the canopies of our hardwood forests and in forest restoration areas.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

## EMERALD ASH BORER

### Signs of Infestation

**Epicormic Shoots**

**S-Shaped Tunnels**

**D-shaped exit hole**

**Bark Damage**

Contact the CFIA  
If you see signs of infestation on your ash trees or if you plan on moving firewood from regulated areas, contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 1-866-463-6017

Canada

# From Strength to Strength

In our last TaTTler we reported on our efforts to write a "Case For Support" and a "Fund Development Plan". These documents were completed by the Fund Raising and Marketing Committee and ratified by the Board. We have begun to implement the activities identified in the Plan that will help us to better achieve our mission. Foremost among our goals is to protect more valuable conservation land. To do that we will increase our membership and fund raising dramatically.

One way that you can help to achieve a legacy of healthy landscapes is to identify opportunities for the Trust to make itself better known to residents of our region. We now have an elegant new portable display and an abundant supply of new brochures. The brochures describe the vision for the legacy of healthy landscapes, the challenges and how we will meet those challenges. The Land Trust will be successful with a strong membership, a committed team of volunteers and with landowners interested in protecting the natural and cultural heritage values of their property. We are ready to come to your event with a display and presentation to reach a wider audience.



*TTLT's new display is available for community events*

## Have Fun and Save the World!

Okay, I bet we have your attention now! As a volunteer with the Thames Talbot Land Trust you can be involved in challenging and rewarding projects that all contribute towards protecting our corner of spaceship Earth. Some recent projects led by our volunteers have included developing vivid new promotional materials, field inspections and assessments of natural areas, long range planning for the management and protection of natural areas, planting trees and cleaning up our nature preserve. These are not your envelope-stuffing volunteers! Our volunteers pool their talents as scientists, teachers, lawyers, planners, business people and much more to form a dynamic team that is playing a leading role in local conservation. If you are interested in a meaningful volunteer experience in an organization that is truly led by volunteers, then contact us <info@ttl.ca>



*volunteers planting trees at Meadowlily Nature Preserve*

# Membership Renewals 2006



It is time to renew your membership in the Thames Talbot Land Trust, or perhaps to become a member for the first time. It would be hard to overstate how important membership is to our organization - we simply wouldn't exist without it. We know that there are many worthy causes that compete for your attention and your support but consider that less than 2% of the charitable giving in Canada goes towards conservation and the environment and you will realize how important it is for those of us who care to match our concern with our generosity.

Annual membership fees are \$25 for Youth; \$50 for Individual; and \$100 for a Group or Corporation.

This year we are pleased to introduce the Supporters' Circle of convenient automatic monthly payments. Become an Advocate with a gift of \$20/month, or a Protector with a gift of \$40/month. You will receive an annual tax receipt and you may alter, cancel or suspend your monthly gift at any time. This is an easy way to make a larger gift. Please see next page for details about joining the Supporters' Circle.

TTLT 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. More information about our privacy policy can be found at <[www.tflt.ca](http://www.tflt.ca)>

## Membership Application (membership period is Jan - Dec)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
eMail \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Fees

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

## Donations

Donation amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Payable to Thames Talbot Land Trust  
*(tax receipts are issued for all membership fees and donations)*

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

# Thames Talbot Land Trust

## Automatic Monthly Donation Authorization

### Supporters' Circle:

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

You may cancel, alter or suspend your monthly gift at any time. An annual tax receipt will be mailed to you. Of course you can also join the Supporters' Circle with a single payment instead of monthly donations.

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, \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_.

I(We) acknowledge that I(we) have read, understood and accepted all the provisions in the Terms and Conditions set out below.

Signature(s) of Donor(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional)      E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional)

Please mail the completed application form and Void cheque to:

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

## Terms and Conditions

I(We) acknowledge that this Authorization is provided for the benefit of the Thames Talbot Land Trust and my financial institution and is provided in consideration of my financial institution agreeing to process debits against my account in accordance with the Rules of the Canadian Payment Association.

I(We) warrant and guarantee that all persons whose signatures are required to sign on this account have signed this agreement below.

I(We) hereby authorize the Thames Talbot Land Trust to draw on my account a monthly charitable contribution in the amount indicated in the accompanying authorization.

This authorization may be cancelled at any time upon notice from the donor. I(We) acknowledge that, in order to revoke this authorization, I(We) must provide notice of the revocation to the Thames Talbot Land Trust.

I(We) acknowledge that provision and delivery of this authorization to the Thames Talbot Land Trust constitutes delivery by the Thames Talbot Land Trust to my financial institution.

I(We) undertake to inform the Thames Talbot Land Trust, in writing, of any change in the account information provided in this authorization prior to the next due date of the Pre-authorized debit (PAD).

The account that I(We) is authorized to draw upon is indicated in the accompanying authorization. A specimen cheque for this account has been marked "VOID" and attached hereto.

A PAD may be disputed by a Payor under the following conditions:

- 1) the PAD was not drawn in accordance with the Payor's Authorization; or
- 2) the authorization was revoked; or
- 3) pre-notification was not received.

The Payor, in order to be reimbursed, acknowledges that a declaration to the effect that either (1), (2) or (3) took place, must be completed and presented to the branch of the Processing Institution holding the Payor's account up to and including 90 days after the date on which the PAD in dispute was posted to the Payor's account

*Revised 7 September 2005*

# Notes from the Headwaters

*Muriel Andreae, Jane Bowles, André Lachance and Steve Sauder*

This past summer many friends and members of the Land Trust gathered with Eric and Marsha Eberhardt to celebrate the conservation easement, which will protect the natural values of their property for generations to come. This October, members of the TTLT visited the Eberhardt Farm for the initial monitoring of the conservation easement. Regular monitoring is the key to a successful easement as it builds knowledge of the property and strengthens the partnership between the Trust and the landowners. Together we reviewed the covenants that are listed in the registered agreement, and confirmed that everything was progressing well.

Although southwestern Ontario has had another drought this fall, there were pools of water in the watercourse, which is a headwater of Whirl Creek (a tributary of the North Thames) and is also designated as the "Schellenberger Municipal Drain". We discussed options to naturalize the watercourse on their property in such a way as to maintain effective drainage for the cash crop farmer who is upstream. The Trust will work with the landowner to access funds available from water quality programs.

Many trees had already dropped their leaves, and we were surprised to note a small grove of trees still carrying bright yellow tulip-shaped leaves. These were tulip trees



*Marsha and Eric hold the Dedication  
Plaque for their Conservation  
Easement at a Dedication Ceremony,  
June 5, 2005*

in the natural area, west of the path before we entered the old forest! Eric had no recollection of tulip trees being planted on this land, but no one could see a parent tree in the area. Could some visiting naturalist have scattered seeds ten years previous? Certainly seven young tulip trees are establishing roots at the Eberhardts.

Control of invasive plants was a major topic of discussion, with Jane Bowles leading the charge as she saw Norway maple, multiflora rose and buckthorn being of concern. Garlic mustard in the hawthorn grove is also bad news, and techniques for organic control, which Eric is considering, include girdling the maple, digging the shrubs and burning the mustard with a propane torch.

The taste of a wild apple, the image of a mushroom fairy ring and the smell of the fall leaves lingered with me, as we shook hands with Eric, thanked him for his hospitality and drove south. Thanks to Eric and Marsha's stewardship and support from our Land Trust, the landscape of this property has become a conservation legacy.

## **What Is a Conservation Easement?**

Most of us will have some familiarity with common law easements and rights-of-way that either restrict a landowner in some way or allow another party some privilege. A common example would be a utility corridor across a property where the owner cannot interfere with the corridor and must allow the utility reasonable access for repair and maintenance. Conservation easements, on the other hand, are quite new to Ontario and are used to permanently protect conservation features on the landscape.

Imagine your property rights as a bundle of rights and then imagine placing some restrictions on your activities. For example you might choose to give up the right to sever your property, or agree not to clear the forest. A conservation easement is a partnership between the landowner and the Land Trust that can be tailored to meet your conservation goals for the property.

The conservation easement is also a legal agreement that is registered on the property title and will "run with the land" and bind future owners as well. It is a conservation tool that allows you to own and enjoy your property and to ensure its protection in the future. The donation of a conservation easement may also qualify as a charitable donation with favourable tax implications.

Want to learn more? Contact TTLT at <info@ttl.ca>



## Brainstorming On the Bay

*Jane Bowles*

About 100 people from over 30 different land trusts from throughout Ontario and across Canada gathered to meet, learn and exchange expertise and experience. Five members of the Thames Talbot Land Trust were at Kempenfelt Conference Centre in Barrie from November 11-13 to attend the annual Gathering of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance. During a packed schedule that included food, music, an auction and other social events we managed to attend workshops that ranged in topic from accreditation standards for land trusts through fundraising, developing financial plans, insurance, baseline inventories, volunteers, choosing properties, land appraisal, easement violations and marketing. Thames Talbot is a proud member of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance, which provides educational opportunities and other services as well as setting high standards for the ethical and technical operation of land trusts.



*Members of the Thames Talbot Land Trust at the annual OLTA gathering in Barrie, left to right Stan Caveney, Mary Kerr, Don Gordon, Jane Bowles and Bernie VanDenBelt*

## High Standards

Land Trusts hold properties in perpetuity, as in forever! This is a much longer period of time than we are accustomed to think of and sets Land Trusts apart from all other charities. The decisions our Board of Directors make today will have implications generations into the future. Lacking a crystal call or a reliable soothsayer Land Trusts voluntarily adhere to the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Principles. Originally developed in the United States where there are more than a thousand trusts in operation, the Standards and Practices were adapted to Canadian requirements by the Ontario Land Trust Alliance. By adhering to these ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a Land Trust, we surpass the legal requirements that other charities must meet. When you contribute time, money or land to the Thames Talbot Land Trust, the Standards and Practices are your guarantee that your gift will be used wisely. In our rush hour society it is nice to find that someone is taking the long view.



*J Bowles*

*Aster novae-angliae*  
*(Symphyotrichum novae-angliae)*  
*New England Aster*