

# the TaTTler

*A Newsletter of the*  
**Thames Talbot Land Trust**

*Working together to leave a legacy of healthy landscapes*

## Our Black Creek Heronry

The Black Creek Heronry, located in East Perth near Stratford, is the TTLT's 10<sup>th</sup> conservation property. The property purchase closed March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The fund-raising campaign was relatively short, six months, with a goal of \$15,000.

Thanks to an outpouring of support from the Perth County area, the goal was reached. The property is only 4.5 acres in size but it is highly significant because it has been the breeding grounds for a large colony of Great Blue Herons for at least 30 years. It is one of only two heronries in Perth County and therefore is a major source for these well-loved and majestic birds throughout much of the county. The property is a silver maple swamp on clay soil that remains wet most of the year. In 2010 there were over 20 heron nests. The Thames Talbot Land Trust was eager to purchase this site when Eric Eberhardt offered it in the spring of 2010. The Eberhardts have a conservation easement with the TTLT to protect the natural and agricultural features of their 100 acre organic farm which is adjacent to the heronry. Sadly, Eric passed away in 2010 before the land transaction could be completed, but his reputation as a local organic farmer and community activist helped raise the funds to secure this property. Along with the Perth Stewardship Network and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the campaign got support from a number of individual donors and clubs. (Continued on page 4)



**Great Young  
Blue Heron**

# New Executive Director

Hello my name is Suzanne McDonald Aziz and I'm pleased to be joining the Thames Talbot Land Trust. I started my work at the beginning of April and it has been a very intense training period. I would like to thank Don Gordon for spending more than 10 full days working with me and opening many doors for me. It was particularly helpful to have Don around to answer my hundreds of questions and to prepare me for my new duties. By way of introduction, I am a graduate of the University of Western Ontario majoring in French and Political Science. I have lived in London for more than 35 years. I am an active volunteer and have served on several boards including the United Way of London and Middlesex, Fanshawe Pioneer Village, the Centre for Philanthropy, UWO Alumni Board, the Stratford Festival and I currently serve on the Ontario Heritage Trust Board and the Arts Project Board. I am a part time faculty member in Continuing Studies at the University of Western Ontario. I am very pleased to join the TTLT.



## TTLT Board of Directors 2011/12

### Directors

Quintin Lang, President  
Wayne Crowder, Secretary-Treasurer  
Gordon Saylor  
David Daugharty  
Mhairi McFarlane  
Jim Rule  
Ron Casier  
Steve Sauder  
Carolyn McDonald  
Linda McDougall  
Bill Middleford  
Andy Kroeker  
Stan Caveney, Past President

### Committee Chairs:

Quintin Lang, Executive Committee  
Stan Caveney, Governance  
David Daugharty, Membership & Marketing  
Cathy Quinlan, Land Securement  
Jane Bowles, Property Management

### Executive Director

Suzanne McDonald Aziz

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*

# Recording our Volunteers for Posterity



In 2010, as part of our 10th Anniversary celebrations, the TTLT undertook a unique project to record our volunteers.

We are working with the Students and Communications program at Fanshawe College to put this together.

We will be providing links to the videos on our website and posting them to Utube.

## Annual Meeting—2011



## Annual Meeting—April 7, 2011

The 11th annual meeting of the Thames Talbot Land Trust attracted more than 75 attendees. Stan Caveney retired as President and Quintin Lang started his term as President for 2011/12. Also stepping down as directors are Dr. Jane Bowles and Shirley Dortmans

## Fund Raising Event

A Tribute To Eric Eberhardt: On May 7, 2011, friends of the late Eric Eberhardt organized an evening at the Blue Heron Café (aka Knox Presbyterian Church, Stratford) to honour his life and work. Monies raised went to the Thames Talbot Land Trust . It was a wonderful evening with a variety of musical groups and talents. Eric's wife Marsha was in attendance. For those who do not know, the relationship between the Eberhardts and the TTLT, Eric and Marsha allowed TTLT to have an easement on their property in order to protect the land for future generations. In addition, they also owned another piece of property that has a heronry on it and it is legacy gift to the TTLT.

TTLT has been very moved by this couple and their friends as they support of our work and the conservation movement. Representing TTLT was Bernie Vandenberg, Cathy Quinlan and David Daugharty. Michelle Kanter (ED) from Carolinian Canada was also in attendance. Thank you Cathy Quinlan for helping to make this a great evening and looking forward to next year as they say it will become an annual event.



From left to right—Bernie Vandenberg (an original founder of the Thames Talbot Land Trust), Marsha Eberhardt, Cathy Quinlan Chair of the Land Securement Committee and David Daugharty Chair of the Membership and Marketing Committee and Board Member both with the Thames Talbot Land Trust.

**(continued from page 1)** The property was named Black Creek Heronry because it is located within the Black Creek watershed, a tributary of the North Thames River. The property has an interesting history. One of the first owners was Howard Roesner who took firewood from the land and requested his ashes be spread on the property. He left the land to his son William who was killed in a car accident. Eric Eberhardt bought it from William's estate around 2000. The TTLT land stewards will visit the site outside of the breeding season, which is rather long and includes the period from courtship to fledged young (April to June), to ensure the site remains as undisturbed as possible. A vegetation inventory will also be undertaken later this summer. I have it on good authority that the herons are on their nests as I write this article. So, let's hope the birds continue to fledge their young in this lovely little swamp for many years to come.

## New board members

**MCDONALD, CAROLYN:** Carolyn recently retired from her position as a Program Coordinator with the London District Catholic School Board where she was instrumental in developing the Environmental Leadership Program at Catholic Central in London and Saint Joseph's High School in St Thomas. She also was part of the coordinating team for the Stewards of Creation initiative that involved all students in the school system in an effort to raise awareness of the beauty of creation, on the one hand, and our responsibility as stewards on the other. Carolyn is the mother of three grown sons who constantly challenged the family to be more environmentally conscious in our daily living. She welcomes the opportunity to work with a group committed to the preservation and protection of land that is ecologically and culturally sensitive so that it will be there for future generations, which include her five grandchildren.

(Board Term(s): 2011-13)

**MCDUGALL, LINDA:** Linda McDougall is a Landscape Planner with the City of London. She holds an Advanced Diploma in Landscape Design from Fanshawe College, a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from The University of Guelph and a Masters in Environment and Sustainability from The University of Western Ontario. Protected Areas were the focus of her Master's research conducted for the Sustainable Forest Management Network. Linda was a Species at Risk Stewardship Technician for the Friends of Pinery Park and The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. She served on several committees for the first London-Middlesex Children's Water Festival and organized and chaired the first City of London Green Roof Workshop. She is an Associate Member of the Ontario Society of Landscape Architects and a Member of London City Hall Toastmasters. Linda and her common-law husband Mark Anderson are members of the Fanshawe Yacht Club and they live in the Old East Heritage Village in London. (Board Term(s): 2011-13)

## Volunteers are key to our success



The Feryn Family



Ron Martin, Jim Moorehead, Andre Lachance and Cathy Quinlan in the middle

# Upcoming Fall Speaker Alanna Mitchell

## Alanna Mitchell



Alanna Mitchell is an international award-winning Canadian journalist and author who writes about science and social trends. She is a global thinker who specializes in investigative reporting. Her most recent book **Sea Sick: The Global Ocean in Crisis** is an international best-seller that won the prestigious Grantham Prize for excellence in environmental journalism.

### **Sea Sick: The Global Ocean in Crisis**

Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM  
Wolf Performance Hall,  
Central Public Library  
251 Dundas Street, London ON



Ontario  
Trillium  
Foundation



Fondation  
Trillium  
de l'Ontario

# Joany's Woods on Mother's Day

The Mother's Day hike(s) went very well at Joany's Woods. Many thanks to Muriel and Blair for faithful monitoring of the property, as the signs and gates were in good condition, there was no recent garbage or ATV tracks and only small branches on the trails.

One family foursome came independently of TTLT notices, to hike on their own - said it is their family tradition - and complimented us on how well-managed the property now is. There were several other cars which weren't TTLTers, and when we left at 4:30 there was another mother-daughter family heading in. The site is very popular.

Pete Chapman and Robbie Bloomfield were at Boothill before 1 pm, so I walked to Radar Hill with them then returned to the entrance where Erin had already passed around the Waiver clipboard as people appeared. I gave a general intro and passed around TTLT membership brochures, then Pete and Robbie started off with those who wanted to hike the whole loop and Erin and I dawdled over the wildflowers with the rest of the group. But it was such a nice day that even our party completed the Inch trail.

Two Directors in attendance - Dave Daugharty came, with two friends, and hiked on their own; Carol McDonald came with her son, daughter-in-law and two grand-daughters. Total by the Waiver sheet was 27.



# 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](http://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.

## Newport Forest

