

LONG POINT BASIN
LAND TRUST
 VIEWPOINT
 Fall 2021



President's
 Message

NEW PLACES
 AND
 NEW FACES

As some of you might have been aware, Covid -19 resulted in LPBLT losing our office space at the end of 2020. With restrictions and our policy of allowing staff to work from home for part of their week, we were able to work around this inconvenience. Looking forward to a return to normal, staff and board decided to keep their eyes open for new digs. Over a relatively quick time frame a new space was found and acted on. More on this exciting development in a following article.

Again, as some of you might have been aware, during the early part of this year the board and staff engaged in a Strategic Planning exercise. A big shout out to those of you that were contacted to help us in this process. The results were an overwhelming endorsement of what we have accomplished, and some suggestions as to how to move forward. One of the more obvious outcomes of this exercise was a realization that LPBLT was missing opportunities, and that staff was being snowed under (figuratively, I don't think white is Kristyn's colour) with their existing workload. With a little planning and some financial support, the board has moved quickly to resolve this situation by adding several staff positions and finding some talented people to fill them. Introductions to these new faces are included in this issue of ViewPoint.

I think that sometimes in all the confusion and rush that we experience in our work lives, we forget to thank those who make what we do possible. Our funders, our volunteers and our staff are the cornerstone of what and how we do things. Please take this heartfelt thanks with you and forgive me for not hearing it more often.

LONG POINT BASIN LAND TRUST Strategic Plan Overview 2021 to 2025

<p>OUR PURPOSE</p> <p>To preserve and protect the rich biodiversity of watersheds associated with Long Point, in perpetuity.</p>			
<p>OUR COMMITMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquiring ecologically significant lands. Providing a trustworthy system to those who wish to donate land for conservation. Stewarding lands to ensure the natural heritage is preserved. Connecting people with nature. Raising awareness of the value of our natural environment. 	<p>HOW WE WORK</p> <p>COLLABORATION: We seek and create opportunities for collaboration with a diverse range of individuals and organizations.</p> <p>TRANSPARENCY: We communicate openly, within and outside the organization, we trust each other to make evidence-based decisions together.</p> <p>FUTURE-FOCUS: We are adaptable and embrace changes that enable our organization to be sustainable and to succeed for future generations.</p> <p>EFFICIENCY: We focus on our strengths and maximize the use of our resources.</p>	<p>WHAT WE OFFER TO THE COMMUNITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning opportunities and hands on experiences in nature. Opportunities for conservation and scientific research. Access to trails on selected lands for nature appreciation. Celebration of our stories and collective successes. Intrinsic value of knowing there are protected lands. Ecological services: e.g. cleaning the air, water retention, flood prevention, carbon capture. 	<p>OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS</p> <p>STEWARDSHIP: Bringing the lands we own to a high standard of management.</p> <p>OUTREACH: Increasing overall awareness, number of collaborations, partners and donors.</p> <p>SUSTAINABILITY: Future-proofing the organization to ensure ongoing success.</p> <p>LAND ACQUISITION: Incorporating land ownership through a land acquisition strategy and the protection of priority parcels.</p>

*Yours in conservation
 Peter*

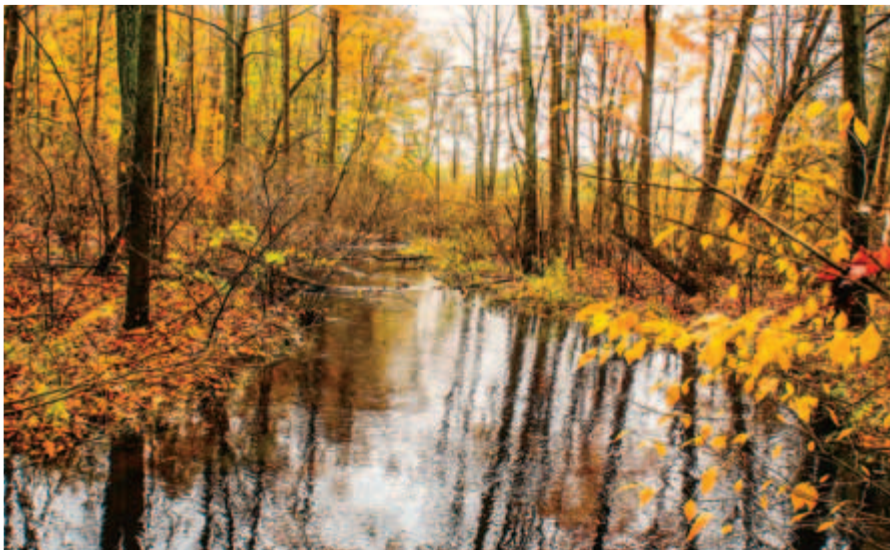
Third Time's the Charm

2021 has been a busy year for Long Point Basin Land Trust, a new office, three new staff members, and two property acquisitions. In order to make our 25th year of protecting land in the Long Point Basin a year to remember the decision was made to secure a third property! LPBLT is looking to preserve is a 20-hectare (50-acre) parcel of pristine undisturbed Carolinian forest that is home to a number of species at risk and a provincially significant wetland. Dedrick Creek flows through the property in pristine condition with natural meanders and ultimately drains into the Long Point Basin. This property is also home to a variety of bird species such as Baltimore Orioles, Blue Jays, Wood Thrush, Veery, and Scarlet Tanager.

The securement of this property by LPBLT would ensure important connectivity corridors within the larger natural landscape are preserved as it is situated within the Norfolk Forest Complex Important Bird Area, providing important habitat for continental

migrants. It also provides important connections to other properties protected and managed for conservation as part of a larger forested block, including LPBLT's newly acquired Sand Dune Ridge, and along the Dedrick Creek habitat corridor.

We are excited about this potential new property as it is not only an absolutely beautiful site but it will provide strategic leverage in gaining opportunities for future acquisitions and to expand the protected area network within the Walsh Carolinian Forest Significant Natural Area. Currently over 40% of the country's species are at risk and LPBLT has spent the past 25 years working hard to protect as many of these species as possible. Continually investing in properties that help to protect crucial habitat not only benefits us here in the Long Point Basin but also on a larger scale within Canada and the global community.



Dedrick Creek on the eastern side of the property

Tom Hanrahan



Tom Hanrahan

New Faces at LPBLT



Len Grincevicius

I grew up on a tobacco farm south east of Langton and have been a Norfolk resident almost all of my life. The majority of my working career was as a Stationary Engineer and Process Operator at Stelco Lake Erie Works in Nanticoke, from which I took early retirement in 2009.

Big Creek ran through the back of our farm and there were several cold water trout streams. My love of nature began from exploring the woods and streams around us and learning the flora and fauna that lived there as well as

fishing whenever I had the chance.

Having been a member of the Norfolk Field Naturalists on and off since the 1970s I took a more active role upon retirement and am presently the Program and Outings Director. I also volunteer at the bird banding station at Old Cut Sundays during Spring and Fall migration as a member of the Friends of the Long Point Bird Observatory. Jan and I have participated in the snake survey for LPBLT for a number of years at Long Point Provincial Park.

My wife and I love to travel and camp as often as we are able. We have visited many provincial parks as well as state parks in New York and Michigan through the years. My wife and I are both avid photographers and are both on the executive for the Woodstock Camera Club.



Kerrie Wilcox

My name is Kerrie Wilcox and I'm the manager of Project FeederWatch and the Great Backyard Bird Count at Birds Canada. My role is to connect people with-nature through

birds. Both of these programs allow people to turn their bird feeding and bird watching hobbies into research for conservation. Prior to my role with Project FeederWatch, I studied waterfowl diets and energetics at Long Point and invasive phragmites through Birds Canada's Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Program. Over twenty years ago, my family and I moved to the Long Point area primarily because of our love for its natural features and biodiversity.



Sandy Jukes

Hi I'm Sandy and I bring a wealth of not-for-profit experience from my former management positions with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada). I was the

Director of Fund Development at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hamilton and Burlington for 14 years. I retired from MADD Canada where I held the position of Corporate Sponsorship, Major Gifts and Partnership Outreach Manager at the National Office for the last 10 years of my career. After retiring from MADD Canada I made the decision to leave the "big city" of Hamilton and move to Port Rowan where I could immerse myself in the ecological beauty that this area has to offer. Not being one to sit idly, I followed my passion and spent the first three and a half years in my new home working for the Long Point Biosphere Reserve. I am now thrilled to be part of the Long Point Basin Land Trust team!



Katie Hanrahan

My name is Katie Hanrahan and I am the new Outreach Coordinator with Long Point Basin Land Trust. Prior to joining the team at LPBLT I completed a Honours Bachelor of Science at the University of Toronto with a major in Conservation Biology and went on to complete a graduate certificate in

Ecosystem Restoration at Niagara College. I have spent the last few years working in zoological facilities with the animals but also developing outreach programs and a social media presence. I am passionate about educating others about conservation and how they can help to protect our native ecosystems. I am so excited to be a part of the team and look forward to getting to know our wonderful community!



Dan Marina

Hi I'm Dan Marina and I'm excited to join the team this November! I completed my undergrad at the University of Waterloo in Environmental Studies and then went on to study Ecosystem Restoration at Niagara College and obtain my Master of Forest Conservation

from the University of Toronto in 2012. I have 10 years of work experience in the fields of natural resources management, forestry and arboriculture. I enjoy being outside in nature, either through native plant gardening, field work, travel, or exploring local natural areas. I am looking forward to getting to know all of LPBLT's properties and working towards our restoration and conservation goals.



Kristyn Richardson

For those of you who already know me, please feel free to skip this. For those of you who don't, hello, my name is Kristyn Richardson and I am currently the Program Manager with Long Point Basin Land Trust.

I started with LPBLT in 2015 on a part time basis while also working as a Stewardship Biologist with Bird Studies Canada. It wasn't until 2018 I made the decision to say goodbye to the birds and become full time at LPBLT. It has been incredible to be involved with the acquisition of ecologically significant properties and habitat enhancement/restoration activities on the nature reserves. I completed a Master of Natural Resources Management from the University of Manitoba – my thesis examined the role of public engagement in the forest management process, and an Honours Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto. When I am not working, I enjoy long walks in the forest with my two dogs, backcountry canoe trips, completing renovations on our old farmhouse, and reading.

Eastern Whip-poor-will Surveys on Long Point Basin Land Trust Reserves 2021

Written by Myles Falconer

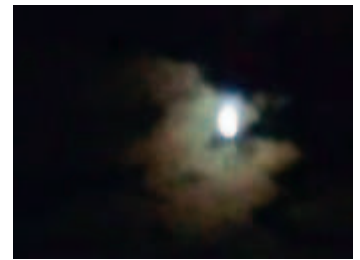
The Eastern Whip-poor-will (EWPW) is a Threatened species in Ontario. Monitoring populations of this species is important for assessing threats and trends. Earlier in 2021, some of Long Point Basin Land Trust's nature reserves were surveyed by volunteers for breeding Eastern Whip-poor-wills. Five properties (with a total number of 15 stations) were surveyed including Trout Creek Nature Reserve, Sand Dune Ridge Nature Reserve, Shirley and George Pond Nature Reserve, Spring Harbour Farm Nature Reserve, and Stead Family Scientific Reserve. All the properties were surveyed between 21 and 24 June 2021 during a full moon phase with low wind and clear sky conditions. EWPWs were detected by these volunteers at two of the five sites. All of the stations at the two nature reserves had positive detections of EWPW. Although the exact number of birds calling is difficult to confirm due to birds moving around, the number of individuals

Peter Vaughan is a volunteer with LPBLT who has been assisting with monitoring the whip-poor-wills on our nature reserves. He has described his personal experiences as follows...

Certainly, I knew that there are whips in the area, as I have heard them on isolated occasions when I've been away from my own in-town habitat and into theirs. The most recent time had been just a few years previously on an outing with the Norfolk Field Naturalists led by Peter Carson. In this case though, I learned a couple of days in advance that I would be alone doing the survey. I also knew that my furthest observation station was just over 1 Km away from the road, having previously surveyed the whole area in daylight. There was very light rain falling when I parked the car, but the western sky through the trees showed some indication of clearing. So my strategy was to trek into that farthest spot before dark and wait there for the appropriate time to begin and the whip-poor-wills would sing on cue. As nine o'clock came and went, it began to darken.

To the south I could sometimes see the almost-full moon low in the sky through the forest. The sky over-

detected on surveys was at least nine. This survey protocol, which will continue to be implemented, will allow LPBLT to track local changes in EWPW abundance and occurrence on the nature reserves into the future. It may also be beneficial in determining habitat associations of EWPW within the Long Point Basin and elsewhere.



Kailey Petz assists in conducting surveys of Eastern Whip-poor-wills

head cleared and things looked promising, but whip-poor-wills were notably either absent or silent. However, at 9:25 pm there was the unmistakable call way off to the south. I made my first notation and waited approximately the designated 10 minutes before heading back eastwards towards the next station. By then it was quite dark and, in no time there was a whip call close by to the south. Then it was to the north, probably the same bird, except that I also began hearing one or more way off to the south west.

Altogether, I was in the woods at, or between the various observation points for at least 45 minutes - alone and in the dark - I lived to tell this tale. I saw no coyotes, bears, deer or alligators, but I did hear and log a good many whip calls in various directions. On a subsequent daytime visit I encountered a person living close to that woodlot and was told that the birds are often a nuisance with their incessant calling. I understood as I remembered a long-ago camping trip with a whip calling non-stop throughout the night just outside our tent.

Integration of road ecology into the Long Point Walsingham Forest Priority Place projects

Written by Kari Gunson, Eco-Kare International

Long Point and the surrounding Walsingham Forest, a federally designated Priority Place for species at risk conservation, supports the richest diversity of reptiles in Canada all of which are threatened by roads. Located entirely within Norfolk County, the Priority Place is 86,715 hectares and encompasses the hamlets of Normandale, Turkey Point, and Port Rowan stretching north to Simcoe, Delhi and Langton. Situated on Lakåand the many tourists that frequent the Provincial park and beaches from June to October each year. Unfortunately, this same road has several other negative impacts that include road-kill and facilitating illegal activities such as poaching.

The Road Ecology Working Group was established as one of five working groups to implement solutions for road-wildlife impacts. After a year of reconnaissance, the group has now identified several key actions developed by meeting with, building on, and listening to others' stories, analyzing road-kill data collections, and through collaborations with Norfolk County. Citizen scientists are a key player in our strategy and it is our hope that they will carry on the legacy of the

stewardship activities championed by this project.

Our team has initiated implementation of several Ministry of Transportation turtle and snake road conservation signs for the spring of 2022 (photos below). These signs will be noticeable on Erie Boulevard where turtles cross the road to find nesting areas near Lake Erie. The signs will be accompanied by an education and awareness strategy, to inform tourists to watch out for wildlife as they travel in the area. We will support and encourage the ongoing efforts of local residents to give Norfolk's turtles and snakes a helping hand across roads throughout the year. Stay informed for other initiatives (see <https://longpointwalsinghamforest.ca/>) and while exploring the great outdoors by bicycle, foot or car, help us collect information about when and where wildlife are moving on roads (see <http://wildlifeon-roads.com/>).

Members of the road working group include: Mandy Karch (Ontario Road Ecology Group); Cindy Presant (Road Ecology Technician); Kari Gunson (Road Ecologist); and Rick Levick (Conservationist).



Ministry of Transportation signs indicating snake and turtle crossing areas

The Midland Painted Turtle

Chrysemys picta marginata

Written by Stephen Killbridge

Possibly the most familiar and most often seen of our native turtles, the Midland Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta marginata*) is still relatively widespread in southern Ontario.

One of four subspecies of painted turtles found across North America, it is a small, smooth-shelled, olive to brown reptile with red markings on the edge of the carapace, and on the neck and legs. It looks as though it has been dabbed with red paint.

Females lay 3 to 14 eggs in a laboriously dug nest. The hatchlings may stay in the nest until the next spring.

Until recently, the MPT was the only one of our seven native turtle species in the Long Point Basin *not* listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Sadly, that changed in 2018 when it was listed as a species of Special Concern. This means that while the population numbers may appear to be healthy, the characteristics of the species make it sensitive to human activities or adverse natural events. The committee

names well-known threats to all turtles as the reason for the designation: road mortality (often occurring when females are travelling to nesting sites), habitat degradation and loss, and invasive species – threats which are unlikely to diminish in the future. Unless these threats are reversed or managed, the MPT is likely to become threatened.

The basic biology of turtles – long life but late maturity; few hatchlings living to adulthood – works against them too, making population recovery slow. An evolutionary strategy which has served them well for millions of years does not serve them as well in a fast-changing world.

So, now, all of our native turtles are considered at risk. What can be done about it? As LPBLT founding president Arthur Langford said, “It’s the habitat that counts.” The Land Trust, with your support, continues to preserve, protect, and restore habitat in the Long Point Basin. We count on your continued interest and generosity to achieve as much as we can for conservation.



Michael Patrikev

New Office

Long Point Basin Land Trust has a new home in Port Rowan! In early September, we took possession of a new office space. Following the pandemic we are excited to have a place to call home where we can meet after working remotely for so many months.

Having a presence in the community has always been important to LPBLT and although the office is closed to the public due to current restrictions, we look forward to welcoming everyone for a tour once it is safe to do so!



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