

Tree Swallow

LONG POINT BASIN LAND TRUST

2025–2026 Annual Report

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Monarchs on milkweed

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the lands we connect to and thrive on in the Long Point Basin are treaty lands and traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The Mississaugas are an Anishinaabe people. These lands are also the traditional territory of the Neutral, Wendat and Haudenosaunee peoples.

For thousands of years, First Nations people have been stewarding this special area of natural abundance. We recognize and deeply appreciate their knowledge and care of these lands and we are committed to respecting and welcoming the rights and responsibilities of Indigenous Peoples, working in the spirit of reconciliation.

Leadership Message

Celebrating 30 Years

During 2025–26, Long Point Basin Land Trust expanded its network of protected lands through three new property acquisitions, bringing our total holdings to 578 hectares (1,428.6 acres) as of March 31, 2026.

With the dedication of our staff, contractors and volunteers, we also enhanced more than 150 hectares (371 acres) through habitat management and restoration, helping native biodiversity thrive. Highlights of this work included seeding fields with native plants, sharing knowledge of seed cleaning and storing through educational events, the reintroduction of Mottled Duskywing butterflies at Stead Scientific Reserve, and protecting Eastern Foxsnake habitat through land acquisition and partnerships.

We continued to connect people with nature through Explore the Outdoors events, volunteer opportunities and maintaining open trails – encouraging more people to discover and appreciate the natural heritage of the Long Point Basin.

As we celebrate 30 years of conservation in 2026, we reflect with pride on what we have accomplished together and look ahead with a continued commitment to protecting biodiversity and natural habitats for future generations.

Thank you for being part of our journey and helping us grow our impact over the past 30 years and into the next.

Peter Carson,
President

Wendy Cridland,
Executive Director



Explore the Outdoors participants at Trout Creek Nature Reserve

Our Impact

92 Hectares

(227.6 acres) **protected in 2025-26** within 3 new nature reserves. 578 total ha (1,428.6 acres) protected and managed in nature reserves across the basin

150 Hectares

(371 acres) of forested and open-country habitats **enhanced** through invasive plant control, conifer thinning and direct seeding.

9.5 Hectares

(23.5 acres) of former agricultural fields **restored** to native habitat to enhance and enlarge natural corridors.

32+ Species at Risk

(Special Concern, Threatened and Endangered) **documented** across LPBLT properties, with more than half of our nature reserves supporting five or more.

LONG POINT BASIN LAND TRUST

Catchment Area and Nature Reserves

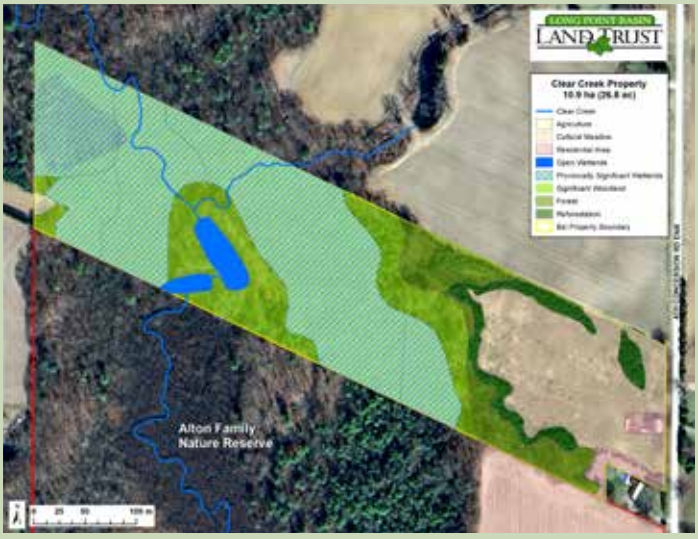


1) Jackson-Gunn Old Growth Forest
2) Arthur Langford Nature Reserve
3) Delhi Wetland Nature Reserve
4) Shirley & George Pond Nature Reserve
5) Strongman-Guiler Conservation Legacy
6) Marshall Malcolm Wetland Reserve
7) Al (Pic) & Pat Robinson Nature Reserve
8) Spring Arbour Farm Nature Reserve
9) Stead Scientific Reserve
10) Trout Creek Nature Reserve
11) Hammond Hemlock Slough Reserve
12) Harlow Dune Nature Reserve
13) Stackhouse Forest Sanctuary
14) Fred Jonckheere Fishers Creek Reserve
15) Sand Prairie Savanna Nature Reserve
16) Alton Family Nature Reserve
17) DeCloet Family Forest Legacy
18) Swallow Hills Nature Reserve
19) Clear Creek Wetland Reserve
20) MapleCross Butterfly Sanctuary

Newly Protected

Clear Creek Wetland Reserve

The 9.5-ha (23.5-acre) Clear Creek Wetland Reserve features a Provincially Significant Wetland, a cold-water trout stream known as Clear Creek, forest and small retired field, and is located immediately north of the Alton Family Nature Reserve. About one third of the property was farmed until the previous owner acquired the property 22 years ago. The field has since been left with some active habitat restoration occurring including tree planting and invasive control.



The property will be managed to protect and enhance the wetland and enhance the restored upland habitat. It is anticipated that property activities will include an ongoing effort to control invasive plants in the restored field and along the edges of the wetland.


Trillium flowers at Clear Creek Wetland Reserve


Wooded swamp at Clear Creek Wetland Reserve

Swallow Hills Nature Reserve

The 24.9-ha (61.6-acre) Swallow Hills Nature Reserve along Mud Creek in southern Norfolk County protects a diverse mix of forest, grassland, riparian habitat, creek and farmland. Located within the Dedrick Creek–Mud Creek corridor, it connects to a larger conservation area anchored by Backus Woods, strengthening habitat connectivity within the Long Point World Biosphere Region.



For over 35 years, the property's re-naturalized farmland has supported a long-term Tree Swallow study led by the *Long Point Bird Observatory*, one of the world's longest-running studies of the breeding biology of a single species. Permanent protection ensures this internationally significant research can continue while safeguarding habitat for species at risk. Planned restoration includes removing invasive species and establishing native vegetation to expand forest cover and further buffer the Mud Creek corridor.



Open meadow at Swallow Hills Nature Reserve

Black Walnut Lowland Riparian Forest at Swallow Hills Nature Reserve



Tree Swallow returns to nest box at Swallow Hills



Little Wood Satyr butterfly at Swallow Hills

Newly Protected

MapleCross Butterfly Sanctuary

Located adjacent to the St. Williams Conservation Reserve, MapleCross Butterfly Sanctuary encompasses 57.7 hectares (142.5 acres) of diverse Carolinian habitat, including forest, wooded swamp, oak savanna, sandy dunes and agricultural fields. The property supports a variety of native trees, including American Chestnut, Black Ash, Tulip Tree and Sassafras, and provides important habitat for salamanders, turtles and other wildlife.



Restoration efforts will focus on enhancing oak savanna, oak woodland and sand barren habitats, including establishing native host plants such as New Jersey Tea and Wild Lupine. This work will help support the recovery of rare butterflies and other at-risk species.



In photos: (right) wooded wetlands at MapleCross Butterfly Sanctuary, (below) fern covered understory at MapleCross.



Stewardship & Restoration



Restored fields at Alton Family Nature Reserve

Over the past year, former agricultural fields have been restored at Alton Family Nature Reserve and DeCloet Family Forest Legacy, introducing more than 74 native plant species through seed-based ecological restoration.

The fields will gradually develop into diverse grassland and shrub habitats before maturing into native Carolinian forest, providing vital habitat for a wide range of wildlife.



Volunteers seed field at Alton Family Nature Reserve with a variety of native plant species.



Members of the DeCloet family plant native seed varieties at DeCloet Family Forest Legacy.

ETO participants at Sand Prairie Savanna Nature Reserve



The endangered Mottled Duskywing butterfly was reintroduced in Norfolk County starting in 2024, with 226 butterflies released at LPBLT's Stead Scientific Reserve in 2025. The site was selected for its restored oak savanna habitat and abundant New Jersey tea, the butterfly's larval host plant.

The release was part of a multi-year, science-based recovery effort led by the *Ontario Butterfly Species at Risk Recovery Team*. The initiative aims to return the species to its historical range, including Norfolk County, where it had not been recorded since the late 1980s.

OBSRRT researcher Klara Jones seen in photo (left) prepares to release Mottled Duskywing butterflies at Stead Scientific Reserve.

Explore the Outdoors







In 2025, our Explore the Outdoors (ETO) program inspired community connection with nature through hands-on learning and activities, offering participants a chance to discover and learn about the rich biodiversity of our region and the importance of protecting it.

2025 ETO Season

14

Free educational event sessions

451

Event participant registrations

Photos above: (left to right) Peter Carson, President of the Board, hazelnuts (Corylus), volunteer event leader at ETO turtle event.

Photos below: (left to right) attendees at ETO morning moth event, Cecropia moth (Hyalophora cecropia).





Financial Summary

The following information is extracted from Long Point Basin Land Trust's April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 financial statements audited by Millard, Rouse & Rosebrugh LLP Chartered Accountants. To view the full audited statements, please visit our website at www.longpointlandtrust.ca.

Assets

Current		
Cash	$330,477	
Investments	$3,246,727	
Accounts receivable	$1,172,089	
Property	$13,011,455	
Total Assets		**$17,933,843**

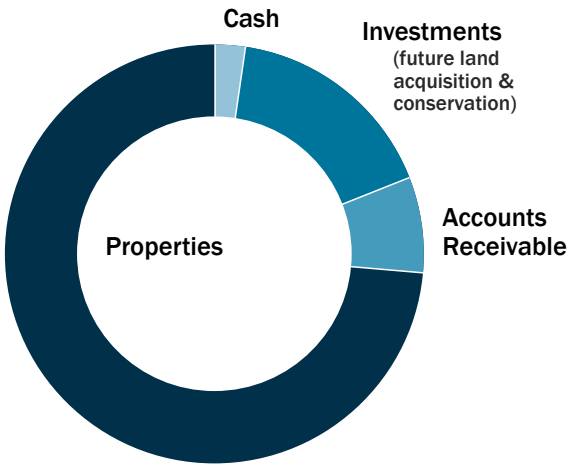
Liabilities

Current		
Accounts payable	$51,740	
Deferred revenue	$220,644	
Total Liabilities		**$272,384**

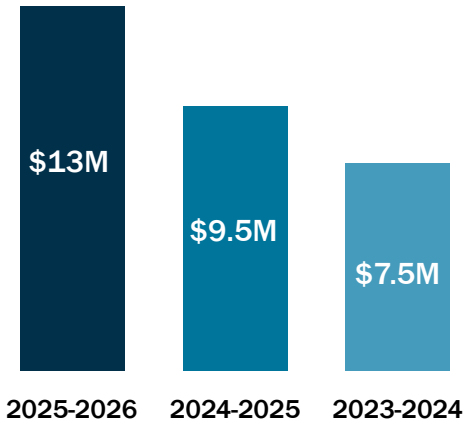
Net Assets

Unrestricted	$1,177,321	
Restricted	$16,484,138	
Total Net Assets		**$17,661,459**
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		**$17,933,843**

2025-2026 Assets



Properties



Financial Summary

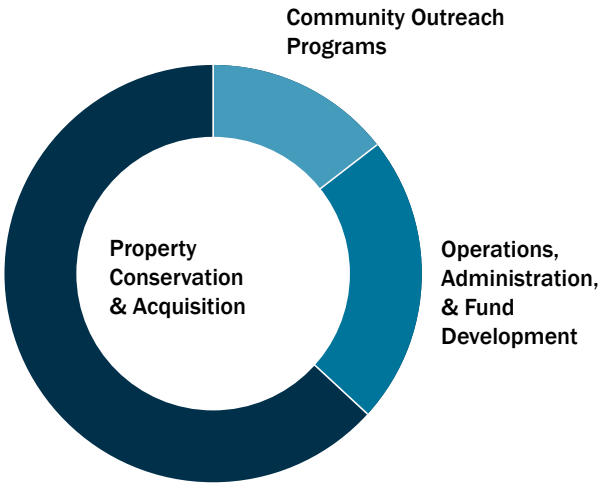
Revenue

Conservation Grants	$4,427,668
Donations	$247,495
Investment and Other Income	$367,439
Total Revenue	**$5,042,602**

Expenses

Property Conservation & Acquisition	$512,837
Community Outreach Programs	$159,767
Operations, Administration & Fund Development	$234,600
Total Expenses	**$907,204**
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	**$4,135,398**

2025-2026 Expenses



This graph reflects operating expenditures only. Capital costs associated with land acquisitions are excluded and, together with conservation and stewardship activities, represent a significant portion of the organization's overall annual spending.



Prothonotary warbler

Supporters & Partners

Thank you to our donors, partners, and supporters for helping protect the biodiversity and habitats of the Long Point Basin, and to the hundreds of individual donors and volunteers who support our work each day.

Alan and Patricia Koval Foundation
Birds Canada
Bruce and Aki Tanaka Family Fund
Carolinian Canada Coalition
Delhi and District Horticultural Society
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Echo Foundation
Estate of Arthur Langford
Estate of John Booth
Government of Canada
Government of Ontario
Grapes for Humanity
Long Point Biosphere Region
Long Point Eco-Adventures
Long Point Region Conservation Authority
Lynn River Probus Club
Natural Resource Solutions Inc.
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Norfolk County
Norfolk Nature (Norfolk Field Naturalists)
Ontario Conservation Accelerator
Ontario Land Trust Alliance
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Otter Valley Naturalists
Pano Cap Canada Limited
Power Corporation of Canada
St. Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council
Takla Foundation
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Thames Talbot Land Trust
The Bradstreet Family Foundation
The Chawkers Foundation
The MapleCross Fund
The McLean Foundation
The Stoneleigh Foundation
The Walter J. Blackburn Foundation
Toyotetsu Canada
Wildlife Habitat Canada

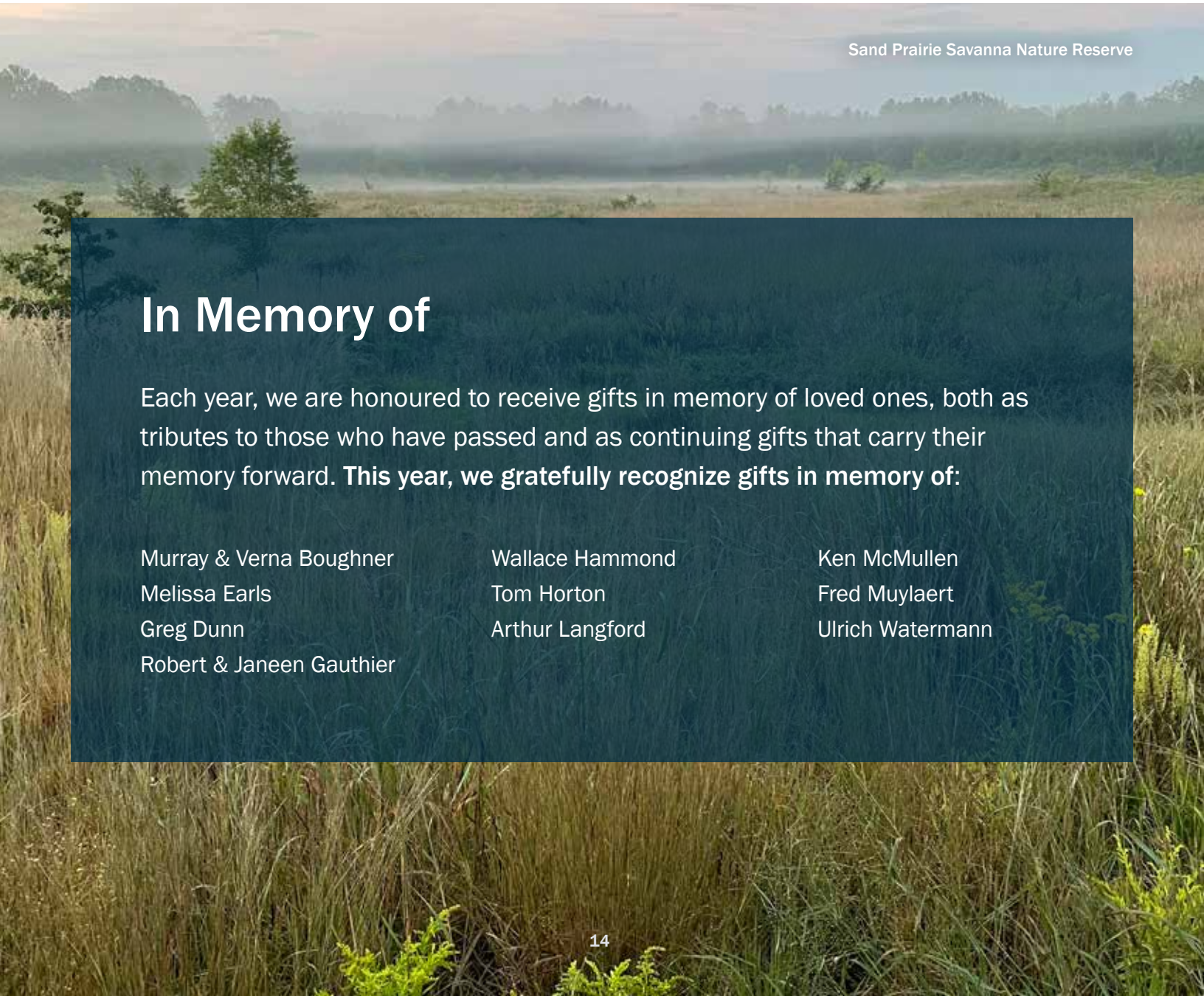


Restored field at Alton Family Nature Reserve

Board of Directors

Thank you to our dedicated Board of Directors (2025-26) for continuing to guide the strategic vision and work of Long Point Basin Land Trust.

Peter Carson, President
Jason Bernardon, Treasurer
Stephen Kilbridge,
Vice President and Secretary
Mary Gartshore, Director
Janice Gilbert, Director
Len Grincevicius, Director
Audrey Heagy, Director
Joe Stephenson, Director
Angelle van Kleef, Director
Amber Zuber, Director



Sand Prairie Savanna Nature Reserve

In Memory of

Each year, we are honoured to receive gifts in memory of loved ones, both as tributes to those who have passed and as continuing gifts that carry their memory forward. **This year, we gratefully recognize gifts in memory of:**

Murray & Verna Boughner
Melissa Earls
Greg Dunn
Robert & Janeen Gauthier
Wallace Hammond
Tom Horton
Arthur Langford
Ken McMullen
Fred Muylaert
Ulrich Watermann

LONG POINT BASIN LAND TRUST

Our Mission

To protect the rich biodiversity and habitats of the Long Point basin area.

Our Vision

A future where the habitats and biodiversity of the Long Point basin area are protected forever.

Contact Us

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