McTavish Tract

The McTavish Tract is 18.6 ha woodland-swamp in the Municipality of Perth East in Perth County. It is about a 1 hour drive northeast of London. This wooded area is part of the land the McTavish pioneers settled in 1836 and the family farmed until recent times. In 2008 the McTavish family chose to donate the woodland to the TTLT to ensure that its natural features are permanently protected. The site has a variety of habitats such as



mature upland hardwood forest, a cedar swamp and a spruce plantation. The property also features a spring-fed stream that is a tributary of the Avon River. The hardwood includes Oak, Sugar Maple, Black Cherry, Ash. American Beech and Hickory. The swamp is the result of several strong springs which have created a stream that meanders southward from the concession road to the Avon River at the south end

of the property. The stream contributes significantly to the summer flow of the Avon. The hardwood bush includes Oak, Sugar Maple, Black Cherry, Ash, American Beech and Hickory. The swamp contains White Cedar, Basswood, Ironwood, Ash, maple, Poplar and spruce, as well as a variety of birds, wildflowers, insects and wildlife.

The upland deciduous forest and cedar swamp are high quality communities typical of the area. Although not rare these woods are important because Perth County has generally very low forest cover. The forest is a moderately high quality mature maple-beech forest with good structural diversity. In addition to the cool water stream, the seeps and springs on the site indicate discharge areas that make an important contribution to the hydrology of the area.

A stewardship plan has been prepared to guide the management of the McTavish Tract. The primary conservation goals are to protect the headwaters of the stream and manage the woodland for its emerging old-growth features and valuable wildlife habitat. The site has no formal trail system and is closed to the general public. The recreational use of motorized vehicles, hunting and other forms of destructive activity are prohibited.

Thames Talbot Land Trust

