

Thames Talbot Land Trust

PO Box 25054 London, Ontario N6A 6A8

Working together to leave a legacy of healthy landscapes

Media Release 1 February 2007

Conservation Group Plans to Save Joany's Woods

Joany's Woods is one of the remaining natural gems in Middlesex County. The nearly 400 acre site on the Ausable River near Sylvan has been a favourite spot for hikers and nature lovers for many years until the recent death of its owner placed the property on the open market. There was great concern within the conservation community that the property might be sold for development or lumbering until the Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) came forward and negotiated an agreement to purchase the property from the estate.

"This is one of the largest forests remaining in Middlesex and we couldn't let it slip away." said Don Gordon, the Trust's Executive Director. "Now we will need to call upon the community to help us raise the purchase price so that this precious asset can be saved for future generations." Thanks to the foresight and generosity of Richard and Beryl Ivey the Land Trust already has half of the funds required to protect this forest forever. In 2005 the Iveys created the Ivey Natural Lands Legacy within the TTLT's Opportunities Fund, which provides the means to act quickly when natural properties are at risk.

Stan Caveney, who is the Chair of TTLT's Land Securement Committee explains, "Joany's Woods is part of the Ausable River Valley, which scientists have identified as one of the most important natural sites in our area. We are grateful that the estate has granted us a nine month window in which to raise the money and we are hopeful that our campaign will be a success." To learn more about Joany's Woods and how you can help save them, visit the TTLT's website www.ttl.ca or call (519) 858-3442.

The Thames Talbot Land Trust is a registered charity established in 2000 to provide permanent protection for lands and waters of natural, agricultural and cultural significance throughout the Thames Talbot region. Its growing network of nature preserves and conservation easements are complemented by educational and research activities.

-30-

See also attached photo Joany's Woods.jpg

For additional information contact:

Don Gordon, Executive Director
Thames Talbot Land Trust
(519) 858-3442
thamestalbot@ttl.ca
www.ttl.ca