

Thames Talbot Land Trust

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Working together to leave a legacy of healthy landscapes

Why We Created a Natural Legacy: an interview with Richard Ivey

In 2005 Richard and Beryl Ivey established the Ivey Natural Lands Legacy within the Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) in order to provide permanent protection for significant natural areas. The first property acquired through this fund will be Joany's Woods, near Sylvan on the Ausable River.

TTLT: Why is it important to you to protect natural lands?

Ivey: Both Beryl and I have fond memories from our youth of exploring natural areas. As a boy I roamed the Medway Valley before the area was developed; and summers spent in Magnetawan gave me a lasting appreciation for nature. We want to ensure that others will be able to experience nature first hand so that they can come to value it as we have. In addition to our love for nature we also know that these lands provide vital resources of clean air and clean water.

TTLT: Why did you choose to support the Thames Talbot Land Trust?

Ivey: We have supported the Land Trust from its inception in 2000. Its founders were credible people of integrity such as Mary Kerr and the organization, through its actions, continues to earn our trust. Placing natural lands in trust protects them in perpetuity.

TTLT: Rather than contribute to a specific project why were you willing to help establish the Opportunities Fund?

Ivey: We contributed a million dollars in the hope that we could set an example that others would follow. Conservation is an important cause worthy of support but it doesn't currently receive the widespread support that is needed to face the challenges of our times.

TTLT: How do you hope your gift will influence others?

Ivey: We expect that the Land Trust will use our gift to lever additional funds from individuals and government. We hope that others who love nature will make their own gifts.

TTLT: What do you think about Joany's Woods?

Ivey: This is a great opportunity to prevent the loss of a woodland of major significance.

To learn more about Joany's Woods, the Thames Talbot Land Trust and how you can be part of a natural legacy visit www.ttlc.ca or call (519) 858-3442.

Interview with Dick Ivey conducted March 22, 2007

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