



Torstar file photo
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Family behind Acton Lobsterfest featured on CBC's 'Land and Sea'

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It's worth the drive. That's the title of a recent two-part episode of the CBC series Land and Sea about Lee and Laura Keough - the couple, who for 20 years hosted their annual Lobsterfest out of their home on Brown's Crescent in Acton.

The Keoughs, who moved to Acton from Newfoundland and Labrador 30 years ago, held their 20th and final Lobsterfest this past June before retiring back to the east coast shortly after.

The first Acton Lobsterfest in 1997 - or "Lobster Boil" as Lee called it - saw the family import 60 lobsters from their native province, with the idea of hosting a lobster dinner with friends and neighbours in honour of their son's first birthday. It was such a success it became an

annual Father's Day weekend event, culminating last year with 540 lobsters.

What started out as a backyard party quickly turned into an event involving the whole street.

"Just word of mouth, you know?" Lee told the CBC when asked how the event grew so large. "One friend will tell this friend about the lobster thing, (then they) would ask if they could order a lobster. Anyone can order lobsters if they want lobsters, and everyone is welcome to come."

This year's event was the last to be hosted by the Keoughs, and it is yet unknown if anyone will pick up the mantle and continue the 20-year tradition.

The 20th anniversary almost didn't happen after Lee broke a bone in his ankle a couple of weeks before the event. But due to popular demand and a little help from friends and

neighbours, it turned out to be the biggest one yet.

"We moved in about 13 years ago and met Lee and Laura. The first summer in June they came over with a flier. We got to know them and people came, and it has just grown and grown throughout the years," Tina Gerard, who lived a few doors down from the Keoughs, told the CBC.

Land and Sea did a two-part episode about the Keoughs. The first part is about the couple's life in Acton and the final Lobsterfest. The second episode follows the retired couple back to Newfoundland and Labrador and the transition back east after living in Acton for 30 years.

Both episodes aired earlier this month in Newfoundland and Labrador and can be viewed in full on the CBC's website at: cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/programs/landandsea.

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