

Land Trust adds first Cramahe Twp. property

COLBORNE CHRONICLE
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Saturday, Oct. 18 was an emotional day for Cramahe Township landowner and resident Molly Leckey.

She and her husband, the late Dr. Robert (Bud) Leckey, have owned their farm in the north end of Cramahe Township for over 40 years.

Until his death a few years ago, the farm was Dr. Leckey's refuge, his sanctuary and his passion. Over many years, he established kilometers of corduroy trails and several bridges on the 240-acre property. While he may have been a city physician by occupation, he was a true naturalist and the farm was his retreat from the stresses of urban life.

Three years ago, Mrs. Leckey approached the Northumberland

Land Trust (NLT) to see if she could come to an agreement to protect part of the farm.

Last Saturday, 170 acres of the property was put under a conservation easement to be protected and managed by the NLT.

The property is protected in perpetuity under the terms of the easement and restricted in its use. The vistas and vegetation will be protected jointly by the trust and the landowner who continues to hold the title to the land.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mrs. Leckey recalled the worn-out property she and Dr. Leckey first saw Oct. 12, 1962. The house was so badly off, it was thrown in as an extra. The fields were overpastured and the land barren, aside from the mature trees.

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BOB OWEN/SUN MEDIA

Molly Leckey provided guests a detailed history of her farm at the party to announce her involvement with the Northumberland Land Trust. Presenting her with a plaque was trust chair James Thomas.

Erin Reed Room dedicated

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Some of Erin's peers took one further step this fall, raising the money to purchase a television for the memorial room in her memory. Many of them were in attendance at the Sunday ceremony.

Addressing the guests at the ceremony, Ms. Torrie stated that Erin recognized every child has the right to be special and to grow up in safety.

BOOST executive Director Karyn Kennedy was touched by the Reed family donation and observed that the family understood what Erin did meant much to the organization.

Jim Reed concluded the speeches, and

reflected on the family decision to donate the money to fight child abuse. Mr. Reed was clearly enunciating the feelings of everyone in the room when he concluded that it was unfortunate that the recognition had to come in the face of such a tragedy.

Arlene Reed cut the ribbon on a mural depicting one child helping another and Jim Reed unveiled the commemorative plaque which carried words which will always be tied in Colborne to Erin's passion: "To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world".

Erin Reed, Robyn Taylor and Kandas Derry died in a motor vehicle accident May 16, 2008.

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Reflecting on the rich life she shared with her husband, and the difficulty of facing his passing, Mrs. Leckey recited a short poem: "Pain makes you think, Thinking makes you wise, Wisdom gives you freedom".

Now, having had time to consider their lives together, Mrs. Leckey sees the easement as an opportunity to create a legacy and a memorial in her husband's honour.

Land Trust Past Chair Dr. Doug Galt gave an analogy to remind guests of the need to protect our land from future degradation.

"It wasn't raining the day Noah built his ark," he observed.

The Leckey easement is the fourth property to come under the protection of the Northumberland Land Trust in its four year existence.

The first property was donated by Dr. Mary Bedford-Jones and included the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre. The trust owns another 100-acre piece in

the northwest corner of Hope Township, the McEwen property in the Ganaraska Hills. The trust is negotiating an agreement for a 50-acre parcel abutting Peter's Woods and is in early negotiations regarding wetlands near Close Point.

The Leckey property is the first Cramahe Township property and the trust's first easement.

Close to 150 people belong to the Northumberland Land Trust, an independent organization whose purpose is to manage and maintain lands in the county which are naturally and historically sensitive.

Board members of the non-governmental group consider it a grassroots organization. It is funded by donations and nominal annual memberships sold to anyone interested in supporting environmentalism in Northumberland County.

A quote taken from Eleanor Roosevelt by Dr. Galt describes the purpose of the group: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

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