Ricky Greene Memorial Park—Labor of Love

What began as a personal memorial from Bill and Betty Greene of Conesus for their son, Ricky, has become a labor of love not only from his parents but from the surrounding communities.

Ricky Greene died in January 1975 at the age of 23 after a valiant fight with leukemia. Before his death, his parents told him of plans for a community park in his name.

The park began with a donation of land by the Greenes. Located on Rt. 15A in Conesus, the ten acres was pasture that had grown up to brush. Plans called for clearing the land, installing sanitary facilities and a pavilion, putting in ball diamonds and a soccer field and turning an old log house into a museum.

Knowing that such an ambitious project would be more than the Greenes or the Town of Conesus could undertake alone, the town applied for a matching funds grant under the leadership of Supervisor Dan Mulvaney.

In July 1984, the town learned in a round about way through a letter sent to Assemblyman Jack Kemp that in fact the grant had been approved.

It was mid-autumn before the town was able to obtain the guidelines under which the project must be done to receive the grant. These included having formal plans prepared by a licensed architect and engineer. By early December the plans were completed and in April 1984, final approval of the plans was received right in the middle of one of the wettest springs on record. Ignoring the mud, some work was started on the park in May. “We would have to take in two machines, one to do the work and another to tow the first one out of the mud,” said Bill Greene of the early attempts at clearing the land.

In June a call went out from the park committee to the community for not only monetary donations but contributions of labor and equipment. Under the matching funds grant, each dollar or valued donation would be matched by government funds. However, all bills for work completed had to be submitted to Albany by Sept. 1, 1984, with all work completed by Sept. 30.

The response has been heart-warming with people from the varied cross-section that makes up the community coming forward to offer their time, energy and equipment, as well as cash contributions.

The spirit of the project has even spread outside the Conesus community. A call for help in moving crusher run fill and stone in for the parking lot and driveway has been answered by local highway departments. Among the area highway departments donating some equipment and manpower have been those of Livingston County, Aven, Genesee, Groveland, Leicester, Livonia, York and Conesus itself. A number of other county municipalities have offered help at a later date.

The heavy rains of last week again delayed progress toward meeting the Sept. 1 date. However, the community is hopeful that an appeal by Livingston County Grantsman, Stuart Brown, for an extension of the deadline will be approved.

Meanwhile, work was going ahead in an effort to have as much as possible done by the end of the month in the hopes of making the Ricky Greene Memorial Park a reality for the Town of Conesus.

The Ricky Greene Memorial Park has become a community and area-wide project with people donating money, labor, and equipment. The park is located on Rt. 15A in the Town of Conesus.

Lake Level

The level of Conesus Lake rose a total of one and one-eighth inches for the week ending Monday, Aug. 20, 1964, to a lake level reading of 818.16 feet above sea level. One year ago this date, the lake level was 817.62 feet, approximately six and one-half inches lower. Precipitation for the past week was 1.68 inch. Data, courtesy of the Conesus Lake Association.