



MANCHESTER

Donovans thank town

By WENDY GOLDHIRSH
Times correspondent

MANCHESTER — For John Donovan, who was raised in a Lynn tenement, it has always been a dream to move to Manchester.

As a young boy, Donovan visited with the caretakers of the Turtis estate, off Summer Street. Now he and his wife Mary Jo own their own estate, Seagate, on Smith Point.

The couple held an open house at their estate on Saturday, Sept. 1.

Festivities included performances by the Clan MacPherson band and the Harvard Krokodiles, a high-energy a capella singing group. Wine, beer, clams and oysters topped the menu.

For the past three years, the Donovans have planned, renovated, landscaped and furnished the nine-acre estate that sits high on a bluff with commanding views of the coast.

Neighbors, the building inspectors, members of the town's various boards and commissions, electmen, the town clerk, landscapers and construction people, were among the invited guests.

"We wanted to publicly thank the people of Manchester for what they have done for Mary Jo and me," Donovan said. "I've learned so much from the people who live here today," he added. "I learned that this was the first house to be built on this side of the point. I learned that the second group of settlers to come to the New World were led by a Rev.throp, and that they stopped here."

Manchester residents may recall the Donovan wedding when downtown traffic was cordoned off to allow the wedding party to pro-

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Mary Jo Donovan, on her husband

ceeded in horse and coaches. They were married in July, 1984 at the Sacred Heart Church.

"During the party," Donovan said, "a woman came up and told me, 'This was the best day in my life. I never thought I'd be a part of a day like this.'"

John Donovan is no ordinary person. He has achieved more in his life of 40 years than most people in a lifetime.

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that way. You don't develop creativity in your 20s. He has the ability to look at a muddy body of water, and say, 'That should be a pond with swans.' He will follow it up. He's a doer."

The Donovans have a one-eighth acre pond — stocked with three muted swans.

Their home, with a four-story glass wall, facing the ocean is a Victorian home bathed in light. The hillside leading to the ocean is laced with paths and private hideaways, designed for ocean viewing.

Donovan received his bachelor's degree from Tufts, where he was enrolled in a joint Tufts-M.I.T. program. At Yale he received master's degrees in philosophy, science and engineering. He holds doctorates in as many fields.

At present, Donovan is a professor of management at M.I.T.'s Sloan School of Business. He was formerly a professor of electrical engineering.

His book "Systems Programming," published by McGraw Hill, has been translated into 12 languages, and he has written several other books on computer technology.

He was an assistant clinical professor at Tufts Medical School, and founded their Birth Defect Center, a database that enables physicians to identify symptoms of specific genetic diseases.

He is also president of the Cambridge Training Center, an executive training company.

Donovan and his wife Mary Jo founded the Cambridge Technical Center, a company that develops software. Mary Jo, 31, is the chief financial officer.

Unlike Donovan, Mrs. Donovan is not from the North Shore. She



Wendy Goldhirsh photo

For the past three years, John and Mary Jo Donovan have planned, renovated, landscaped and furnished their nine-acre estate that sits high on a bluff with commanding views of the coast. Last Saturday, they held a party to publicly thank townspeople who helped them with their project.

hails from Michigan, where she graduated with a major in economics from the University of Michigan.

She came East to study at the

Sloan School, specializing in finance and corporate strategy.

Mrs. Donovan worked at the Burroughs Corp. writing and marketing software. She worked as an

assistant to the president at M/COM, a leading company in the microwave/satellite industry and was appointed to the M/A-CO board.