Donovans thank town

By WENDY GOLDHIRSH

Manchester correspondent

MANCHESTER — For John Donovan, who was raised in a
pond with swans, it has always been a dream to move to Man-
chester.

As a young boy, Donovan visited with the caretakers of the
Orvis estate, off Summer Street, where he and his wife Mary Jo ow-
ner their own estate, Seagate, on

The couple held an open house
ter their open house on Saturday, Sept.

Festivities included performances by the Clan MacPherson
band and the Harvard Krokodil-
exes, a high-energy a cappella sing-
ing group. Wine, beer, clams and

For the past three years, the
Donovans have planned, renovat-
ed, landscaped and furnished the
nine-acre pond estate that sits high on a

Neighbors, the building in-
spires the town clerk, landscapers and construction people,

“We wanted to publicly thank all the people of Manchester for what
they have done for us,” Donovan said. “I’ve learned more from the people who
helped us with our project. I learned that the second cup of coffee comes at the

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

John was born with the ability to dream great ideas, says his
wife Mary Jo. “He’s always been that way. You don’t develop cre-
vativity 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 mated swans.

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

Donovan received his bache-
or’s degree from Tufts, where he
was enrolled in a joint Tufts-
M.I.T. program. At Yale he re-
ceived master’s degrees in phi-

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

His book “Systems Program-
m ing,” published by McGraw
Hill, has been translated into 12
languages, and he has written sev-

He was an assistant clinical
professor at Tufts Medical School,
and founded their Birth Defect
Center, a database that enables

He is also president of the Cam-
bridge Technical Center, an execu-
tive 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

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

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