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Credit Valley Conservation

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KERRY'S WALL

There is something very special about creating a piece of art in stone to celebrate a loved one's life. We chose to build a tree into the wall because to me a tree represents everything about life and growing; providing comfort, whether it is shade in the summer or warmth through the winter; delicious fruit; and fresh oxygen. The roots represent the tree's heritage, growing every year, building a stronger connection, similar to one's life. The branches continually grow up and out reaching towards the sunshine, similar to a person growing up and creating their own life.

My eldest son, Jordan, and I created this tree in memory of my beloved wife, Kerry. While walking through the Memorial Forest shortly after Kerry's death I was suddenly inspired to build the memorial wall here. I couldn't think of a better location to build the wall which has come to represent the love I have for my wife.

I am a dry stone waller that has a passion for creating structures using stone with no mortar, just relying on gravity and friction to hold the stones together. I chose to make this memorial at such a well-visited place because of my desire to share the wall with others. As construction began there were many family and friends who helped build. Visitors also stopped and learned about the wall and were encouraged to place a stone in memory of their loved ones. The ability to share my story with others and to hear their stories was very therapeutic. There was a very positive energy in construction of the wall.

The wall is built out of three different kinds of stone; sixty tonnes in total. Two different kinds of quarried limestone were used to build the main structure of the wall. Mossy field stone, found at Island Lake, represents the foliage.

Dry stone walls create habitat for many plants, birds, reptiles, mammals and insects including, but not limited to, toads, spiders, wasps, snakes, bee, robins, mice and mosses. Due to the fact that all of the material in the construction is natural, it fits into the environment well. There is no mortar, leaving small spaces in the wall, creating micro-climates and varied habitats for small birds and mammals, insects and reptiles. The varied micro-climates also provide habitat for wild plant life such as lichens and mosses. Dry stone walls are also popular farm land for fence lines and shelters for farm animals.

Sincerely,

Eric Landman