

Dedication of the Ronnie Pelissier Memorial Boat Launch

We gather here today to celebrate and dedicate this place, this facility in Memory of Ron Pelissier.

What can I say personally about Ron? I wish we had had more time, and I know all of you wish the same. I got to know Ron fairly well during the short time that we worked together. It was long enough for me to form a friendship and learn a few things about Ron and build a respect and positive impression of Ron.

The first thing I noticed about Ron was, at times, he would like to stir the pot just to keep things interesting. Just to keep me on my toes I think. Ron wasn't afraid to tell me how it was, and I wasn't afraid to tell him back how it was. It always would end up in some type of compromise if we had a difference.

Ron and I could be seen parked in a parking lot, or in front or inside of Dunkin Donuts, or at an intersection talking about road stuff and town stuff. Sometimes it was family stuff, and sometimes it was just about the weather or something not that important. These conversations allowed us to build a friendship and mutual respect.

What I learned from Ron was that he liked to have fun. He also loved his family. Family was very important to him, and he was proud of his children and his wife and loved them all, loved you all deeply. It wasn't just his immediate family, it was his whole family and his friends too.

I think that love of fun, family, and friends was what made this place so important to Ron, but his love of fun and family didn't stop with just his family. He wanted other people to experience what he had and to bring joy to others. No matter the obstacles, Ron was going to make it happen.

When I first got here, the Town had learned that we wouldn't get state money to help build the boat launch. Delays had meant the money was given to another project. Surely a lost opportunity. Ron was very disappointed about that.

I talked about the boat launch that I had helped build in another town as well as acquiring the properties to make it happen. "Sometimes you just have keep going and make things happen when they aren't going in the right direction", I think I said to Ron. I mentioned that I believed that building quality of life and quality of place was of vital importance to building a great livable community. People need things to do, fun things. Things they can do as a family.

Ron truly believed that access to the river was vital to Allenstown. I could tell he was determined to make it happen. And that is what he did. He made it happen. I know Ron wasn't going to be using the terms Quality of Life or Quality of Place as he created this place, but that is what he was building. He was building a place for fun and for family. He was building a place where family and friends could meet up and get out on the water and build memories. Memories that at the time may seem insignificant, but they will be memories that families and friends will remember forever.

That is what this place is all about, and naming it today is only the beginning. We need to build benches here for people to sit on, perhaps a dock next to the boat ramp to aid in launching boats, and maybe a fishing dock where people can cast a line from. Surely, we will have to look at applying for another grant. We need to carry on Ron's memory and his dream about this place.

I think he would be excited to know that we are looking at purchasing land to connect to the Hooksett Trail down the river and eventually hook to trails in Pembroke and beyond, and that people walking or biking will be encouraged to take a turn down Ferry St. and discover this place and visit it often, and relax down here by the river. Right here at the Ronnie Pelissier Memorial Boat Launch. A place where Ron's memory and dream will continue to live for generations, and where people will build memories to last lifetimes and beyond.