



Richard O. Ristine
HERITAGE SOCIETY

THE GIFT
— OF A —
LIFETIME

Protecting Leelanau through your legacy of planned giving.



A NOTE FROM TOM NELSON

Executive Director, Leelanau Conservancy

Simply stated, our vision is to conserve and gently steward the ecological integrity and scenic character of the Peninsula's forests, shorelines, family farms, and clean water so that future generations will have the same chance we have had to fall in love with Leelanau. Because our mission is everlasting, so too must be the Leelanau Conservancy, through its relevance to our community and by building a robust endowment that will endure in perpetuity. As an organization, we have much work to do, and yet we have never been stronger, thanks to supporters like you, a knowledgeable and engaged board of directors, and a talented, dedicated staff.

Your gift through a will supports our efforts to keep Leelanau's rural splendors intact, build the Peninsula's climate resilience, and ensure that families—today and tomorrow—will have access to the natural resources we hold dear—the woods, fresh food from local family farms, and clean, fresh water.

I come from a place that lost itself—its forests, farms, and clean waters, its wilderness and the bounty from the hands who tilled the land. Today, they are all gone. Saving Leelanau is personal. If I were not the Conservancy's Executive Director, I would be a volunteer, a donor, and its biggest cheerleader. As it happens, I am all those things. That's because the world needs Leelanau County and the Leelanau Conservancy as living proof that it is indeed possible to preserve the world's special places. My gratitude to all those whom I work alongside to make it happen is immeasurable.

I'm proud to be a member of the Richard O. Ristine Heritage Society. I had known Dick Ristine personally—a man who possessed a deep passion for this Peninsula and was relentless in his own kindly, gentlemanly way in encouraging others to support the mission of the Conservancy. I take a great deal of pride that my gift to the Conservancy will continue to keep Leelanau beautiful for my own four daughters and all the generations to come.



The strong community spirit from the Oct 9, 1988 Dedication remains present in the Leelanau Conservancy's work today. Your legacy gift will ensure that the lands protected today will be cared for forever: (l-r), Ann Hatcher, Larry Verdier, Harlan Hatcher, Ed Collins, Carl Headland, Pat Headland, Jacque Verdier and Bobbie Collins

OUR HISTORY

In 1988 the Leelanau Conservancy opened its doors with a big dream and a small group of individuals dedicated to the idea that the Leelanau Peninsula is a place that deserves our best efforts to protect its unique landscapes. With our founders, Ed and Bobbie Collins, we believed that with commitment and hard work, we could be successful in harnessing the love that people have for Leelanau into finding ways to protect land forever. Thus, the Leelanau Conservancy was born.

FROM THE LEELANAU CONSERVANCY DEDICATION ADDRESS

By Edward Collins, President, October 9, 1988

"My dear honored guests and friends. This day brings forth the joyous awakening of a dream. Finally, after nearly two years of dreaming and planning, here and now in this pleasant little building stands the foundation stone and home of the Leelanau Conservancy.

Now, more than a dream, the Leelanau Conservancy will have the power to launch the vision of every person in Leelanau County that has wanted to preserve our land, our historic heritage, and the quality of life we have come to enjoy here in Leelanau...

That is why this organization, The Leelanau Conservancy, was founded, to join...ALL of our people, the wealth and tremendous energy that imbues everyone who lives here, and together, harness this great American gift of private initiative, and together, address the ways we can save this beautiful land and our historic integrity.

Will you all...please..join in friendship to your own Leelanau Conservancy? Together we shall accomplish...great things. Thank you very much."

CHUCK AND SUSAN CADY

– a footprint in the sand

When Chuck and Susan were making their estate plans, they said that including the Conservancy wasn't a difficult decision. **"When I think of places I want to leave a footprint in the sand, it's the places that have affected us most,** meant the most to us," said Chuck. "And not just me and Susan, but our kids and grandchildren." Knowing that they've passed their love for this corner of the world down their family tree had given them further comfort in becoming Heritage Society members. "We know we're in good hands with the Conservancy. Their perseverance in completing projects, stability, care for members, and dedication to preservation is admirable," said Susan. "We wanted to invest in our memories here so our kids and grandchildren can keep making more for years to come."



LARRY NOLING'S CHILDREN, DAVID & SUSAN

– if you love something, you should protect it

When Heritage Society member Larry Noling passed, his children remembered the precious time the family had spent in Leelanau. "Our family started coming up to Leelanau from Indianapolis in the mid-'30s. After the war, they built a small house on a hill, and around 1949 they built the main house down by the lake. It's been in the family ever since," said son David Noling.



Daughter Susan Pandorf now lives in Leelanau full-time. **"The fondness I have for this area is immeasurable,"** she said. "We are now bringing the fifth generation to Leelanau, and it's a great joy to me when they're here. My eldest grandson will be 15 this summer, and the first summer, he came up here and spent five days. The next year he spent a week; the year after was two weeks, and at this point, he's here almost all summer. We've always been aware of the Conservancy's work. David started gifting Dad contributions to the Conservancy on Father's Day and his birthday. Dad even has a tile with his name on it at the Village Green. He had 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren between me, David, and our sister Jamie. He never wanted expensive cars or fancy jewelry; what he loved most was his family and sharing Leelanau with them. Something that stood out to me in his instructions was, 'When in doubt, always trust the people of Leelanau County. I have, and they've never failed me.' He strongly believed that if you love something, you should protect it. His membership in the Heritage Society supported those beliefs, and we support them too."

CAMMIE BUEHLER

– a 5th generation Leelanau summer kid

Cammie calls herself "a 5th generation Leelanau summer kid," and her roots in this peninsula run deep. Her great-great grandfather was a mining engineer who came to Omena in 1903. Over her life, Cammie spent time in Northport and Omena. "Leelanau is in my cellular matrix," she says.

Her love for Leelanau and "cellular matrix" factor sums up what inspired Cammie to join the Leelanau Conservancy's Board of Directors in 2018, and most recently, why she joined the Richard O. Ristine Heritage Society.

A cancer scare at age 40 led her to create a will. The tumor of concern turned out to be benign, but the ordeal propelled her to get her affairs in order. **"I feel lucky and grateful, and that's what inspired me to write a will."** She consulted with an attorney and created a trust to avoid probate. "I've provisioned a flat amount to go to the Conservancy, and will reassess things as I age," adds Cammie.

"Not a lot of my peers have a will," she says. "But I figure that all the people before me have made sure that the Leelanau I love was there for me and now it's on me to help steward this peninsula for all who come after me."

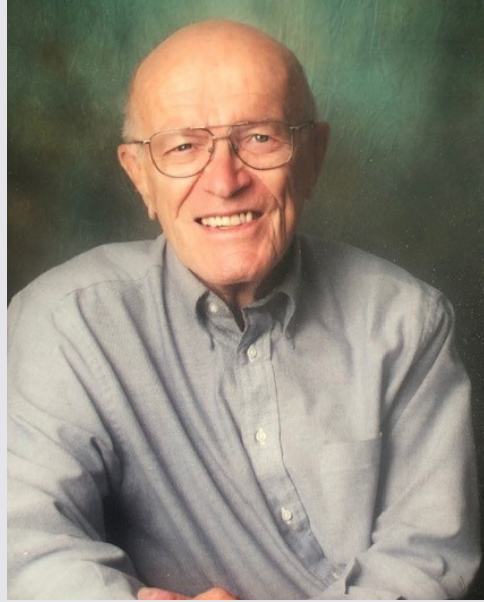


JEREMIAH AND KRISTI AVERY

– creating alignment of resources and values

"As a local financial advisor who specializes in helping my clients plan for their future, and the future of those that they love and care about, by incorporating environmental and sustainability criteria into portfolio construction, I have a deep understanding of aligning monetary goals with personal values. Planning with intention isn't just something I advise clients to do; it is important for my husband and I to practice personally. **As outdoor recreation lovers, we believe that land conservation is integral to creating healthy, prosperous lives, both now and for future generations.** We chose to create alignment with our own financial resources and love for the Northern Michigan land and water by becoming members of the Sustainers Circle and by naming the Leelanau Conservancy in our estate plan." – Kristi





Dick Ristine enjoyed inspiring others to secure their legacy through planned giving

THE RICHARD O. RISTINE

Heritage Society

The Heritage Society recognizes donors who have shared in the mission of the Leelanau Conservancy by making a gift through a will, bequest, trust, annuity, insurance or other planned or deferred gift. More than 180 individuals and couples have notified the Conservancy that they have made such a commitment. The Society is named after Richard O. (Dick) Ristine, who served as Chairman and then Honorary Chairman for many years.

Whether you are considering or have already finalized a gift in your will, please let us know. We would like to welcome you into the Richard O. Ristine Heritage Society. The Heritage Society celebrates the planned gifts of our community each summer with a gathering. You can choose to remain anonymous if you prefer. Notifying us that you have designated the Conservancy in your will helps us to document and understand your wishes, and plan for the future!

“We love the incomparable natural resources and the fascinating, curious, and involved people of Leelanau. We want to help ensure that these natural resources will be here for the enjoyment of future generations and wild-life forever. So our estate plans include a bequest to the Leelanau Conservancy’s endowment—to keep Leelanau special for you, your kids, and your kids’ kids.”

John and Gina not only are members of the Richard O. Ristine Heritage Society, but they also serve as Ambassadors, encouraging others to join in protecting Leelanau into the future.



The Richard O. Ristine Heritage Society is named for a Leelanau Conservancy champion for the Heritage Society and recognizes those who have included the Leelanau Conservancy in their estate plans.

Dick Ristine helped in every way he could, from stuffing envelopes to serving as our board chairman. He passionately and eloquently encouraged supporters to include the Leelanau Conservancy in their estate plans. His boundless enthusiasm for preserving his beloved Leelanau was an inspiration to us all. Our Heritage Society, which recognizes those who have made plans to make a bequest to the Conservancy, has been named the Richard O. Ristine Heritage Society, a fitting tribute to one of Leelanau’s heroes.

RICHARD O. RISTINE’S SON, DICK RISTINE JR

– a lifetime of loving Leelanau

When Dad retired to Leelanau County, where he had vacationed since the age of two, he sought opportunities to fully engage with life in Leelanau. It was natural for him to seek out a land trust with which to get involved in his new community. Dad was impressed by the impact that the Leelanau Conservancy was making in protecting the natural resources of the county. He found particularly appealing its efforts to protect family farms and water quality, and the Conservancy quickly became the primary focus of Dad’s volunteer efforts. Seeing the opportunity to build resources for LC, which at the time did not have a formalized planned giving program, he helped it to establish such a program.

Dad was extremely proud that LC named its planned giving program for him. I hope that all who want to help assure that many of Leelanau County’s beautiful natural resources are protected will join me in making a planned gift to the Richard O. Ristine Heritage Society of the Leelanau Conservancy.



The Ristine Family, 1963

YOUR LEGACY'S STRONG FUTURE

A message from Kathy Birney, Director of Finance and Administration

We are so grateful to our Heritage Society members. With our experienced staff, robust processes, and love of the land, water and wildlife, your support ensures that we are able to take excellent care of our conserved lands and provide recreational opportunities to all.

We listen to our donors and make sure that every penny goes exactly to what our donors are passionate about – protecting Leelanau for future generations. A gift in your will provides the means to conserve our Natural Areas and Preserves and monitor our Conservation Easements in perpetuity.



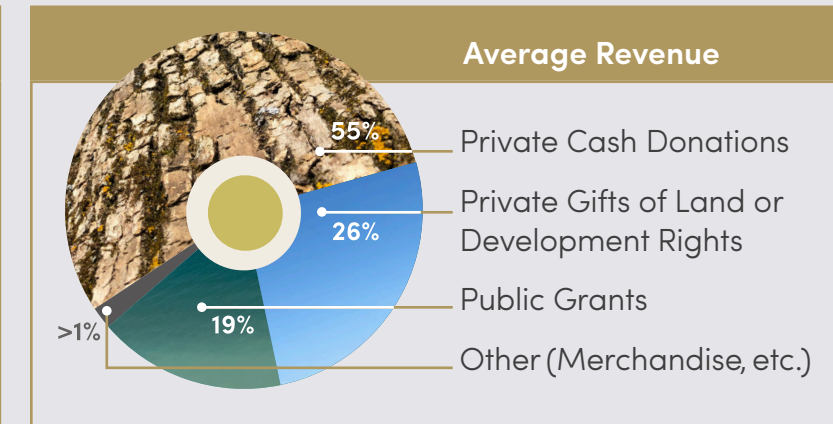
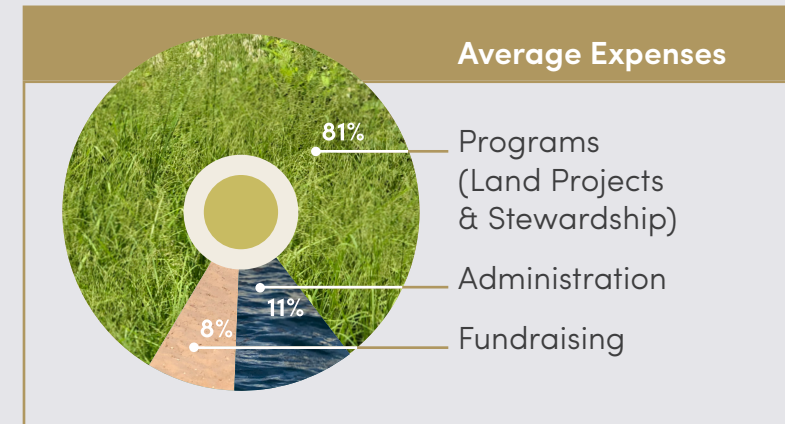
I have been privileged to enjoy the lands that we conserve for over 60 years, and I love knowing that my work helps ensure that my children and grandchildren will also enjoy this unique beauty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Birney".

YOUR LEGACY'S STRONG FUTURE

With a Solid Financial Foundation



The Leelanau Conservancy is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, led by a dedicated Board of Directors. Our financial due diligence includes annual financial audits and regular oversight by the Finance Committee and the full Board. Established in 1988, the Conservancy has been in operation for more than 35 years, faithfully serving the community and protecting the land, water and scenic quality of Leelanau County.

Our primary source of revenue is from cash donations from private supporters, and the majority of funds spent go toward the land-protection and stewardship programs. We are grateful for the trust and confidence of our community that allows land

protection, land stewardship, and operations to continue. The work we are able to accomplish with your support benefits everyone. The Leelanau Conservancy also maintains endowment funds; a general endowment and a stewardship endowment to protect land into perpetuity. Planned gifts, unless otherwise designated, are invested in the endowment funds to ensure future operations and care for our lands.

Current newsletters and annual reports can be found on our website at leelanauconservancy.org or by contacting us at 231-256-9665.



Sample language for a will, revocable trust, or amendment:

FOR YOUR FINANCIAL PLANNER

You will need to include our official name and address in your documents when you designate the Leelanau Conservancy in planned gifts:

Leelanau Conservancy

105 N First St. | PO Box 1007 | Leland, MI 49654 | 231-256-9665 | Federal Tax ID: 38-2710855

Specific Bequest

"I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to the Leelanau Conservancy (in Leland, Michigan) the sum of \$_____ or _____% or _____ (property description) of my estate."

Contingent Bequest

"If the above named beneficiaries predecease me, then I hereby give, devise and bequeath the same to the Leelanau Conservancy (in Leland, Michigan).

Residual Bequest

"I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to the Leelanau Conservancy (in Leland, Michigan) either "all" or "X %" of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

CONTACT US

I was lucky to be born and raised in an incredibly special place: The French Riviera. A different French Riviera my mother grew up in. My family often shares about what my hometown used to be like: a small fishing town, a small marina, charming vernacular Mediterranean houses, rivers, gorgeous hillsides, citrus orchards, and beaches with clean water. I share their pride, sense of place, and nostalgia. I grew up on an overdeveloped French Riviera, where large apartment buildings and countless resorts replaced the homes, rivers were covered with roads, marinas tripled in size, and woods became yet another shopping mall. It is still beautiful, yet, it has lost its essence.

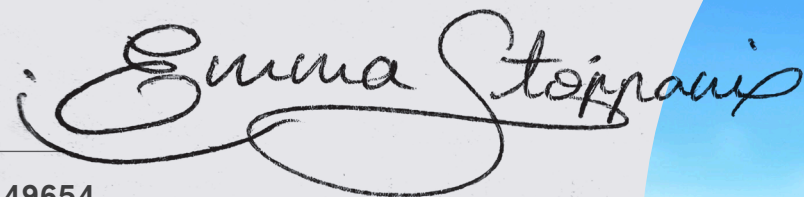
I chose to move from the French Riviera to Leelanau County in 2014. My daughters were born here, and I feel a deep responsibility to preserve this gem; to have a voice, to be a part of the solution, so that what happened to my first home never happens here.

I would love to meet with you and hear about your connection to Leelanau County, your values and what truly matters to you. Planned giving should be a joyful, meaningful experience one should take pride in. It is also a deeply personal decision that takes time and careful consideration. I am here to help. If you have any questions or need assistance, please let me know. You can reach me by phone or by email below.

I'd love to hear your Leelanau story. Let's meet up for coffee, a hike, or even a phone call.

Emma Stoppani

Major Gifts and Planned Giving Officer
Leelanau Conservancy



105 N First St. | PO Box 1007 | Leland, MI 49654
Main: 231-256-9665 | Direct: 231-994-3206
estoppani@leelanauconservancy.org

NEXT STEPS

- Planned giving is an expression of your values. Consider what has been most important for you, what you would like your legacy to be, and how you may be able to support that through a charitable planned gift.
- The process is simple, but we always recommend seeking independent professional advice. Contact your financial advisor or lawyer to discuss options that are best for your situation. The most popular planned gifts are charitable bequests in wills. An advisor can assist you in creating or amending your will, and help you understand tax advantages to various other gift types such as specialized trusts. You may also consider naming the conservancy as a designated beneficiary of an IRA or other accounts.
- Provide your financial planner with the information on the next page, including our contact information and details.
- Discuss your plans with family members. Sharing this information can be beneficial in helping your family to understand your values and know what to expect. Many families tell us how proud they are of their parents or grandparents for remembering Leelanau in their legacies.
- Let us know about your intentions. Please share with us that you have designated a planned gift. This helps us to document and honor your intentions, and to say thank you! You can provide whatever level of details you are comfortable sharing, and your gift can be anonymous if you prefer.

We look forward to welcoming you into the Richard O. Ristine Heritage Society; to be a part of our strong future, and a part of our dedicated Leelanau Conservancy community.



HERITAGE SOCIETY
LEELANAU CONSERVANCY

CONSERVING THE LAND, WATER AND
SCENIC CHARACTER OF LEELANAU COUNTY

*You can help preserve the beauty of Leelanau for future
generations of people and wildlife forever*



231-256-9665 | LeelanauConservancy.org

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