

IN MY FATHERS WORDS by Tom Oot, based on a conversation with Earl L. Oot, circa 1983.

“My brothers and I purchased the Hildreth, Fox and Sherwood Farms, which included the North Manlius Hill, as well as the low lands, running along the old Erie Canal, over to North Burdick Street.

We started a Project approximately ten years ago, whereby we removed bank run gravel from the site and sold it for construction of the Fayetteville Mall and several other commercial projects around the area.

After we built a sizable lake of approximately 30 acres, I approached the Town Board for the Town of Manlius, asking that the Town consider purchasing the property to be used as a Park for the Town of Manlius.

After debate and discussion, the Town decided that they were not interested in pursuing the idea of a Park at this location and so we decided to proceed with a construction project encompassing 600 new homes that would be build around the existing lake and additional lakes to be dug on the property.

Utilizing Section 279 of the Town Law, which permitted clustering, we were able to submit a plan for upwards of 600 new townhouse units, however, the Town reduced the actual number to a maximum of 500 units.

From there, we designed and developed the Erie Village Townhouse Project, which has been completely built, encompassing approximately 480 single-family attached townhouse units.”

There were a number of issues and concerns during the design and approval process, particularly the elevation of the property and its proximity to Limestone Creek. The Project was an engineering feat that has proven itself successful through a number of 50-year and 100-year storms that have occurred over the past 20+ years.