



*Inn Along the Way*

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Note: photograph follows the text

## INN ALONG THE WAY RECEIVES MAJOR BEQUEST

“Brilliant,” “funny,” “a bit prickly,” and “curious” were some of the words used to describe Mary H. Irvine by a group that gathered recently to share memories of their late friend. A former librarian, Irvine was a voracious reader who traveled widely, adored her adopted state, reveled in the natural world, and was such an accomplished lip reader that many might not have realized she was profoundly deaf.

Always guarding her privacy, Irvine never let on that she would leave a large charitable legacy upon her death. “Mary closely followed the progress of Inn Along the Way, including during her final illness,” said Sherry Flint, the non-profit organization’s president. “She cheered on each of our successes. One afternoon she told me that she had decided to give Inn Along the Way several thousand dollars upon her death. I was extremely honored and moved, and I asked if we could name a cottage after her. After a long pause, she said yes. She told me, ‘I would like people to know that I was part of this project.’”

The bequest from Irvine’s will was considerably more than several thousand dollars.

In December of 2014, Inn Along the Way signed an agreement to purchase the Chapman farm in Damariscotta the following December for \$500,000. Irvine passed away five months later. When David Soule, Jr., Irvine’s attorney, notified Flint to expect a part of the bequest before year’s end, it was clear that Inn Along the Way would be able to complete the purchase of the

Chapman farm. The first part of the Irvine bequest, added to the contributions of many other donors, topped the required amount, and allowed the non-profit to purchase the historic 31-acre farm debt-free.

Knowing that Irvine had acted as a long-term caregiver for a beloved friend and had firsthand knowledge of the stress and exhaustion that caregiving entails, Inn Along the Way's board members decided to build the first hospitality cottage at Chapman Farm with part of Irvine's bequest, naming it "Mary's Cottage" in her memory. The planned hospitality cottages at Inn Along the Way are short-term accommodations available for respite for caregivers and/or their loved ones moving toward the end of life. "We want to infuse the cottage with Mary's unique spirit," said Flint. Some mementoes from Irvine's life will be housed in the cottage, including an inscription to Irvine's beloved cat, Sami, one of the many animals she cherished.

"Mary thought long and hard about the disposition of her estate and we had many discussions about how best to benefit others after her passing," Attorney Soule wrote in a letter to Inn Along the Way. "I hope this gift will allow you to expand the services Mary thought were so important."

***Inn Along the Way is a unique and innovative community design in which older adults live interdependently in a neighborhood-style setting of small, environmentally friendly homes. Rents are based on ability to pay. The interdependent community fosters strength, safety, and feelings of purpose, connection, and vibrancy. In addition, a small inn, café, meeting space, art center, and farm stand eventually will help draw the wider community to the door, as well as help fund the hospitality cottages. For more information, visit [www.InnAlongtheWay.org](http://www.InnAlongtheWay.org).***

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[CAPTION: Inn Along the Way benefactor Mary H. Irvine]

