

Historic Pownal farm bought by Dutch benefactor

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POWNAL — Frans Van Schaik, who lives in Manhattan, but is a native of the Netherlands, has purchased 279.6 acres of scenic farmland on Mount Anthony Road in North Pownal for \$820,000. The land was sold by Leon Rudd Jr., and according to a neighbor who sometimes uses the farm to field beef cattle and store hay, the land was held in the Rudd family for over 200 years.

Van Schaik said he is restoring some of the old buildings, which include a home, a large barn, and some smaller barns. He said the people of Pownal seem nice, and if he and his family find they enjoy it, they may make the homestead a more permanent home. For now, Van Schaik said he plans on using it as a second home during the summer.

Van Schaik also made two recent \$2,000 donations, one to the Pownal Rescue Squad and the other to the fire department. He said that when he decided to buy the property, he asked his attorney, Francis Morrissey, for suggestions on whom to donate money to.

"In my textbook, that's what you do when you live in a community," he said, adding that he may be interested in doing more civic work once he gets to know it better.

Van Schaik said he works for a company called Logispring, which invests in shipping routes and infrastructures. Most of the company's work is in America and Europe and deals with getting consumers their goods. He said he stumbled across Pownal more or less by accident, having decided that moving to Long Island was a little too "posh" for him and his family.

He said he has no real plans on changing the landscape of his new home and intends to leave the fields as fields and the forest as forest. He does intend to post the land, but doesn't have a problem with granting hunters permission. He said he simply wants to know when he should keep his children out of the woods.

Born in the Netherlands, Van Schaik said he began to travel abroad after finishing college. He met his wife, who is French, in London and moved to New York two years ago.

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