

Harry Gordon sculpture installed at Magill's Hill Park

"Tonka" was installed at Magill's Hill Park in Solebury Township on Saturday, May 26.

The art piece is the work of local sculptor Harry H. Gordon of Lambertville, N.J. Gordon, his wife, Wendy, and crew worked for many hours to make this a reality for the community park.

The project was coordinated by Dudley Rice, director of Parks and Recreation for Solebury Township, New Hope Arts Director Carol Cruickshanks and the Gordons.

The new sculpture expands the reach of the outdoor exhibition administered by New Hope Arts, in cooperation with the PNC Foundation and its Arts Alive Program.

Harry Gordon first created this sculpture in June-July 2015 at an artist residency at St. John's Sculpture Park in Portland, Ore. The sculpture is made of basalt rock, which is commonly found out West. It is an igneous (volcanic) rock formed from the rapid cooling of basaltic lave exposed at or very near the surface of the planet. As the rock slowly cools, it forms a polygonal joint pattern, making each rock five-sided.

Gordon purchased the basalt columns from a quarry near Moses Lake, Wash., and



The sculpture is set in place at Magill's Hill Park in Solebury Township.

had them shipped to the park in Portland to construct "Tonka," named for Gordon's favorite pet dog when he was growing up. He crafted the sculpture at the park while living



Harry H. Gordon of Lambertville, N.J., sits on "Tonka," his sculpture that was installed at Magill's Hill Park in Solebury Township on Saturday, May 26.

on a large tugboat on the Willamette River with several other people during the construction process.

Construction of the sculpture took about three weeks and Gordon left the sculpture at that park. He had the two extra stones shipped back to New Jersey. Unfor-

tunately, the sculpture park in Oregon disbanded earlier in 2018 and Gordon had to return to Portland, de-install and load "Tonka" onto a tractor-trailer.

The sculpture weighs 25,000 pounds and the base, which is white granite from Vermont, is another 5,000 pounds.