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Maine School For Troubled Teens Closing

Kennedy Nephew Attended Elan School

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POLAND, Maine -- A school for troubled teens in the town of Poland is closing.

The Elan School has been open for 41 years.

In a letter to News 8 Wednesday afternoon, Executive Director Sharon Terry said declining enrollment and resulting financial difficulties is the reason for the school's closing.

Terry said the school has been the target of harsh and false attacks spread over the Internet with the intent of forcing the school to close. Although several investigations of the allegations by the Maine Department of Education have vindicated the school, the school has been unable to survive the damage done.

"I will miss very much working with the students and, perhaps most of all, attending their graduations, where regularly they gave fresh proof that, put simply, Elan saved lives," Terry said.

Elan is the school that Michael Skakel attended for two years back in the late '70s. Skakel was convicted in 2002 of the 1975 murder of Martha Moxley. Moxley was his 15-year-old neighbor in Greenwich, Conn. Skakel is the nephew of Ethel Kennedy, the widow of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

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