



### **TETC Officers**

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### **Important Dates**

25 June - Next TETC meeting, water/sewer presentation  
6 July - Garden Walkabout  
10 July - Gully ceremony  
11 July - Property Beautification nominations due  
20 July - Property Beautification Awards judging  
27 July - Hillside Festival  
13 August - Property Beautification Awards night  
24 Sept - TETC meeting  
29 Oct - TETC meeting  
26 Nov - TETC meeting

### **Next Meeting**

At the next TETC meeting on Wednesday, 25 June, Derrick Staubitzer will present an information PowerPoint presentation on the subject of water and sewer installation for Torbay in general but focusing mainly on Patrick's Path.

The TETC meets at the Kinsmen Centre on Bauline Line on the last Wednesday of each month (except December and July) at 7:30 pm. The meetings are open to the public and new members are always welcome.



### **Property Beautification Awards**

Now is the time to start getting your property in tip-top shape! Each year, the TETC organizes the Property Beautification Awards which are sponsored by the Town of Torbay and Traverse Gardens. Categories are mature garden, beginner garden (less than 5 years), vegetable garden and naturalized garden, along with an overall winner from these categories. The 2003 Award Night will take place on Wednesday, August 13, at 8 pm at the Kinsmen Centre.

Nominations for this year's awards are due by July 11. Forms can be picked up at the town hall or by calling or e-mailing any TETC member. Preliminary judging will take place on July 20.

### **Hillside Festival**

Come join us at the Hillside Festival on **Sunday, July 27** and get to know your community!

The TETC will be selling fish and brewis and touts to raise funds for the Gully Project. Ross Traverse and the Women's Institute will be our chief cooks again this year. Make sure you visit our booth to see the women dressed in period costume. We guarantee a treat for the eye and the tummy.

The TETC along with other community organizations will also have an information booth inside the Kinsmen Centre for anyone looking for information about community events and activities. Why not get involved?

## **Garden Walkabout**

The TETC is holding a garden walkabout on Sunday, July 6, weather permitting. Join us for a tour of some of the past winners of the Property Beautification Awards and get some tips for your own garden. Meet us at the town hall at 1pm. For information, call a TETC member.



## **Gully Project**

Plans are underway to hold a ceremony on July 10 to mark the unveiling of the beautiful Gully road sign and to recognize adjacent landowners as stewards of the wetland. Watch for details on the town sign.

Phase 2 of the Gully Project has been approved for funding under EcoAction beginning May 1. This phase of the project will focus on preserving water levels in the Gully through the installation of a water control structure, remedial and enhancement activities designed to maintain/increase wildlife populations, educational programming including the construction of two outdoor classrooms, public awareness, water conservation and climate change.

Our application for a Green Team from the Conservation Corps has been approved so again this summer we will have a Green Team working with our project coordinator.

Many of you may have heard of the gas seepage that was detected in the Gully in May. Through the quick action of the TETC, federal and provincial environment officials were notified, the source of the leak was detected and the problem rectified.



## **Top 10 Reasons Not to Litter**

10. "When sun rays crown thy trash strewn hills" doesn't have the same ring to it.
9. Tim Horton's and Mary Brown's don't need you to spread their names around.
8. Spend the \$\$ on your spouse instead of a fine they'll love ya for it.
7. Broken glass cuts dog paws - consider our 4-legged friends.
6. You may be ugly, but Torbay doesn't have to be.
5. Make love not litter.
4. You can get cold, hard cash for those empties.
3. Your mother can't keep picking up after you.
2. We want to be a Tidy Town, not a Trashy Town.
1. Garbage stinks!

## **Provincial Environmental Award**

Congratulations to Holy Trinity Elementary and High Schools for winning a Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Award presented by the Honourable Bob Mercer on June 2. These awards were established 14 years ago to acknowledge environmental action being taken by communities and individuals in our province. The schools were recognized for their contribution to the preservation of the Gully wetlands. Thanks for your efforts, teachers and students!



### **David Suzuki's Nature Challenge**

On May 12, Shirley, Madeleine and Ken represented the TETC at a brunch with Dr. David Suzuki and later attended his very interesting talk about his "Nature Challenge".

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and choose at least three simple actions this year that can make a real difference in protecting nature. For example, prepare your meals with food from local farmers for one month this year - buying locally reduces greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants from food transportation. One study estimates that the average meal travels 2400 km from the field to your table. Or replace chemical pesticides on your lawn, garden or houseplants with non-toxic alternatives. Get more information and sign on by visiting [www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org). Let's show Canada that Torbay is interested in protecting nature for future generations.

### **ATVs**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador have produced a new brochure entitled 'Fish Habitat and All-Terrain Vehicles'. Copies may be obtained from TETC or by calling the Gully office at 437-7200.

Did you know that driving ATVs along riverbanks and across rivers and streams can harm fish habitat and damage habitat for many other wildlife species that live near the water, in bogs or on barrens? Please take care.

### **Trail Mapping Project**

The groundwork is nearing completion for the mapping of trails and right-of-ways within Torbay. Again this summer we hope to have two graduate students working to finalize the trail maps using aerial photographs. If you want to help or have any questions, give Harvey Best a call at 437-1618 or email him at [harvey.mabel@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:harvey.mabel@nf.sympatico.ca).

### **Jones Pond**

Plans are in the works for development in the Jones Pond area and the town has informed us that public hearings are set to take place sometime in the future. The TETC is interested in protecting a trail system in the area and establishing appropriate buffer zones around the pond. We would like to hear from interested residents regarding this issue.



### **Stewardship Association of Municipalities**

Councillor Mike Byrne and his wife and TETC Chair Shirley Thorne and her spouse attended the Stewardship Association of Municipalities (SAM) meeting in Springdale on June 6 & 7, along with representatives from 12 other municipalities. Members were impressed with our work on the Gully project and our efforts to preserve wetlands in our communities. This was a great opportunity to exchange ideas about stewardship with other towns. The next meeting is scheduled for Gambo in October.

## ***Tips on Composting***

by Ross Traverse

- ❶ A 3-bin composting system is best: one bin for storing the materials being composted; one bin to turn the compost into when the 1<sup>st</sup> bin is full; and one bin to turn the compost into when it is completely rotted and ready to use. You can easily make a 3-bin compost system from used cargo pallets. Use tie wire to fasten the pieces together. (Call Ross for details if unsure).
- ❷ All garden plant material can be composted. Manure can be added to the compost pile.
- ❸ Avoid using meat scraps in your compost.
- ❹ The important thing to remember when making good compost is to introduce oxygen in the compost pile by turning it often during the summer.
- ❺ The compost pile must be kept moist.
- ❻ The addition of seaweed (kelp) is an excellent way of speeding up the composting process and also supplying nutrients.
- ❼ Store composted kitchen waste over the winter outside in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid.
- ❽ Compost is usually mixed into the soil in the spring before planting. It can be mixed into the soil of existing plants anytime but spring is best. It is not a good idea to bury plants with compost in the fall as compost can rot the crown of plants.
- ❾ It takes a full year to make good compost because things do not rot when the ground is frozen.
- ❿ Compost is an excellent source of organic matter but it usually does not supply all of the nutrients needed by plants (e.g. phosphorus and potassium). If your plants are not growing properly, you will probably have to add nutrients from other sources (e.g. fertilizer).

### **Don't forget to donate your recyclables to the Gully Project!**

Just take them to any Green Depot (Nova or Evergreen) and ask that TETC receive the refund. Or drop them off at the town yard during office hours or call us to pick them up (437-7200).

## ***Water Conservation***

Now is the time to think about conserving water. Canada's per capita demands on water resources are the second highest in the world. Normal usage in this province is about 100 gallons per day per person, but Torbay usage is even higher than this. Please help conserve our precious resources!

Environment Canada estimates that water usage increases 30-50% in the summer. Here are some ways to reduce water usage in your garden, from the Composting Council of Canada ([www.compost.org](http://www.compost.org)):

- Add compost to your soil to improve the water-retention capability of your garden.
- Mulch plants with a 3-inch layer to help conserve moisture and also reduce weeds.
- Connect a rain barrel to your downspout to collect rain for watering your garden.
- Plant native species since they are adapted to the climate and rainfall patterns here.



### ***Photos Anyone?***

We have room on our web site ([www.torbay-enviro.ca](http://www.torbay-enviro.ca)). Let's show off our beautiful town with some scenic pictures. Icebergs are especially popular. If you have great photos of our town, let us know and we'll put them on our web site.



Have a great summer!  
-from the TETC