

The Torbay Environment & Trails Committee Newsletter Vol. 2 Issue 2

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Traverse Garden's Property Beautification Awards

RESIDENTIAL:

1st Place *Mrs. Stella Cole, Manning's Hill*

Honorable Mentions:

Norm & Irene Cole *4 Tina Place*
Al & Daphne Lockhart *7 Bauline Line*
Norval & Claire Thorne *Charles Lane*
Harvey & Debbie Codner *Torbay Road*
Mike & Marlene Matthews *Torbay Road*
Kevin & Joan Joy *Garden Road*
Bob & Dianne Penney *Marine Drive*
Mr. & Mrs. Damien Gosse *Byrne's Lane*
Mr. & Mrs. Cyril Murphy *Buckley's Hill*

PUBLIC PROPERTY:

St. Nicholas Anglican Church

COMMERCIAL:

Liddy's Tavern

The annual property awards were a great success again this summer (22 residential entries!). Awards were presented at the Kinsmen Centre on August 23rd. Thanks to all of the local businesses who provided prizes and to all of the property owners for maintaining such beautiful gardens!

Generous Sponsors

Traverse Gardens	Crowe's Landscaping
Coady's Eatery	Madeline Florent
Weed Free Lawn	Caul's Funeral Home
M&M Sales	Metal World
Kent's Building Supplies	Harvey Codner Brokerage
Pro Golf Discount	Royal Bank

District Drugs	Yetman's Foodland
Torbay Family Hair Care	Town of Torbay
Canadian Tire	Dominion (Cabot Sq)
Sobey's (Howley Est)	Mary Brown's
Torbay Legal Services	ASL Appraisals
Irving Oil Ltd	Fairways Golf

ATV Update

Things have been fairly quiet on the ATV front lately. The RNC regularly monitors ATV usage in our town and continues to enforce their policy of zero tolerance. While the general consensus is that ATV abuse of our landscape has been on the decrease, there have been some infractions. We urge parents to ensure that their children respect the ATV regulations and remind all ATV owners of their legal responsibility for their machines when driven in an illegal manner.

ATV owners interested in pursuing the idea of a licensed trail in Torbay should contact a member of the Council.

\$22,000 Awarded for Waste Management Proposal!

This proposal is an initiative of the Town of Torbay, Nova Recycling and Mike Wawrzkow of the Environment & Trails Committee to substantially reduce the quantity of domestic solid waste that the community currently deposits in the landfill. It was submitted to the Newfoundland & Labrador Waste Management Trust Fund for funding and \$22,000 was awarded for the community clean-up phase of the proposal. Through the program six students and a supervisor were hired and could be seen cleaning up the community during the summer. The committee will be submitting a proposal again this year for funding.

Gardening Club

Do you just love to watch things grow? Do you spend many of your summer days working in your garden? Do you spend your spare time during the winter months skimming through seed catalogues? Would you like to get together once or twice during the summer to see other gardens in Torbay and exchange ideas, plants, and seedlings or to discuss gardening problems? If you have answered yes to any of the above we have a great suggestion- An **informal** gardening club. If you would like to become part of this club or help organize it, call Madeline Florent (437-6439) or Shirley Thorne (437-6358) and we'll arrange the initial get together.

Father Troy Trail History

The Father Troy Trail is a 5-kilometer section of the East Coast Trail, which runs approximately 250 km. along the east coast of the Avalon Peninsula. The Torbay section of the trail is noteworthy not only for its spectacular vistas but also for its historical significance. On September 13, 1762, Colonel William Amherst landed at Torbay Beach with ten ships and 800 men. They marched overland to St. John's and there successfully defeated the French and recaptured Signal Hill. This was the last battle in the Seven Years War and thus ended the war between Britain and France in North America. Parks Canada officially recognized this event in 1978 when a stone monument and plaque were erected opposite the Post Office on Torbay Road.

Trail Improvements

The Environment Trails Committee works with the Town Council to try to maintain the trail. The Heritage Committee has placed interpretative historical storyboards along the trail. We recommend a short walk or a longer hike to our Torbay residents. This is a great way to get in touch with the past, get some fresh air and exercise and enjoy the forest farmlands and cliffs. There are many entrances and exits along the trail. A map of the trail is available at the Torbay Museum located in the Town Hall. We are presently consulting with the East Coast Trail Association to develop an overall plan for The Trail to bring it up to East Coast Trail standards.

Help Wanted

Anyone interested in hiking, walking, ecotourism, a fitness trail, heritage or just improving the quality of life in the Torbay area is invited to give us a call or come to one of our meetings (**the last Wednesday of each month at the Town hall- November 29th**). We could sure use your help and suggestions or expertise. We suggest dividing the town into 6 areas and to seek volunteer representatives from each section. The six sections are: Southside, Marine Drive, Convent Lane/Reddy Estates, Indian Meal Line/Bridge Road/Lower Street, Bauline Line/Manning's Hill, North Side. All of the sections would include any side roads. Volunteer for your area and come join the social network of the Environment & Trails Committee.

Senior's Walking Trail

The environment and trails committee is still pursuing a proposal to develop a trail suitable for seniors. Watts Pond was the preferred location but two landowners around the pond objected, council asked that we consider alternate locations/. The committee is now looking at the Gully (behind the Irving Station) and Upper Three-Corner Pond (near the Swiler's Complex).

As you can appreciate, the development of this trail will require a lot of work to get it off the ground-we are looking at a project in the area of \$150,000 upwards, so it is essential that the community be fully behind this project and provide some help. We invite all residents interested in this project to lend a hand. We especially need to hear from seniors and retired persons since we hope to ensure that the trail meets their requirements.

The kind of trail we have in mind will enhance our community as a whole and the area around the trail in particular. Many other communities in the province have successfully built similar trails and these have become major recreational attractions. Beautiful trails have been developed in Gander, Stephenville crossing, and the Codroy Valley and these towns have seen improved lifestyles as a result. Please give us a call-we need help support and your ideas!

Development in Torbay: Pro or Con?

As St. John's and the surrounding towns expand and become more developed, it's time for Torbay residents to ask themselves some serious questions about the quality of life they enjoy.

Why do you live in Torbay? For some people, Torbay is a family home and many generations have lived here. If so, the changes in the development of Torbay over the years are obvious. For others, Torbay may have offered a change from 'city life' in St. John's or elsewhere. Many value the open space and trails and the natural environment of the town. They want to live in a small town or country environment, yet be close to the amenities that St. John's provides, such as work opportunities, shopping, arts and entertainment.

What is important to you in determining your quality of life? For many people, the answer may be as simple as living near friends and family, regardless of the location. For others,

living close to the environment with abundant greenspace is important in determining their physical and mental well being.

What would you like to see Torbay look like in 5 to 10 or 20 years? Given that we cannot travel back in time, Torbay will never be the small fishing village it once was. The question then is whether we want to stay about the same as we are now or to become another Mount Pearl. In recent years, Torbay has been the second fastest growing town in Newfoundland (behind CBS). At first glance, we may be proud of this as it affirms our belief that Torbay is a desirable place to live. But what are the consequences of rampant growth? Many may see the growth as an opportunity for more tax dollars for the town. Even these increased tax revenues may be a short-lived advantage. In the last two summers water shortages illustrated that alternative water supplies will have to be developed very soon to accommodate the growth. The increased number of houses depending on the existing sewage system will eventually result in the need for sewage treatment or at least expansion of the present outfall system. As the expansion goes on, others may see trees near then be razed and closely-packed developments of modern, identical houses appearing and will mourn the passing of the peaceful life that Torbay once offered them. Indeed there are areas of Torbay that are difficult to differentiate from high density housing structure seen in St. John's. Do we really want the same high density housing structure seen in St. John's, but in a suburb where it is necessary to commute to work along a congested Torbay Road?

Make your views known! Torbay is currently undergoing a 5-year revision of the Town plan, so now is the time for your input! A common perception is that the people of Torbay want water and sewer service and in order to do this cost-effectively, many houses must be built to bring in more tax dollars, and these houses must be built close together to minimize the cost of laying water and sewerlines. Would you rather have water and sewer and a small property with the view blocked by other houses or would you rather have a well and septic system and be surrounded by trees or open fields with a panoramic view? In Middle-Cove- Outer Cove- Logy Bay, the minimum lot size is one-half acre, but in Torbay it is less than 1/7th of an acre. Increasing the minimum lot size would be an effective way to slow down unbridled

development in Torbay. But this won't happen unless council hears what the people of Torbay want for the future use of their town!

Sewage Outfall

As of publication date, work is underway to address concerns about raw sewage being dumped into Torbay Bight every day. A contractor has been hired to install a new sewage grinder system at the outfall site. Once completed, we will see a kind of manhole chamber on the beach. While we are still a long way from any kind of sewage treatment for Torbay, this is at least a small step in the right direction. As Gerry Hayes put it, the new system "will beat the sewage to a pulp" so what goes into the ocean will certainly be less visible.

Practical Landscaping

It is important to have a house designed for the site rather than the other way around. If the house is designed for the site, it makes a lot of difference to the cost of landscaping and to the practical application of plants in the landscape. There are some things you should consider when planning the landscaping of the front part of the house, that is, the part of the house that faces the road or what some people refer to as the entrance of the house. The first thing to consider is the driveway., probably the most dominant feature of the landscape. The driveway should be able to accommodate more than one car unless it is a very small lot. It is very dangerous and illegal to back out onto a busy road, so provisions should be made to turn the car in the driveway. The most convenient way of doing this is to have a circular driveway. The turning radius should be such that a large car or small truck can easily turn. If you cannot build a circular driveway, then provisions should be made to have a turnaround where you can turn the car and drive head-on into the street. The turnaround can also be used for extra parking.

Once the planning of the driveway is completed, you should turn your attention to the next most important feature of the entrance, which is the entrance of the front door. Many of us in Newfoundland use the side door as the entrance but visitors usually use the front door and this should be the main emphasis. If the house has been planned for the site, the plan should have included consideration to the number of steps for the entrance. If at all possible, the number of steps to enter the house

should be kept to a minimum or none at all. Steps are dangerous in winter, difficult to clear of snow and present problems especially for older people and this with disabilities. The walkway from the driveway or the street to the front door should be the shortest distance between the two points. If the walkway to your entrance is not planned that way, people will walk over the lawn, so it is just as well you make your walkway the shortest distance between two points. The walkway to the front entrance should be at least as wide as your steps or the entrance to your front door. A good rule to follow is to have the entrance to your front door wide enough for two people to walk side by side.

The choice of materials for the pathway to the front entrance can be anything from pavement to interlocking brick to gravel to paving stones. One practical consideration is shovelling snow in the wintertime. If you have a material that is rough or has jagged edges, then it makes it more difficult to shovel snow.

Once the driveway and front entrance/pathway is planned, you should turn your attention to what plant material you will need and where you will plant it (more details to follow in the Spring newsletter!).

Hazardous Household Waste Disposal (HHWD)

If you missed the last HHWD day in the St. John's area, check the website www.mmsb.org for information on the handling and disposal of hazardous products. For those who don't have Internet access, here are the places where you can get rid of various products-some costs may apply so call ahead:

- paint (except aerosols) Power's Surplus & Salvage, Ropewalk Lane. NB* cans containing dried up latex paint only can go to the landfill
- oil/gasoline- Crosbie Industrial, Logy Bay, 722-8212 (\$.10/litre)
- batteries (lead acid) Maritime Recycling, Southside Road, 753-1505
- batteries (nickel-cadmium) return to retailer
- propane cylinders- Superior Propane, Kenmount Road, 726-1780
- household cleaners- wait for the next HHWH day

Since the schedule for the final year of the HHWD pilot program does not include St. John's, the date of any future HHWD day for our area is up in the air right now. However, the

city of St. John's is apparently considering implementing a similar program on a permanent basis. We will keep you informed.

Trans Canada Trail

For anyone who is interested, the Trans Canada Trail people will be holding the unveiling of the new name panels in the St. John's pavilion on November 18, commencing at 11:00AM. The pavilion is located near the former CN train station on Water Street. All are welcome to attend.

The Trans Canada Trail organization has built over 30 pavilions across the country so far with over 90,000 inscriptions engraved. To register the name of a friend, family member etc, you can contact the group at 1-800-465-3636.

East Coast Trail Association (ECTA)

The ECTA recently received \$500,000 from the federal Job Creation Partnership Program of HRDC to complete the section of the trail from Fort Amherst to Cappahayden on the southern Shore. This project is scheduled for completion by June 2001, after which time the focus will shift to the section of trail north of St. John's. Color maps detailing the trail from Fort Amherst to Lamanche are available from the ECTA at a cost of \$1.50/map or \$12 for the set of nine. For more information on the ECTA, consult their website at <http://www.ecta.nf.ca>.

The environment and trails committee of Torbay is naturally very anxious to see some progress on northern sections of the trail and will maintain a close link with the ECTA in an effort to keep informed of progress and to help in any way we can. Many sections of the trail north of St. John's have been developed (including our Fr.Troy Trail) and guided walks are held regularly by the ECTA.