

# A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Our own community here in London Towne is made up of people from all different kinds of backgrounds and experiences.

Some of us grew up here and our parents grew up here. We have a sense of history and of roots. This is “home” to us.

Some of us are brand new to the area, coming from different parts of Maryland, different states and even different countries. We have left familiar communities and are looking to establish new relationships in our new “home”.

Some of us appreciate the nature that is outside our doors—the water and the boating and the fishing and the crabbing. Some of us appreciate the convenient location to Annapolis, Baltimore and Washington D.C.

Some of us have a 10 minute commute to work or even work from home. Others commute hours to jobs.

Some of us are raising children here or watching grandchildren grow up.

Some of us own our own house and others rent .

Some of us have grown up with our neighbors and others don't know their neighbors names—yet.

No matter what our individual situations, we all share this geographic place on the planet. London Towne is a small town onto itself.

*Continued on Page 3*



# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Shortly after I was first elected President of the London Towne Property Owner's Association, I wrote an article in the *Conciliator* outlining my plans and goals for the association. I recently reviewed what I wrote then and am pleased to be able to report that, with the guidance and support of our Board of Directors, we have been able to meet most, but not all, of the goals discussed below.

- In October 2005, we completed and had approved the long-overdue revision of the Association's By-laws. Undoubtedly our By-laws will continue to require periodic minor revisions, but they should not require such an extensive and time-consuming restructuring for many years to come.
- The entire Board of Directors was extremely gratified by the strong community support we received for the increased Anne Arundel County assessment for our Special Community Benefits District. Without this increase, most of the accomplishments discussed below would have been impossible.
- The London Towne community owns over three miles of shoreline, undoubtedly more than any other private community in Maryland. Much of this shoreline had become degraded and subject to severe erosion. Over the past few years, we have been able to restore almost one-half mile of shoreline using ecologically appropriate methods. Although community funds have been used for these projects, the fact that we now have a stable financial situation and are able to pledge funds has enabled us to obtain over \$150,000.00 in State and Federal matching grants to help defray the costs. The recently completed projects in Sections 1 and 3 and the ongoing projects in Sections 2 and 5 are discussed more fully in the Erosion Committee report elsewhere in this publication.
- The Park and Planning Committee has made great progress in improving our community property. Recently completed projects have included: replacing the Fullerton fishing pier in Section 4, replacing the fishing pier in Section 3, replacing the boat and crabbing pier in Section 5, improving Mr. Mike's park in Section 4, completely restoring the athletic field and playground in Section 1 and replenishing the sand at our community beaches. This summer the Bentley fishing pier in Section 4 will be completely replaced. Future projects will include a complete reconfiguration and restoration of the Beach in Section 3.
- Long overdue maintenance has been done at the Community Hall. This has included the repaving of the entire parking lot and the complete replacement of the heating and air conditioning systems. Further improvements are in the planning stages.
- We have been able to increase the budget for community police protection. This will become more evident this summer when the patrol hours substantially will increase.

**However, we have failed to meet our goal** of increasing community participation and the number of community volunteers. This failure is evident at all levels. Attendance at Section meetings is still too low, many Sections have unfilled positions on the Board of Directors and we are always short of community volunteers to serve on committees and help with our many worthwhile projects. I recognize that this problem is not unique to our community, but rather is symptomatic of a wider cultural phenomenon. Still, I think we could do much better.

We urge community members to get more involved. It is an excellent way to make your voice heard, to meet your neighbors and to help improve the community. Getting involved can be as simple as attending your Section meetings once a month. Those interested in participating more should con-

sider becoming a member of our Board of Directors or volunteering to serve on one of our many committees. Finally, I urge you to turn out when we call for volunteers. For example, this spring we will be calling for volunteers to plant almost 10,000 plants along the newly restored shoreline in Section 5. Our past ability to get volunteers, such as the Boy Scouts, to help with planting has been an important factor in our being able to get State and Federal matching grants. Our continuing ability to do so requires your help. Persons interested in getting more involved should contact their Section President at the telephone number listed elsewhere in this publication.

John Rhoads

## A Sense Of Community

Continued

One definition of "sense of community" is " the sense of community is a feeling members have of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and the group, and a shared faith that member's needs will be met through their commitment to be together" (McMillan and Chavis, 1986).

Do you have a sense of community? Does London Towne feel like home to you? Do you feel your neighbors here are watching out for you and your interests? Do you feel like you belong? Do you feel you make a difference in how this community grows?

London Towne is, and will be, the kind of place that we—collectively—want it to be. Please make your wishes known by:

- Getting to know your neighbors.
- Attending Section or Board meetings.
- Contributing articles to the *Conciliator*.
- Volunteering at community projects.
- Attending community events.
- Serving on LTPOA Board committees.
- Heading up community improvement projects that you are interested in promoting.

All it takes to begin is to say "Hello" to or smile at the next neighbor you see. You can go from there.

Please think about it - thanks!

ADS

# ANNUAL EROSION COMMITTEE REPORT

From Stephen Hult, Chair



The Erosion Committee's annual report is prepared to keep the London Towne community fully informed of the committee's accomplishments and of the results of its Annual Shoreline Inspection.

We were extremely gratified recently to learn that for the third year in a row we have received a matching grant to assist in our living shoreline restoration efforts. The most recent grant of \$50,000 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust will be used to help with the costs of our Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Section 2 project discussed below.

**FY 2007 Project.** The Erosion Committee's major project for our fiscal year 2007, which ended on June 30, 2007, was the recently completed Almshouse Creek erosion control and shoreline restoration project in Section 3. The total value of this project was \$68,800 but the actual cost to the community was reduced by a much appreciated matching grant of \$30,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and by having the shoreline grasses planted by community volunteers. The project restored approximately 300 linear feet of severely eroding shoreline on the Peninsula in Almshouse Creek. The project used stone sills, sand and Spartina grasses to create a marsh and establish a living shoreline. The construction was completed in March 2007. On June 3, 2007, approximately forty community volunteers contributed about 150 total hours of labor to plant the wetland grasses. Much of the planting was done by Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and their parents.

**FY 2008 Project.** Our project for the current fiscal year is the restoration of approximately 500 linear feet of severely eroding shoreline on the eastern shoreline of Almshouse Creek in Section 5. Our contractor has constructed segmented stone sills and stone groins and then installed approximately 1,200 cubic yards of sand in the project area, creating 10,000 square feet of new marshland. Anne Arundel County will assist us by providing some of the required shoreline grasses. The total value of the project will be \$109,000. However, the actual cost to the community will be reduced by a \$50,000 matching grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Under the terms of the matching grant, the planting of the newly created marshland with Spartina grasses will be done by community volunteers as soon as plants become available this spring. Once again, our local Cub and Boy Scouts have volunteered to help with the planting. However, additional volunteers will be needed. We encourage everyone with an interest in the community to come out and help.

**FY 2009 Project.** Our project for Fiscal Year 2009, which begins on July 1, 2008 will be in Section 2. The project will restore and protect approximately 425 feet of severely eroding shoreline where a steep bank has been undercut. It will consist of constructing stone sills and placing and grading sand to create a new living shoreline that will be planted with native plants and grasses. Where possible, work will be done by community volunteers. The total cost of the project will be \$102,500, but the cost to the community will be reduced by the recently announced \$50,000 matching grant from

the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The actual construction of this project is scheduled to begin next December.

### **Annual Shoreline Inspection**

The London Towne Property Owners' Association's By-laws, in Article 9, Section A.2, require the Erosion Committee to conduct an annual inspection of all the Association's shoreline property. This year the inspection was conducted on February 3, 2008. The erosion problems were identified throughout the community and are discussed below. Two areas, in Sections 2 and 4, present particularly urgent problems. Participants in this year's inspection were:

Tom Walsh— LTPOA Section 1  
Dave Zollinoffer—LTPOA Section 2  
Don Creveling—LTPOA Section 3  
Stephen Hult — LTPOA Section 4, Committee Chair  
Jana Davis— Associate Director, Chesapeake Bay Trust  
Wes Matheu—President, Shoreline Design

### **Section 1**

We inspected our Fiscal Year 2006 project which restored 400 feet of shoreline near Fairmont and Shore Drive. The project area is now stable with well-established shoreline vegetation. One issue remains to be addressed in the project area. Anne Arundel County installed curbs to prevent storm water runoff from damaging the newly restored area by directing it down the street to the ramp area. While this was a successful interim solution to the problem, it has also resulted in increased runoff directly into Glebe Bay. The committee proposes to address this issue by diverting the storm water runoff into a series of new step pools in an area where a county drainage pipe is already directing storm water. The Committee will be preparing grant applications to assist with the cost of this project.

There is evidence of erosion along the shoreline of Gray's Point Park. Although this erosion is not as severe as in other areas we identified, it will need to be addressed in the future.

Storm water runoff is causing serious erosion problems at the community park at Allensway Drive and Shore Drive. The Committee will be addressing this issue in conjunction with the Parks and Planning Committee.

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## **Section 2**

The shoreline opposite 1909-1915 Shore Drive has a major erosion problem which will be corrected by our FY 2009 Erosion Project discussed above.

**Priority Problem.** The shoreline from Delmar Drive to Keymar Road is severely eroding and has been identified by the Committee as one of our two top priorities for Fiscal Year 2010, which begins on July 1, 2009. The committee will be contacting contractors to get recommendations and price estimates and to begin the process of applying for matching grants to address this problem.

We noticed that the grass is being cut too close to the shoreline in parts of Section 2. This has resulted in inadequate shoreline buffers. The committee will work with the Section to have this problem corrected

## **Section 3**

We inspected our FY 2007 Section 3 project, discussed above, which restored 400 feet of eroding shoreline with the help of a \$50,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The project area is now stable with well-established shoreline vegetation.

We noticed that the swimming beach immediately adjacent to the project area is deteriorating. We will be working with the Park and Planning Committee Section to correct this problem.

## **Section 4**

**Priority problem.** The hillside across from Oldtown and Midland is suffering from severe erosion. Sections of the hillside are in danger of collapsing. Fortunately, the erosion project and newly created marsh at the base of the hill are working well, so the shore itself is not eroding. This area has been identified by the Committee as one of our two top priorities for Fiscal Year 2010. The committee will be contacting contractors to get recommendations on how to address this problem.

The area around the pumping station at Shore Drive and Bentley needs thinning and pruning. Phragmites control in this area should be continued. The county is mowing too close to the top of the bank escarpment near the drainage ditch resulting in erosion.

The Fullerton Living Shoreline Project done in conjunction with the South River Federation was been extremely successful. However, we note that in one small area insufficient vegetated shoreline was created. As part of ongoing maintenance, we plan on correcting this problem by making minor modifications to the stone sills, adding more sand and replanting the affected area.

## **Section 5**

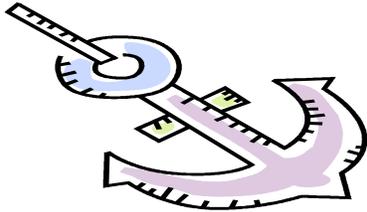
The construction phase of our Fiscal Year 2008 project has been completed with the help of another \$50,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Fund. The planting is scheduled for this spring. See above.

We note that the grass continues to be cut too close to the shoreline along the old restoration project near Webster Ave. and Shore Drive. In order to prevent any further misunderstanding, the committee decided to use boulders to delineate the shoreline buffer where no mowing is permitted.

## **Other observations**

We noticed that there continues to be a problem with illegal dumping of trash, leaves, yard-waste and or dirt on community property. Even dead leaves smother ground cover and contribute to erosion. If anyone notices illegal dumping they should either speak to the person dumping, or if they are uncomfortable doing so, contact an LTPOA officer or The Erosion Committee Chair.

The committee would appreciate if any erosion problems it overlooked were brought to its attention. Please speak to your Section President or the Erosion Committee Chair, Stephen Hult at (410) 956-3392, email [stevehult@comcast.net](mailto:stevehult@comcast.net).



## RAMPS AND CREDENTIALS

From Mark LaBuda

New Boat Ramp keys and credentials stickers are now available on Monday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Hall. Please renew before the summer rush!

All vehicles, boats and trailers must have a current LTPOA sticker to be parked on or use LTPOA facilities and parking areas. This includes boats on LTPOA piers. Towing of any unregistered vehicles parked on LTPOA property will be enforced.

**NEW CREDENTIALS FEE FOR 2008:** The new prices are \$3.00 per sticker for property owners which are valid for 3 years. Sticker fees for renters and dependents are \$5.00 per sticker which are valid for 1 year. New credentials stickers are available at the LTPOA Community Hall Mondays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Current vehicle, boat and trailer registrations are required for the issuance of stickers. Proof of property ownership is required (i.e. deed or tax bill). New residents to the community should bring settlement papers. Tenants must have a current lease. Other documentation may be required. Stop by the Community Hall on Monday nights for complete information.

All LTPOA boat slip holders are reminded that a current LTPOA sticker must be visible on all boats and the sticker number must be given to Section Dock Masters for slip leases.

Please remember: Current stickers must be displayed on all vehicles, boats and trailers that are parked on LTPOA property or that use boat slips and boat ramps. Stickers must show either 08, 09, or 10 to be valid.

**RAMPS:** New keys are required for the Boat Ramps. Just a reminder that the key fee has increased to \$40.00.

**CURRENT** boat registrations are required for the issuance of new keys. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!** Please remember to bring back old boat ramp keys to avoid additional charges.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

George Carlin

**HAPPY EASTER!**



**Community Hall Office:**

**410-956-4808**

**Boat Slip Rentals/Dock Masters:**

Section 1—Joe O’Neil	410-956-2687
Section 2—Shaun Hamill	202-345-5735
Section 3—Norm Pennington	410-956-6763
Section 4—Tony Zavosky	410-956-8492
Section 5—Bob Nethen	410-956-0978

**LTPOA Officers:**

John Rhoads, President	410-798-5523
Tom Walsh, Vice President	410-798-4260
Sarah Trees, Treasurer	410-956-9038
Steve Hult, Secretary	410-956-3392

**Section Presidents:**

Joe O’Neil, Section 1	410-956-2687
David Zollinhofer, Section 2	443-321-3736
Don Creveling, Section 3	410-956-0123
Tony Zavosky, Section 4	410-956-8492
Dave Fish, Section 5	410-956-6484

**Section Meeting Times:**

Section 1—2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
Section 2—3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
Section 3—2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
Section 4—Last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
Section 5—3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

All meetings are at the Community Hall unless otherwise announced.

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST RESULTS

By Pam Obee Sargent

We would like to thank all of our neighbors for participating in the Holiday Lights Contest. Our neighborhood was very bright this holiday season. The judges had a very difficult time because of all of the houses that participated this year.

There were winners in six categories: Best of London Towne, Most Traditional, Most Unique, Most Lights, Good Neighbor Award and Best Holiday Decorations for a Community Business. The first prize winners in each of the categories received monetary awards.

The Best of London Towne was won by The Wallaces at 318 Highland. Runners up in this category were 1642 Chesapeake and 501 Highland. The Most Traditional first place winner was 1802 Laurel Rd – Virginia Clark and Barry. The runners up in this category were 1634 Bay Ridge, 1707 Longwood, 1341 Shore Dr, 409 Fairmont and 713 Londontowne.

The Most Unique first place winner was 1335 Shore Dr – The Thomas Point Lighthouse gazebo. The runners up in this category were 324 Highland, 1616 Oriole, 1755 Shore Dr and 1535 Mayfield. The Most Lights first place winner was 529 Highland – The Paziienza Family – Twelve year old Michael was responsible for their decorations. Each evening he came home and worked on his holiday display. His mom indicated that he was already planning his display for 2008. The runners up in the Most Lights category were 1413 Shore Dr, 1609 Fairhill, 811 Shore Dr and 1533 Mayfield.

The Good Neighbor Award first place winners were 1703 (Lorrie and Keith O'Brien) and 1705 Fairhill. The neighbors even had lights connecting their houses together. The O'Briens were very excited about winning the award with their neighbors. Keith told me that next year's display would even be better so watch out! The runners up for the Good Neighbor Award were 314, 317 and 318 Highland.

The final category was for the Best Holiday Decorations for a Community Business. The first place winner again this year was Sandra Lofgren-Sargent & Associates. The runners

up in this category were Annapolis Guitar and Trick Trucks. We did note that there were several boats that were decorated in the holiday spirit. Beach 1 had the Sassy Lassy decked out for the holiday and Beach 5 had the Maryland Heritage. We're thinking of having a category for boats next year.

The Holiday Lights Committee members would like to thank Tiffany and Tabitha Ernst for their help in distributing the prizes to our award winners. They help out each year with their mother. Our thanks to all of our neighbors who made the holidays brighter with their participation in the Holiday Lights Contest.

## GRAY-MOTT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

By Pam Obee Sargent

It's that time of year again. High school seniors are getting ready to graduate and head to institutions of higher learning.

LTPOA wants to help graduating seniors make dreams come true. The scholarship awards will consist of two (2) **\$1000.00 non-renewable** grants for two graduating students, who will continue their education at either a four year college or university, two year junior or community college, or at a trade, technical, or business school.

A copy of the scholarship application can be found in this newsletter as well as on our website. All completed scholarships are due by April 15, 2008. If you have questions or need any additional information, contact Pam Sargent at [pam.obee@comcast.net](mailto:pam.obee@comcast.net).

We still have some cookbooks available for purchase. If you have any ideas for fund raising events, please contact me at 410-956-7679 or email me at [pam.obee@comcast.net](mailto:pam.obee@comcast.net).

## SECTION FOUR NEWS

Well folks, another summer will soon be upon us. Section 4 is in good shape heading into the new season. All of the major repairs will have been completed before the boating season begins, and we should have most of the improvements done also. For those of you who did not attend the October meeting, we have agreed to do some preventive maintenance this year. In early spring, hopefully before the slips are filled at both Bentley and Fullerton, we are going to replace any planks that are rotten or warped; then apply a waterproofing agent. We are going to cap the ends of the pilings to prevent water from seeping in and causing the wood to rot. We are also going to mount two fire extinguishers and two life rings on each pier.

The pier at Bentley needs to be lengthened on the shore end to get the end of the pier back from the high-tide mark. A definite plan will be hammered out at the April meeting.

The Park and Planning Committee has assured me that everything is ready for the work to begin on the fishing and crabbing pier at Bentley, as well as the swim platform. I will continue to monitor this at the Board level, and expect that it will be operational for the swimming season.

Julie Carroll has stepped down from her position on the Board of Directors, and as the Section 4 elected representative to the Park and Planning Commission. She had to do this because her new business venture has taken off to such an extent that she no longer has the time to give proper attention to Board. On behalf of the entire Section, I congratulate Julie on her success, and offer my heartfelt appreciation for the time and effort she volunteered to the Section and entire community. We will still be seeing her at the meetings, I hope.

Julie's position on the Park and Planning Committee will be filled at the June election, in

accordance with the Section Standing Rules and the Association By-Laws. In the interim, I have appointed Stephen Hult to assume that duty. Remember, we meet the last Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Clubhouse.

See you there!

Tony Zavosky, Section President

## ADS

# GRAY-MOTT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) All applicants must be a current high school senior: eligible to graduate in the current school calendar year and must meet eligibility requirements for the post-secondary school of his/her choice.
- 2) All applications must be fully completed and be accompanied by the following attachments:
  - a) a certified copy of complete academic record and standardized test scores.
  - b) two (2) separate references from applicant's choice of the following:
    - ~teacher
    - ~school administrator
    - ~school counselor
    - ~employer
    - ~youth organization leader (coach, instructor, etc.)
    - ~neighbor, co-worker, clergy, etc.
  - c) verification of voluntary participation in community project(s)
- 3) All applications must be signed by both the applicant and his/her parent or guardian.
- 4) Applications and supporting documents must be mailed to:

LTPOA  
P.O. Box 356  
Edgewater, Maryland  
21037  
Attn: Scholarship Committee
- 5) Application Deadline: Must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2008.

# THE GRAY-MOTT SCHOLARSHIP

The **London Towne Property Owners' Association** has established educational scholarships to assist current school year high school graduates in continuing their education at an accredited post-secondary institution of their choice.

This scholarship was instituted in 1989, in recognition of the invaluable contributions made by **Mr. Charles Gray and Mr. Ralph Mott** to the community of London Towne. As a reminder of their contributions and in their memory, we dedicate those scholarships awarded to the young people of our community who choose to follow in the path of these two men through **volunteer community service**.

The scholarship awards will consist of two (2) **\$1,000.00 non-renewable** grants for two graduating students who will continue their education at either a four-year college or university, two year junior or community college, or at a technical, trade, or business school.

The following eligibility requirements will govern:

Son or daughter of a resident of London Towne

Demonstrated community involvement

Satisfactory high school academic achievement (minimum of 2.0 GPA)

Character recommendation and work related references

LTPOA is on the Internet.

Go to [www.ltpoa.info](http://www.ltpoa.info)

Stay informed on the latest news and events.



A **first grade** school teacher had 26 students in her class. She presented each child in her classroom with the first half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. Some of the responses:

Don't change horses.....until they stop running.

It's always darkest before.....Daylight Savings Time.

Don't bite the hand.....that looks dirty.

A miss is as good as a .....Mr.

An idle mind is.....the best way to relax.

A penny saved is.....not much.