

LTPOA Erosion Committee Annual Report and Shoreline Inspection January 31, 2009

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 fourth year in a row we have received a major matching grant to assist in our living shoreline restoration efforts. The most recent grant of \$75,000 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, will be used to help with the costs of our Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Section 2 project discussed below.

Fiscal Year 2008 Project. In June 2008 we completed the restoration of 500 linear feet of severely eroding shoreline on the eastern shore of Almshouse Creek. The project was constructed using segmented stone sills, stone groins and 1,200 cubic yards of sand to create a living shoreline with approximately 10,000 square feet of new marshland. The entire area was planted with Spartina grasses, primarily by community volunteers. We received a \$50,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as part of the NOAA-CBT-Campbell-NFWF Living Shoreline Grant Program to help pay for the \$110,000 cost of this project. This was supplemented by an additional \$1,000 grant from Unity Gardens to purchase other native shoreline plants to augment the Spartina grasses.

Fiscal Year 2009 Project. Our project for Fiscal Year 2009, which began on July 1, 2008 is 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. 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 in early February 2009 with the final planting of shoreline grasses and native plants completed in May. Where possible, the planting will be done by community volunteers.

Fiscal Year 2010 Project We recently received a \$75,000 grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust as part of the NOAA-CBT-Campbell-NFWF Living Shoreline Grant Program. The total cost of the project will be approximately \$120,000. The project, on Glebe Bay between Glenarm and Keymar in Section 2, will restore and protect approximately 631 linear feet of severely eroding shoreline by creating a new living shoreline and establishing approximately 10,250 square feet of new marshland planted with native plants, primarily Spartina grasses. It will consist of constructing stone sills and sand containment structures and placing and grading sand to create a new living shoreline that will be planted by community volunteers. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2009.

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 January 31, 2009. The erosion problems were identified throughout the community and are discussed below. Participants in this year's inspection were:

Stephen Hult — LTPOA Section 4, Committee Chair
Tom Walsh— V.P. LTPOA, ex officio committee member
Jana Davis—London Towne Resident, Associate Director, CBT
Wes Matheu— London Towne Resident, President, Shoreline Design

Section 1

The shoreline east of "Kerrigan's Pier" on the 2000 block of Shore Drive has a severe erosion problem. The worst area is the section with high banks closest to the pier. There are two options to address this problem. The first option is to correct only the most severely eroding area by constructing a living shoreline at an estimated cost of approximately \$20,000. This would be possible using only community funds. The second option is to construct a living shoreline all the way to Gray's Point. That would cost approximately \$1000.000 and would only be feasible if we were able to obtain a matching grant.

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.

Our Fiscal Year 2006 project which restored 400 feet of shoreline near Fairmont and Shore Drive is now stable with well-established shoreline vegetation. The Section is doing a good job of maintaining the project area and preventing the reestablishment of invasive phragmites. 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.

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.

Section 2

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

The shoreline from Delmar Drive to Keymar Road is severely eroding this will be corrected by our Fiscal Year 2010 project discussed above.

Community property on the Delmar peninsula is generally in good condition with little evidence of severe erosion. However one issue needs to be addressed. The wall immediately to the right of the swimming area has collapsed allowing the bank there to erode. This should be addressed by removing the remnants of the wall, re-grading and then replanting the area. Also, we were disappointed with the extremely poor job the contractor did in replacing the stone groin after beach replenishment.

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.

The swimming beach immediately adjacent to the project area has badly deteriorated. We will be working with the Park and Planning Committee Section to address this issue.

Section 4

Shore Drive between Oldtown and Midland presents two separate issues. Fortunately, the living shoreline project and newly created marsh at the base of the hill in this area are working well, so the shore itself is not eroding. The two problems that need to be addressed are:

- 1) Sections of the hillside near the swimming area are in danger of collapsing. We are concerned that if that section of hillside fails completely, it could result in the collapse and loss of a section of Shore Drive. The Executive Committee has been corresponding with Anne Arundel County which we maintain is legally responsible for addressing the problem.
- 2) The high bank at the point is experiencing severe erosion caused by storm water runoff from the top and an unofficial path down the hill that is frequently used by community members. We propose to address this problem with the following measures with an estimated cost of approximately \$25,000.
 - a) Establishing a new pathway with wooden stairs in a more appropriate location.
 - b) Grading the top of the hill to redirect the storm water flow.
 - c) Creating a new stone lined storm water drainage ditch in an appropriate location 卍 possibly under the wooden stairway.

d) Limited terracing and replacement of lost soil to prevent the loss of mature trees on the hillside.

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

In June 2008 we completed the restoration of 500 linear feet of severely eroding shoreline on the eastern shore of Almshouse Creek. The project was constructed using segmented stone sills, stone groins and 1,200 cubic yards of sand to create a living shoreline with approximately 10,000 square feet of new marshland. The entire area was planted with Spartina grasses, Much of it community volunteers. We received a \$50,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as part of the NOAA-CBT-Campbell-NFWF Living Shoreline Grant Program to help pay for the \$110,000 cost of this project. This was supplemented by an additional \$1,000 grant from Unity Gardens to purchase other native shoreline plants to augment the Spartina grasses.

We note that the grass is being cut too close to the shoreline along the old restoration project near Webster Ave. and Shore Drive. This has resulted in an inadequate shoreline buffer. The committee will boulders to delineate the shoreline buffer where no mowing is permitted.

Other observations

There are many areas where the community shoreline is being overgrown with invasive Phragmites. The committee will continue to obtain State herbicide permits so that this problem can be addressed on an ongoing basis.

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 stevhult@comcast.net.

Stephen Hult
Chair LTPOA Erosion Committee