

To: Our Conservation Donors  
From: TLYCC Property Use and Planning Committee (PUP)  
Subject: Update on Shoreline Conservation at TLYCC  
Date: May 18, 2010

As you know, last year the Property Use and Planning Committee (PUP) committed to educate members about the yacht club point and what we could do to help stabilize the shoreline. We talked with local conservation experts and a plan was drawn up for a demonstration project on site C--around the birch trees on the north shore. The purpose of the project was to try to get more plants growing around the north shore to enable them to develop a stronger root base. We also agreed to install a 'natural soft barrier' for the storms that push around the gravel on the north shore.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to raise \$2600 for the Conservation Fund. We used a portion of these funds to install the Demonstration Project on Site C. The design was recommended by the Antrim County Soil Erosion and Control Officer, Heidi Shaffer. The project came through the mild winter well, but the spring storms dismantled the site. We know now that the gravel at the point in these areas is without enough stability to support the islands of plantings. You'll be able to see this when you are at Torch.

Many, many thanks to committee members Peg Comfort, Alan Hickman, and Terry Malone for meeting Jennifer Gelb, a consultant from Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and Heidi Shaffer, Antrim Conservation District, to evaluate the Demonstration Project. We agreed that it was worth the try, but that the gravel proved too unstable in this area for an 'inexpensive' fix. It would take a project costing around \$10,000 just to protect that one 20 foot area! There would be the need for many boulders of different sizes, a very steady slope up, etc. A project of this magnitude might require engineered drawings and would definitely require an MDNRE permit.

Therefore, we will not try any further demonstration projects along the north shore. Thanks to Peg Comfort, Alan and Cindy Hickman, and Terry Malone for moving the plant material, which have been replanted

in other places around the point. We will be able to recoup some of our investment in the coir bundles. We learned a lot about what designs will and won't work.

On a more good news note, we ordered dune grass last fall to be planted this spring. Dune grasses are only 10-12 inches high, but send down roots as deep as four feet. You may have seen them at the NMC Great Lakes Campus in Traverse City. We were able to purchase grasses through Antrim County Conservation District. Big thanks to the volunteers who planted clumps of these at the outer edge of the yard around the point. These will not be mowed, and they do not obstruct view. Hopefully over time, these grasses may help stabilize some of that gravelly edge of our yard.

We will continue to educate ourselves and keep you updated about other possibilities for conservation at the point. We know that good root systems in trees and plants really help. We've also been told that any efforts we can make to protect existing tree roots and plants will contribute to shoreline. Thank you again for your commitment to TLYCC and to our wonderful life on the point.

Sallie Foley and PUP committee