



# The Killick

Newsletter of the Torbay Heritage Committee



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## The Torbay Heritage Committee: Our History

The Torbay Heritage Committee began in 1975, and we are now in our 26<sup>th</sup> year of active organization. At first, we were affiliated with the public library.

Our first President was the late Dr. Jim Tag, and the Vice-president was John Ryan. Original founding members included Claire Tapper, Gerald Manning, Genie Tapper, Marie Evans, John Molloy, Frank Ryan, Judy Watts and Don Cole.

According to the late Don Cole, "The group was formed as a heritage and library board but eventually the heritage side branched out."

One of the original mandates of our committee was to produce and maintain "a display of historical artifacts and to preserve and protect the heritage of Torbay," said Mr. Cole.

Our committee had a small showcase in the town hall, which was in effect the precursor of the Torbay Museum.

The Museum's Curator, Jerri Pellegrinetti, first began volunteering with the Heritage Committee in the fall of 1987.

The Heritage Committee's constitution was signed on March 31, 1988, and in the summer of 1988, we oversaw the opening of the Torbay Museum in the town hall. When the museum opened, Jerri was hired to run the day-to-day activities in the museum.

Past presidents include Jim Tag, Barb Wheeler, Paul Boylan, Bob Codner and Danny Vickers. Our president is currently Lara Maynard.



Lara Maynard, Torbay Heritage Committee Chair and Jerri Pellegrinetti, Torbay Museum Curator at the 2000 Avalon Region Heritage Fair. The Torbay Heritage Committee's travelling exhibit made its debut at the 2000 Avalon Region Heritage Fair in St. John's.

## Torbay Parish Records Project

Several years ago Jerri Pellegrinetti, Curator of the Torbay Museum, contacted Holy Trinity and St. Nicholas parishes of Torbay to borrow the existing pre-1930 registers of baptisms, marriages and burials. She then set to work painstakingly transcribing the records, deciphering the ornate penmanship of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and putting them into order by surname.



Colette works at the computer.

Jerri has finally finished her transcribing task. This summer, volunteers recruited by the Torbay Heritage Committee and student worker Colette Ryan set to work entering the records into a computer database. When the project is completed the records will be made available to researchers at the museum for a fee.

# Who is the Heritage Committee?

## *Current Torbay Heritage Committee Members*

**President:** Lara Maynard

**Vice President/Secretary:** Jeff Green

**Treasurer:** Cathy Boylan

**Members at Large:** Jim Eustace, Robert Maher, Linda LeLand, Tish O'Brien, Leo Ryan, Barb Wheeler, Jerri Pellegrinetti (Museum Curator), Bob Codner (Council Representative).



## Aims, Mandate & Constitution

### *of the Torbay Heritage Committee*

1. a.) To provide the Town Council of Torbay with recommendations on all matters pertaining to restoring, preserving and implementing projects for the furtherment of Torbay Heritage.

b.) To solicit from Torbay residents and from ex-residents advice, recommendations and artifacts for record-

ing and visual display.

c.) To provide documented information of Torbay's history to interested persons or groups through means of briefs, speeches, slides or other means.

d.) To insure that names of early settlers or of those who contributed to the Town's well being are remem-

bered in street or landmarks e.g. Pulpit Rock, Frenchman's Ridge, Piper Stock Hill, etc.

2. And all other efforts necessary to insure that past history and contemporary history is documented and maintained for posterity.

*Our constitution was signed on March 31, 1988.*



In November 1997, The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2001 as International Year of Volunteers. IYV 2001 is a time to celebrate, promote and recognize volunteers, a time to say "I Volunteer!"

## Gully Project

In recent months the Torbay Trails and Environment Committee has been working towards the possible development of the Gully area (roughly between Irving and PJs) as a site for natural interpretation. The Torbay Heritage Committee would like to help the T&E Committee by gathering some information on the history of

that area. If you have memories of living and working (farming, etc.) or playing (skating, etc.) in the area that you would like to share, please contact us. You can email [torbayheritage@nfmil.net](mailto:torbayheritage@nfmil.net) or call Jerri at the museum weekdays at 437-6571. Or write Chair, Torbay Heritage Committee, PO Box 1160, Torbay NF, A1K 1K4.

## Thank You's

The Torbay Heritage Committee gratefully acknowledges a donation granted to us on behalf of the late Jacob Bradbury of Torbay.

The following businesses in our town have supported the committee by carrying the book *Solomon Gosse's Birthday*: District Drugs, Coady's Eatery, Yetman's Foodland, Torbay Family Hair Care, Torbay Unisex Hairstyling, and

Mrs. Liddy's. Thank you.

Many thanks to the volunteers who have worked on our Parish Records Database Project.

Thank you to our summer student, Andrew Dickson, who designed our webpage, newsletter and brochure.

Finally, thank you to Andrea Bassan, for designing our parish records database.

# The Museum Pages

## Feature Artifact

### *Grabbers - ice tongs*

In the days before refrigeration (not so long ago!) people relied on different means for keeping food fresh. It could be dried, pickled or salted, as in the salt beef or salt fish representative of Newfoundland cuisine. Vegetables were kept cool in root cellars.

During winter months when ponds were frozen some people harvested ice for their own use or to sell. The tools of this trade included ice saws and large metal ice tongs for gripping the huge

blocks of cut ice. Sometimes a horse was used to pull a blade across the ice, scoring it for easier removal.

The blocks of ice harvested could be kept in icehouses, usually pondside, stored in sawdust or peat moss. In homes the ice could be used in iceboxes—pre-elec-



tric fridges. A large galvanized wash tub was used only for ice. Fish, milk, butter, cheese and meat were laid on top to keep it cold, and netting was put over it to keep flies away.

These ice tongs (also known as “grabbers”) are in our collection at the Torbay Museum.

## Recently Aquired Artifacts *in the Torbay Museum*

- Gasoline can, donated by Glen White, formerly of Torbay now living in Ontario.
- Assorted books, donated by H. Manning.
- 17 Assorted laminated photos, donated by Gladis Field.
- Rifle, circa 1940s, donated by James Robson of St. John's.
- Oven paddle, used to remove bread or pizza from oven, donated by



Model boat in the Museum's fishing area.

Harvey Best of Torbay.

- 6 radio tubes, donated by Tish O'Brien of Torbay.
- 4 wooden shoe lasts, donated by Tish O'Brien of Torbay.
- Dinner platter, donated by Gerry Hayes of Torbay.
- Medal of the Holy Family, donated by Gerry Hayes of Torbay.
- 6 photos of Second World War Royal Navy, donated by J. Martin of Torbay.
- A pair of rubber heels for shoes and a box, donated by Jim Walsh of St. John's.
- 8 assorted soda pop bottles, including 7-Up, Coke and Keep Kool, donated by Gerry Hayes of Torbay.
- 1 old penny, donated by Leslie Power of Torbay.
- A pair of nylon stockings, donated



Portraits on the Musuem's wall.

by Jerri Pellegrinetti of Torbay in memory of Josephine (Kerry) Pearce—grandmother.

- 9 piece G.E. Flash bulbs, donated by Jerri Pellegrinetti of Torbay.
- Railway Pry Bar, donated by Tom Wadland of Torbay.

## Artifacts Needed *by the Torbay Museum*

Bevel glass and frames  
Dry cell battery for radio  
Infant feeding bottles and nipples  
Parlour lamps  
Old family photos

# How to Preserve Your Family Photographs

## *What Causes Photographs to Deteriorate?*

By Ann Devlin-Fisher

**High temperature and humidity.** Temperatures above 70F and humidity above 60% for long periods should be avoided. Do not store your photographs in an attic as they will be exposed to fluctuating temperature changes, or in basements where they will be exposed to dampness.

**Pollutants in the atmosphere.** Paint and varnish fumes are harmful. If you paint a room with oil based paint remove your photographs for at least a month. Cleaning agents that use chlorine or ammonia will harm your photographs so don't store near these products. Some other pollutants include sulphur compounds, tobacco smoke, auto exhaust, dust and salt sea air.

**Residual chemicals.** You should always have your film processed by a reputable professional. Someone inexperienced might leave damaging chemicals on your photographs. These chemicals can cause black and white photographs to turn yellowish brown and eventually fade the image. They will also increase the effect of heat and humidity.

**Direct physical contact with harmful materials.** Do not touch the front of the photograph and don't use ink to write on

the back. Try not to bend, cut or scratch your photographs. Also do not use glue or tape and paper clips or staples.

**Exposure to light.** You should avoid direct exposure by sunlight or fluorescent light as they will both damage an image on a photograph. More so on colour photographs than black and white.

**Fungi and Insects.** The emulsion layer of a photograph is made up of organic matter and the gelatin it contains when exposed to heat and humidity can cause mold and fungi to grow on it. This can also attract harmful insects that can destroy your photographs.

**Physical damage.** To avoid damage from fire, flood or any other natural disaster you could store your photographs in an enamelled steel file cabinet or put them in a safe deposit box. It is also a good idea to have copies made of your photographs



Saining capelin at Torbay beach. Circa 1930s.

and give them to relatives for safe keeping.

**Nitrate based film.** This film was used in the early 1900s. It is unstable and flammable. As it is decomposing it gives off a gas and can become powdery or gel-like. It can damage other photos or negatives stored near it. If at all possible you should have photographs on nitrate based film copied to safer film. Ann did a simple test to check for nitrate based negatives. She cut a very thin strip from the film and put a match to it in an ashtray. If it is nitrate based it will catch fire and burn. But if it is a safe negative it will shrivel up and not catch fire.

## *Some Dos And Don'ts To Help You Preserve Your Photographs*

**Do** use special photographic paper, envelopes and mounting boards to store and mount your pictures. The paper products should be acid-free.

**Don't** use regular paper envelopes or construction paper to store or mount your pictures.

**Do** use archival linen tape, filmoplast tape, polyvinyl acetate gelatin adhesive, mounting boards with overlay sheets, or dry mounting tissue.

**Don't** use scotch tape, rubber cement, glue, paste, paper clips or staples to secure your photographs to mounting materials.

**Do** store your photographs in acid-free Hollengen Boxes, stainless steel or enamel-



A plane loses a wheel landing at Torbay Airport.

coated steel cabinets and frames and porcelain frames. Use acid-free matting between your print and the glass to provide ventilation and to keep the print from sticking to the glass.

**Don't** store photographs in contact with

ordinary cardboard, styrofoam or wood, especially if varnished.

**Do** store prints in the coolest, driest area possible with a fairly constant temperature.

**Don't** store prints in attics or basements. Temperature changes in these areas daily and can cause damage to prints.

**Do** use special envelopes, bags and sheets made of polyester, polyethylene, acrylic plastics or cellulose acetate.

**Don't** use polyvinyl-chloride plastics (PVCs). These plastics are often found in ordinary photograph albums.

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