



THIS ISSUE SPONSORED BY A MEMBER OF THE PIPPY PARK PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

## All North American Crowberry variants (*Empetrum* spp.) call St. John's home.



**Black Crowberry, *Empetrum nigrum* var. *hermaphroditum*** Story on Page 2.  
Photo: John Maunder

## Inside





## The Crowberries of St. John's

By: John Maunder

Most people in Newfoundland and Labrador are quite familiar with the Black Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*). It is a very common heathland shrub, found especially on slopes and headlands facing the sea. It can be recognized by its numerous, very short, needle-like leaves; small, rather tasteless black berries; and a trailing, carpet-forming habit.

At present, only four species of crowberry are recognized for the entire world. Red Crowberry



(*Empetrum rubrum*) occurs only in the Southern Hemisphere. Black Crowberry, Pink Crowberry (*Empetrum eamesii*), and Purple Crowberry (*Empetrum atropurpureum*) occur only in

the Northern Hemisphere. The Black Crowberry has two, easily separable, named variants in North America - variety *nigrum* [male and female flowers on different plants], and variety *hermaphroditum*

[male and female flowers on the same plants].

St. John's, Newfoundland is remarkable for having ALL of the named North American variants present within a single line-of-sight. The Black (variety *nigrum*), Pink and Purple Crowberries grow on the Southside Hills above Shea Heights, while the Black (varieties *nigrum* AND *hermaphroditum*) and Purple Crowberries grow on Nagles Hill, just west of the golf course, in Pippy Park! 

## Farewell to Wilf Nicholls

By: Mandy Cook

2 Dr. Wilf Nicholls of Memorial University's Botanical Garden has moved from his role as director to become director of the Botanical Garden of the University of Georgia in Athens.

A native of London, England, Dr. Nicholls came to Memorial via the botanical garden of the University of British Columbia in 1997. Today, he says the opportunity in the United States presented itself at a good time in his life and in the life of the garden.

"As director of a Botanical Garden, no doubt we always have headhunters



sniffing around," he laughs during an interview. "Usually I say 'forget it, I'm delighted where I am,' but I have four to five years left before I retire, I have a couple of good friends down there and I think it's time for some new blood here."

Asked what he will remember as highlights of his career at Memorial, Dr. Nicholls says one of his favourite things was to hear a visitor say, 'You know, I've never been here before,' or to host residents from seniors' homes in the

garden's tea room. He also said he is proud of the garden staff's work towards building awareness around the intrinsic importance of maintaining a garden within the university.

Singling out garden staff, the garden's board of directors and particularly the many lifelong volunteers – the Friends of the Garden – Dr. Nicholls says there are many unsung heroes who have dedicated hours of assistance and advocacy to help the garden flourish. It is this combined passion for flora and fauna in its natural form that Dr. Nicholls says he will remember 

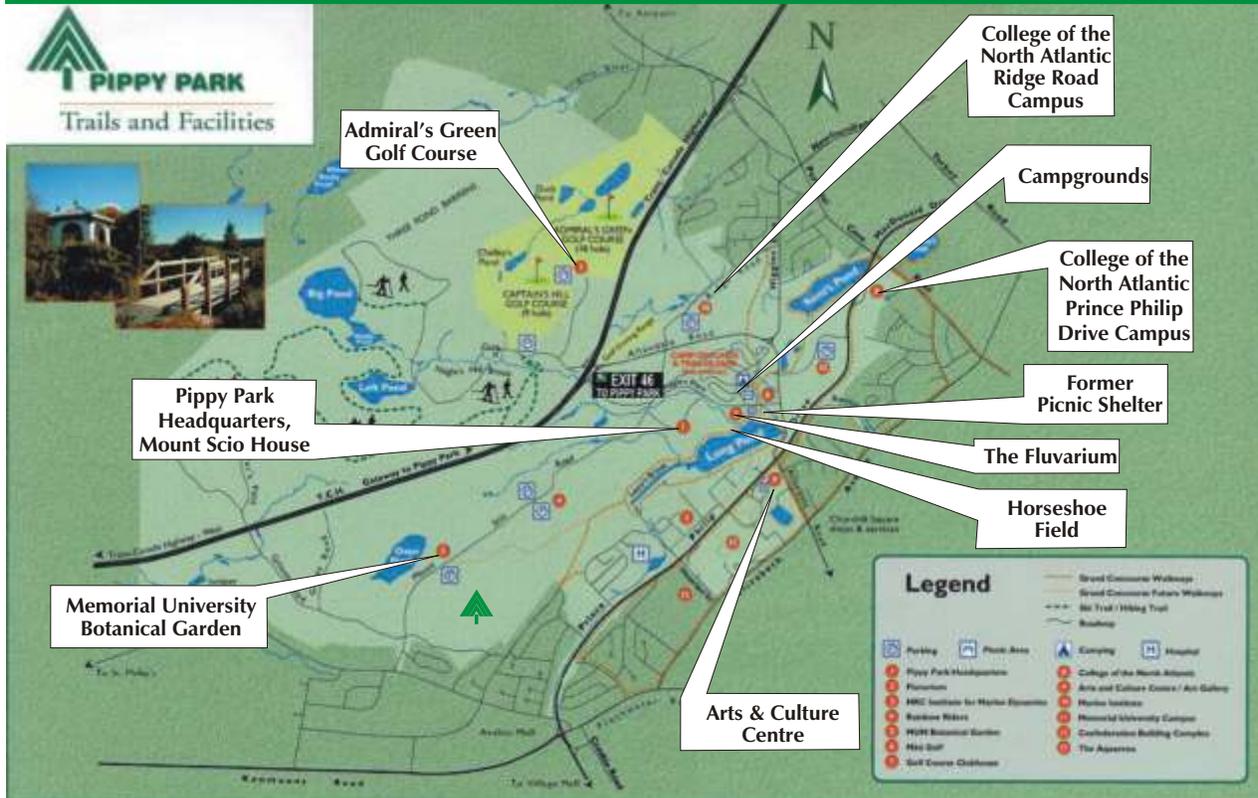
Reprinted from the April 29, 2010 [MUN The Gazette](#).

## Arson Destroys Picnic Shelter



By Mike Manning

Shortly after Igor struck the park, the large picnic shelter by the play equipment at the Sliding Hill was burned to the ground. It was built by the Grand Concourse Authority in their early years of operation and had provided shelter for family and group barbecues for many years. It is believed to have been burned deliberately because it was so thoroughly incinerated. It is hoped it will be rebuilt.



**By: Sharon Jeans**

The Annual Rennie's River Duck Race is a major fundraising event for the Quidi Vidi / Rennie's River Development Foundation. Funds from this event help to support the environmental initiatives of the Quidi Vidi / Rennie's River Development Foundation.

The Duck Race has been a tradition since 1988, attracting large crowds to the banks of Rennie's River, to watch up to 4,000 yellow rubber ducks make their way down the river to the finish line. The first ducks across the finish line win prizes for their spon

sor. Ducks can be sponsored for only \$10.00 and sponsorship includes free coupons from participating partners.

In 2010, the Grand Prize was a Trip for Two to New York City and was won by Eileen Young. The Second Prize was a photographic landscape art print of Newfoundland by Andrew Collins which was claimed by E. Delaney. The third prize was a selection of Restaurant Gift Certificates won by Adam Drover.

In 2011, the RBC Rennie's River Duck is scheduled for Sunday, September 25th!



**By: Mike Manning**

The Pippy Park Commission has embarked on an inventory of the larger, more important trees in the Park. A recent biology graduate will carry out the inventory which will include photographs and GPS locations. In the grounds of buildings now demolished as well as in former private gardens and public open spaces there are numerous trees that deserve to be preserved.

Planting of non-native trees on Memorial University Campus and the grounds of the other institutional buildings in the

park has been continuing for almost 50 years now. Some of those trees are nearing maturity. They deserve to be recognized if only for their tenacity in surviving in locations where they are exposed to almost constant buffeting by high winds, including the fury of hurricane Igor! Landscape Architects and Contractors may be able to learn from these examples when faced with choosing species for exposed windy sites!

The Commission will now have a working list of these trees. No doubt additional trees will be added to the list as time goes on.

Park Info Online:  
[www.pippypark.com](http://www.pippypark.com)





## Park Damaged by Hurricane Igor



Flooded Trails  
Horseshoe Field



Toppled Trees,  
Arts and Culture Centre

By Mike Manning

The high winds and torrential rains that we experienced on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> did not spare Pippy Park although the damage suffered was not nearly as bad as many other parts of the province, despite winds of 137 km/hr and 120mm of rain. Sadly, we did lose some nice trees.

An Elm tree at the Arts & Culture Centre that had been moved out of the way when ACC construction started in 1966, and replanted just outside the Public Library in 1967, is now

gone! Also lost nearby was a charming shrub-like Amur Maple, and possibly the only Amur Maackia in the province was blown over.

Many Austrian Pines were blown over at the University Campus and elsewhere. Their heavy needle-laden branches and small root systems, combined with waterlogged ground, probably caused their demise. Some of the strongest wind gusts came from the North-west, a direction to which these trees are not usually exposed and this

contributed to their downfall. Numerous Sycamore Maples in the park and all over St. John's had major branches broken off or were toppled completely. Sycamore Maples were particularly vulnerable because of their dense foliage and large leaves, especially this year, there having been only minimal damage from the span worm!

In the woods it will probably be months, if not years before we discover all the downed trees. Along the Grand Concourse walks there numerous windfalls

blocking access and wash-outs were severe in some areas.

Near the Fluvarium the reservoir had become totally filled with gravel. Nagles Hill Brook overtopped its banks and flowed across "Horseshoe Field" making the Long Pond walk impassable!

There were also many windfalls across the Ski Trails on the Three Pond Barrens and in the campgrounds, but no major damage to buildings or structures occurred. 

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## EVENTS CALENDAR



### College of the North Atlantic College Day

College of the North Atlantic will be hosting College Day on Thursday November 4, 2010 from 10:00 am -3:00 pm. The general public is welcome to tour the campuses at Prince Philip Drive, Ridge Road and Seal Cove. Find out more about your public College through; campus tours, lab demonstrations, display of College programs and services.

If you are coordinating a group or organization and would like to book a tour please contact Neil Moores Student Development Officer [neil.moores@cna.nl.ca](mailto:neil.moores@cna.nl.ca) or call 758 7291.

### Friends of the Garden

#### Annual General Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 25 at 7:30 pm, at the Botanical Garden Field Centre, Mount Scio Road. Nominations accepted from the floor at the meeting, but the nominations committee (Bodil Larsen 437-6173 or [blarsen@mun.ca](mailto:blarsen@mun.ca)) would like to hear from anyone willing to serve on the executive.

Following the AGM, a presentation will be made by Todd Boland, MUNBG's Research Horticulturist, on The Flora and Fauna of South Africa.

More Information is available at:

[www.mun.ca/botgarden/fog/Twinflower\\_Autumn\\_2010.pdf](http://www.mun.ca/botgarden/fog/Twinflower_Autumn_2010.pdf)

### Friends of Pippy Park Annual General Meeting

The Friends of Pippy Park will hold their Annual General Meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm in the Pippy Park Headquarters, Mount Scio House, 5 Mount Scio Road. Refreshments will be served following the meeting. More information is available from Mike Manning on 738-3611 or via e-mail at: [friends@pippypark.com](mailto:friends@pippypark.com)

### MUN Botanical Garden Fall Hours

Effective October 1, the Garden switched to fall operating hours. The Garden is open daily, including weekends 10 am-4 pm until November 30. The Garden is closed, however, November 11 for observance of Remembrance Day.

### MUN Botanical Garden Gift Shop Customer Appreciation Days

Saturday, Nov. 27, 10 am-4 pm

Sunday, Nov. 28, 10 am-4 pm

15% discount on most items (excludes books and FOG dried flowers)