



The "warm" waters of the Long Pond wetland keep the ice from forming and the snow from piling up during the winter months. Photo by Mike Manning.

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Park Suffers Damage in Fall Rainstorm



When the sun came out the following morning, the damage caused by the 67 mm downpour the night before was clearly seen in front of the Country Laundry (left). The steep Grand Concourse Trail up over Mount Scio (Long Pond to Oxen Pond) fared better with less damage. (right). Both photos by Mike Manning.

By Mike Manning

You will no doubt remember that Saturday night at the end of November when we had that exceptional cloudburst; 67mm of rain in 3 hours! Well it caused an incredible amount of damage to the lower reaches of Nagles

Hill Brook in Pippy Park.

The culvert and bank in front of the Country Laundry Building (the Old Park Headquarters) on Nagles Place were almost completely washed out.

The access to the former Morgan Property on Blaketown Place was completely washed away and

the reservoir at the Fluvarium was completely filled with gravel!

However a great deal of credit must go to the designers of the Grand Concourse walk that goes up the escarpment from the back of the Shamrock Farm (Elaine Dobbins Centre for Autism) some 103 metres

almost straight up, to Mount Scio Road. (Long Pond to Oxen Pond Walk).

The damage there was relatively minor because of the well placed culverts and the generous ditches protected from washouts by being lined with large sized boulders.



Frank Zahn, Carver and Athlete, Honoured by Memorial University



In 1989 Frank started his project to do wood carvings of all the provincial and municipal coats of

arms starting with the St. John's coat of arms. They can be seen high on the walls in the main lobby at Queen Elizabeth II Library at Memorial University.

Although Frank worked for University Works for 23 years, he acquired his high degree of skill in wood carving in Germany, his country of birth. His carvings can also be seen at the Anglican Cathed-

ral in St. John's and at the Scout Campsite in Central Newfoundland.

The MUN Shooting Range, which he had managed from 1972 until his retirement in 1990, has just been re-named in his honour. He was a celebrated athlete and coach in this sport.

Frank and his wife Marion lived in Pippy Park for many years at what was

the former Hodder property on Nagles Place. They will be long remembered by many of the Park employees of the time, for hosting gatherings around Christmastime and offering the best chocolate cake in Canada!

Frank died in 2002 but Mrs. Zahn was present at the ceremony at the rifle range in mid-December.





Winter Activity Centre: Open Now!



Nordic Skiing along the closed roads of the Campgrounds in Pippy Park. Ski rentals are available from North Bank Lodge on the weekends for the remainder of the winter, when snow conditions are suitable.

The Pippy Park Commission, in partnership with the City of St. John's Recreation Department, the Avalon Nordic Ski Club and the Grand Concourse Authority will be opening the roads in the Campgrounds on Nagles Place for Cross Country Skiing by the middle of January if snow conditions are reasonable. The snow will be groomed and tracks set for "classic" skiers.

At the City of St. John's Winter Activity Centre in North Bank Lodge on Nagles Place cross country skis and snowshoes will be available for rental on weekends (weather permitting). For more information visit the City of St. John's website www.stjohns.ca/cityservices and click on "outdoor pursuits" under "recreation and sport". There is also a link there with the Avalon Nordic Ski Club to give updates on the status of the snow conditions and grooming of the trails in the Pippy Park Campgrounds

Last year the City reported that their rental programme in the North Bank Lodge had been very successful with a total of 1543 participants in the weekday group (schools etc.) and the public rental programme on Friday nights and weekends totaled 1,226 rentals of skis or snowshoes. Of course many more participants brought their own skis or snowshoes and could be seen on the tracks in the Pippy Park Campgrounds almost any time of the day or night while the snow was there. Many of these were competitive skiers training for ski races!

The Winter Activity Programme is an excellent example of a partnership between many different groups. The Grand Concourse Authority grooms the trails, the Avalon Nordic Ski Club provide the grooming equipment and the Pippy Park Commission provides the snowmobile to tow the groomer. The Commission also provides not only the North Bank Lodge for the rentals but the lights in the campgrounds to allow skiing after dark.

Three Pond Barrens Wilderness Skiing



For the more adventurous, the ungroomed Nordic Trails of Three Pond Barrens offer a choice of short, medium and long trails for an afternoon of challenging skiing when the snow conditions are right.

Three Pond Barrens is Pippy Park's Back Country. It is a designated Wilderness Zone, and is home to a great deal of the Park's resident wildlife. Located on some of the highest land in the Park, Three Pond Barrens has some of the most rugged land within the Park's boundaries.

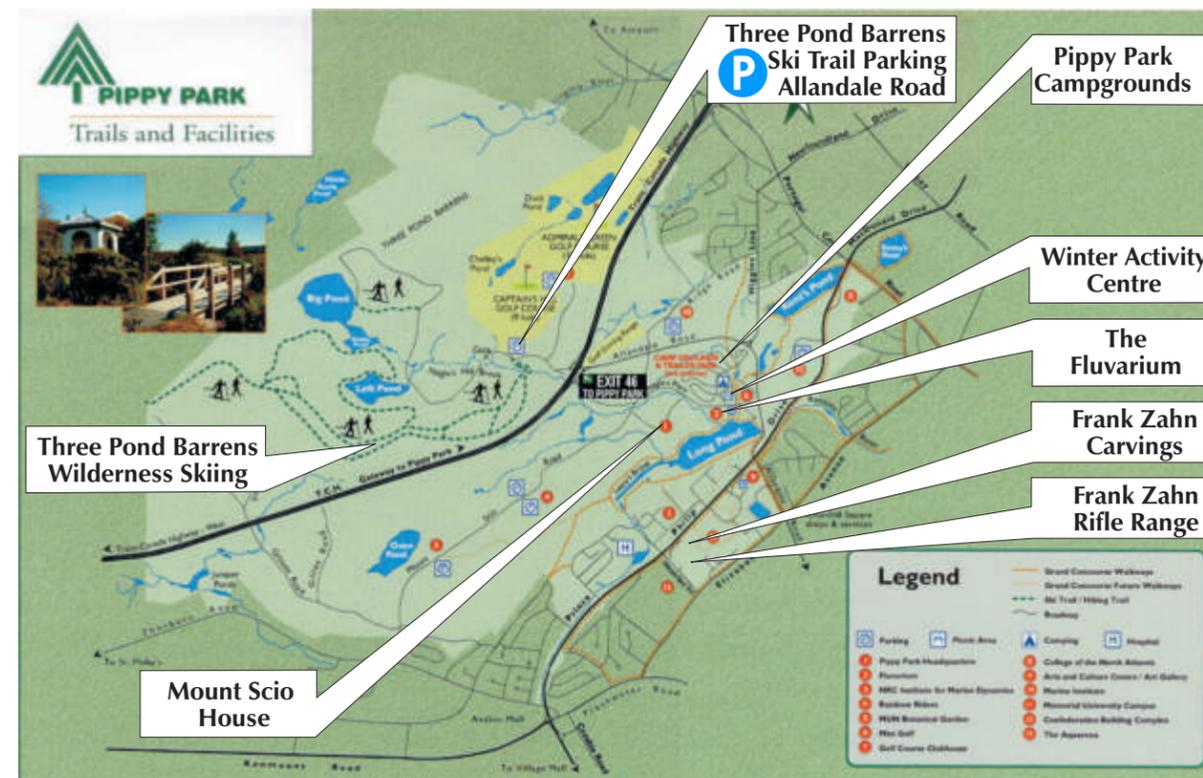
When it comes to skiing, there are numerous choices of distance. Starting at the parking lot near the top of Allandale Road and returning to the same place, the shortest loop is a little over 1.5 km and the longest loop that stays within Pippy Park boundaries is approximately 6.5 km. This long loop takes you out to the shelter where you turn right up onto the high land past Big Pond and return to the starting point. There are many opportunities to turn back onto intermediate loops along the way.

The longest loop takes you straight past the shelter and round the old Parkers Pond Department of National Defence Radio Site fence and then parallel with the south shore of Windsor Lake to Thorburn Road. Return back the way you came to the shelter in the park and then up by Big Pond to your starting point. This will give you a good workout of a little under 20 km.!

It is a good idea to pick up a map of the trails from the North Bank Lodge on Nagles Place or the Pippy Park Headquarters at Mount Scio House, 5 Mount Scio Road. Alternatively you can print one off the Pippy Park website www.pippypark.com to avoid getting lost. Better still go with a friend who is already familiar with the trails at least for the first few times.

NOTE: At the time of writing (January 21), the ski trails on the Barrens are in very poor shape and are not recommended. The continual fluctuations in temperature have left large patches of wet and patches of hard frozen snow that is dangerous to ski on.

Park Info Online:
www.pippypark.com



Family Fun Day! Winterfest '09

The timing of this annual event depends very much on snow conditions but this year we aim for the St. Patrick's Holiday weekend of March 14-15. This is an outdoor family event based at the North Bank Lodge on Nagles Place. It is all to do with snow and winter fun! There will be snow games, snow art, mascots, and the RNC Mounted Unit will be there as well.

Students from the College of the North Atlantic and MUN will be organizing special activities. The ski and snowshoe rentals will be free during the event and free hot chocolate will be served. Watch for details!

If weather or snow is unsuitable, it will be postponed. Need more information? Phone 576-8518.



New Appointments to Pippy Park Commission

The City of St. John's has appointed Councillor Shannie Duff as their representative on Pippy Park Commission replacing Councillor Sandy Hickman whose term has expired.

The membership of the Commission now consists of:-

- Bernie Halloran - Chair
- Greg Healey
- Sharon Pippy
- Robert Constantine
- Keith Hiscock
- Shannie Duff
- Grant Hiscock

There is one vacancy.

Under the Park's enabling legislation appointments are made for three year terms with no more than two consecutive terms for any members. The Province appoints the Chairperson and five members, one of whom is nominated by the Pippy family and another is nominated by the Pippy Park Residents Assn. The City Council appoints one representative and Memorial University also appoints one, to make a total of eight.

