



Pippy Park History: 1966

Our Lady of Lourdes School and Chapel on Nagles Hill Burned to the Ground

By: Mike Manning

In the early morning of Sunday January 9th 1966 the large 3-storey school and chapel on what is now called Mount Scio Place burned down.

That day there was a huge storm raging with 100 km/hour winds with 25 cm of snow. The winds fanned the flames into a "white hot inferno" according to the report in the Evening Telegram. All that was left of the seven year-old school building after only two hours was a pile of smouldering ashes and twisted steel girders. The damage was estimated at \$500,000 in 1966 dollars! The firefighters could get only



trickle of water from Nagles Hill Brook to fight the fire.

Previously a small one-room wooden school known as Nagles Hill School had served the Roman Catholic community in the area at least as far back as 1938. We have a copy of a school report from that year to prove it! It was located on the corner of Mount Scio Road and

Mount Scio Place near the bridge.

The fire occurred just at the time when Pippy Park was in its early stages of being planned. The Roman Catholic School Board was therefore advised to rebuild a smaller school because as the park developed there would be fewer people living in the area. It was subsequently replaced with the 2 story building

that is still there today.

It was often called the "pink school" because it was always painted bright pink! It was the painter husband of Marg Power who had the contract to paint the school. Marg Power was best known for her almost daily calls to the open line radio programmes of the day. The Powers lived right across the road from the school and their house was always painted the same bright colour!

The building was eventually purchased by government and is now painted blue and occupied by the Memorial University Marine Institute.



4

ACTIVITIES IN PIPPY PARK



Elaine Dobbin Centre for Autism The Pantry

The Pantry (phone 722-8200) at the Elaine Dobbin Centre for Autism (Shamrock Farm) just across from the Janeway Hospital is a perfect location to enjoy tasty food in an exceptional quiet, rural setting. Much of the fresh salads and vegetables are now "home grown" right outside the "Pantry" windows! It is open on weekdays 10 am - 4 pm and has become very busy so go early or phone ahead!

www.acfsj.ca Centre scolaire et communautaire des Grands-Vents

Ridge Road. A library, resources and events for the francophone community. Phone 757-2816 or 757-2817 website www.acfsj.ca

www.fluvarium.ca The Fluvarium

The Fluvarium 5, Nagles Place www.fluvarium.ca phone (709) 754-3474 provides a unique underwater experience where freshwater wildlife can be watched in their natural habitat. There are lots of exhibits and activities for children. The Fluvarium is open daily.

IN PIPPY PARK

IN PIPPY PARK is published six times a year by the Pippy Park Promotions Committee. Material published within reflects the events and happenings in Pippy Park and the organizations associated with it.

Contributions are welcome, and all contributions are presumed to be submitted for the mutual enjoyment of readers, thus no payment will be made for contributions.

Editor and Primary Contributor: **Mike Manning**
Production Assistance: **Steve Garland**

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Autism Society Plans 'Harmony Garden'

By: Trish Williams



Photos: Tuned Drums (left) and Imbarimba (right). Source: www.freenotes.eu

The Autism Society of Newfoundland and Labrador is pleased to announce that they will construct a musical garden on the grounds of the Elaine Dobbin Centre. The Rotary Harmony Garden is being funded by the Rotary Club of St. John's Northwest. They will be raising the funds for the Harmony Garden and the Penney Family Y at the Rotary Northwest Annual Gala Dinner on Friday April 23, 2010.

The unique element of the Harmony Garden is that it is not just a green space but also a therapeutic, interactive tool. Sculptures and musical instruments placed alongside winding wheelchair friendly paths will engage people in activities that create soothing sounds, encourage self-

expression, improve cognitive skills, support social interactions and motivate us all to go outdoors to enjoy the open air as families, groups or independently.

The Harmony Garden will consist of four large outdoor musical instruments: an imbarimba, contrabass chimes, amadinda and six tuned drums.

With its close proximity to the Pippy Park and Grand Concourse trails, the Health Sciences Centre,

and the Janeway Children's Hospital many individuals throughout the entire community will be provided with access to the Harmony Garden. The Autism Society of Newfoundland and Labrador look forward to the completion of the harmony garden.

The Elaine Dobbin Centre for Autism is located at 70 Clinch Crescent and is open from 8:30-4:30 Monday thru Friday.

Inside



Scenes from Winterfest 2010

The 2010 Pippy Park Winterfest was held on Sunday afternoon, March 14th, at Northbank Lodge.

Fantastic weather, and some remaining snow, proved to be an irresistible attraction to hundreds of participants.

More coverage on page 2



Published by the FRIENDS OF PIPPY PARK and the PIPPY PARK PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE.

Sponsored by the PIPPY PARK COMMISSION
Phone (709) 738 3611. E-mail mike.manning07@gmail.com
www.pippypark.com

SCENES FROM PIPPY PARK



'Snow' golf.



Giant 'Connect Across'



Front Lawn of North Bank Lodge



Mascots lead a spirited 'Hokey-Pokey' dance



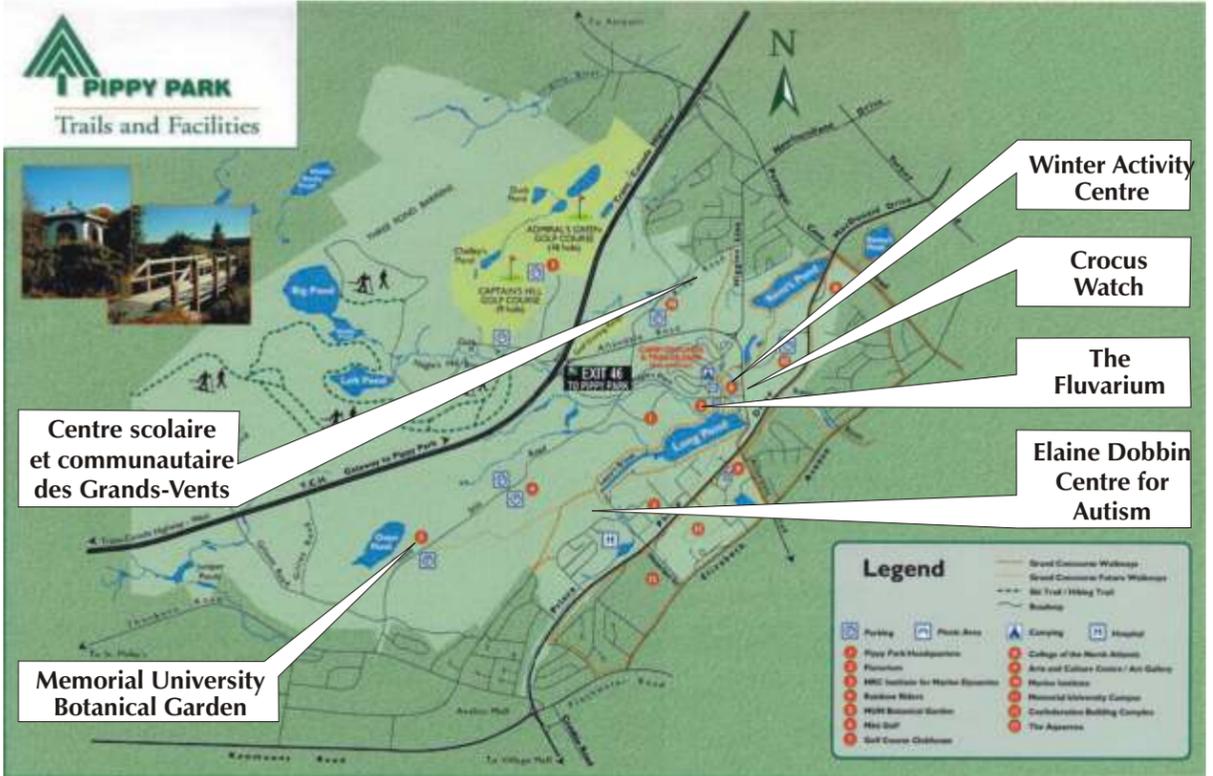
Memorial University's 'Sammy the Sea Hawk', with Recreation NL's 'Marty, the Pine Marten'



College of the North Atlantic Mascot 'Nanuk', and a new friend

2

ACTIVITIES IN PIPPY PARK



PIPPY PARK
Trails and Facilities

Centre scolaire et communautaire des Grands-Vents

Memorial University Botanical Garden

Winter Activity Centre

Crocus Watch

The Fluvarium

Elaine Dobbins Centre for Autism

Legend

- Great Commons Walkway
- Great Commons Future Walkway
- Old Trail / Hiking Trail
- Building
- Parking
- Play Park
- Play Park Handicap Access
- Flourmill
- MHC Institute for Marine Research
- Wildlife Station
- Wildlife Research Station
- Hed Golf
- Golf Course Children
- Camping
- College of the North Atlantic
- Arts and Culture Centre / Art Gallery
- Marine Institute
- Memorial University Campus
- Confederation Building Complex
- The Agerman

3

10th Annual Pippy Park Winterfest Winterfest Success!

Families flocked out in the bright sunshine to enjoy the games and treats offered by the 2nd year Community Recreation Leadership students from the College of the North Atlantic. There were only isolated patches of snow but the students had been prepared in case there was no snow. Scavenger Hunts, basketball games, golf putting mats, soccer goalposts and a host of other activities were offered.

The mascots from the College, Recreation NL and the MUN Seahawks had the children fascinated while the RNC mounted police were a huge attraction.

Cups of hot chocolate and the Tim Horton's donated doughnuts were consumed by the hundreds. We estimated that over 300 children and parents visited and everyone had fun!

The event was sponsored by the Pippy Park Promotions Committee and the Friends of Pippy Park. The Pippy Park Commission donated prizes. Much credit must be given to the staff and students of the College of the North Atlantic mentored by Carolyn Cook of the City Recreation Department. The Promotions Committee is now looking forward to our Summerfest/Summerdance at the end of July and our Winterfest next year.



Crocus Watch is On!

For more than five years, student volunteers from Memorial University, with cooperation from the C. A. Pippy Park Commission and the Friends of Pippy Park, have been planting crocus bulbs along Allandale Road, behind Confederation Building. The first young shoots have begun to emerge, and the watch is on to see the first blooms, a sure sign that winter is coming to an end.

Skiing and Snowshoeing Winter Activity Centre Closed

The Winter Activity Centre at North Bank Lodge has now closed for the season. The lack of continuous snow along the ski trails is the reason for the closure.

Park Info Online:
www.pippypark.com

