



The 2009 Teddy Bear Picnic

The Arts & Culture Centre's annual Teddy Bear Picnic will take place Friday June 26th. 11:30 am - 2:00 pm on the lawn by the St. John's Arts & Culture Centre in Pippy Park. Terry Reilly will be there as usual and so will the Teddy Bear hospital. A new performer, Magician Peter Duchemin, will also be on hand. This is a very popular event for small children and their parents. Let's hope the weather is fine that day!

Memorial University Botanical Garden

The University Botanical Garden 306, Mt. Scio Rd. is a mecca not only for botanists and gardeners but for anyone who enjoys nature and the outdoors. It is open from 10-5 every day during the summer. There are lots of programmes for children and adults for those who want to learn in very pleasant surroundings. The Tea Room serves delicious snacks and meals every day too. www.mun.ca/botgarden phone (709) 737-8590



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 Deck Café will be serving light meals starting the end of June until Labour Day. The Fluvarium is open daily.

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. It is open on weekdays 10-4 and has become very busy so go early or phone ahead!

6

Admiral's Green and Captain's Hill

Pippy Park Golf

Pippy Park Golf Courses, Allandale Rd. The Admirals's Green (18-holes) and the Captain's Hill (9-holes) scenic and challenging golf courses are in full swing all summer. The Admiral's Green Clubhouse is well worth a visit on its own. There is no more inspiring location to invite friends for a snack or a drink! The view is incredible! It is available for rent for receptions etc. as well.

3400 Acres with Golf. Glorious Golf.

Pippy Park
St. John's NL

Golf. Hike. Bike. Canoe. Kayak. Swim.
Horseback Rides. Gardens. Fluvarium.



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

Historic O'Brien Farm Barn Burns: Arson Suspected.



Second Fire in 24-hours

The barn at the historic O'Brien Farm on Oxen Pond Road burned in the morning of Monday, June 8. Press reports state that a witness on the scene who reported the fire saw two male youths flee the barn minutes before the fire was discovered around 9:00 am.

This was the second fire at the O'Brien barn in less than 24 hours. Another fire was responded to by St. John's Regional Fire Department crews around 7:00 pm the previous day.

One adult cat and three kittens living in the barn did not survive the effects of the fire. A fourth kitten is expected to recover.

There was no damage to the adjacent O'Brien home, a Registered Heritage Property, however the barn fire raises concerns about the survival of the O'Brien home, and the urgent need for preservation of the entire O'Brien farm. Photo by Mike Manning.



PIPPY PARK **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**

Content may be reprinted for non-commercial purposes only, and full credit/references must be provided.



Surprising Benefits: The Outer Ring Road, 15 years later.



Surplus organic material from the Outer Ring Road project which was unsuitable for road construction was used elsewhere in Pippy Park on many projects, including at The Frolic, now home to the MacMorron Centre Community Garden. [above] Photo by Mike Manning.

Some benefits arising from the Environmental Advisory Committee and the Outer Ring Road Construction

By Mike Manning

While few people would have agreed at the time, there were some benefits, apart from the obvious improvements in traffic flow, that arose from the construction of the Outer Ring

road. The quantity of USM was the surface mixture of topsoil, peat, tree stumps and other organic matter that was not good for "fill" and impossible to screen for use as topsoil. It had been stripped off the road right-of-way when the trees had been cut and cleared. It was the responsibility of the contractors to have it trucked off the site and the contractors were anticipating having to truck

it to the MacMorron Centre Community Gardens. This field, known locally as the "frolic" was a field of thin soil and poor grassland. The contractors dumped hundreds of loads of USM on top of the grassland and had a bulldozer spreading it evenly, pushing the larger stumps and rocks to one side. Some years later the MacMorron Community Centre, with

some of the USM was also dumped at the site of the Easter Seals House just across the road and more on a private gravel site at the end of Groves Rd that now has the potential to be a productive field.

The high bank that surrounds Loop 4 in the Pippy Park Campgrounds was also created out of this USM. Having been planted

continued page 3

Outer Ring Road Discovery: The Leopard Marsh Orchid

The Environmental Surveillance Officer, while inspecting the work in progress on the Allandale Road intersection, noticed a quantity of flowers growing around the site that he did not recognise. After consulting with the Botanical Garden and the Wildflower Society it was determined that this was a type of terrestrial orchid not seen before in Newfoundland.

Upon further consultation with international experts it was tentatively identified as a sub-species or variety of the European Leopard Marsh Orchid, never before recorded in North America, although



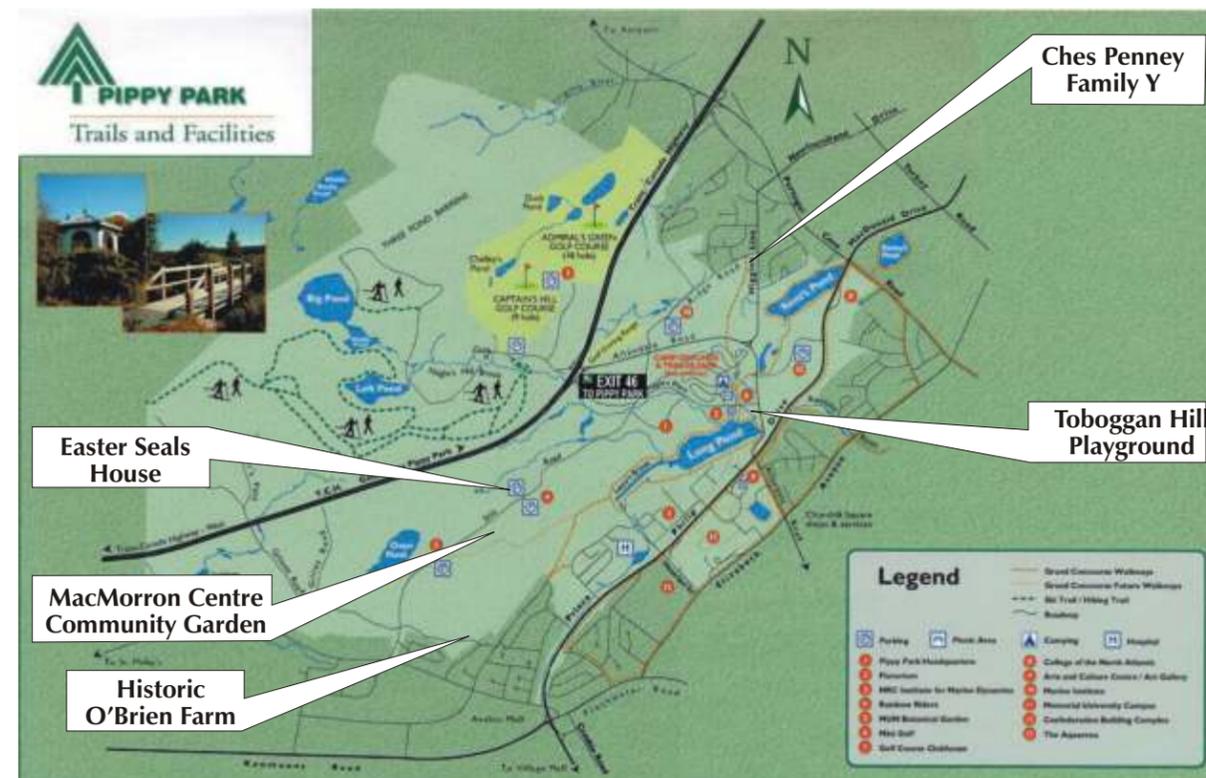
isolated colonies of related species exist at Tilt Cove on the Northeast coast of the province and at Timmins in Ontario.

About 1,000 specimens were found in an adjacent wet meadow. The popula-

tion has been carefully monitored and the colony appears to be spreading although no other colonies have been identified to date. There still has not been a confirmed explanation as to how they got

there.

Living specimens can be viewed at the Botanical Garden where there is a programme of propagation under way.



Improvements and Enhancements

What's New in Pippy Park in 2009?

This summer will see a lot of construction activity in the park. The building of the new Easter Seals House on Mount Scio Road is well advanced. Additional parking is to be created for the Health Sciences Centre and a new 3-storey Parking Garage is to be built next to the University Heating Plant. In addition there is talk of a Ronald McDonald House for the out-patients at the Janeway. There is also talk of an expansion of the Marine Institute facility located between Ridge Rd. and Allandale Rd. and of course construction of the new Ches Penney Family Y may also be

under way this summer.

Projects already completed in Pippy Park include a new "arbor" shelter at Loop 4 and a new registration office in the Pippy Park Campgrounds. The exciting new playground equipment is now installed at the top of the "toboggan hill" on Nagles Place. This will be a great attraction for families visiting the park. It replaces the previous one which had to be removed last year because of old age and had been sorely missed.



Pippy Park Heritage Committee Spring Public Lecture

The Pippy Park Heritage Committee is once again presenting its Spring Public Lecture at the Marine Institute on Ridge Road, on Tuesday, June 16. The theme will be "Pippy Park in the Community - The Community in Pippy Park" speakers will talk of the activities of facilities in Pippy Park that are important to the community. They include the Autism Centre, the Rainbow Riders and two new facilities that are coming to Pippy Park, the Easter Seals House on Mt. Scio Rd. and the new Ches Penney Family "Y" on the corner of Ridge Rd. and Higgins Line. It should be an interesting evening. It starts at 7.30 pm and everyone is welcome.



Pippy Park Annual Summerfest Summerdance

Don't forget the Annual Pippy Park Summerfest, scheduled for July 25th and 26th, 2-4 pm on the lawn next to the Fluvarium on Nagles Place. The afternoon consists of informal performances by numerous local dance



groups. This year the Neighbourhood Dance Works will be partnering in the event which is organized by Kittiwake Dance Theatre, Pippy Park Promotions Committee, and supported by the Pippy Park Commission.





Surprising Benefits: The Outer Ring Road, 15 years later.

continued from page 2

with native trees and shrubs by the Junior Forest Wardens and the Friends of Pippy Park, local Scouts and members of the Advisory Committee, it now provides an attractive screen to hide the huge recreational vehicles that stay there in their hundreds every summer.

An unsightly gravel pit adjacent to the MUN Botanical Garden was filled with the USM and this provided suitable soil on which to plant various trials of trees and shrubs.

Within Pippy Park a Horticultural Study was conducted by a Landscape Architect to provide a comprehensive plan for the restoration and enhancement of all areas affected by the construction. The Committee requested that this be revised to require that only native plant material (some of which had been rescued from the right-of-way) be planted and to use the same species as were already growing adjacent to resto-

ration sites.

Re-vegetation of disturbed landscape was undertaken the full length of the Outer Ring Road. The University Botanical Garden was contracted to conduct a trial study on the most effective methods and species for re-vegetation. The trial plantings (of White Spruce, Lupin and Alder) can still be seen on the steep banks between the Allandale Road and the Team Gushue Highway connections.

The Grand Concourse Authority and a “Green Team” from the Conservation Corps replanted shrubs and other vegetation that had been rescued locally on the banks of Nagles Hill Brook where it is crossed by the Outer Ring Road.

In recognition of the extra importance of the landscape within Pippy Park the Department of Transportation agreed to remove all car wrecks that could possibly be visible from the Outer Ring Road and in fact removed a total of 80

wrecks!

Part of the Cross Country Ski Trail passing north of the construction site by Fogarty's Wetland was re-located at the expense of the Department because of its proximity to the steep cuts and traffic noise of the road.

Pedestrian underpasses were constructed at five locations along the route of the Outer Ring Road, three of which are within the boundaries of Pippy Park. The one at Fogarty's Wetland provides a trail to connect to the Three Pond Barrens with Mt. Scio Place at that point. The other locations, one by the Golf Driving Range and the other near Groves Road make future trail connections possible.

Because of the concern that the flow rates for Nagles Hill Brook might be temporarily reduced during construction, the Department had a system installed to pump water from Long Pond to the Fluvarium reservoir to replace the natural

flow in case of an accidental spill of silt laden water into Nagles Hill Brook which might require a diversion of the flow to bypass the Fluvarium pools and spawning beds. The capacity to pump water into the reservoir in times of drought was an additional benefit, although the cost of the electricity required will justify its use only in extreme drought conditions!

Rescue of wild fish and vegetation was encouraged by the Committee and in particular trout were re-located to Kenny's Pond with the cooperation of the Friends of Kenny's Pond and the Grand Concourse Authority. Pitcher Plants and Lady's Slipper Orchids were similarly rescued and replanted at the Garden by the MUN Botanical Garden staff and the Grand Concourse Authority replanted rescued vegetation at the Nagles Hill Brook crossing.

3



Outer Ring Road Pedestrian Underpass at Fogarty's Wetland, one of three such structures located within Pippy Park. These underpasses allow trail connections to be maintained within the park. Photo by Mike Manning.



4



What remains of the the barn at the historic O'Brien Farm on Oxen Pond Road following the fire of Monday, June 8. Photos by Mike Manning.