

IN PIPPY PARK

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

November, December, 2008

Volume 9, Number 6

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

Well Attended Lecture Showcases Park Legacy

Post-lecture discussion suggests future directions and considers current and past challenges.

By Mike Manning

In mid-November the traditional Fall Lecture sponsored by the Pippy Park Commission and its Heritage Committee along with the Friends of Pippy Park took the form of a special 40th Anniversary event titled "Pippy Park... 40 Years On".

Landscape Architect and Manager of Park Operations Bob Halfyard reviewed what was in the park now and looked, with the help of the large audience, into the future for the next 40 years.

It was very encouraging to see in the attendance a number of former members of the Pippy Park Commission including former Chair Phil Warren, the MHA for the District Bob Ridgley and a strong contingent of St. John's City Councillors. Bob's excellent talk was copiously illustrated by means of a powerpoint slide presentation. Lively discussion ensued including a view of some of

C. A. Pippy Park's namesake,
Chesley A. Pippy



Photo: Pippy Family, courtesy Sharon Pippy.

the inevitable negative effects of such a large land assembly.

Don Steele, President of the Friends of Pippy Park brought a birthday cake and the two Pippy sisters, Pam who was a former

Commission member and Sharon who is currently a member and Chair of the Heritage Committee were invited to blow out the candles. The evening at the Marine Institute was a great success.

Pippy Park: Celebrates 40 Years

You will notice that in recognition of the 40th. anniversary of the Pippy Park Commission Act (1968), a variety of banners, decals and souvenirs are being distributed around Pippy Park. Enjoy the many facilities and activities in the Park, and help celebrate Pippy Park this special anniversary year!

Support Pippy Park!

Become a Friend
of Pippy Park

[www.pippypark.com/
friends.shtml](http://www.pippypark.com/friends.shtml)

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

Sponsored by the **PIPPY PARK COMMISSION**
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Launching Soon! New Website for Pippy Park

Following many months of review and revision, a new website for Pippy Park is soon to go live! The new website has a crisp and neat look to it, and contains many of the familiar items from the old website, together with some new items. When it is launched, surfers will find the new website at the same address, www.pippypark.com. Be sure to bookmark it as a Favourite!

Friends of Pippy Park Annual General Meeting

The highlight of the normally dull Annual General Meeting of the Friends was the way our Vice-President Steve Garland had “packaged” our Annual Report. It was a 24 page, profusely illustrated, pocket sized masterpiece. No more than 17 cm square it was not responsible for the death of entire forests. It is all printed on recycled paper and the attractive green cover was made from acid-free archival stock containing 60% cotton fibres, grown using sustainable methods.

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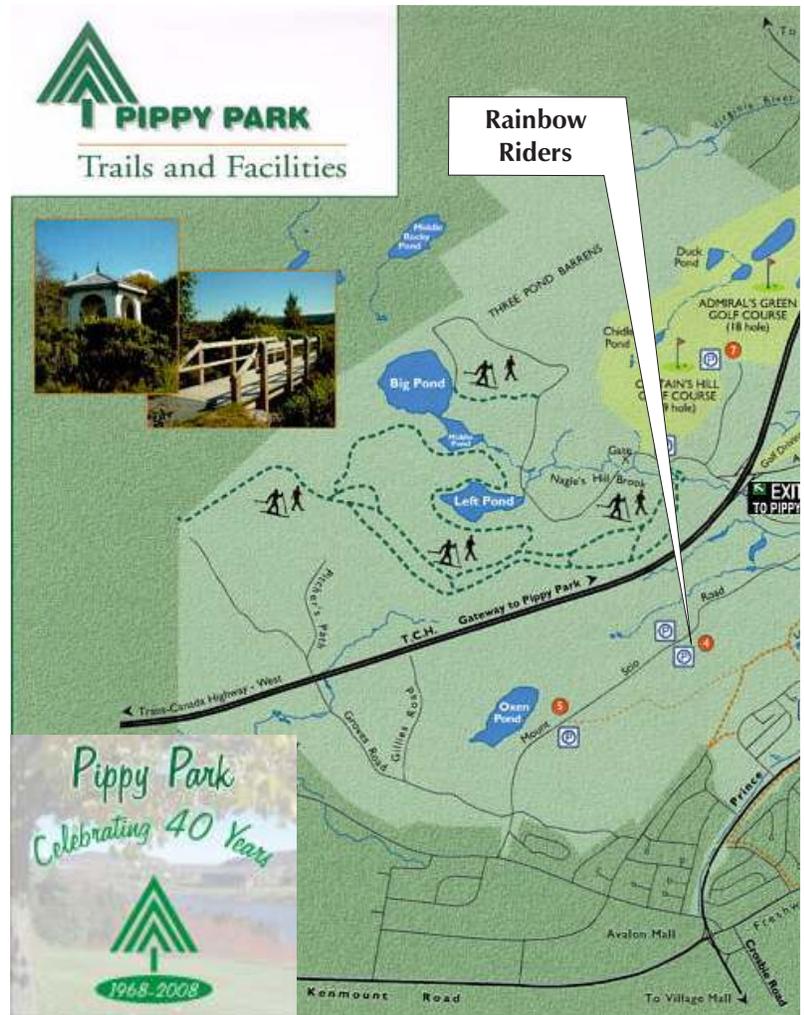
To reduce our environmental footprint even more not more than 50 copies will be printed but our Annual Report will be available in pdf form via e-mail for circulation to our members and to anyone else upon request.

The 2008-9 Friends of Pippy Park Board consists of:
Don Steele, President,
Steve Garland, Vice-President,
Bob Halfyard, Treasurer,
Mike Manning, Secretary and Executive Director

Board Members at large include:
Janet Crellin,
Karen Herzberg,
Beni Malone,
Cecilia McGruer,
Elizabeth Oliver,
Raoul Anderson,
George Worley,
Margaret Tibbo

and new members:
Denise Hooper, and
Krista Koch.

More information about the Friends and their activities (including this newsletter) can be found on their website:
<http://www.pippypark.com/friends.shtml>



OBITUARY Aloy (Ally) O'Brien 1915 - 2008

There have been so many tributes to Aloy (Ally) O'Brien who died recently at the good old age of 93 that there is no need to once more recite his life history. It would however be remiss of us not to acknowledge the importance of his life and of his death.

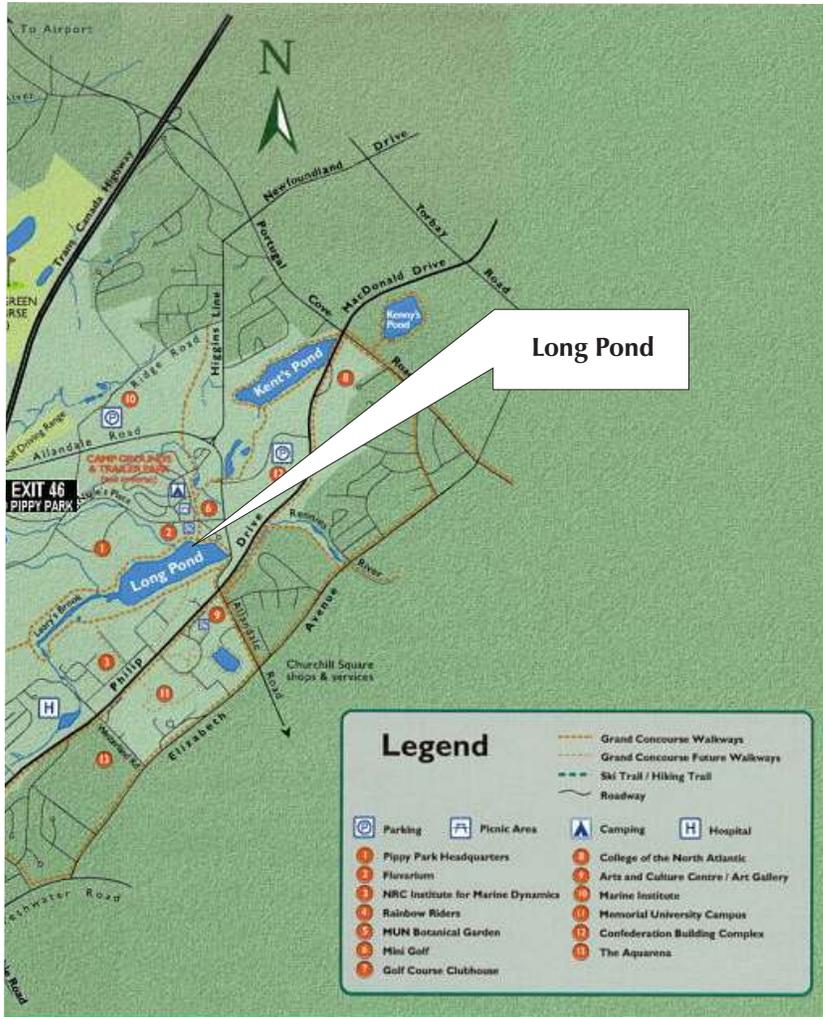
Thimble Cottage and farm where he spend his entire life and where several generations of his forebears lived and farmed before him, is a priceless piece of Newfoundland's heritage. The house has been virtually untouched since it was built about 1850.

Luckily the property is within the boundaries of Pippy Park and cannot be developed for housing. There are a large number of individuals and groups who have expressed support for it remaining as a farm under public ownership and Dr. O'Brien expressed the same wish before he died.

We are all praying that funds can be found to purchase it from the Estate and operate it to educate children and the public in the disappearing skills of traditional Newfoundland farming.

Obituary as published in the Munster Express:
<http://www.munster-express.ie/obituaries/obit/late-alloysius-patrick-obrien/>

Brief History of Thimble Cottage:
http://www.heritage.nf.ca/society/rhs/rs_listing/137.html

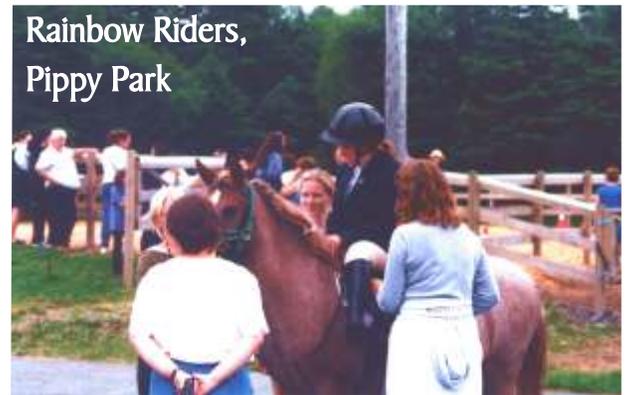


Park Equestrian competes in Junior World Cup

Jessica Rhinelander has been a volunteer with the Rainbow Riders in Pippy Park since she was a small girl. The local branch of the Therapeutic Riding Association, known as the “Rainbow Riders” runs a programme in which volunteers make it possible for children with disabilities to have the opportunity to ride (with assistance) on well trained horses on a regular basis. It is an almost miraculous therapy for many of these children.

From being a volunteer helping with the programme Jessica has now advanced to International Dressage Competition in Germany, competing for the Junior World cup!

Jessica and her competition horse “Allende” are pictured on the front of the November 13th edition of the Memorial University student paper The MUSE.



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Do You Remember?

Water Skiing and Competitive Car Racing in Pippy Park



Back in 1986 at the beginning of August, Long Pond came alive with the sound of high powered engines and the cheering of spectators.

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The Commission, after much soul searching and pleading from the local organizers, permitted the Eastern Canada Water Ski Championships to be held on Long Pond. In order to make sure there was no damage caused by the event, environmental consultants were hired to make a study before, during and after the event monitoring every aspect, especially any effect on the priceless Long Pond Marsh.

The Commission was vigorously and publicly criticized by environmental groups. Even the Friends of Pippy Park wrote an open letter of protest to them. However the lawns at Queen's College were thick with spectators on the day of the finals. It was estimated that at least 3,000 people

sunbathed and picnicked in bright sunshine on the grass slopes. Everyone got an excellent view of the competition. Even the pair of Ospreys did not interrupt their daily fishing routine. The consultant's report gave the event full marks for the precautions taken and the absence of any damage to the environment.

The event was always considered to be a "one-off" never to be repeated. It had originally been planned for Octagon Pond but this had to be changed at short notice for technical reasons. Quidi Vidi Lake was of course being fully utilized for the upcoming regatta. Long Pond was the only place that met the requirements and was accessible to the public.

Like the Atlantic Formula Motor race held on a circuit around Confederation Building in 1974 this also turned out to be an incredibly exciting but never-to-be-repeated event in Pippy Park.



INFORMATION AND EVENTS

DECEMBER, 2008

ARTS AND CULTURE CENTRE

Box Office Phone 729-3200, Fax 729-0247
<http://stjohns.artsandculturecentre.ca/main.asp>

- ❖ **December 1st - 4th:**
NLTA Christmas Suite
- ❖ **December 11th - 13th:**
Peter Macdonald's "Scrooge"
- ❖ **December 11th - 14th, and 18th - 21st:**
In the newly renovated Basement Theatre:
"Paperbags, Princesses, Puddles 'N' Pigs"
- ❖ **December 15th and 16th:**
VOCM Happy Tree Concert
- ❖ **December 18th - 21st:**
Kittiwake Dance Theatre presents:
"THE NUTCRACKER"

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY BOTANICAL GARDEN *Special Seasonal Notice*

The gardens are open 10 am - 4 pm. Low season rates apply. The trails and gardens will close for the winter on November 30th. **BUT**

The Gift Shop will be open 10 am - 4 pm for Christmas shopping until December 23rd. There is an assortment of Newfoundland books and other great Christmas gifts available. A selection of Christmas items and t-shirts are now reduced.

"The Tearoom at the Garden" will remain open daily from 10 am to 4.30 pm until December 21st. They are now serving brunch all day Sundays. Catering for Christmas is available; please call Anna 754-8888 for details.

The Conference Room is available for booking from Monday to Friday. Please check their website www.mun.ca/botgarden for additional information.

