

## Chesley A. Pippy (concluded)

Newfoundland and its people. As a young man trying to keep the books for John Anderson's Drygoods during the Depression, he must have witnessed a lot of poverty and suffering. He stayed on as their bookkeeper while the company slowly succumbed to the Crash and made sure the dissolution was done properly. So I think his philanthropy came automatically. He was able to meet people easily, and figure out what was needed, then find ways to meet the need.

A few escapades in those early years helped to convince the builders of the province that heavy machinery could work faster and better than humans and horses. One winter Ches brought to the province, a tractor with a snow plow attachment. On a stormy wintry Sunday, he drove his pregnant sister-in-law in the snowplow to the Grace Hospital to have her first baby. The baby was born healthy and well, and is now my cousin (Elizabeth) Babs Winter. Then, clearing the snow-laden roads to the hospitals, churches and cemeteries that same wintry Sunday, he easily convinced the City that St. John's streets could be cleared of snow in the winter. A typical business workday for him began with a visit to the City Public Works, chatting tractor talk and problem-solving along the way. He developed his reputation not only in sales, but also for on-site service delivery. For example, in logging camps he would have stationed a trained heavy



Chesley Pippy receives his honorary degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland

Photo: Pippy Family, courtesy Sharon Pippy.

machinist so that loggers could focus on logging.

All the while he seemed to be committed to making the province better for future generations. Here are some of his successes:

- ◆ Bogland Reclamation project in Colinet and Harbour Grace (before we knew the value of bogs);
- ◆ Land Resettlement project in Markland, creating a new kind of community based on agriculture;
- ◆ Gander International Airport;
- ◆ Training the 56<sup>th</sup> Newfoundland Regiment at Paddy's Pond in the use of heavy equipment;
- ◆ Harmon Field Air Base in Stephenville;
- ◆ Possibly involved in the selection of the site at Quidi Vidi Lake for the American base of Fort

Pepperell;

- ◆ A Rotary "Bulldozer", overseeing the creation of the "Sunshine Camp";
- ◆ Management of many of the new companies created by the Smallwood government and a founding member of the NL Better Business Bureau (hoping to bring integrity and accountability to the business community);
- ◆ Honorary appointments to CNR, Job Brothers, Blue Peter Steamships, and the Royal Bank;
- ◆ Creating a new award for men and women with disabilities through the Newfoundland Rehabilitation Council;
- ◆ Donations of time and other resources to the Salvation Army, Memorial University, the Medical Library and the 56<sup>th</sup> Regiment Field Squadron;

◆ A doer of many acts of kindness and support of those in need that were never made public.

He really hoped that other successful business people in the province would take his lead and give back to make a better Newfoundland. His \$4.5 million campaign for the National Fund for Memorial University of Newfoundland garnered him an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree in 1961.

In 1968 he was apparently asked by Mr. Smallwood to contribute the money needed to purchase the land around the university and Confederation Building. He gave it willingly, with no strings attached, stating according to Ms. Pike, "I would have been fairly generous to the university in my estate, but there was really no need for that". He is also quoted, "A great deal is owed to Newfoundland and if I can set a trend, or take a lead in helping our greatest asset [MUN], my money will be well spent".

The money was donated, and Mr. Smallwood named the land **C. A. Pippy Park**. Forty years later, the land is well-used, lived in, visited by tourists and residents of the province, photographed, played in and worked in. It has faced many challenges in forty years, especially in sustainability and development regulation. But I think, overall, Grampy would look around him and feel proud of this place.



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

## Chesley A. Pippy - The Man Behind the Name

The Pippy Family Connection to Pippy Park.

BY: SHARON D. PIPPY

*Based on a talk given by Sharon Pippy in 2008 marking the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of C. A. Pippy Park.*

The year 2008 heralds 40 years of Pippy Park. That is some milestone! So many people go in and out of the Park everyday, running, walking, driving, camping. I wonder if they wonder ... *how did this land get to be a Park?*

Early in June, 2008, the Pippy Park Heritage Committee and the Friends of Pippy Park produced their semi-annual Public Lecture. To celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary I was asked to talk about my grandfather, C. A. Pippy, after whom the Park is named.

I was fortunate to have a copy of a MUN student's 4th year history paper, entitled "A Life History of Chesley Alwyn Pippy Sr." by K. J. Pike (1982 unpubl). Armed with an enormous amount of textual detail provided by Ms. Pike, I studied the family photo albums and pulled together a somewhat lighthearted attempt at explaining my grandfather's life to an unknowing,



Photo: Pippy Family, courtesy Sharon Pippy.

but enthusiastic audience.

Of course as a beloved granddaughter (one of three at the time), I knew him as Grampy. We three girls saw him everyday at lunch time during the summer months, when he chose to come to our house instead of driving the distance to his summer residence in Topsail. He was an avid reader, and gave me tons of books that he had also read. He and I

spent many lunch times playing Crazy Eights, sometimes I would let him win, and he would let me. He loved animals and fed our little dog scraps from his lunch plate. His favorite meal was baked beans.

Long before the Park was a gleam in Mr. Smallwood's eye Grampy was combining astute business and marketing skills with philanthropy. He

Pippy Park  
Celebrating 40 Years

**Pippy Park:  
Celebrates  
40 Years**

You will notice that in recognition of the 40<sup>th</sup> 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!

acquired the Caterpillar Tractor franchise from the US in the mid 1920s and sold the first tractor sight unseen, and tractor not yet paid for. He saw what some others may have too; the province needed roads, better roads, and better road-making materials and equipment (say good-bye to the horse and cart!). He had a strong feeling for

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## ACTIVITIES IN PIPPY PARK

### 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](http://www.pippypark.com). Be sure to bookmark it as a Favourite!

### Friends of Pippy Park Meeting 135, October 6<sup>th</sup>

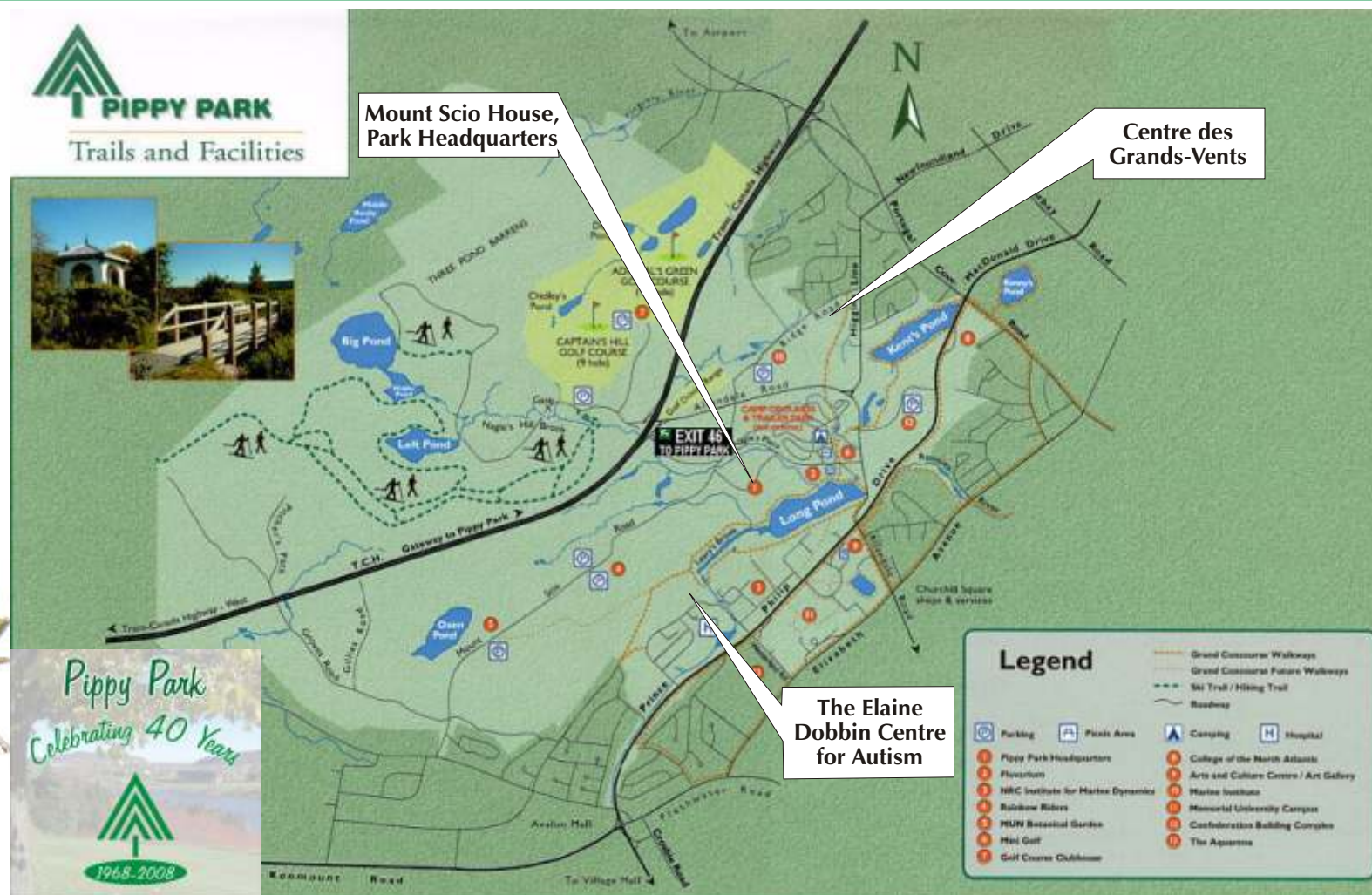
The Friends of Pippy Park will be having their regular meeting on Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Park headquarters, Mount Scio House, Mount Scio Road, at 12:30 pm. At these monthly meetings, the Friends discuss current issues facing the Park and consider how to best approach these challenges while supporting the Park. Those interested in joining or helping the Friends are encouraged to drop by at the meeting. Contact **Mike Manning** on (709) 738-3611 for meeting details. *Calling ahead to confirm your attendance is recommended.* More information about the Friends and their activities (including this newsletter) can be found on their website: <http://www.pippypark.com/friends.shtml>

### Children's Gardening Programme Growing, Growing, GONE!

With the approach of Thanksgiving (and frost warnings posted in recent weeks), another successful season of the Children's Gardening Programme has come to an end. A project of the Friends of Pippy Park, the Children's Gardening Programme promotes the benefits of cultivating local, organic vegetables to children aged 5 to 10, and their families. The programme brings together children of a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds and ethnicities, creating a rich and diverse learning experience for all (it's fun and tasty too!).

### Thanks, Janet!

The Friends would like to thank the driving force behind the Children's Gardening Programme, long time FoPP member (and FoPP Treasurer) **Janet Crellin**, as she retires from the helm of this project.



### October 2008 Autism Awareness Month

October is Autism Awareness Month in Canada. Look for these special events in support of the Autism Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, located in Pippy Park, behind the Health Science Centre/Janeway Hospital.

**October 4th, Saturday:**  
7:00 pm – 7:30 pm - Candlelight Vigil,  
Held at the Elaine Dobbin Centre for Autism.  
<http://www.autism.nf.net/vigil.html>

**October 11th, Saturday:**  
8:00 pm - The Autism Society Presents  
*The Ladies of Country Music*  
Held at the St. John's Arts & Culture Centre  
<http://www.autism.nf.net/ladiesofcountry.html>

**October 26th, Sunday:** - Active for Autism Walk/Run  
Held at the Elaine Dobbin Centre for Autism.  
<http://www.autism.nf.net/activewalk2008.html>  
**Early Registration** –  
Friday, Oct. 24th 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
**Registration** –  
Sunday, Oct. 26th 9:00 am – 10:00 am  
**Run Starts:** 10:30 am  
**Walk Starts:** 10:45 am  
*Free Tee-Shirt with \$25.00 in pledges*

### Le Festival du Vent 2008: A celebration of francophone culture, local artists...and the wind!

October 15th-19th at the Centre des Grands-Vents  
(65 Ridge Road, Pippy Park)

Art contest, Workshops for schoolchildren and the general public, Music and concerts, Theatre including performances from groups from Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, Circus arts, Kite flying, and more!

As they become available, details will be posted at the following address: [www.acfsj.ca/festival](http://www.acfsj.ca/festival) or call (709) 726-4900 for more information.

**Thursday October 16th**  
5 p.m.: Public Reception and Official Launch

**Friday October 17th**  
7 p.m.: "L'Amour médecin" and "Le Médecin volant" performed by the theatre troupe of the Centre culturel et sportif de Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon

**Saturday October 18th**  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Doors Open Day at the Centre des Grands-Vents  
**Family Activities:**  
10 a.m.: Mini Theatre Presentation  
11 a.m.: Sing-a-long with the "Rose des Vents" choir  
12 p.m.: BBQ  
1 p.m.: Clown Show  
2 p.m.: Theatre Workshop  
3 p.m.: Circus Arts Workshop  
7p.m.: "Cabaret français" Concert

**Sunday October 19th**  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Kite Day at the Centre des Grands-Vents and in Pippy Park  
10 a.m.: Decoration of kite-making materials  
12 p.m.: BBQ  
1 p.m.: Kite construction  
3 p.m.: Kite flying



Centre des Grands-Vents, 65 Ridge Road, Pippy Park