



# TRUMPET

newsletter

March 2012



## NATIONAL TREE DAY

September 21, 2011

The Bowring Park Foundation partnered with the City of St. John's, Tree Canada, TD Friends of the Environment, St. John's Clean and Beautiful, the Grand Concourse Authority and Newfoundland Power Inc., to plan an event in Bowring Park to celebrate Canada's first National Tree Day on September 21st. Grades two to six students from St. Mary's Elementary were in attendance that day to celebrate the benefits of trees.



## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

December 3, 2011

St. John's held its 2011 Festival of Music and Lights on December 3 in Bowring Park. It is estimated that the attendance was in the 3500 – 4000 range. This is the ninth year that this festival was held at Bowring Park.



## AWARDS FOR BOWRING PARK

Bowring Park has won two awards as voted by readers in The Scope's Best of St. John's 2011 Survey:

Best Place to take Kids & Best Playground

*Thank you.*



MARCH  
2012

- P2 • ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING • NEW DOG PARK • SQUIRES' PROPERTY  
• NEW ELECTRONIC ARM AT EAST ENTRANCE
- P3 • LOOKING BACK • THE PETER PAN STATUE

## BOWRING PARK FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Bowring Park Foundation held its 15th Annual General Meeting on December 4, 2011 at the Bungalow in Bowring Park and three new directors, Angela James, Nick Janes and Gail Stagg were elected to the Board. In his comments, BPF Chairman, Mike Power offered his thanks to the Mayor, the members of Council and the City's senior leadership team for their continued support and to the City's park staff for the great job they do in keeping the Park looking beautiful at all times. He noted that "If anyone ever questions whether the time devoted to the Foundation is worthwhile, one just has to visit the Park in the summer and see the children and yes, the adults too, enjoying the Splash Pad and the Barrier-Free Playground".

## NEW OFF-LEASH DOG PARK



As part of the St. John's Snow Daze Festival, the City of St. John's Humane Services officially opened the Waterford River Off-Leash Dog Park located on Waterford Bridge Road across from the Bowring Park west gate parking lot on February 19th.



## LOOKING FOR OLD PHOTOS OF THE FORMER SQUIRES' PROPERTY IN BOWRING PARK

The Bowring Park Foundation is working on developing another interesting walk in the Park for patrons to enjoy. It is on land that was once owned by Sir Richard Squires, Prime Minister of Newfoundland from 1919 to 1923 and again from 1928 to 1932. Sir Richard resided on a piece of property called Midstream and his house was known as Cherry Lodge. The house was demolished in the early 1970s but his well still remains in the area. MUN Botanical Garden has surveyed the trees and plants in the area and has found that it does contain some interesting heritage species for which storyboards could be developed. Relatives of Sir Richard Squires have been contacted and they are providing some family photos to show what the area looked like during Sir Richard's residency. However, we are hoping that some of our Trumpet readers may also have some old photos that they would like to share with the Foundation. If you do, please telephone the Foundation office (709-364-1531) or email us at [bpf@bowringpark.com](mailto:bpf@bowringpark.com)

We will make arrangements to copy your materials and return your originals. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

## NEW ELECTRONIC ARM AT EASTERN ENTRANCE

The new electronic arm at Bowring Park's east entrance near the Duck Pond has been installed and it will be operational after programming is completed and public announcements are made. The Bowring Park Foundation has cost-shared this project with the City of St. John's. The Foundation hopes that this safety measure to minimize the vehicular traffic in the park will enhance patrons' visits to Bowring Park.

## LOOKING BACK AT THE PAST

Tennis courts at Bowring Park have been in place since the 1920's when two grass courts were quite an attraction, so much so, that people would form long lines waiting to play. Other grass courts were soon constructed to meet the ever growing demand, with hard courts appearing in the 1940's. The courts were also popular in the winter months when the Park staff would flood them to create a skating rink.



Bowring Park patrons can skate on the Fountain Pond when it freezes and it is deemed safe for this activity.

## THE PETER PAN STATUE

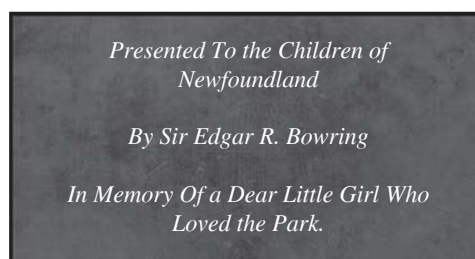
One of the most loved landmarks in Bowring Park is the Peter Pan statue located at the southwestern side of the Duck Pond. The statue is the work of renowned sculptor Sir George Frampton. Frampton was commissioned by Sir Edgar Bowring to create a statue that embodied the spirit and playfulness of childhood.

The statue is a memorial to Sir Edgar's step granddaughter, Betty Munn, who tragically died at the young age of 4. Betty and her father, John Munn, one of the directors of the Bowring Brothers, were aboard the SS Florizel ship bound to Halifax, which set sail on February 23, 1918. The Florizel was struck by a violent storm that forced the ship to crash against rocks off the coast of Capahayden. Betty and her father were among the 94 passengers who tragically lost their lives in this terrible accident. The sinking of the Florizel and the tragic loss of life, compounded by the controversy surrounding her ill-fated voyage was the subject of a book entitled *A Winter's Tale - The Wreck of the Florizel* written by Cassie Brown.

Though its inception was based on a memorial to this tragic event, the impetus behind the statue's presence in the park was a joyous celebration of childhood. The statue, depicting a young Peter Pan playing his flute while fairies and animals joyfully climb towards him, was unveiled during a special "Children's Day" event in the park on August 29, 1925, in front of approximately 3000 eager and happy children. At this ceremony, Frampton noted that "... the animals and fairies on the statue are listening to the pipes of Pan, one of the mice is completing his toilet before going up to listen to the music, (and) the squirrel is discussing political matters with two of the fairies". Though several similar statues of Peter Pan exist around the world, most notably the one in Kensington Garden in London, England, Frampton himself commented that the character of Bowring Park and its compatibility with the spirit of the literary figure of Peter Pan makes this statue special.



The *Florizel*.



Inscription on the Peter Pan Statue

The Bowring Park Foundation was established in 1995 as a not-for-profit organization under the patronage of the late Mr. Derrick Bowring. Its mandate is to assist the City of St. John's with the restoration, preservation and development of Bowring Park.

### Bowring Park Foundation's Partners

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	Husky Energy
City of St. John's	Marie's Mini Marts
Coady's Metal Works	MUN Botanical Garden
Conservation Corps NL	New Dock
D. Hall Estate	Newfoundland Power
Grand Concourse Authority	Royal Bank of Canada
Hickman Saturn Isuzu	United Way of NL
	VOCM Cares Foundation

#### Executive:

**Michael Power, Chairman**

**John Downton, Immediate Past Chair**

**Sheri Wicks, Vice Chair**

**Eldon Davis, Treasurer**

**Glen Roebathan, Honorary Legal Counsel**

**Wally Collins, City of St. John's Council Representative**

**Brian Head, City of St. John's Staff Representative**

#### Directors:

Angela James                      Robert Squires

Nick Janes                         Gail Stagg

Vivian Pallard                    Helena Turner

Ashley Power-Stack             John Whitty

Eric Salter

To Book an Event at the

*Bowring Park Bungalow*



Please Contact **RED OAK CATERING**  
(709) 368-6808      www.redoaknf.com

Direct your inquiry regarding holding a function on the grounds of Bowring Park to the City of St. John's.

CALL 3-1-1

WHEN 3-1-1 IS UNAVAILABLE,  
CALL (709) 754-CITY (2489)



for ST. JOHN'S Calendar of events at [www.stjohns.ca](http://www.stjohns.ca)

Duck food can be purchased throughout the year for \$1 a bag at Marie's Mini-Marts in St. John's and surrounding areas. All proceeds go back into projects for Bowring Park.



Please note that the Foundation does not recommend feeding bread to the ducks as it dehydrates them and fouls their habitat.



## The Power of community

Our history of community involvement stems from the devotion our employees have to the places they call home. With locations throughout the island, the power of our contributions can be seen from coast to coast.

At the heart of everything we do is a desire to strengthen our connection to our customers and communities.

We are a proud partner of The Bowring Park Foundation.



[newfoundlandpower.com](http://newfoundlandpower.com)



1.800.663.2802

## Bowring Park Foundation Memberships

Membership forms are available at the Bowring Park Foundation Lodge; located next to the East Entrance or they may be downloaded at [www.bowringpark.com](http://www.bowringpark.com)

#### Membership Fees:

Senior \$10.00, Individual \$12.00,  
Family \$18.00