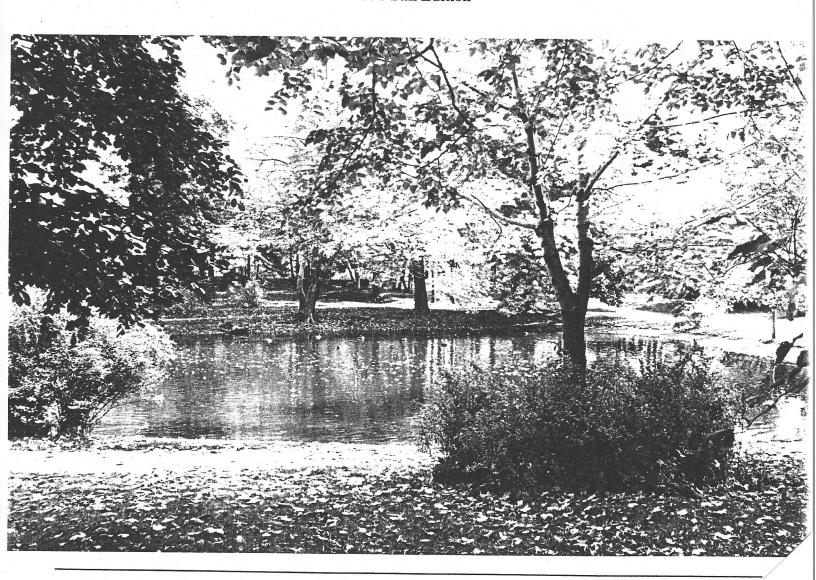
Honorary Patron Derrick Bowring



WHITE SWAN CLUB NEWSLETTER

1995 Fall Edition





City Of St. John's

P.O. Box 908, St. John's, NF, Canada A1C 5M2 (709) 576-8600

Office of the Mayor

November 23, 1995

To the Members of the White Swann Club

First let me thank you on behalf of City Council and the residents of St. John's for your keen interest in historic Bowring Park.

Of all the institutions in our City, Bowring Park has always been a place very dear to me. As a child, I remember the carriage rides through its roads and later swimming in the pool in the river, and for years I used the tennis courts.

What a joy it was growing up during the depression to have the beauty and facilities of Bowring Park to help alleviate the trials of that time.

When I became Mayor in 1981, the bungalow was literally falling down and I was so pleased to be able to rebuild it as the focal point of the park. With all the demands on the public purse, it has not been possible to develop the park to its full potential and that is why I am delighted that the Bowring Park Foundation and your White Swan Club have taken the initiative to continue the beautification and extension of the park.

Again my congratulations.

Sincerely yours,

John J. Murphy, CM, SBStJ

Mayor

A Message From The Honorary Patron

Bowring Park, which celebrated its 81st birthday this year, is lovelier than ever and giving pleasure to more and more people each year. While the city council has looked after the Park very well indeed, and in fact have added many more acres to the original area, the council has been unable to do much to improve the new areas.

So this year 1995 saw the establishment of the Bowring Park Foundation with an energetic and devoted board of directors whose object is to improve the undeveloped areas, to restore some things that over the passage of the years have become worn out or damaged and to serve the Park into its Second Century at the peak of its beauty and well equipped for quiet family enjoyment.

A most important part of the work of the Foundation is the establishment of the White Swan Club, of which I am very proud to be a member. The Club is there to keep its members informed of all the activities at the Park so that the interest of the thousands who visit the Park will be maintained; and on occasion their help may well be sought!

I commend this first newsletter to your careful attention. It will be the first of many!

Derrick Bowring



WHITE SWAN CLUB

Membership list.

Derrick Bowring Bruce and Paula Templeton Gary and Lois Bourne Lorne and Debbie Warren Judy Pinkson David J. Andrews Gladys Templeton John and Alanna Downton Tom and Joan Fogarty Gus Neville Marian Andrews Gertrude Crosbie John and Yvonne Jacobs John and Janet Fairley Dave Griffiths Susan Davis Paul Chancey Rev. Kevin J. Molloy David Murphy Keith and Diane Coombs Keith Griffiths Ed Matthews John and Shirley Moulton Mary Lou Downey Gerald W. Smith Jim and Janice Ronan Randy A. Chafe Harold Squires Janet Priddle Evelyn and Gerry Bennett Clarence Downton Jean Myrick Glen and Barbara Roebothan

Fall Colour

The colour of a leaf at any given time is as a result of the predominance of a certain pigment. In summer, chlorophyll which is green in colour, is present in such abundance that it overshadows all other colours and the leaves are green.

With the coming of fall, and the reduction of sunlight due to the shorter day, the chlorophyll begins to break down. This allows other pigments present in the leaf to be seen, thus causing a change of colour from green to red or yellow.

Early frost and bright fall days speed up the process of converting sugar in the leaf to other pigments. The faster the chlorophyll is reduced the more colourful the leaf will become before it fades and falls from the tree.

Bowring Park is full of beautiful trees, mostly green in summer and even more spectacular in fall. Make an effort to see and admire their beauty all year long, but especially in the cool crisp days of fall.

ALERT

A friendly reminder to send in your news, pictures and items of interest for the next issue. The deadline is March 15th, 1996 and that date will arrive all to soon. You can send your articles whenever available, the sooner the better. Mail or drop off at the Foundation office or to Ed Matthews 163 Canada Dr., St. John's A1E 2N2. Thanks.



Honorary Patron Derrick Bowring



30/11/1995

Dear White Swan Club Members;

It gives me great pleasure to be able to address you through this, your first newsletter. I look forward to being able to contribute to many more over the coming years.

The past twelve months have been very busy ones indeed for all of the members of the Foundation. All Committees have been active in their individual pursuits, and collectively their tremendous effort has brought the Foundation to where it is today.

The Planning and Priorities Committee has a number of projects identified, have had the necessary engineering done, the funding put in place, and are ready to proceed in the spring. The Finance Committee is actively pursuing additional funds. Your White Swan Club has hosted events in the Park and conducted a very interesting guided tour for its members.

The Bowring Park Foundation can certainly look forward to a very busy coming year. I would like to thank you for your efforts to date, and I too, look forward to working with you next year on this very worthwhile project.

I would like to also take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely Yours,

Bruce Templeton

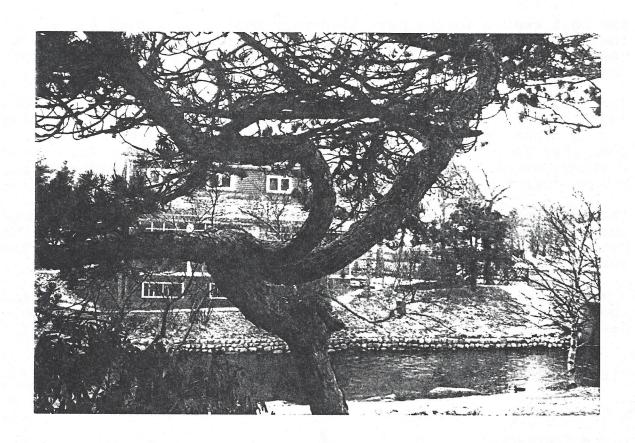
Chairman

Junphon

The Board of Directors of the BOWRING PARK FOUNDATION are pleased to announce the appointment of Jim Ronan as General Manager. Jim brings with him a decade of management experience in the construction and construction supply industry. As well, Jim has been involved in community organizations for the past twenty years. During that time he has made many friends in both the Boy Scout movement and the Home and School Associations in St. John's.

Jim is responsible for the day to day operation of the Foundation office. He keeps the Board of Directors up to date on current events and attends all Committee meetings. Jim is kept busy with the many proposals that the Foundation is submitting to various funding agencies and as well he handles the management of ongoing projects and promotions.

The Foundation always appreciates new volunteers and ideas. Feel free to contact Jim at the Foundation office at 576-6134, or drop by the Bowring Park Lodge, right at the bridge by the Duck Pond.

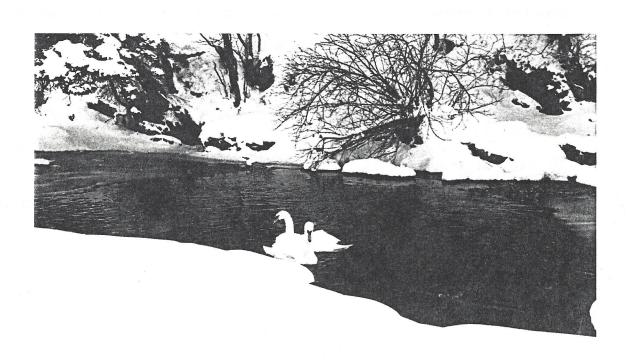


MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM JHE WHITE SWAN

CLUB COMMITTEE



The Bowring Park Foundation had its inception approximately a year ago. As a founding member of it I am very pleased and proud of the initiatives that have been undertaken during that period. At a time when restraint and cutbacks have become the norm, it is gratifying to be a part of an organization that is striving to grow and prosper in its quest to build on what has been called the "jewel in the crown" of St. John's.

It has not been an easy task. All the volunteers that have given of themselves unselfishly to realize this goal are to be commended for their efforts. But there is a need for more people and more resources. Bowring Park is your park, "the peoples' park." I ask that you consider giving of yourself in building this vision of restoring and developing this unique and beautiful resource which we have all come to admire and enjoy. Please get involved by becoming a member of the White Swan Club. I'm sure you'll derive further satisfaction and enjoyment by being a part of this experience.

Sincerely

Keith Coombs

Ward Three Councillor

Derrick Bowring Honorary Patron

Keith Coombs City Council Bruce Templeton Chairman Bowring Park Foundation

Paul Mackey Director Public Works City of St. John's

Lorne Warren Vice Chairman Bowring Park Foundation

Treasurer

Gary Bourne

Legal

Glen Roebothan

General Manager and Public Relations

Jim Ronan

Members of the Executive

Evelyn Bennett

Joan Fogarty

Gus Neville

Hubert Noseworthy

Tom Fogarty

Finance Committee

Bruce Templeton Gary Bourne Lorne Warren Planning and Priorities Committee Lorne Warren

Members
Keith Coombs
Charles Horwood
Hubert Noseworthy
Evelyn Bennett
Jim Ronan
Phillips Hicks
Rick Teller

White Swan Club Committee John Downton

Members
Judy Pinksen
Joan Fogarty
Heather Hickman
Gus Neville
Jim Ronan
Ed Matthews

White Swan Club Report

Bowring Park has played an important part in the lives of many citizens of St. John's and the surrounding area. In order to help ensure that the park continues to serve the needs of the residents of our community the Bowring Park Foundation was formed in 1995. The White Swan Club was established by the Foundation to enable the citizens of the area to become members of the Bowring Park Foundation, actively participate, and have a voice in the development of the park. The success of the Foundation will depend on members working together and actively participating in activities and in the planning for the park.

The White Swan Club currently has sixty nine members. This core group of people has assisted the Foundation and supported the many public and family events we have held in the park during our first six months of operation. Some of these events include The Bowring Park Family Fun Day, Canada Day celebrations, Peter Pan Festival and the Park Walking Tour. The Family Fun Day was the first public event organized by the White Swan Club and was a great success. It is hoped that this will become an annual event to start summer activities in Bowring Park. The walking tour was well attended by members and provided an opportunity for members to get to know each other while learning many interesting facts about the park. We are planning to offer public guided tours of the park in the spring.

I would like to thank all those members who have generously contributed their time and talent to make our first few months of operation a success and encourage everyone to invite your friends to become involved in Bowring Park and join the White Swan Club. Finally. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.

J Downton 12/3/95

Honorary Patron Derrick Bowring



30/11/1995

Dear Members,

Congratulations to the White Swan Club on the publication of your inaugural newsletter. I know that this will be the first of many.

Since its inception in the early part of this century, Bowring Park has provided pleasure and enjoyment to untold millions of patrons. If pride and pleasure are the true test of any gift, then this generous gift from the Bowring family measures up magnificently.

With the recent inception of the Bowring Park Foundation, it can only be hoped that the tradition of visiting the park for periods of quiet family enjoyment will continue for generations to come. As is stated in a number of the Foundations publications, Bowring Park truly is "a thing of beauty, a joy forever".

The success of the Foundation will depend on the involvement of all of the public working together for this very worthwhile cause. Stiil appropriate are these words of encouragement which Benjamin Bowring wrote to his three sons over a century and a half ago; "...every success can be expected to result from...unanimous determination to forget the interest of the individual in the better interest of the whole."

Once again, congratulations and best wishes!

Sincerely,

Jim Ronan

General Manager

Bowring Park Foundation

PARK HISTORY By Doug CLANCE

In 1583, soon after Sir Humphrey Gilbert first arrived in St. John's, a group of local residents apparently brought him to view an area they referred to as "The Garden." Upon reaching this area, he discovered that it was not man-made, nor had it been cultivated or groomed in any way. One member of this expedition described the scene as "...nothing...more than nature itself without art, who confusedly had brought forth roses abundantly wild but odoriferous and to sense very comfortable." Though the lack of historical evidence makes it impossible to verify the exact location of this place, it is not far-fetched to assume, as many do, that "The Garden" lay within the boundaries of present day Bowring Park.

In 1847, William Thorburn obtained fifty acres of land under Crown Grant from the Newfoundland Government, which he turned into a rather prosperous farm. Eventually, this land was acquired by the Newfoundland Savings Bank, who in turn leased it to a Mr. & Mrs. Neville. This piece of property, encompassed by the Waterford and Kilbride Rivers, was subsequently named Rae Island Farm by the Neville family. Through the generosity of Bowring Brothers Limited, Rae Island Farm would eventually become what we now know as Bowring Park.

Bowring Brothers celebrated their one-hundredth anniversary of business in Newfoundland in 1911. In commemoration of this, it was announced that the firm would present a gift to the community in the form of a park. To this end, they purchased the fifty acre Rae Island Farm, with the intention of developing it into a place suitable for the

recreational and leisure pursuits of the citizenry. Construction on these fifty acres began soon afterward, and Bowring park was officially opened on July 15, 1914. Thousands of people and numerous dignitaries, including the Duke of Connaught, were on hand that day. On declaring the park officially opened, the Duke remarked: "May it ever be a source of pleasure and enjoyment to the citizens of St. John's and to Newfoundland in general."

Much of the credit for the beautiful design and layout of Bowring Park's original fifty acres must go to Mr. Rudolph Cochius. Mr. Cochius, a landscape architect from the prestigious Montreal firm of Frederick Todd's, was commissioned by Sir Edgar Bowring to carry out this task. He went to work at Bowring Park on May 8, 1912, and remained until March 25, 1917. While construction continued after his departure (some say Bowring Park will forever be under construction!), it was during these five years that the Park was truly born. Cochius was responsible for creating the Park's unique atmosphere and mystique, which lingers to this very day, and countless numbers of visitors have all been, and continue to be, the benefactors of his vision and talent. Just past Whale's Back Falls, on the Waterford River, we notice a small plaque on our right which reads simply "R.H.K. Cochius, Landscape Architect." Mr. Cochius did not want a larger monument commemorating his efforts, although he almost certainly deserves one. This little plaque is reminiscent of an artist's signature tucked away, out of clear sight, on a great painting or piece of sculpture. Rudolph Cochius was a main figure in creating the masterpiece known as Bowring Park, and left his small but indelible signature on this rock.

The park was handed over to the City in 1921, and since then, it has continued to grow and develop. Throughout the years, many statues and monuments have been unveiled,

such as Peter Pan and the Fighting Newfoundlander. Numerous ornamental trees and plants have been put in place as well. Various trails, walkways and bridges wind in and out among areas of great natural beauty. Recreational facilities, like the swimming pool, tennis courts, playground and picnic areas have been situated in such a way as to peacefully co-exist with the spectacular natural landscape. The original 50 acres has since been expanded and Bowring Park now covers approximately 200 acres. The boundary between old and new Bowring Park exists in the form of a large vehicular bridge overlooking the railway lines. This vantage point provides a splendid view of the surrounding valley, which plays host to many frolicking children and sun bathers during summer, and is one of the City's most popular sliding areas in the winter. One can also see a lovely section of flowering crabs and laburnums.

All of the recreational facilities in this area of the park were constructed during the 1960's.

The year 1967 was Canada's one-hundredth birthday, and during this period, the Federal government established a civic beautification and development fund for municipalities across

Canada. It was, in effect, a giant make work project, commemorating our country's centennial.

Our pool, ball field, bridge and playground areas all were put in place thanks to special funding.

From its humble origins as a remote farm on the outskirts of the city, Bowring Park has grown to become one of the most beautiful parks in all North America. This most generous gift from Bowring Brothers has served to delight generations, and has indeed become an institution in itself.

BOWRING FAMILY HISTORY IN NEWFOUNDLAND

The firm of Bowring Brothers, and the Bowring family, have enjoyed a long and illustrious association with St. John's, ever since the arrival of Benjamin Bowring in 1811. He was born at Exeter, England, in 1778. His father, Nathaniel Bowring, died when his son was barely three years old. His mother then moved the family to her hometown of Moretonhampstead, where Benjamin spent his formative years. After his education was completed, he began an apprenticeship in watchmaking. While the exact details of his apprenticeship are rather sketchy, we do know that the October 6, 1803 edition of the "Exeter Flying Post" contained an advertisement announcing that "Benjamin Bowring, Watch-maker, Silversmith, Jeweller and Engraver" had opened his own shop for business. At the age of twenty-five, Benjamin Bowring had created the company that would bear his family's name for generations to come. He was married to one Charlotte Price less than a week later.

Over the next few years, Benjamin became a rather prominent citizen in Exeter, running a successful business as well as being a great contributor to local charities. However, by 1811, with most of England suffering through a period of widespread unemployment and social unrest, Benjamin began looking towards Newfoundland. Indeed, it appears that, by this time, he may have already been engaged in some trans-Atlantic trade. Perhaps another factor in his eventual move was his ardent anti-slavery stance, which made him unpopular with certain parties at Exeter. Eventually, after many voyages to St. John's between 1811 and 1815, he decided to move his young family here. They arrived in the spring of 1816, settling into a home on Duckworth Street that doubled as Benjamin's new shop.

Over time, Benjamin's little shop branched out into other areas of commercial activity

in Newfoundland, such as shipping, sealing and trade. Throughout the 1800's, Benjamin's descendants created a very powerful and successful company on both sides of the Atlantic, and by the turn of the century, Bowrings had become one on the leading firms in the British Empire. Benjamin himself remained a positive influence over the firm for several years after his sons had taken over its direct management. Indeed, Charles T., Henry P., Edward and John Bowring (the original partners of Bowring Brothers) had built the company upon the foundations laid by their father. All of these men eventually returned to England, leaving the management of the St. John's firm to successive generations of the family. Benjamin, the man who had started it all, died on June 1, 1846. His legacy lay not so much in the actual business he had created, but in the integrity, spirit, and generosity with which he conducted himself. In a letter written on March 19, 1841, he outlined such qualities in wishing his sons"...every success which can be expected to result from combined industry, careful speculation and unanimous determination to forget the interests of the individual in the better interest of the whole."

Bowring Brothers celebrated their centenary in 1911, and in doing so, remained true to the "interest of the whole." The senior partner of the firm at that time was the son of John Bowring, Edgar, who succeeded his cousin Charles in 1890. Edgar announced at the centenary dinner that employees of the firm would receive an extra month's salary. Generosity, however, did not stop there, for it was also announced that the firm would present a gift to the community as well, in the form of a park. Rae Island Farm was purchased by Bowring Brothers Ltd. in 1911, and construction soon began on what was to be known as Bowring Park.

MORE NEXT TIME!

Honorary Patron Derrick Bowring



30/11/1995

Dear White Swan Club Members,

Since the launching of the Bowring Park Foundation less than a year ago, its Directors and the Committee members have been very active pursuing their goal, namely the restoration and development of Bowring Park. This publication is yet another of these many endeavors that together will make the Foundation a success.

As was reported at the General Meeting on December 3rd at the Bungalow, the Planning and Priorities Committee is busy preparing for a number of projects that will be started in the spring, and as well we have sent or are preparing proposals for more projects that we hope to also see started next year.

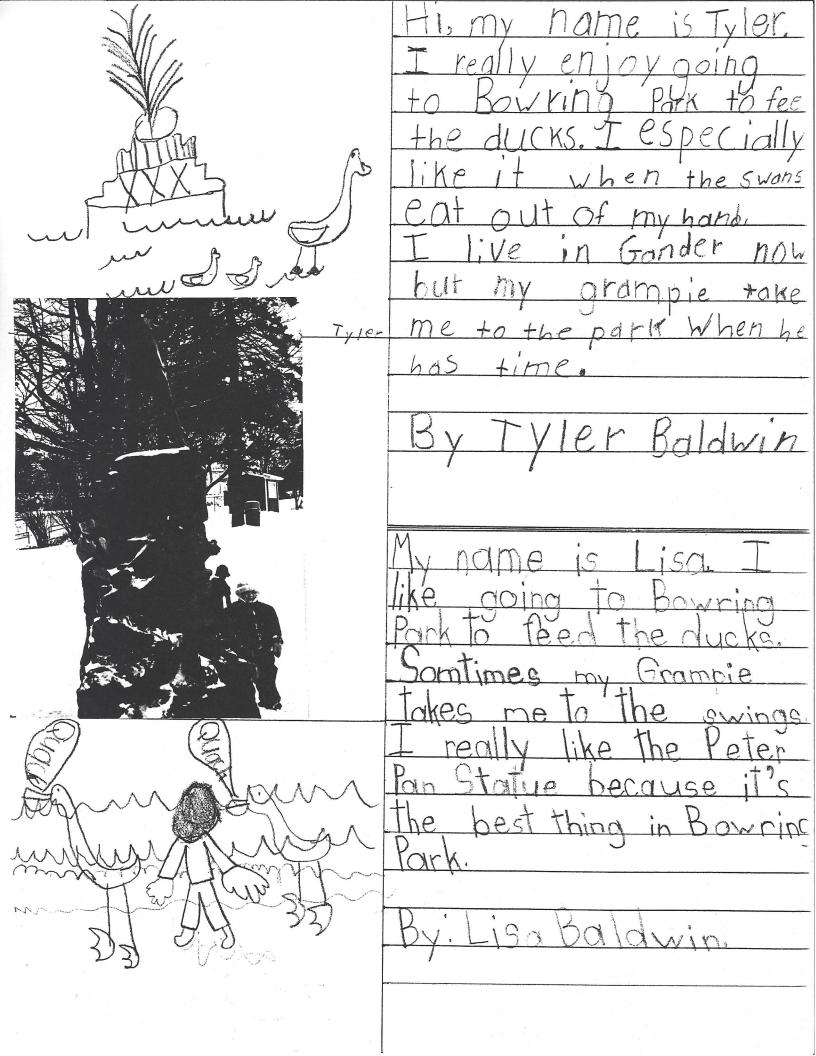
The Conservatory behind the Lodge will be replaced and a bridge over the Captain's Falls in the west section will be constructed in the spring. Proposals for the restoration of the Ornamental Pool and for the construction of accessible play structures have been sent to prospective funding sources. Proposals for riverbank stabilization on the South Brook River and for area lighting will be sent in the next quarter.

With the support of the public through the White Swan Club, I know the Foundation will grow and prosper. Keep up the good work!

Lorne R. Warren

dincerely,

Vice Chairman, Bowring Park Foundation and Chairman, Planning and Priorities Committee



CAPTAIN'S FALLS BRIDGE

The Foundation has had \$50,000.00 funding provided by the Royal Bank of Canada towards the construction of this bridge. These funds were provide to the citizens of the region in honour of the Royal Bank's 100th anniversary of business in Newfoundland.

The installation of this bridge will allow for a circuitous pathway around the full 200 acres of the Park. It will enable Park patrons to become familiar with the as yet undeveloped western area of the Park by inviting them to use the five or six kilometres of pathways that at present are only being used by the more adventurous patrons. By spreading the more than one million yearly visitors over a greater area, the original 50 acres will not be under as much stress as it has been for the number of years.

The area that the bridge will be located is the remote wooded area at the western boundary of the Park. As a matter of fact, more land had to be acquired from the province to accommodate the project. The area can be reached by existing woodland paths that lead to a spectacular view from a large rock outcrop overlooking the Captain's Falls. The view to the east consists of a large waterfalls cascading down through a heavily wooded river valley. To the west one sees the South Brook River quietly meandering through a grassy, treed area as it approaches the Falls.

The bridge itself will be made of steel, which will help to keep the cost of maintenance to a minimum. The type of steel is such that it will not have to be painted, as it is "self weathering". This type of construction was also chosen in an effort to minimize vandalism. Although made of steel, the bridge will be of a design that will closely resemble the original rustic bridges installed in the Park.



View of the Captain's Falls from below on the South Brook River

CONSERVATORY REPLACEMENT

The present Conservatory at BOWRING PARK was constructed in 1947 with money received as a bequest of Sir Edgar Rennie Bowring K,C.M.G. It has served as a memorial to Sir Edgar since that time. There is a bronze plaque over the west door which reads:

"This Greenhouse was erected as a bequest of Sir Edgar Rennie Bowring K.C.M.G. May it serve as a memorial to him and as a reminder to us of his deep interest in the Park, his generosity during his lifetime, and his great love of trees, lawns, streams and flowers whose natural beauty he wished us to enjoy."

It's original purpose was that of a working greenhouse to supply the Park with all of its necessary plant material. Over the last decade it had proven to be too small to provide sufficient quantities of material so three new working greenhouses were erected in the west area of the Park. Following the installation of these new structures the original greenhouse was refurbished and turned into a conservatory. It presently contains numerous exotic and tropical plants, as well as cactus and a garden pool complete with a waterfall and tropical fish.

The present structure is in a major state of disrepair. many of the structural beams as well as many of the sills are in advanced stages of rot. most of the operating windows are not functioning properly, if at all. Temporary supports have had to be installed in portions of the building to support the roof. Much of the original structure has been replaced over the years with contemporary materials. A large percentage of the glass has been replaced with corrugated fibreglass panels. Except for the plant material and water garden contained within, the present conservatory is hardly pleasing to Park patrons.

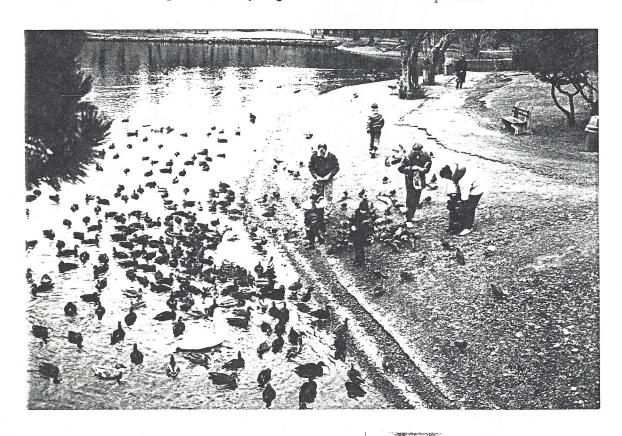
In 1986 Ms. Doreen Hall bequeathed a sum of money to the Park to be used in a conservatory. That sum is sufficient to cover the cost of replacing the existing structure. The installation of this new structure will offer a spectacular viewing area for the abundant plant material, and it will also serve as an excellent starting and finish point for the guided tours that the White Swan Club will begin to offer next spring. The interior walkways will be widened to meet accessibility requirements and the benches will be adjusted so that persons in wheelchairs will be able to wheel into them. The new aluminum and tempered glass building will be two feet higher, and it will have a fully automated climate control system.

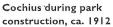
It was hoped to have this new \$90,000.00 building erected before the winter, however a labour dispute in Ontario has delayed delivery of the structure by 3 to 4 weeks, thus forcing the decision to wait until the spring.

WATCH FOR THIS NEW FEATURE IN EARLY SPRING!

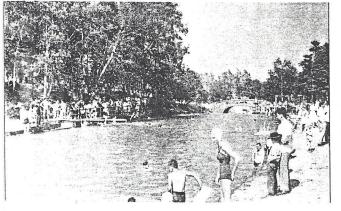
PARK ACTIVITIES

One of the great assets of Bowring Park is its accessibility to the general public. Regardless of the season or type of weather, there is always something of interest to be found in the Park. Take advantage of this fact and get out and enjoy the simple pleasures of life. Feed the ducks on a frosty morning or take a stroll along the Riverbank trail. What you do is not important, that you get out and do it is all important!

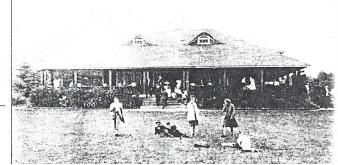




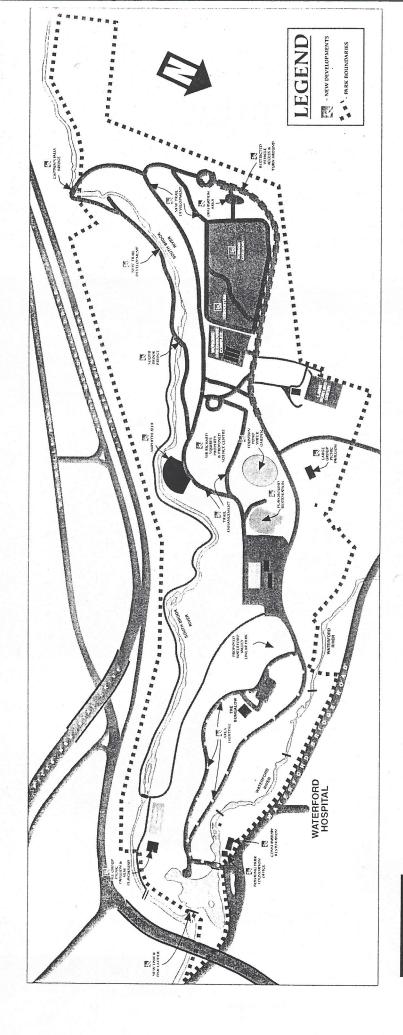




Swimming pool, South Brook River, ca. 1950's



The Bungalow, ca. 1940's





BOWRING PARK FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

WHITE SWAN CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Along with your membership you will receive a very attractive lapel pin for each adult enrolled, (max. 2) and a White Swan Club button for each child enrolled. You will also receive quarterly news letters, to keep you informed of the many activities of the Club and the Foundation.

Name			20	
City/Town				
Postal Code				
Telephone Number				
wish to volunteer	<u> </u>	() Yes		() N

MEMBERSHIP TYPE APPLIED FOR:

Family Membership includes all children 18 years of age and under. Please include names of all additional members

Name	Name	Name

This membership expires Dec. 31,1996

Please make cheques payable to:
THE BOWRING PARK FOUNDATION INC.

WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

Yes, You Can Help!

Your contribution to the

BOWRING PARK FOUNDATION

will go a long way to ensuring that the Park remains one of the most beautiful parks in all of North America.

All donations are Tax Deductible

MY DONATION IS: \$

Please make cheques payable to: THE BOWRING PARK FOUNDATION INC.

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND DONATIONS TO:

BOWRING PARK FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 39085
ST. JOHN'S, NF,
AIE 5Y7

TELEPHONE: (709) 576-6134

Bowring Park ...

a thing of beauty,

a joy forever!



POLISHING THE