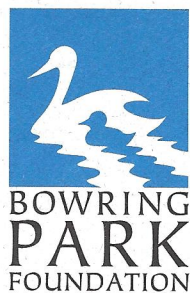


Honorary Patron  
Derrick Bowring



# ***WHITE SWAN CLUB NEWSLETTER***

1996 Fall Edition



His Worship Mayor John Murphy and Mr. Derrick Bowring, Honorary Patron of the Bowring Park Foundation, cut the ribbon to officially open the new Conservatory. Pictured from L to R are, Jim Ronan, Councillor Keith Coombs, Derrick Bowring, Mayor Murphy and Bruce Templeton.





**Lorne Warren**, Vice Chair of the Bowring Park Foundation and Chair of the Planning and Priorities Committee, was born in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and spent the early years of his life there. In 1965, the family moved to St. John's when his father joined the Canadian Coast Guard.

Lorne's father was awarded the Order Of Canada as Captain of the Coast Guard Cable Ship John Cabot, when he successfully rescued two British Scientists. These men had been trapped on the ocean floor for many days in a small submarine and were near death from lack of air.

Lorne attended MacPhearson Junior High, Prince Of Wales Collegiate and in 1980 graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from Memorial University. A short time later he joined the Canadian Coast Guard as an Inventory Control Officer, and progressed to his present position of Financial Officer.

He is married to the former Debbie Sceviour of Lewisporte and they have three children. Kelly aged 14, Robert aged 13 and Brent aged 9. Debbie is a teacher and a very active member of the White Swan Club Committee.

Lorne's backyard borders on Bowring Park and living in this close a proximity to it, gives him an opportunity to spend many hours walking the trails of the South Brook River. From these walks he realised the need for park upgrading and expansion. Together with Jim Ronan, they

approached Councillor Keith Coombs, and from their many discussions, the Bowring Park Foundation was Formed.

As chair of the Planning and Priorities Committee his vision is to see a gradual and well- planned development of the park's west end. "It is a very unique park" he says, and "I would like to see the original 50 acres of Bowring Park be restored to its original romantic condition, and at the same time, see the west end of the Park opened up for more use by the public".

Lorne is well suited to spearhead this challenging task. With his educational background and dedication to the park's long-term future, the projects that he and his committee present to the Board of Directors for approval will enhance the beauty and charm of the park.

Apart from his Bowring Park Foundation duties, Lorne is very active in many other civic organisations. He is a member of the St. Mary's Anglican Church vestry, an officer of the Whiteway Masonic Lodge and coach in the Waterford Valley girl's softball league.

He is very proud of the fact that in 1995 his all star Pee-Wee team won the Provincial Championship at Shea Heights and again in 1996 at Clarendville. This success does not come without a price. The team has spent many hours of each summer weekend practising under the watchful eye of the coach.

Lorne is a firm believer in becoming involved and giving his best effort in all his community activities. He says that "I get a great deal of satisfaction being a part of an organisation that will have lasting value for the Citizens of the City and the Province. It makes the long hours at planning meetings worthwhile to see such projects as the new Conservatory and bridge over Captain's Falls come to fruition."

Lorne is an avid gardener, and a golfer. He finds a game of golf with his son Robert or his father a welcome break from his many civic activities.



## CONSERVATORY RE-OPENED

The White Swan Club hosted a reception for the official re-opening of the Conservatory on Sunday, November 24th.

His Worship Mayor Murphy spoke to the one hundred or so people in attendance about Ms Doreen Hall and her life. Ms. Hall had left a substantial bequest to the Park which was the catalyst for restoring the Conservatory. The Mayor recognized the presence of Chief Justice Noel Goodridge and Mrs. Goodridge, who were in attendance representing the Estate of Ms. Hall.

Bruce thanked all of the many other benefactors who helped make the project the success that it was. Receiving thanks on behalf of the Foundation were Ken, Jeff and Gordon Thomas of Thomas Glass, The City of St. John's and Bonnie Woodland and Paul Gover of Newfoundland Slate Limited, Don Poynter of Holland Nurseries and Steve Benson of Woodland Nurseries were also thanked for their assistance in re-instating the plant material in the new structure.

Councilor Coombs acknowledged the Park Staff individually for their excellent work in designing and restoring the interior of the Conservatory. It is hoped to be able to offer guided tours by the spring, which will give staff time to complete the planting areas and have the new fountain and plaques installed. The Foundation is always willing to talk to potential donors for items like the fountain and plaque restoration.

Following a ribbon cutting ceremony, guests were treated to refreshments in the Lodge, served by White Swan Club members. The Foundation is grateful to Charlie Barfoot, who donated his time to provide all present with a wonderful selection of classical music. Indications are that all present had a marvelous time.

Members of the White Swan Club



Bruce  
thanking the  
benefactors



Chief Justice Noel Goodridge and Mrs Goodridge





## **PARK HISTORY**

**By Doug Crane**

### **Continued**

#### **SLATE QUARRY**

Upon entering the rustic path directly across from the horse trough, one need only walk a short distance and come upon the area known as the Slate Quarry. The Slate Quarry is a serene and sheltered little alcove that has been, and continues to be, the "secret hideaway" for so many people. It should be noted that Mr. Rudolph Cochius would frequent this particular spot quite often during Bowring Park's formative years. He would spend hours here deep in thought and quiet reflection. It would therefore not be improbable to suggest that many ideas which led to further development and beautification of the Park were hatched right here. This area has both beauty and historical significance, and we hope that at some time in the future it can be developed in such a way as to ensure its upkeep and maintain its inherent qualities.

#### **SHADOW POOLS**

As one leaves the Caribou and heads eastward down a short rustic path, you encounter one of our many shadow pools. These pools, one of Bowring Park's original features, were specially created to give a clear and brilliant reflection. The entire shadow pool system starts farther upriver, just before the vehicular overpass bridge. Part of the Castor River was diverted to make the effect, which continues down until it rejoins the river near the horse trough. The pool located just east of the Caribou is very important because it is one of the trout's prime spawning areas. Brown trout reside here in large numbers, and one need only throw a few bread crumbs onto the water to see them dart and splash about.

#### **FOUNTAIN POND**

Travelling west along the main road, just past

the playground, one sees the Fountain Pond on the left. It is an attractive and quiet area for the weary park patron, adorned with many benches. The Fountain Pond is also frequented by many ducks, who either immerse themselves in the refreshing spray, or paddle along contentedly. The concrete slabs encircling the pond are from Fort William, the fountain itself came from the Basilica of St. John the Baptist, made available when the church was renovated. The entire area was constructed in the early 1970's, and will soon undergo a major reconstruction.

#### **BUNGALOW**

Ever since its erection in 1915, the Bowring Park Bungalow has been a popular meeting place for park patrons. In its early years, people would gather there to warm themselves by a roaring fire after a day's ice skating. For many years, a canteen was in operation, providing cool refreshment on hot summer's days. Also, the front lawn of the Bungalow has always played host to numerous concerts and festivals annually, attended by countless happy visitors. The lawn is also quite popular for sun bathing and family picnics, all amid a lush carpet of grass and many blue chip trees. In fact, the majority of trees found in the Bungalow area have been planted by visiting dignitaries. Being a place of such impeccable beauty, it also comes as no surprise that the Bungalow is a favourite location for wedding receptions.

All in all, the popularity of the Bungalow is easily understandable. It stands almost at the heart of Bowring Park, quite majestic and impressive as it overlooks a sizeable area of unparalleled beauty.

#### **More next time.**



## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

With 1996 drawing to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous and Prosperous New Year.

1996 has been an exceptionally busy year for the Foundation. We have completed the Conservatory restoration, which you can read about elsewhere in this news- letter. The bridge and pathways are now complete at Captain's Falls. An official opening will take place in the spring. The river bank stabilization project done behind the swimming pool was a success. By stopping further silting of the river we will be protecting the salmon and brown trout habitats in the river.

The White Swan Club is polishing up its Guided Tour Manual. Expect Park tours to be offered in the spring. It has been a real treat working with the White Swan Club on their activities this year. Events such as the Peter Pan Festival, Family Fun Day and the Conservatory opening to name a few, were great fun. Just a fabulous bunch to work with!

The students of Centrac College have provided the Foundation with much valuable information about the trees and birds of Bowring Park that we will use in future interpretative projects. Much thanks to member Janet Fairley for making us realize the importance of identifying the numerous varieties of trees and birds within the Park.

We are now preparing project proposals for 1997. Members will be informed more about this in the coming months.

Submitted by: Jim Ronan





## COCHIUS' DAUGHTER VISITS PARK

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On Saturday, November 9, the Foundation had the honor of holding a reception for Dr. Claire (Cochius) Gillingham. It was her father that actually oversaw the construction of Bowring Park.

A landscape designer as well as an engineer, Rudolph Cochius worked for Montreal designer Sir Frederick Todd, who had a contract with Bowring Brothers Ltd. to design and build the Park. Cochius brought his family to Newfoundland for the duration of the five year project. Dr. Gillingham, who was and still is affectionately known as "tiny" or "tine", has the distinction of being the first, and possibly only person born in Bowring Park. Following the Park construction in 1917, the Cochius family moved back to Montreal where Rudolph completed projects for what was by that time Todd and Cochius and Associates. In 1920 the family moved to Holland where Cochius formed a partnership with a landscape architect named Kester. In 1922 Sir Richard Squires invited Cochius to design and build the five war memorial parks in France. The family moved to Albert, France for the three years it took to complete the parks. In 1925 they then moved back to Newfoundland where Cochius worked for the Roads Board. During that time he designed two prominent bridge structures: the first being the bridge at the Cataracts, the second the curved bridge at Outer Cove. He also operated an export business during this period. In the early 1940's, Cochius moved back to Montreal where he spent his remaining years working for Frederick Todd.

Before the family did move back to Montreal, however Claire married Professor Alan Gillingham and moved to the United States. There they both taught and raised their family. At the request of the Newfoundland Government, in the 1970's the Gillinghams once again returned to Newfoundland, this time as pioneers in education. Together they set up the Grenfell College in Corner Brook for Memorial University.

Much to the delight of the many Foundation members and friends who attended, Dr. Gillingham was reunited with an old childhood friend from the Park. Shortly after the reception began, Mrs. Vicki (LeMessieur) Badcock arrived to meet Dr. Gillingham for the first time in 60 years. To the joy and amazement of all present, Dr. Gillingham recognized Mrs. Badcock's voice before she actually saw her. The two ladies embraced and clenched hands for what seemed like an eternity. It appears that this was the beginning of a renewed friendship, as they have been in each other's company a number of times since, and plan to keep in touch on a regular basis from now on.

Following the reunion, along with Mr. Derrick Bowring and Deputy Mayor Wells, Dr.

Gillingham and Mrs. Badcock planted a splendid European Blue Spruce tree near the Bungalow, in memory of Dr. Gillingham's father. Although we had no idea when we chose a Blue Spruce tree, following the planting Dr. Gillingham informed us that she has a place near and dear to her heart for Blue Spruce trees. At one time she headed up a campaign to save a number of these trees from destruction in her home town in Maine.

All present then ventured back to the Bungalow for refreshments and an opportunity to hear some wonderful stories of the park of old. A great time was had by all.

( Thanks to Philip Hiscock, MUN Folklore Department for historical information in the above article)



From L to R , Mrs Badcock, Dr. Gillingham, Mr. Bowring and Deputy Mayor Wells.



Pictured from L to R are, Mr. Bowring, Mrs Badcock and Dr. Gillingham.



## LECTURE AT THE BUNGALOW

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On Friday, October 25, the Newfoundland Association of Landscape Architects sponsored a lecture by Dr. Peter Jacobs, Professor of Landscape Architecture, Universite de Montreal.

Dr. Jacobs subject was the career of Sir Frederick Todd, designer of Bowring Park. The thirty or so people in attendance at the Bungalow that evening were given a very informative presentation on the many and varied projects that Sir Frederick worked on during his very successful career. Anyone familiar with Bowring Park could see the similarities of design in much of the material presented.

The 45 minute lecture was followed by a lively question and answer period, during which Dr. Jacobs spoke frankly about his thoughts of Bowring Park. Dr. Jacob's suggested that Todd designed Bowring Park with much the same philosophy as his mentor, renowned Landscape Architect Frederick Olmstead, used to design Mt. Royal Park in Montreal. That philosophy was: "Don't mess with nature. Expose it, let people appreciate it, but don't try to mold it".



THE BUNGALOW

## WHITE SWAN CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to volunteer ( ) Yes ( ) No

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE APPLIED FOR:

TYPE	YEARLY FEE	(✓)
SENIOR	\$10.00	( )
INDIVIDUAL	\$12.00	( )
FAMILY	\$18.00	( )

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, 1997**

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

**WELCOME TO THE CLUB!**

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS

**EXPIRE ON**

**DECEMBER 31st**

**PLAN TO RENEW TODAY!**



## WHITE SWAN CLUB

**THE WHITE SWAN CLUB HAS BEEN** established to provide the general public with opportunities to participate in the many special events and activities of

**THE BOWRING PARK FOUNDATION.**

The contributions of club members are essential for the success of the Foundation's endeavors which in turn help ensure the revitalization and preservation of the Park. **WHITE SWAN CLUB** members are the core group from which the Foundation draws upon to assist in enhancement projects and to organize events in the Park.

**MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL**

members of the general public. The Club has both individual and family memberships. Family membership includes members of immediate families living in the same household.

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**

**WHITE SWAN MEMBERS COMPRISE** the general membership of **THE BOWRING PARK FOUNDATION** and are responsible for electing Directors-at-Large of the Foundation. Family Membership will entitle two persons over 18 years of age to have voting privileges.

**APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP TODAY !**

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### FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

We have just completed our first full year of operation, and what a year it has been! As our General Manager's report on page 5 states, we have successfully completed a number of projects this past year that will be of great benefit for generations to come.

The events that were sponsored by the White Swan Club were a pleasure for all who attended. I look forward to the many events being planned for the Cabot 500 celebrations in 1997.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Foundation I would like to wish you all a

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
**&**  
**A HAPPY NEW YEAR !**

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Templeton, Chair