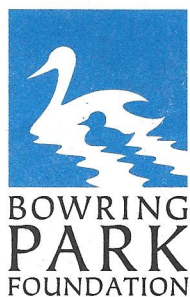


Honorary Patron  
Derrick Bowring



# ***WHITE SWAN CLUB NEWSLETTER***

**FALL/WINTER 1999/2000**



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## **COVER PHOTO**

The Amphitheatre





**Debbie Warren** is a member of the White Swan Committee of the Bowring Park Foundation. She was part of the sub-committee that developed the current walking tour guide and a regular volunteer at the Conservatory when it was first opened to the public.

Debbie was born in Buchans, spent her pre-teen years in Lewisporte and moved to St. John's in 1967. She attended MacPherson Junior High and **Prince of Wales Collegiate**. Debbie graduated from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1977 with a B.A. (Ed) and started her teaching career in a one-room multi-grade school in Little Harbours East. After two years she obtained a teaching position in St. John's. In 1985 Debbie returned to Memorial to complete her BA (SpEd). She has taught at St. Phillips, Goulds and Beachy Cove Elementary schools.

Debbie married Lorne Warren in 1978. They have three children, Kelly who will graduate Level III in June 2000, Robert a Level II student at Bishops College and Brent a Grade 7 student at I.J. Sampson.

Growing up on Reid St. and quickly learning to cross the river as a shortcut Debbie spent many summer days and evenings as a teenager using the park facilities. The rowboats were especially enjoyable for a girl from the bay.

Teaching in St. Philips for fifteen years has provided Debbie an excellent opportunity to expose hundreds of children to areas other than the playground, duck pond and swimming pool. Part of these yearly excursions is a scavenger hunt to find different landmarks and monuments in the park. Over the years being a Girl Guide leader and an active parent in Cubs, Beavers and Junior Forest Wardens has allowed Debbie to show these other groups the many hidden treasures within the park.

Debbie says "after becoming involved in the Bowring Park Foundation a sense of pride and ownership for the park has been passed on to our children as they participate and see our participation. Brent has been known to correct a teacher or two on the pronunciation not Boring but Bow (like WOW) ring Park. Each of our children have also involved four or five of their friends in various activities."

Public awareness of the Foundation and getting the youth more involved in park activities are two major reasons that Debbie continues to volunteer her time so freely. The most rewarding part of her volunteerism is to see the smile and excitement on a young child's face when they get another balloon after theirs has floated away or their faces painted on Peter Pan Day.



## MY CHRISTMAS CAKE!

It was a baking disaster! I had baked a fruit cake loaded with butter, nuts, raisins and other fruit, plus lots of sherry for flavour. When baking time was up I pulled it out of the oven only to find that the cake was doughy, and hardly risen. I checked the oven temperature and found I had set it at 275 degrees rather than the required 375 degrees. I set the cake aside and got on with other Christmas preparations.

On Christmas morning my husband and I set out for our usual early morning walk in the park with our Welsh Terrier, Kristi. At the last moment I decided to bring along the disaster cake. It was a beautiful sunny day, and the birds seemed hungry. I went down to a spot by the bridge and the old pine trees and started scattering broken-up fruitcake. Soon the ground was carpeted with ducks and pigeons.

I stretched out my hand with some cake and a large grey pigeon landed and **stayed!** I held him up for quite a while until he had finished his feast. Soon others were landing on me and in no time the cake disappeared, except for a few pieces saved for Christi, who had waited all this time, and for our three friends, the geese.

We continued on our way, delighted that a little bit of Christmas cheer had been enjoyed by the birds of Bowring Park, and our day had been happily launched in a most auspicious way.

What to offer them next year?

Janet Fairley





## Around the Office

Jim Ronan, General Manager

### AMPHITHEATRE

As you see from the cover of this edition, and the article on page seven the Amphitheatre is now complete. It was a great project to have worked on, and all involved in constructing this new provincial landmark should feel proud. Many thanks to the following for believing in this project and helping make it happen:

- The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, with thanks to Paul Mills, John Kennedy, and Greg Stamp.
- The St. John's 500<sup>th</sup> Cabot Legacy Committee with thanks to Barbara Chalker, John Fitzpatrick, Mark Kennedy, and their sponsors Newtel, Sobeys, Royal Bank, Petro Canada, Weston's Bakeries, VOCM/Magic 97, Dick's and Co. Ltd.
- The City of St. John's with thanks to Mayor and council, Jim Clarke, Bob Wilson, Brain Head, Dave Evans, Jill Brewer, and Tanya Haywood.
- Bowring Park Foundation with thanks to Millar Ewing, Lorne Warren, Gord Jin, Ed Snook, Hugh Cumming.
- PHB Group/Architects: Philip Pratt, Paul Blackwood, Charlie Henley, Les Snow, and Jackie Stanley.
- Jim Floyd, Landscape Architect.
- Fred Hann
- Artec Consultants Inc. Acoustic Consultant and Theatre Designers.
- Quadra Tec - Inc., Mechanical and Electrical Consultants.
- Structural Consultants Inc., Structural Engineers.

- Maher's Contracting Ltd., General Contractor: Ron Hickey, Ed Miller, and Dan Coffey.

### "LEAVE A LEGACY"

The Foundation participated in the "Leave a Legacy" 1999 Program, a campaign to promote interest in the general public in charitable giving through a will or estate plan. By making a gift in your will or estate plan to the charity of your choice, you can continue to support the valuable work of your favorite charity. And, there are significant tax benefits to these gifts.

Leaving a Legacy to the Bowring Park Foundation would be a unique opportunity for you to support us in continuing our mission; to assist with the restoration and future development of Bowring Park. You may wish to assist with a specific project or you may choose to help in our effort to build our Endowment Fund.

For more information on planned giving; please contact the Foundation Office at 576-6134.



### **IN MEMORY**

In December, our sincere sympathy was expressed to Mr. Edgar Bowring whose wife Peggy had recently passed away. Now living in England, and far removed from this Bowring Park, Edgar has fond memories of the Park just the same, and was glad to work with Derrick Bowring and Roland Inkpen in 1996 to secure a \$750,000 donation from C.T. Bowring Co. Ltd. for our Endowment Fund. Edgar Bowring is a founding member of the Society of Friends of Bowring Park, Liverpool, England. He spearheaded a campaign, along with family members Sir Kenneth Stoddart and Peter Bowring to protect their Bowring Park and adjacent open spaces from major real estate development, and to assist with the restoration of amenities in Bowring Park, Liverpool.

### **DUCK POND PROJECT**

The Foundation, the City and the Grand Concourse Authority are currently working towards a final concept for the restoration of the Duck Pond. The \$750,000 to \$950,000 project will address the flooding and siltation problems in the Pond and will include major improvements to the severely eroded landscape and walkways around the Pond.

A major fund raising initiative is currently underway to fund this project and the South Brook Trail Project.

### **SOUTH BROOK TRAIL**

The Foundation is working with the Grand Concourse Authority to perform significant improvements to this trail

system. Since the Foundation installed the bridge over Captain's Fall in 1996, use of the South Brook Trail has increased tremendously. This increase in use has made it necessary to improve the trail to make it both safer and more enjoyable. This summer we will be doing trail improvements and installing a number of new bridges, boardwalks, and hand rails. This \$200,000 project will be funded equally by the GCA and BPF.

### **COUCIL PRESENTATION 2000**

Chairman Bruce Templeton, Secretary-Treasurer Mike Power and General Manager Jim Ronan made the Annual Presentation to City Council on Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, 2000. Council was presented with a review of 1999 projects and events, financial statements for 1999, and an overview of our 5 year plan. Council has once again agreed to support your Foundation with a Capital Grant of \$100,000 for 2000.

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**We extend a warm *Welcome* to the following new White Swan Club Members:**

- ▶ Dr. Neil and Maureen Rawson
- ▶ Doug, Debbie and Deven Seymour
- ▶ Peter Rogers
- ▶ Gerry, Olive and Chelsea Butler



## PARK MEMORIES

## THE PLAYGROUND

For many a young child, the playground is Bowring Park. No matter what time of the year, or whatever the weather, echoing from the playground is the laughter of children at play. This is a sound that has been resounding from the park for generations. From the earliest days of the Park, the playground was located in the grassy field next to the tennis courts. Wooden swings and seesaws, sand boxes and jungle gyms were more than likely the toys of the day which kept young park patrons smiling for hours. Remnants of this park remained and were enjoyed until the late 1960's. Then, in 1967, in honor of Canada's 100 birthday, the federal government established a civic beautification and development fund for municipalities across Canada. Bowring Park's present day swimming pool, ball field and playground were all established as a result of this special fund.

The modern day playground is located in the west end of the park between the swimming pool and the fountain pond. In this ideal location sat the latest in playground entertainment. Swings, some suitable for infants and others for older children, or those young at heart, were and still are the

most popular attraction. Aluminum slides, metal monkey bars, sand boxes and seesaws were spread throughout the grounds for the enjoyment of many. Some children would become circus performers as they bounced upon one of the animal characters mounted on a large spring. Others would pretend they were riding the reins as they held tight to their horse on the merry-go-round.

In recent years thanks to donations and sponsors, the playground has experienced further modernization, including an area accessible to the disabled. But no matter how old or new its contents, the playground is one of the Park's more popular attractions. Children run from the parking lot, towing their parents behind them, eager to be the first one to reach the swings. Once they are filled with the pleasure of swinging, they hop off and run to the slide. They climb up and slide down until they spy another ride. They rotate around the park until their parents tire and decide it is time to leave. The children however, will never tire of the playground. They go home and rest, only to store enough energy to experience the playground all over again.

Mary Lou Downey



The Merry-Go-Round at Bowring  
Park Playground 1969

Editor  
Associate Editor  
Contributors

Ed Matthews  
Jim Ronan  
Janet Fairley  
Mary Lou Downey

### The St. John's Cabot 500 Theatre

Following the recommendations to the City of St. John's by Allan Hay in 1956. Van Ginkle and Associates in 1959 and Richard Seypka and Associates in 1982, the Bowring Park Foundation included an Amphitheatre in its Development Plan of 1995.

The Foundation also felt that it would be an ideal legacy project to the Cabot 500 celebrations, much as the Cabot Tower was constructed as a 400<sup>th</sup> legacy project. With this in mind, we sought out partners for the project and in March of 1998 were very fortunate to find one in the St. John's 500<sup>th</sup> Cabot Celebration Committee and its eight partners, who also contributed \$15,000 toward a commemorative sculpture.

In September of 1998, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) came on board with almost half a million dollars in funding. So, following two years of research and fundraising initiatives, the Bowring Park Foundation was pleased to announce plans to construct a new Amphitheatre in St. John's. At that time a joint City / Foundation project team was formed which was co - chaired by Millar Ewing from the Bowring Park Foundation and Jim Clarke of the City of St. John's.

The contract to design the facility was awarded to PHB Group shortly thereafter. Due to the unique nature of the facility and the fact that it was going to be situated inside of a city park, what followed was an intensive design campaign. To ensure that this would be a truly functional and well used facility, interviews were done with dozens of individuals and groups covering all disciplines of the local arts community.

The Bowring Park Foundation, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the City of St. John's, and the St. John's 500<sup>th</sup> Cabot Committee were very pleased with the final design. In July we were able to award the tender for construction to Maher's Contracting Ltd.

**We are pleased to report that the new Amphitheatre is now complete**, all ready for what is anticipated to be a very busy inaugural season. It boasts a design that makes this not only a new Park feature but a **new City of St. John's landmark**. This Amphitheatre is constructed principally with materials both that blend in with the surrounding landscape and will be relatively maintenance free for years to come. Consideration of the surrounding landscape was a top priority with all parties involved in designing and creating the new site. PHB did a fine job in designing the new facility into the existing landscape. The general contractor did a fine job, as well, in ensuring the safe moving of a number of significant sized trees and protecting the area during construction. This multi-purpose, fully accessible facility, has superb acoustics, a seating capacity for up to 700, and washroom facilities that are for venue and regular park patrons.

The official opening of the Amphitheatre is tentatively set for Discovery Day weekend, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2000. This \$775,000 project was made possible by the generosity of ACOA, St. John's 500<sup>th</sup> Cabot Celebration Committee, City of St. John's, Newtel, Sobeys, Royal Bank, Petro Canada, Weston's Bakeries, VOCM/ Magic 97, Dicks and Co. Ltd., and the Bowring Park Foundation.





**Sir Edgar Bowring observing the digging out of the Duck Pond 1912-1913**



**The Duck Pond (originally known as the Boat Lake) circa 1917-1920**