

# The Bowring Park Trumpet

BOWRING PARK FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER  
HONORARY PATRON—DERRICK BOWRING

Spring 2005



- Master Plan set for public input.
- Bridge needs overhaul
- Swans a big hit
- Chairman pleased with development plan progress
- Melanie McLeod first female park supervisor
- Chairman, "the bridge is a vital link"

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## Park master plan set for public input

*"The maturity and decline of vegetation in the original park, intense public use, and a lag in maintenance have placed the park in a precarious state, where considerable investment is needed to return the park to its traditional level of beauty."* (Bowring Park Master Plan)

The Bowring Park Foundations Board was recently given a preview of an updated Park Master Plan by Neil Dawe and Cynthia Hildebrand representing of the Grand Concourse Authority.

The presentation marked the beginning of the next phase of the consultation process. The third in a series of Bowring Park Master Plan open houses and public meetings has been sched-

uled for May 4, 2005. The open house will begin at 2:30 pm through until 7:00 pm and the public meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the Foran—Green Room, 4th Floor, City Hall.

The creation of the master plan was initiated by the Bowring Park Foundation with the financial support of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. The Grand Concourse Authority planning and design team prepared the plan and supporting documents under the direction of the project steering committee, that was struck by the City of St. John's.

Bowring Park was created to provide the people of the



St. John's region with an opportunity for physical and spiritual recreation.

Neil Dawe said *"The original vision of the park remains highly relevant today. The rejuvenation of Bowring Park should aim to provide modern day users with an opportunity for spiritual and physical recreation in an environment of attractive, varied landscapes reflecting the natural and pastoral origins of the park"* (See Planners, page 2)

## Province's first concrete bridge needs overhaul

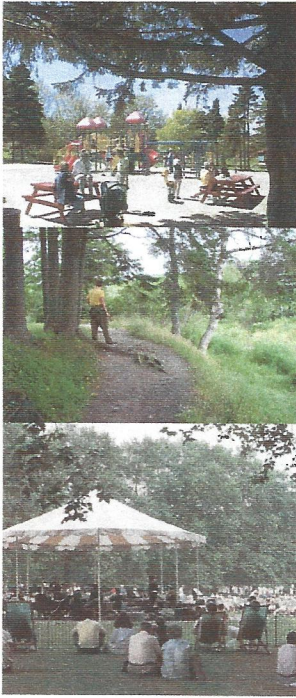
The City of St. John's took the precautionary step this past winter of restricting traffic on the bridge at the main entrance to Bowring Park to pedestrians only.

Jim Clarke, manager of public works and parks with the city and a member of the B.P. Foundation Board

said that a routine inspection of the bridge found deficiencies that caused the province's oldest concrete bridge to be closed to vehicular traffic pending further inspection. Mr. Clarke said "replacing the bridge could cost upwards of \$750 thousand. City engineers are

now looking at possible long term solutions. While no funds have been identified in the city's capital works budget to date Mr. Clarke said, "a long term solution is being sought". (see Chairman page 3)





## Planners view park as four distinct areas

The Bowring Park Master Plan divides the City's largest park into four distinct areas.

Planners have written that the park landscape is classified into four distinct areas based on their suitability for intensive park development.

**Old Bowring Park** is the original 50 acre area and will continue to reflect the original intention of the Park's designers Todd and Cochius. Designers have said that the original vi-

sion of the Park remains relevant today.

**Midstream** is the core of the park that includes the Sir. Richard Squires estate as well as the old Gaze farm and the MacNab farm. This area has the bulk of the Parks recreational facilities.

**O'Briens Hill** area is the high-land area at the north western limit of the park that was at one time O'Brien's farm.

**South Brook Valley**, the river

valley is a natural landscape with scenic vistas, steep slopes and natural stream habitat. This area will be developed as a relatively natural space where the primary attraction will be natural scenery of the brook and its cascades, native vegetation, wildlife and the remnant farm landscapes.

Councilor Keith Coombs chairs the Bowring Park Master Plan Steering Committee.

*"With that, I saw two swans of goodly hue/  
Come softly swimming  
down along the lee:/  
Two fairer birds I yet  
did never see. (Ib.37).*



Mother Swan

## Swans a big hit with park visitors

The swans are on the nest, it must be spring. Visitors to Bowring Park this spring have been taking time to observe that the swans have changed locations from last spring's nesting site. They have placed their nest on the north side of the Conservatory near the Lodge.

Park officials have been keeping a close eye on things and have

placed food and water near the site to help the swans. It is believed that there are seven eggs in nest this season and we are



Standing guard over nest

hopeful for a successful hatch.

It has also been reported that the swans in Mundy Pond are also nesting this spring.

The two surviving cygnets from last years hatch have been placed in the fountain pond this spring.



John Downton

## Chairman pleased with development plan progress

**"We are pleased to be coming to the end of the Development Plan Process"**, said John Downton, Chairman of the Bowring Park Foundation. The Chairman said that the process took longer to complete than first thought, however it did provide an opportu-

nity for as many of the public as possible to have input into the final product.

The Chairman encourages as many people as possible to visit City Hall during the upcoming open house and public meeting.

This is the third in a series of

public meetings giving park users an opportunity for input into the park's long term development plan.

Mr Downton said that **"The plan has the support of the Foundation's Board and we are looking forward to the implementation stage"**.



## Melanie McLeod - A zest for color

As a young agricultural student specializing in horticulture, Melanie McLeod often strolled through Bowring Park and wondered "what would it be like to work in a place like this"? Today she is Parks foreperson and responsible for the city's floral showcase in Bowring Park.

Melanie, the first female supervisor of Bowring Park, was appointed in 1996. She works with six full-time staff and five additional seasonal workers during the summer months.

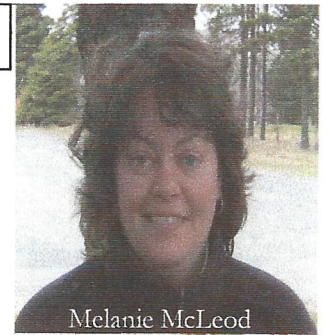
Melanie and her team plan what plants are placed in each of the 25 or so large flower beds and borders in the Park. In all, over 24,000 annuals are planted each year in addition to the 2000 dozen bulbs that are set in the fall for the spring bloom.

The City of St. John's will go through 4,500 dozen annuals in its planting program throughout the city but the crown jewel is always Bowring Park.

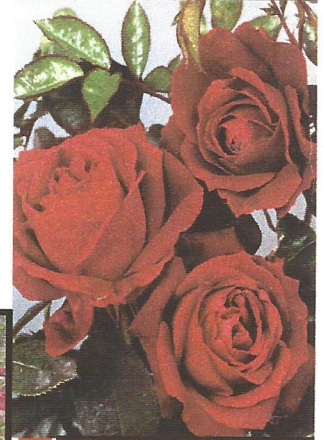
Marigolds, New Guinea impatiens, begonias, and mums are

part of Melanie's parade of color. Her favorite flower is the purple wave petunia.

This year Melanie is planning on a new addition to the Bowring Park's floral arrangement. Floating planters will be placed in the Park's popular duck pond. Melanie thinks the pond could use a little color. Look for this new addition.



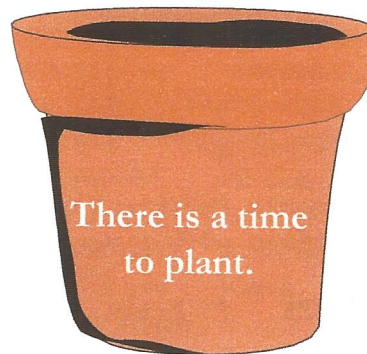
Melanie McLeod



### Did you know

- There are 22 native tree species in Newfoundland.
- Over 132 species are found in Bowring Park.

## For all things there is a season



### Did You Know

Harry Hamlyn began working in Bowring Park at age 11 and was appointed Superintendent in 1941.

The tennis courts were first opened to the public in 1946.

Alfred Canning was the first Park Supervisor appointed in 1917.

## Chairman would like to see bridge restored.

John Downton, Chairman of the Bowring Park Foundation said that "***The concrete bridge at the main entrance to the Park is a vital link and often the first view of the Park patrons.***" The Board would like to see it restored as soon as possible and will work with the city to see this accom-

plished in as short a time as possible.

Jim Clarke said that it seems like "the duck pond is not complete until the bridge work is done".

The old bridge was built in 1913 and has been the welcome mat for kings and queens, horse

drawn carriages, weddings, family reunions, graduations and many family picnics.

The Chairman said "***routing traffic to the bungalow via the west gate is not a suitable alternative because of the proximity of the children's playground.***"





**Bowring Park Foundation  
Newsletter**

**P.O. Box 39085  
St. John's, NL  
Canada  
A1E 5Y7**

**Phone: 709-576-6134  
Fax: 709-576-8073  
E-mail: [bfp@bowringpark.com](mailto:bfp@bowringpark.com)**

We're on the Web  
[www.bowringpark.com](http://www.bowringpark.com)

**City of St. John's  
Commemorative Tree  
Planting  
A good idea**



**Reminder**

**Take a little time  
to renew your  
membership.**

## About The Bowring Park Foundation

The Bowring Park Foundation was established in 1995, as envisioned by Der-ick Bowring, Honorary Patron of the Foundation, and living descendent of Benjamin Bowring, to undertake the restoration and further development of Bowring Park in St. John's.

The Foundation is recognized by Revenue Canada as a charitable organization (registration number 89826 7472 RP0001). Donations are gratefully received at the Foundation office (see address this page).

### Bowring Park Foundation Membership Application/Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: Renewal ( ) or New ( )

I wish to volunteer Yes ( ) no ( )

Type	Annual Fee	(
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( ) Senior:	\$10.00	( )
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( ) Individual	\$12.00	( )
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( ) Family	\$18.00	( )
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I/we would further like to support the Bowring Park Foundation with a donation of:

( ) \$25 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$100 ( ) Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

## Take Pride ... Take Action

This is an annual five week program, running from May 15 to June 15. The program is designed to encourage citizens to organize litter clean-ups in their areas.

It's a great way for your group to fundraise. Turn your clean-up into a Clean-a-Thon! Clean your neighbourhood area, your school grounds and surrounding area, a stretch of river bank, or a vacant lot.

### Everyone can register a litter clean-up!

Businesses  
Church Groups  
Community Centres  
Environmental Groups

Families  
Neighbourhoods  
Post Secondary Institutions

Tenant Associations  
Youth Groups



**Take Pride...  
Take Action!**

Register a clean-up by contacting us at: tel 570-0350 / web : [www.cleanandbeautiful.nf.ca/takepride.htm](http://www.cleanandbeautiful.nf.ca/takepride.htm)  
or email: [info@cleanandbeautiful.nf.ca](mailto:info@cleanandbeautiful.nf.ca)

**Your action can make a difference.**

**Contribute to a cleaner City**

