



Newsletter

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Newsletter Topics

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Security

24-hour security continues to the end of the fiscal year and is in the 2024 budget. Open hours until spring — 8 AM to 4 PM.

Q & A

Q & A is a standard item. If you help by asking the questions, we will give you the answers. Just email your question to info@halifaxpublicgardens.ca. Please put in the subject line “Newsletter Question.”

Previous Newsletters

You could also peruse our newsletters starting at March 2020 by Barbara Carleton. Copy the link <https://www.halifaxpublicgardens.ca/new-page-2> or go to the website and click 'About', then click Newsletters



Pinus sylvestris

Scotch Pine

Photo by David Kerr

The Trees of the Public Gardens #19

Pinus sylvestris

Scotch Pine

The Scotch pine, as it is known in Britain, is the national tree of Scotland. The only native tree of Northern Europe, it is now one of the most widely distributed pines in the world. It is found throughout western Asia and Siberia, is widely grown in New Zealand, and probably arrived on our shores early on during western settlement. It is also more easily identifiable because of its rusty, orange/brown bark on newish trunk growth and its shortish, blue green needles growing in pairs. As it ages (and can live 300 years), the bark darkens and assumes its scaly appearance. There are over 100 varieties exhibiting differences in needle length and colour and adaptability to the environment.

In the landscape, it is valued for its picturesque characteristics, as it is noted for its distorted, irregular main trunk. Scotch pine typically has a branching habit contributing to its irregular trunk formation. This creates a more asymmetrical silhouette in the maturing trees.

When young and with pruning, a symmetrical appearance is created. This is done in Christmas tree production. In the '70s and '80s, it was the most popular Christmas tree and remains in the top 5 species for that purpose, although Balsam fir is the grower's choice in Nova Scotia, with over 98% of the Christmas tree production.

It can grow in various soil conditions and prefers a sunny location, where it can achieve a height of 30 meters. Scotch pine possesses a timeless beauty, and its rugged appearance and resilience make it a beloved feature of landscapes worldwide.

David Kerr

Q & A

Q. Is there a Butterfly Garden in the Halifax Public Gardens?

A. A new perennial garden, created in 2023, contains specific plantings to attract butterflies. However, throughout the Gardens are many plants that draw butterflies.

Q. I'm interested in being involved in the Gardens. How do I do that?

A. TFPG is always looking for Volunteers to assist on special days or commit to becoming a Tour Guide, working at our information Desk or becoming a Board Member. Email to info@halifaxpublicgardens.ca or call 902-440-3621

ON THE WILD SIDE The Gardens are alive!

Bird Tour Report Summary

Every Wednesday morning from June 7 to October 4, 2023, a group gathered to birdwatch. Who are they? The curious, the anticipatory, avid bird watchers, TFPG members, the public, locals, and tourists across a wide range of ages. 23 varieties of birds were noted this year. Tour Guide Wesley Petite shared information and occasional readings from Robie Tufts' *Birds of Nova Scotia* (1971), which helped tour attendees learn about each type of bird seen.

The two-year (2018 -2020) Wild Bird Study <https://www.halifaxpublicgardens.ca/bird-gallery> identified 75 varieties, and an additional 33 have been reported since by the authors, Gisele d'Entremont and Joan Harbison, for a total of 108 birds that are known to visit the gardens throughout the year. Quite fascinating for all who attend - a good morning walk with exciting viewings. Why not join in the walk during Summer 2024?



A Valuable Visitor Resource

During the Summer Season 2023, our Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) employees updated the TFPG Tree inventory. The Map of the Gardens that we sell for \$5.00 in Horticultural Hall was originally designed by members of the Board 20 years ago. It has been updated in 2012, 2019, and 2023. It now records the changes, replacements and additions with alphabetized index of their scientific and common names. The map is planned for reprinting in 2024. The reverse of the map captures some of the significant photos from *The Halifax Public Gardens Book* written and published by TFPG.

An Otter in Griffin's Pond

Sightings of an otter in Griffin's Pond have been noted in the Gardens this month by Visitors. Is it mistakenly thought to be a new creature in the Pond or really the mink highlighted in the January Newsletter? Has anyone else spotted it? If so, contact us at info@halifaxpublicgardens.ca

The TFPG AGM

The TFPG AGM will be held in mid-May. We are seeking good volunteers for a two-year commitment as Board Members. Please think of your talents that you could bring to enrich the Board. The Call and Announcement will be your in-box soon.

Snowy Gardens

The Gardens must close temporarily when there is enough snow to clog the paths and some ice that adds to the precaution of safety. Please have patience while the Gardeners clear the way for you to enjoy the winter wonderland.

Also, please keep the paths as enticing as it is to make a snow angel on the pristine snow. Under all that snow, plantings were made in the fall to ensure more beauty in the Spring. Much appreciated, and thank you.

Anniversary 2024

