


The Friends
of the Public Gardens 
FAMILY Newsletter

June 30th, 2021

Issue #03

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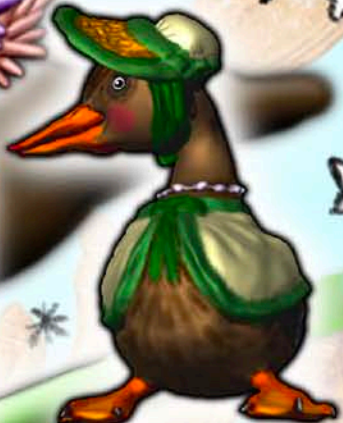
JULY




(RAY)

(B.B.)

It's July - Smell the flowers! Dahlia flowers are related to sunflowers and daisies! People love them because they come in all different shapes, sizes, and colours! Dahlia flowers bloom in mid-July, so make sure you get out to the public gardens and see them for yourself!



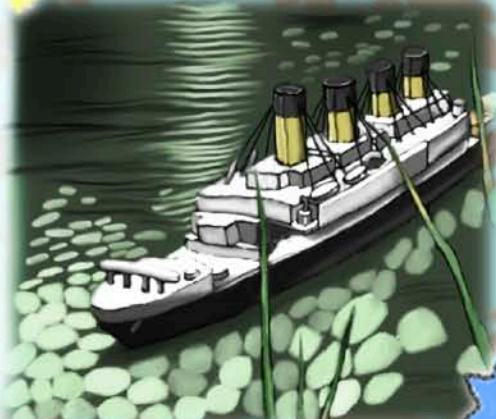
Have you seen one of these beetles? If so, you were looking at an invasive species! That's an animal that was brought from another place and disrupts a local ecosystem. These beetles are called Japanese beetles - can you guess where they're from? These beetles appear in June and July, emerging from the ground. As larvae, or grubs, they live underground, eating roots. They will eat over 250 types of plants! They are thought to have arrived by a ferry to Yarmouth, NS, from Maine, and have since spread province-wide!



What do kids now and kids from the Victorian era have in common? They all play with toys! Victorian era kids loved games and sports. Poor children would play with scraps of rope (2), and whatever else they could find! Victorians loved dolls (4), and those who couldn't buy toys would create them out of rags and other scrap materials (5)! Children whose families could afford store-bought toys did so, and even then a toy collection would be limited, as they were expensive. Other popular toys include wooden toys (1), marbles (3), puzzles, and board games. Match the numbers to the images at the bottom of the page!



The Model Steamship - This model ship isn't just any ship - it's a model of the Titanic, famously sunk by an iceberg in the North Atlantic Ocean in April 1912. It was a Victorian tradition to have a model ship floating in a pond. The model ship is 9 feet long, and weighs about 200 pounds! It was crafted by the Maritime Ship Builders Guild in 1944. It still floats in Griffin's Pond in the Halifax Public Gardens today!



The Horticultural Hall - The original goals of the Gardens were to preserve green space in the city and to improve the practice of horticulture - taking care of plants. A meeting place was needed to teach people about horticulture. So, the Horticultural Hall was designed and built in 1847! The Horticultural Hall was built in the Georgian style. The building still exists as symbol of the Gardens today!



THE VICTORIAN ERA

The Halifax Public Gardens were opened during the Victorian era, and its caretakers have prided themselves on keeping the Gardens as historically accurate as possible. The clothes B.B. the duck wears come from that time period. The Victorian Era was named after Queen Victoria, and it lasted from 1837-1901, the years that she ruled over the British Empire. This era is known for industrialization, advancements in science, and a desire for beautiful and artistic things - like the Gardens!

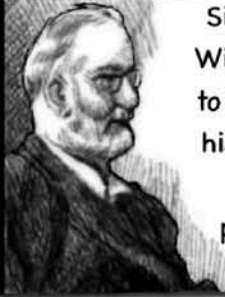


The Bandstand - The Victorian style bandstand of the Halifax Public Gardens was built in 1887. It was created in celebration of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The colours of the bandstand were meant to copy the colours of the flowerbeds that it replaced in the centre of the Gardens. The bandstand is a work of art, and a key community venue where people did, and still do, flock to listen to live music.

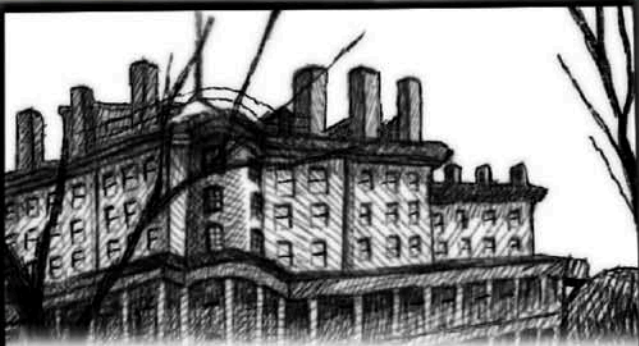




We return to Camp Hill Cemetery to learn the story of another great person in the history of Nova Scotia. Meet Sir Charles Frederick Fraser! He was the Superintendent of the Halifax School for the Blind for 50 years! That's a long time! He changed the School for the Blind from a place that sheltered visually impaired people from the world to a place that gave them the ability to be part of the world.



Sir Charles Frederick Fraser was born in the year 1850, in Windsor, Nova Scotia. When Charles was just a boy, he liked to whittle. One day while whittling a stick, it slipped and hit his eye. Because of this, Charles lost vision in that eye, and eventually, in his other eye as well. His father was a physician, but despite his efforts his eyesight couldn't be restored. He was then enrolled in the Perkins Institute.



The Institute was near Boston. It was the first, best known school for the blind in America.

After returning to Nova Scotia, Fraser became Superintendent of the Halifax School for the Blind. His goal was to create a school that would allow visually impaired people to be socially and financially independent in life.



Fraser toured the province letting parents know what he could do for their children. Many more students enrolled in the school. He also organized workshops to teach blind adults the skills that they could use to make a living.



Mr. Fraser did many things for the blind community. The hardest part of his career came in 1917, the year of the Halifax Explosion! When two ships collided in the harbour, there was a massive explosion. Thousands of people had damage to their eyes from shards of glass. Mr. Fraser cared for and rehabilitated those with eye damage.



Charles Fraser dedicated 50 years of his life to the School for the Blind. He focused all of his efforts on improving the lives of visually impaired people across the Maritimes.