

The Friends
of the Public Gardens



FAMILY Newsletter

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PO Box 36013 • 5665 Spring Garden Road • Halifax, NS • B3J 3S9 www.halifaxpublicgardens.ca

IT'S JUNE... the roses are in bloom!

During the Victorian Era, people loved symbolism. For example, gifting flowers could express many different feelings. Roses were gifted to send a hidden message. Discover some of their meanings!



"I am worthy of you"
(White Rose)



"I'm feeling jealous"
(Yellow Rose)



"I declare war"
(Lancaster Rose)
Emblem based on the Apothecary's Rose



"Thank you"
(Pink Rose)

Incoming: Great Blue Heron !!!



It's a bird, it's a plane... no wait, it is a bird!

WOW!



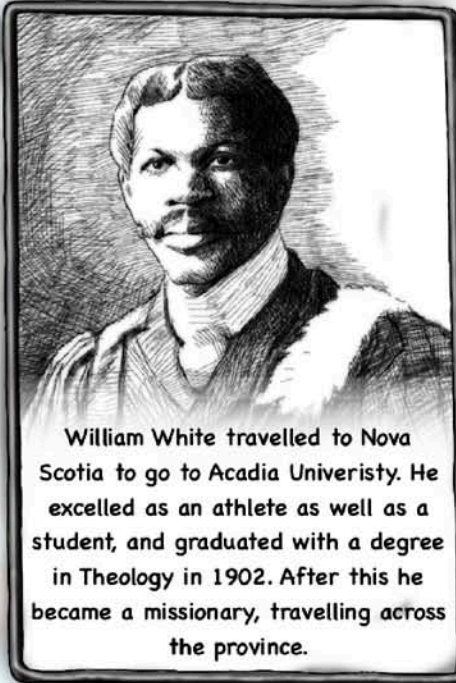
From spring till fall, thousands of birds migrate back to Nova Scotia. Many of those birds love to visit the Halifax Public Gardens. One of its main attractions is its pond - Griffin's Pond! Aquatic birds such as mallard ducks love to swim and fish there. Some rarer visitors include ospreys, and great blue herons! Great blue herons migrate across North America, the Caribbean, the Galápagos Islands, and sometimes even Southern Europe! Great blue herons have very long legs, standing around 4 feet tall, and their wingspan can be as large as almost 7 feet across! If you're lucky, one day you might spot a majestic great blue heron yourself!



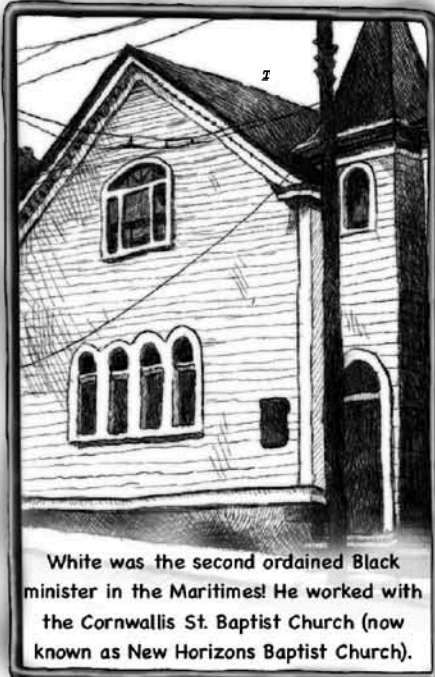
Right across Summer Street from the Victorian Halifax Public Gardens lies another historic Victorian destination - Camp Hill Cemetery. Aside from having its own beautiful plant pollinators, the cemetery holds many years of history, being the final resting place of many important Nova Scotians. Let me tell you about one of them - Reverend William White - a community leader and the chaplain of the No. 2 Construction Battalion during World War One. Here's his story:



Reverend Captain William A. White was born in Williamsburg, Virginia, in the year 1874. He decided he would become a minister, and attended Wayland Seminary in Washington DC. A seminary is a college that trains people to become priests or ministers. There, he was told about Acadia University.



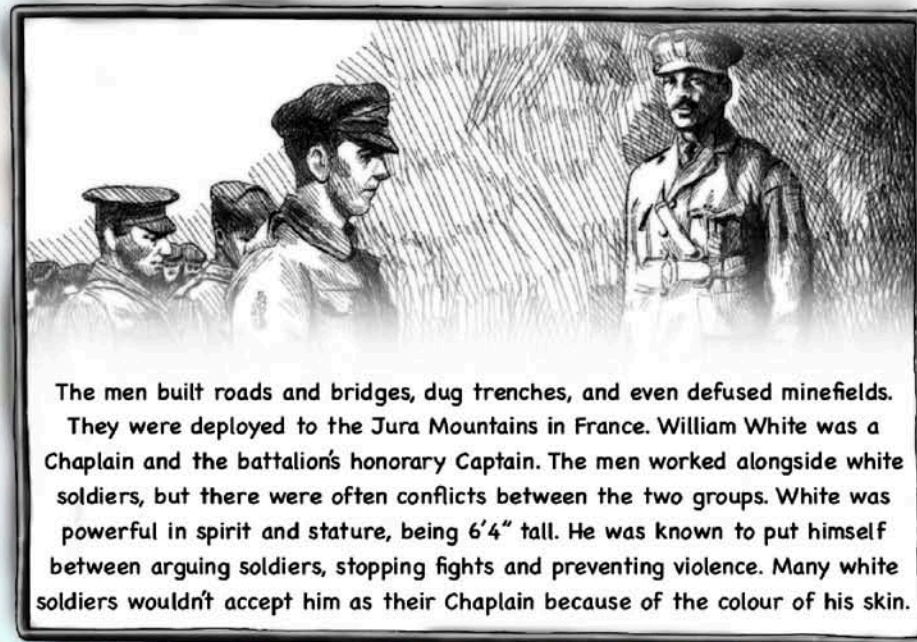
William White travelled to Nova Scotia to go to Acadia University. He excelled as an athlete as well as a student, and graduated with a degree in Theology in 1902. After this he became a missionary, travelling across the province.



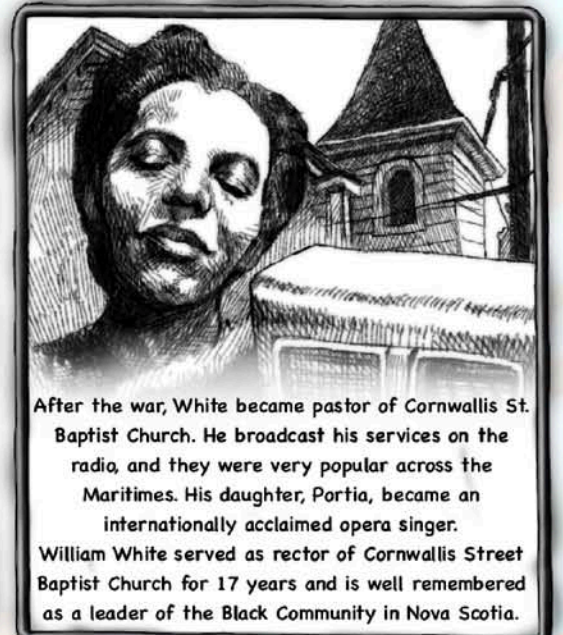
White was the second ordained Black minister in the Maritimes! He worked with the Cornwallis St. Baptist Church (now known as New Horizons Baptist Church).



WWI broke out, in 1914. Despite being treated as second-class citizens, many African-Canadians wanted to help in the war. William White had a significant role in the formation of and recruitment for the No. 2 Construction Battalion. The No. 2 Construction Battalion was a segregated, non-combative unit that allowed Black Canadians to be part of the war effort.



The men built roads and bridges, dug trenches, and even defused minefields. They were deployed to the Jura Mountains in France. William White was a Chaplain and the battalion's honorary Captain. The men worked alongside white soldiers, but there were often conflicts between the two groups. White was powerful in spirit and stature, being 6'4" tall. He was known to put himself between arguing soldiers, stopping fights and preventing violence. Many white soldiers wouldn't accept him as their Chaplain because of the colour of his skin.



After the war, White became pastor of Cornwallis St. Baptist Church. He broadcast his services on the radio, and they were very popular across the Maritimes. His daughter, Portia, became an internationally acclaimed opera singer. William White served as rector of Cornwallis Street Baptist Church for 17 years and is well remembered as a leader of the Black Community in Nova Scotia.

Fun fact: as years go by, some words are taken out of the Oxford Junior Dictionary, and new words are added! The Junior Dictionary is used as a foundation for young learners. The thing is, many of the words removed are nature related, like "moss", "blackberry", or "clover". They are replaced by words such as "database", "cut and paste", and "broadband". It's important to learn about technology, but we have to connect with and learn about nature as well. That's why I love the gardens!



CHESS

IN THE GARDENS

Chess is a great game - it's like a workout for your brain! Come join in with Chess in the Gardens! Chess in the Gardens is an outdoor chess group that meets weekly in the beautiful and scenic Halifax Public Gardens. Games are free of charge, and all ages and skill levels are welcome! Chess in the Gardens meets on Saturdays, from 11am-3pm, at the stone chess tables in the family lawn area, if it isn't raining! Boards, game pieces and clocks will be provided.



Hey! I want to tell you a story - let's cross the street!

