

July 31, 2020

The Friends
of the Public Gardens



Newsletter

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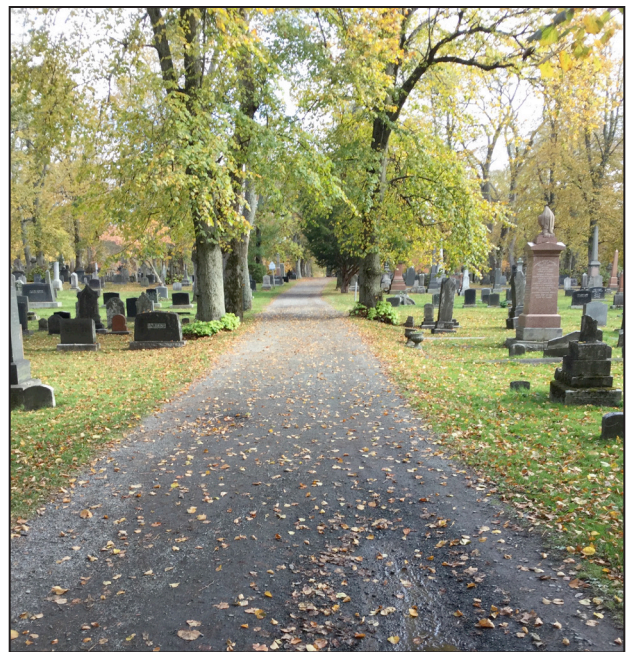
Camp Hill Cemetery Take a walk on the Other Side

The Halifax Public Gardens provides an opportunity to stroll through serene and peaceful formal Victorian gardens. Manicured lawns, well-defined pathways, neo-classical Goddess statues and ornate fountains and buildings capture a walker's interest.

A walk of an entirely different nature, equally serene, awaits those who venture across Summer Street to the Camp Hill Cemetery. Here you will enter the tranquility of an urban forest and walk through a cemetery steeped in local and international history.

The Cemetery paths are a little rough, there's limited seating, no bathrooms and the environs need some sprucing up. However, the Cemetery is a lovely public place to wander, and it has the potential to become a wonderful place to learn stories from Nova Scotia's past.

Camp Hill Cemetery was established in 1844. It was open to all, but burials were segregated by race early in its history. As well as last resting places for many notable Nova Scotians such as Joseph Howe, Robert Stanfield and Viola Desmond, it provides interment for people from afar caught up in wars, tragedies and other activities reflecting Nova Scotia's fascinating past.



Courtesy of Barbara Carleton



Courtesy of Barbara Bickle

POSE AS DIANA PHOTO CONTEST

The Goddess Diana statue is returning to the Gardens around the end of August. Meanwhile, send us a photo of you posing as Diana between the information displays near the Bandstand and you could win a \$35 gift certificate to a local bookstore. Full details are on our website halifaxpublicgardens.ca and our Facebook page Halifax Public Gardens.

Many thanks to these organizations supporting our activities around Diana's Return:
Spring Garden Area Business Association
New Century Signs, Halifax

Camp Hill Cemetery, Continued from page 1

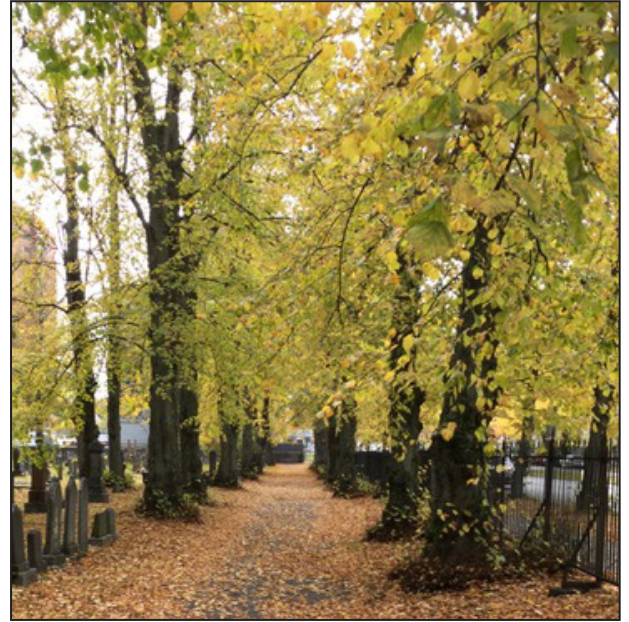
In the Fall of 2019, The Friends of the Public Gardens began to advocate on behalf of the Camp Hill Cemetery, with the goals of improvements to basic infrastructure and development of displays and tours to showcase our history, with ultimately the goal of raising the Cemetery's profile with residents and visitors.

We believe that with improvements to the perimeter and interior laneways, additional seating and development of historic displays and tours, the Cemetery can provide residents and visitors with an additional venue to enjoy in the area, one that compliments what is on offer in the Halifax Public Gardens.

With an estimated 1800 condo units under construction or proposed for the immediate area, The Friends believe that development of the Cemetery laneways will also relieve some of the visitor pressure on the Public Gardens as well as providing a space for activities such as jogging, not allowed in the Gardens.

The Cemetery is set to experience a bit of rejuvenation over the next couple of years. During the Fall of 2019, Camp Hill Cemetery suffered another devastating hit from a hurricane, this time Hurricane Dorian.

(Continued on Page 3)



Courtesy of Barbara Carleton

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES

Although our activities in the Public Gardens are reduced this season due to COVID-19, we are involved in planning, developing new ideas to improve the visitors' experiences and advocacy work on behalf of the Halifax Public Gardens and the Camp Hill Cemetery.

We would love to have members volunteer to serve on our various committees. Contact us at infohalifaxpublicgardens@gmail.com or leave your name and contact info with a Friends volunteer and we will get back to you to see if we can find a role you would enjoy!



WATCH FOR OUR LIVE DIANA STATUE!

Over the next 5 weeks come and enjoy a special appearance in the Gardens by the Goddess Diana.

She is expected at 2 pm and 3:00 pm on:

Friday, July 31

Saturday, August 8

Sunday, August 16

Thursday, August 27

Friday, September 4

Thanks to the Spring Garden Area Business Association for supporting this project.

(If rained out, the statue will make an appearance the following day)



Courtesy of Barbara Bickle

Camp Hill Cemetery, Continued from page 2

Large trees were downed, some crushing portions of the heritage fence around the Cemetery, and damaging some headstones. The Cemetery was closed for a month to allow crews to clear the worst of the damage. Similar damage occurred during Hurricane Juan in 2003.

HRM is planning a 2021 replacement of the heritage fence and parts of the retaining wall around the Cemetery. They are considering our suggestions for improvements to the laneways in conjunction with this work. This summer, there will be some work done to repair broken headstones and righting of tilting monuments. We have also suggested the addition of handicap parking spots at the corner of Summer and Sackville Streets, for use by visitors to both the Cemetery and the Gardens.

The Friends have also hired two people under the Federal Canada Summer Jobs programme. Michael Nearing is amassing material and stories on interments in the Cemetery with the ultimate goal of creating historic tours, both self-guided (brochures and audios) and guided. Lauren Siteman, returning for another summer working in the Public Gardens, is researching and documenting the memorials in the Public Gardens.



Discrete sign indicating gravesite of Viola Desmond

Courtesy of Barbara Carleton

LOOKING FOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF OUR CARPET BEDS



Courtesy of Martin Wigginton

Tracy Jessen, one of our HRM gardeners, is the recipient of the 2020 Suellen Murray Educational Bursary

Tracy is compiling a history of the Carpet Beds in the Halifax Public Gardens. If you have any information and/or photographs of the Carpet Beds from bygone years that you could share with Tracy, she would appreciate it if you emailed Tracy at infohalifaxpublicgardens@gmail.com. More details on the main page of our website: HalifaxPublicGardens.com

NEW VOLUNTEER BUTTON



If you have a question about the Gardens, look for one of our volunteers wearing this button.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, our Hort Hall desk is not operating this year. However, some of our volunteers are frequently in the Gardens and would be happy to provide help if they can.