

June 30, 2020

The Friends
of the Public Gardens



Newsletter

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www.halifaxpublicgardens.ca

GODDESS DIANA IS RETURNING!

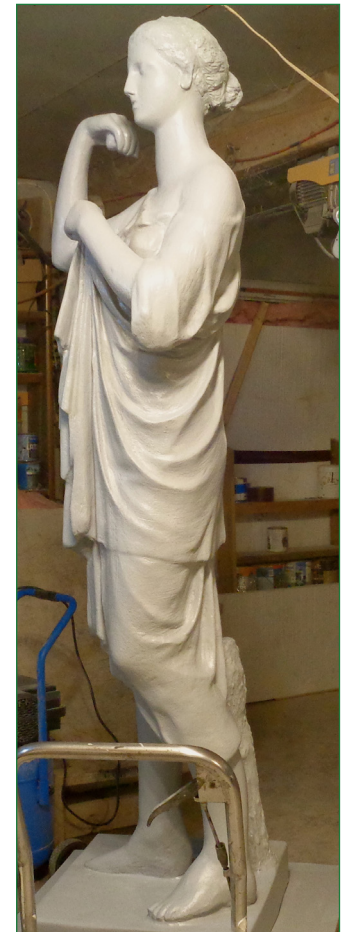
Where has she been?

In March 2012, Diana - one of the three Roman Goddess statues in the Halifax Public Gardens - was seriously damaged. At the time, it was thought that the 138-year-old statue would never be displayed again in the Gardens.

In the Fall of 2019, The Friends of the Public Gardens partnered with the Halifax Regional Municipality and asked Nova Scotia artist Susan Feader to restore Diana. The statue is expected to be reinstalled in the Gardens by early September 2020.

Diana, in Roman mythology, is goddess of wild animals, the woods, children and the hunt. She is the daughter of Jupiter and Apollo's twin sister.

On July 9th, 1874, Diana arrived at Corbett's Wharf in Halifax. She was shipped accompanied by the goddesses, Flora and Ceres, along with several ornamental urns to Sir William Young, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, from London by his good friend, Andrew Uniacke, living in London at the time. Sir William wrote Andrew asking him to find quality statues and urns for his and Lady Young's stately Garden in south-end Halifax. *(Continued on Page 2)*



Courtesy of Susan Feader

POSE AS DIANA PHOTO CONTEST

Think you'd make a great Diana? Starting July 15th, pose as Diana (see above) between the two information displays in Diana's honour near the Bandstand.

Enter your photo into our contest. (Details on how to enter coming soon on our website (halifaxpublicgardens.ca) and Facebook (Halifax Public Gardens).

Bimonthly, until September 15th, our judges will select the 'best' Diana photo submitted during each period. We will post the winning photos on our website and Facebook page and award the winners with a \$35 gift certificate from either Bookmark on Spring Garden Road, or Carrefour Atlantic Emporium in Historic Properties Market Mall on Upper Water Street.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in developing your reporting skills or helping with Events and Tours for the Gardens? We have many roles you can fill. Please contact us at infohalifaxpublicgardens@gmail.com or leave your name and contact info with a Friends volunteer and we will get back to you!

GODDESS DIANA, Continued

Andrew reported back his success in discovering Austin & Seeley, the leading manufacturer of architectural and garden artificial stone ornaments during the 1800's. Sir William entrusted Andrew to make the selection sending him £75 for the purchase.

In 1887, Sir William gifted the classical statues and urns to his beloved Public Gardens where they form an essential part of the formal Victorian Garden adding serenity, charm and grace along the east-west Petite Allée.

Diana is the most prominent, centrally featured in front of the Victoria Jubilee Bandstand that was also added in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Life-sized, Diana dominated and commanded a regal presence upon her nearly three-foot cast iron pedestal, until badly damaged by unknown vandals in 2012.

It was feared Diana, now close to 150 years old was too damaged to undergo restoration and return to the Gardens. For her to be of this age is indeed a miracle, for her life expectancy was probably 20-30 years.

The Friends of the Public Gardens (TFPG) placed the return of Diana on their Priority List and urged HRM to act. Meanwhile, post Hurricane Juan and Phase III of repairing those damages, the Victoria Jubilee Campaign evolved with TFPG pledging \$200,000 to the million dollar plan for the restoration of the Victoria Jubilee Bandstand, Victoria Jubilee Fountain and Sir William Young Urns.

\$100,000 of those funds came from the Jarvis Bequest, a gift to TFPG dedicated for capital improvements in the Gardens, from Sid Jarvis in memory of her father Thomas Wallace. The balance was raised by generous donations from the caring general public.

Because of the long delay in a decision around the future of Diana, TFPG advised the city that they had found an artist, Susan Feader, of Pine Grove who would restore Diana and TFPG would fund her return and also repair, renew and restore both Flora and Ceres once Diana is complete and in place. Susan was the artist who restored the Sir William Young Urns in the Victoria Jubilee Campaign. HRM has partnered in preparing the pedestals and transport.

REBUILT TITANIC MODEL LAUNCHED

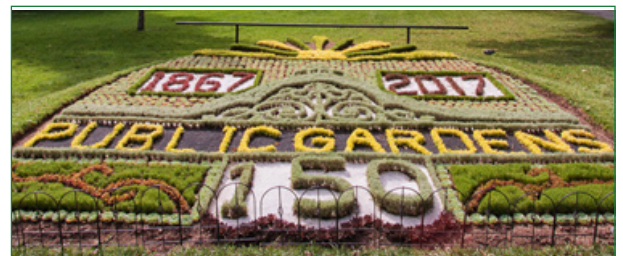
The HMS Titanic and the HMCS Sackville models set off for another summer voyage on Griffin's Pond on June 23rd.

The original Titanic model set sail in 1994, built by volunteers of the Maritime Ship Modellers Guild. Last winter, the Titanic model was rebuilt by Peter from the Guild.

The launch was accompanied by bells rung by Titanic Society of Atlantic Canada's member and historian Blair Beed, and members of his family. Blair was dressed in 1912 period attire.



HRM GARDENER RETIRING!



Glenn Wilson, Gardener, creator of our beautiful Carpet Beds and developer of a new way of using a ladder to support himself for the exact trimming of the plants, retires on July 21st.

We thank him for his many years of stellar service in the Halifax Public Gardens.