

**Welcome to the off season TFPG Newsletter  
where we will bring you News and interesting items,  
like The Trees of the Public Gardens which will continue  
to be a featured item each month.**

## Newsletter Topics

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## Q & A

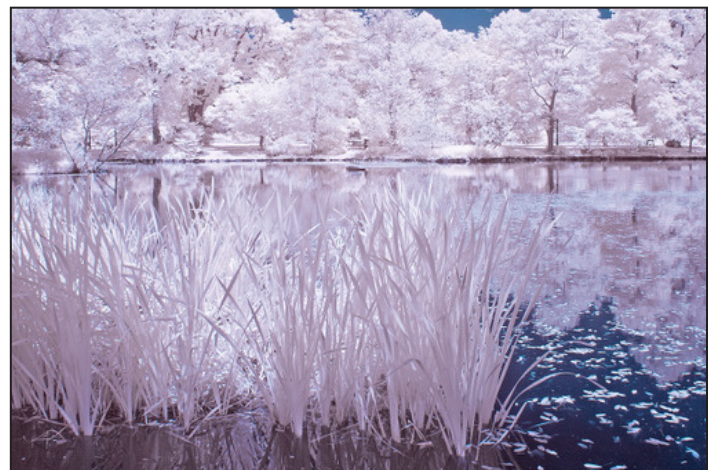
Q & A will be a standard item. If you help by asking the questions, we will give you the answers. Just email your question to [info@halifaxpublicgardens.ca](mailto:info@halifaxpublicgardens.ca). Please put in the subject line "Newsletter Question."

## Previous Newsletters

You could also peruse our newsletters starting at March 2020 by Barbara Carleton <https://www.halifaxpublicgardens.ca/new-page-2>

## Audio Tours

Lots to see on the TFPG website. When it's blustery and cold while waiting for the 2024 season and between wintry walks in the Gardens, try listening to the audio tours <https://www.halifaxpublicgardens.ca/audio-tours>. You will love the recordings - excellent stories about the various sections and treasures in the Gardens, the very beginnings and the Royal visitations. There are also two Audio Tours of Camp Hill Cemetery.



Frost defined reeds and trees graced the cover of The Friends 2015 Calendar. Photo by Darryl Robertson

## The Trees of the Public Gardens

Quercus robur

English Oak

Walking through the Gardens in mid-November, I was delighted to see the vigour of the mighty English Oak planted by King George VI back in 1939. At this late date, the leaves were almost as green as in mid-summer, whereas the red oaks have mostly cast off their dried leaves as they prepared for winter.

Planting trees by royalty is a long-standing tradition, and our Gardens have a handful planted by, or in honour, of our royal connections. They have mostly been varieties of Oak, which are associated with strength, endurance and tradition. Indeed, in England, Oaks have the status of a national emblem. The Royal Oak is the name given to over 500 pubs in Britain, and ten major British warships have been called the Royal Oak. In the days of sailing ships, the most widely used wood in their construction was, of course—the Oak.

The English Oak, also called the *pedunculate* Oak by our southern neighbours and *chêne pedoncule* by the French community, is a native tree to much of Europe and western Asia. They have been known to grow for over a thousand years and achieve a girth at chest height of over 15 metres! The trees support a wide biodiversity of insect communities, particularly the ones that form galls, often apparent on the leaves and acorns. The acorns, produced in large quantities about every two years, are well welcomed by the small mammal and avian community.

The tree, not far from the grandstand, has already attained a significant presence since its planting 85 years ago. Hopefully visitors for generations to come will have the opportunity to wonder at its beauty.

David Kerr





*Quercus robur*

English Oak

## Volunteer Appreciation

On November 14th, there was an evening at Bliss Caffeine Bar on South Park Street with all our wonderful volunteers. Fun, scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and fabulous door prizes contributed by the local community.

Many visitors to the Gardens don't realize that other than those who care for the trees and flowers and make it beautiful, The Friends of the Public Gardens are completely volunteer.

Those that sit on the Board of Directors; provide information and answer questions in Horticultural Hall; provide four free daily tours; organize our musical performances; manage social media and the website: give copious time faithfully throughout the year.

They inform and educate on the values of the Gardens in this community fulfilling the role of a National Historic Site. They make everything on the front line smooth and professional and behind the scenes, doing the functions that keep a volunteer organization efficiently managed for your benefit and the Visitor experience.

This Annual Volunteer Appreciation is very special. It's celebrating our incredible, caring, committed and capable volunteers and saying THANK YOU!



Andrea and Don



Anne and Henri





Rick and Judith



Pat and Suzanne



Skana and Barbara



Rick and Katherine



Harry

## Holiday Contest 2020

### Welcome to The Friends of the Public Gardens Holiday Quiz and Advent Calendar!

How much do you know about the Public Gardens? This contest is meant to make you think back, way back to the Victorian Era when our wonderful Gardens were designed, and to link the past with the present.

We are bringing the Holiday Contest back and providing the answers! Experience the delights of the Victoria Era. Created by former Event chairperson Milena Khazanavicius and webmaster, Barbara Bickle. Experience the delights of the Victoria Era. Have fun! See how many you can answer. Answers are provided online with the original Advent Calendar.

#### Question #1

Which Victorian Era company started in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, revolutionized a product that was commonly worn by people in the famous Public Gardens skating rink? Please name the company and the product.

Clue: This company closed its doors permanently in 1996.

#### Question #2

What symbol of luxury and affluence in the 1700s and throughout the Victorian Era is grown in the Public Gardens greenhouses and transplanted outside in summer for everyone to enjoy? This item is today widely available at an affordable price.

Clue: It can also be found incorporated into the wrought iron of the main gate of the Gardens.

#### Question #3

Who was the prominent individual born January 6, 1826, in Germany who designed one of the most iconic and well-used structures in the Public Gardens to this day? Please name the person and the structure.

#### Question #4

What three famous beauties arrived in 1874 at Corbett's Wharf in Halifax, and still charm visitors to the Public Gardens with their everlasting grace and stature? You must name all three.

**Bonus Question:** Can you name the individual who paid for their journey to Halifax?

#### Question #5

What individuals were tasked with clearing snow from the outdoor skating rink originally on Griffin's Pond?

Clue: A certain store on Windsor Street takes its name from a Victorian Era structure and is in the business of selling "merriments".

#### Bonus Question

Which relative of Queen Victoria (whose namesake is in the Public Gardens) visited the Maritimes for a short period of five weeks? Name the individual and who 'he' was.

Clue: He was not her husband.



## VICTORIAN HISTORY ADVENT CALENDAR



The Board of The Friends of the Public Gardens proudly present the Victorian History Advent Calendar showcasing some of the events and customs of the Victorian era that perhaps we have forgotten or never knew.

The Victorian Calendar will give you lots of information, there is lots more to discover.

We hope you will be encouraged to dig deeper into where so much popular culture comes from, and realize how some things remain the same.

Best of all, instead of chocolate calories, we will load your souls and minds with knowledge and perhaps a few eyebrow-raising surprises.

On each day of December from the 1st to the 25th you will find a new interesting fact about Queen Victoria, Victorian recipes, book information, the secret language of flowers, some odd facts, and so much more.

We sincerely hope the calendar informs your minds, lightens your souls, and brings a little extra mirth to the end of this long and tumultuous year.

*Happy Holidays and happy exploring back into Victorian era history!*

Visit the website below to see the Victorian History Advent Calendar;!  
click on the numbered week to look at each days content.

[www.halifaxpublicgardens.ca/advent-calendar](http://www.halifaxpublicgardens.ca/advent-calendar)

## December

Will be here soon.

There will be subdued lighting in the Gardens this year from December 1 through December 31.

The Friends will have a Members Carol-Singing event. The date to be announced soon with an Invitation to all members.



LOOK WHAT'S COMING...

