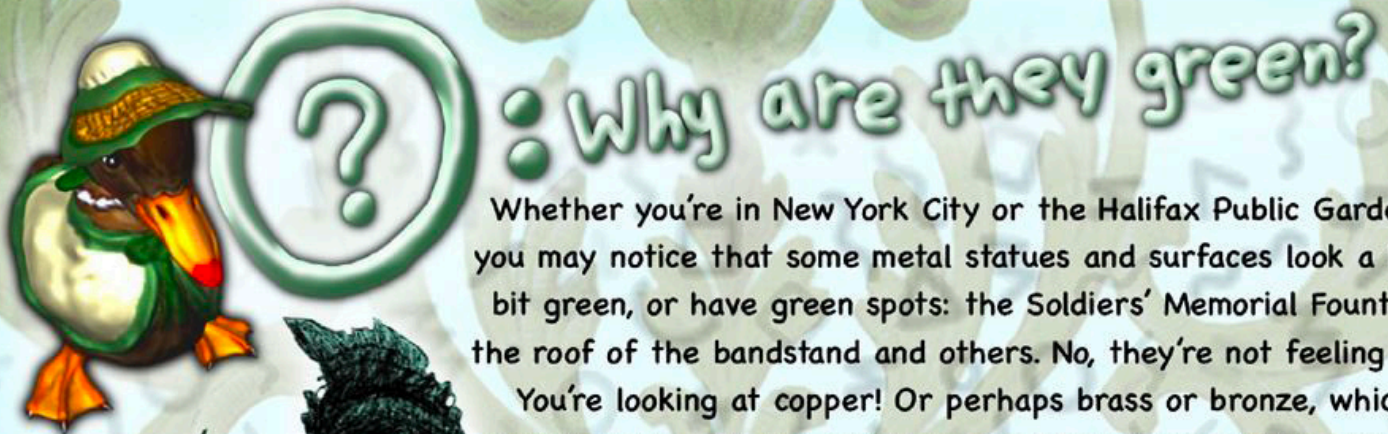


The Friends
of the Public Gardens 
FAMILY Newsletter

August 31st, 2021

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

SEPTEMBER... ... Back to School!



Why are they green?

Whether you're in New York City or the Halifax Public Gardens, you may notice that some metal statues and surfaces look a little bit green, or have green spots: the Soldiers' Memorial Fountain, the roof of the bandstand and others. No, they're not feeling sick!

You're looking at copper! Or perhaps brass or bronze, which contain copper. In the same way that iron rusts reddish-orange, copper rusts to bluish-green. Since bronze and brass are only partially copper, they rust to more green, and pure copper, more blue. While rusting weakens iron and dissolves it away, the green "rust" is actually a patina. After the first layer of rust forms, it actually protects the metal, forming a defensive coating!

Did you ever wonder why the Statue of Liberty is green? Now you know - it's made of copper! The tallest person ever was 2.72 metres tall; the Statue of Liberty is 46 metres tall and weighs 204 metric tonnes! Wow!



What does every garden need?

2

Gardener(s)!

What does every garden need? A gardener! Or in the case of the Halifax Public Gardens, many! Gardening can be very fulfilling, though sometimes it can be hard work! This is especially true at the Public Gardens. Being a Victorian era garden, the Halifax Public Gardens are intended to be a work of art not nature, and tending to its many features takes a mix of passion and gardening expertise. The Power family - Richard, and his sons Richard Jr. and George - were a gardening family who took on the constant task of managing the care of the Halifax Public Gardens. Richard Power was Irish. After working as a gardener for the Duke of Devonshire at Lismore Castle. He moved to Halifax and became Superintendent of the Public Gardens. Strangely, both Power and his wife were hounded by the widow of a former groundskeeper. She convinced the pair that her husband's ghost was haunting them, and Power claimed to have seen the ghost! Mr. and Mrs. Power took a year to recover emotionally. Fortunately Power was able to continue his job of taking care of the Gardens. He and his sons had an important role in creating the beautiful Gardens we know today, with Richard Sr. ordering the construction of the famous bandstand! He cared a great deal about his work, and he was appreciated by the community for such a job well done in his management of the Gardens.



The Power House, where the Power family lived, is now a Historic Site. It is across Sackville St. from the Gardens, for easy access, and is known for its unique combination of different styles of architecture. The house is now used as a youth centre and meeting space!

