

AGM ANNUAL REPORT 2019 – 2020



The Friends of the
Public Gardens
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Minutes - 2019 Annual General Meeting

Thursday, June 20, 2019 • 7:00 p.m. • Sacred Heart School of Halifax

1. Chair, Henri Paratte called the meeting to order and welcomed **Miriam Regan, Director of Advancement, Sacred Heart School of Halifax**. On behalf of Sacred Heart School, Ms. Regan welcomed The Friends of the Gardens to the new wing of Sacred Heart School and thanked TFPG for its partnership. Ms. Regan wished TFPG a successful meeting.
2. Henri thanked Ms. Regan and added his welcome to the TFPG Members and Guests attending the 2018-2019 Annual General Meeting beginning with the adoption of the Agenda and mentioned regrets from Board Member Barbara Carleton and Nominees Frank Streicher and Gail Carson. Moved by Karen Guenther, seconded by Janet Murray, for Approval of the Agenda. Carried.
3. **Minutes 2018 AGM**
Moved by Judith Cabrita, seconded by Barbara Bickle to approve the 2018-19 Annual General Meeting Minutes. Carried
4. **Chair's Report**
Henri thanked the retiring Board Members for their service and commented on the successful past year, mentioning the Richard Power House and the recognition of Henri Busch in the naming of the Board Room; the Bursary Award to Julietta Kass Sorenson for the upcoming Text-a-Tree Program; the Board's decision to repair the Garden Statues and the new addition of the Tactile/Sensory Garden, thanking the James McGregor Stewart Society for their donation recognizing Warren Reed, Chair of the Society who is in attendance.
5. **Committee Reports**
 - Henri advised all the Committee Reports are contained in the Annual Report
 - Comments were made by Joan Dawson, Archives; Janet Murray, Bursary and Karen Guenther, Tours and Volunteers.
6. **Financial Committee** – Henri commented that the Report on the Financial Status as at March 31, 2019 is in Annual Report and called for a motion to pass all the reports as presented, Moved by Barbara Bickle, seconded by Susan Kerslake. Carried.
7. **Projects** – Henri requested updates from the two Board appointed AdHoc Committees and the Bursary Text-a-Tree Project:
 - Birds – Joan Harbison explained the project to study the birds who resided in the Gardens as well as those who visited as part of their annual migration and the surprising variety - 15 warbler varieties as example; the effect of the habitat by the increase in people and noise, children chasing the ducklings. A photo display will be in Horticultural Hall this season.

- Statues and Swans – Don Marks outlined the research, search and decision process to find the solution of the damaged statues – restoration or replacement – and the ongoing search for a suitable pair of swans as an addition to the water fowl in the Gardens.
- Text-A-Tree – Julietta Kass Sorensen outlined the project connecting people with nature in the city through trees discovering the value in that partnership. She outlined the process and operation with volunteers answering the texts to the selected trees throughout the Garden, the inclusion of the Japanese culture with a Wish Tree.

8. Nominations Committee Report

Henri complimented Joan Dawson and Dr. Claire Halstead, the two retiring Board Members, thanking them for their service. Judith Cabrita, Chair, Nominations Committee directed the audience to the Nomination Report in the Annual Report and called for additional Nominations as is the practice. Don Marks nominated George Hearn and an election was required. Bill Colpitts offered as Returning Officer. The election took place and resulted in the previous nominations remaining as nominated. The Board is a full complement of 15 including the Past Chair.

9. Flora Awards presented to:

- Colin Stuttard for his outstanding contribution and dedication to TFPG
- Sacred Heart School Halifax for their partnership and recognition of the Halifax Public Gardens

10. Speaker:

Henri introduced **Jack Crowley, Professor Emeritus Dept. of History, Dalhousie University**, who presented: *Garden Follies as Sites of Architectural Experimentation*, a fascinating observation of the effect of architecture through the ages interpreting, responding and affecting cultural changes, development and enrichment in the visual landscape.

11. Presentation:

Henri introduced **Heidi Boutilier, Supervisor, Horticulture West HRM/Halifax**, who presented the *Current status of the Halifax Public Gardens*. Heidi mentioned her dedicated team of Gardeners, 60 % work in the Gardens. The repair of the Soldier's Fountain and the weir replacement in Griffin's Pond are slated for 2019. The completion of the perimeter fence will be complete with the final piece being the repair of the Main Gate. The Carpet Beds in 2019 will honour the Princess Louise Fusiliers and the 50th anniversary of PRIDE. A new map of the Gardens' trees is in production and the lost Tulip Tree will be replaced.

12. Adjournment

Henri thanked all for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm with an invitation to remain and enjoy the refreshments and conversation.

TFPG Report from the Chair – 2019–2020

OUR MANDATE:

To preserve, protect, promote and celebrate the Halifax Public Gardens in partnership with the Parks and Recreation division of HRM.

SOME OF OUR ACTIVITIES:

2019-2020 will be remembered as our “Text-a-Tree” year for the Summer and Fall of 2019, but also as the year when during the Spring of 2020 the Gardens were closed, no visitors coming for months to Halifax whether by road, air, or ships, Horticulture Hall was closed, the Queen Victoria Day tea scheduled which would be May 18th, 2020 cancelled. Since a fair amount of a given year is not only the events themselves (planned through the previous winter) and how successful they were, but also the tireless work by many volunteers in order to prepare events for the coming Summer season, we are in an unprecedented situation as regards most of our normal late Spring and Summer activities.

The most visible event that took place in the gardens for two months during the Summer of 2019 (from July 7 to September 7), ‘Text-a-Tree’ started as a project led by Julietta Kass-Sorensen, who had won the 2019 Suellen Murray Bursary for it. The aim was to bring people in an urban area closer to nature and in particular to trees. It went perfectly well, attracted a lot of media attention including at least one cover of Star Metro (still available then in paper form) and numerous radio and TV clips. Thousands of visitors discovered the project when coming into the Gardens, and many ‘chatted’ with trees during the two months on a regular basis. It drew many visitors but also numerous volunteers, in addition to the many we already have at the desk in HH on a regular basis: volunteers for the ‘Tanabata Tree Day’ on July 7th – Japanese wish tree day -, many of whom from the Japanese student community in Halifax had never been to the Gardens before, but also the team of volunteers who worked with Julietta and played the part of trees during the whole project. Gardeners and HRM staff have to be thanked for their cooperation in assisting those volunteers with relevant information.

This project also reinforced our ties with Dalhousie university (where we have to thank in particular Peter Duinker for his support of Julietta) but also highlighted our connection with Japan and Hakodate in particular as well as the Mi’kmaw community. We acknowledge the support from a grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, without which this would have been extremely difficult. Public success, media attention, academic credibility – and a book in the making right now: it would have been difficult to do more with a project that certainly put Halifax and the Public Gardens on the map worldwide.

Following the pattern established in 2018, we had 3 summer interns, or “garden interpreters” in the gardens. We will, with adjustments, have some in 2020 again. Acting on established priority and in partnership with HRM, it was decided to finally move on restoration of the three statues of goddesses damaged during hurricane Juan. When exactly the statues will be in the gardens remains to be determined.

Report from the Chair Page 2

We hope to have swans in the gardens during the Summer of 2020.

Post-tropical storm Dorian has caused some damage in the gardens, including the total destruction of a butternut tree.

The bird display at HH has brought forth a lot of information linked to birds in the gardens, attracting visitors of all ages.

Activities in the Gardens included music and literature. Music of all kinds: individual musicians in many different styles, regular Sunday afternoon concerts, collaboration with Alliance Française for the Fête de la Musique/Make Music Day celebrations on June 21, Country music in the gardens, but also piano playing in HH two mornings a week.

Literary activities ranged from storytime for children to very well attended collective poetry readings and the first of the Flora reading and lecture program on Victorian topics or nature writing. One added bonus was the opportunity to have wonderful pictures of the Luxembourg gardens in Paris. The Literary Halifax project in progress includes the gardens in what will be both a virtual tour and an on-site tour. Our goal is to make a visit to the gardens a very holistic experience for all the senses. This is a place of peace and growth, at a time when a lot of questions are raised as to the importance of 'green spaces' in particular for elderly people living in densely populated areas of cities. Our cooperation with HRM and the McGregor society enabled us to develop the first ever sensory-tactile garden with planters in Juan Plaza.

Tauk Tours, tours in French and in Chinese, many tours were not only a great way to inform groups about the gardens but also bring revenue in for TFFG. An early May 2020 tour focused on 'women figures in the gardens'. A special brochure is currently prepared on the royal connections with the gardens.

Besides write-ups in Where in Halifax (English) and in L'Heure de l'Est (French), 'Down the Garden Path' for Tartan Talk we were featured on some radio programmes. We were informed in January that we now enjoyed the patronage of the Lieutenant-Governor, and HRM recognized us for a Volunteer organization award... still to be given as everything was postponed!

Following on the labyrinth of light presentation program for Nocturne 2019, The Board approved a project for the Summer 2020 involving light and sound, and a project is being developed with the dance troupe Serpentine Studios.

A 'Gardens trivia' may soon be available online. Hopefully, it will arrive at a time when we can share the pleasures of the Gardens again with the pleasures of so many online activities we've had to get used to...

Henri-Dominique Paratte, Chair

Archives Committee

MEMBERS: Barbara Bickle, Judith Cabrita, Joan Dawson

PURPOSE/ROLE:

Organise and preserve the records of The Friends of the Public Gardens to make them accessible when needed.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Meeting as required to sort and identify these records.

ACTIVITIES:

Sorting of documents continued, and some physical artefacts accessioned. In February 2020, the committee completed the task of sorting material and began to place files in alphabetical order; separating material to be sent to Burnside record centre or at the Power House.

SUCSESSES:

HRM Archivist agreed that this material could be stored at HRM's excellent Municipal Records Centre facilities at Burnside. Current and recent material will be stored in the Henry Busch Room in the Richard Power House for easy reference.

CHALLENGES:

Over the past few years, much of our material exists in digital form on private computers. We need to establish a system to organise these records in an accessible form. Board member Frank Streicher has agreed to assist the committee in digitizing material over the next few years.

Submitted by Barbara Bickle

Membership Committee

MEMBERS: Peter Gildart, Karen Guenther

The Membership information has been updated to give The Friends of the Public Gardens a new revenue stream. It also opens the door to a new cross section of volunteers and Board Members with many talents. We can now approach Public, Private Companies, Independent Business Professionals, Educators, Universities to join TFPG. It also brings us in line with other non-profits societies. Seniors and students will continue \$10.00 annual fee. The new rates are

- o Annual Seniors, Students \$10
- o Individuals, Business Professionals, Elected Government Members \$25
- o Companies, Crown Corporations \$50
- o Lifetime Member \$250

New Membership cards will be printed and the website will be updated

Submitted by Peter Gildart

Bursary Committee (The Suellen Murray Educational Bursary for the Public Gardens)

MEMBERS: Janet Murray (Chair), Dr. Jock Murray, Judith Cabrita, Barbara Bickle, Margaret-Anne Bennett, Heidi Boutilier, John Yogis, Janet Brush, Byron Rafuse

PURPOSE/ROLE:

The Committee's primary purpose is to administer the Suellen Murray Educational Bursary for the Public Gardens. This is a \$1000.00 award, established in 2014 in memory of Suellen Murray, by her family and friends.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The committee established the criteria for the Bursary and advertises the bursary for the coming year through the Gardens website, posters and social media. Applicants and projects are examined and discussed by the committee, and a winner is chosen. (Past winners and Bursary criteria can be found on The Halifax Public Gardens Website)

ACTIVITIES:

The 2020 Bursary, like so many events, was held up by closing schools, libraries etc because of Covid-19. The closing date for applications was changed to April 30. At the writing of this report, no applications have been received.

SUCSESSES:

When the Murray family approached the Friends of the Public Gardens with the idea of a bursary in Suellen Murray's memory, it was a new idea, and some time and many meetings were held to set up the criteria for the Bursary. Since then, four bursaries have been awarded, to:

- Amy Soosar-Joseph, a gardener at the Halifax Public Gardens
- Dr. Claire Halstead, a social historian then at Saint Marry's University
- Dr. Jonathan Fowler, an archaeologist at Saint Mary's University
- Julietta Sorensen Kass, a masters candidate at Dalhousie University

We have been extremely pleased with the work done by the bursary winners.

CHALLENGES:

The bursary is not yet fully endowed. Family continues to donate, but the ideal would be full endowment.

Submitted by Janet Murray

Communications Committee – 2019-20

MEMBERS: Laura Caswell, Frank Streicher, Barbara Bickle

PURPOSE/ROLE:

To develop and maintain methods and lines of communications between The Friends of the Public Gardens (Board and Committees), Friends membership, HRM and the media to advertise events and enhance the profile of the Halifax Public Gardens and the organization.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

To develop and use print, TV, radio, and social media; to develop lines of communications with individuals, organizations and business as necessary.

ACTIVITIES/CHALLENGES:

This year it was difficult to assemble a true communications committee. Snowstorms and the pandemic made it challenging for people to come together in meetings.

Although there was a lack of committee it has been suggested that we focus on better ways to communicate internally. For example, the use of google documents, google forms and online meetings. This will continue to be assessed and reviewed. It has been recommended that we create a more streamlined protocol for internal communication in order for work to get done quicker and more efficiently. Privacy will also be taken into account.

The website is maintained and there is a clear contact email and contact form. The results of the text-a-tree campaign are posted on the mainpage of the website halifaxtreeproject.com/textatree

There is a Halifax Public Gardens Facebook which has 11,000 followers. The twitter page has 2,597 followers. The Instagram page has 274 followers (This could and should be much higher).

With the use of social media people have been able to post photos of the gardens even when the gardens have been closed (during the winter and Covid-19).

During the season This Week in the Gardens was emailed to Members, media contacts, government offices, and organizations who have an interest.

The amount of work that needs to go into a proper communication strategy can be a deterrent for people becoming involved. There will be a continued assessment on how to best approach this problem.

Submitted by Laura Caswell

Events Committee

MEMBERS: Gail Carson, Judith Cabrita, Henri Paratte, and various Board Members depending on the event or activity

PURPOSE/ROLE:

To broaden public awareness and support of the Halifax Public Gardens through activities and events that will educate and enhance the Visitor Experience.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

In 2017, with the 150th Anniversary of the Gardens, the Board engaged in a new direction hosting over 253 events in the Public Gardens, with the assistance of funding from Canadian Heritage including its previous standard events; the annual Victoria Day Tea Party, Jarvis Lectures, December Members Reception and the Annual General Meeting. The increased enjoyment of visitors to the Gardens prompted the Board to continue offering access to the Gardens for persons and organizations that offered to entertain our visitors. Through a partnership and agreement with Gardens Management we have organized a role that extends the responsibility of the society in keeping with our mandate of stewardship *to preserve, protect, promote and celebrate the Halifax Public Gardens.*

ACTIVITIES:

In 2019, there were 96 activities / events including but not limited to: The HRM Sunday Concerts; Parks Canada's Learn to Camp and Outreach; FIN movies, Neptune's Young Peoples Co; Weekly Story times; Poetry and Book Readings; Country Music in the City; Make Music Day; The Mayor's Birthday Party during Natal Day Weekend; Keyboard, Piano, Spanish Guitar, Bands, and Choir performances.

The Victoria Day Tea Party enjoyed an ever growing attendance with Hausmusik's Chamber Music, Queen Victoria, and Prince Albert, contributing to the success of the event. And we need to acknowledge the key role played by the Royal Bank Volunteers that handle the registration process and provide a welcome donation as well. The Jarvis Lecture: *Under the Halifax Public Gardens*, by Dr. Jonathan Fowler, St Mary's University Archeologist unveiling the first indoor Skating rink in Canada had a huge attendance and rave reviews. As well there was a Volunteer Appreciation Evening, our Christmas Reception and the Annual General Meeting in Sacred Heart School Halifax's new building wing.

SUCSESSES/CHALLENGES:

Success is in the increase of public awareness and the enjoyment noted by comments in our Guest Book in Horticultural Hall and Membership growth. Challenges, as always, is ensuring the performers and organizations achieve their goals. We are appreciative of our 3 Garden Interpreters, courtesy of Canada Summer Jobs (although their wages are topped beyond minimum wage by TFPG) who fulfilled the role of greeting and thanking each performer.

Submitted by Judith Cabrita

Volunteer Committee – 2019-20

MEMBERS: Karen Guenther and Volunteers (per below)

PURPOSE/ROLE:

Organize Volunteers from within The Friends of the Public Gardens to represent The Friends and Preserve, Protect, Promote and Celebrate the Halifax Public Gardens.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Solicit and Guide Friends' Volunteers to staff TFPG Info/Member Desk in Horticultural Hall. Solicit and assign Friends' Volunteers to assist/manage TFPG Events, Activities and Promotions and HRM Annual Gardens' Events.

ACTIVITIES:

The Friends of the Public Gardens are blessed with Volunteers who participate in and support annual activities such as the Victoria Day Tea, Jarvis Lectures, Annual General Meeting, Natal Day, FIN Summer Series, Nocturne and the Annual TFPG Holiday Celebration. Refer to Events, Communication, Membership, Interns reports for additional details.

HORTICULTURAL HALL TFPG INFO/MEMBER DESK (staffed 10a.m-5p.m. Monday-Friday): Many Volunteers return as Desk Hosts year after year. In 2019 Spring flowers slowly began to unfold at the end of April and Hort Hall re-opened for the 2019 PUBLIC GARDENS SEASON. What has developed into the Annual Desk Host Team, Don Marks and George Hearn (Monday), Lesly Reynolds and Olga Scibior (Tuesday), Barbara Smith and Bill Colpitts (Wednesday), Pamela Sweet Smith and Naomi Nonnekes (Thursday), Judith Cabrita and Susan Kerslake (Friday), arrived to welcome Spring Flowers and Birds and local winter-bound Friends and neighbours. Greg Bent filled in whenever needed.

With warmer May and June days TFPG Tour Leaders Henry Paratte, Bruce Osborne, YuGuong Wang and Naomi Nonnekes led free tours that describe The Gardens' colourful history. During late summer, Members John Yogis, Harry Popowich, Stephanie Shewchuk and Pauline Fedrick joined the Team of Hort Hall TFPG Volunteer Desk Hosts.

From Mid-June through August, Gardens Interpreters James Cunningham, Claire Ferguson and Lauren Siteman (funded through Federal Government Student Grant) supplemented the TFPG daily presence in The Gardens from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. whenever Hort Hall was open for Visitors including weekends and evening events.

At Labour Day, the 2019 Season was cut short by Hurricane Dorian. Extensive Tree damage closed The Gardens while HRM Staff worked to clear Halifax trees and re-open roads. Cruise Visitors arrived into November but the Hort Hall 2019 Season ended with October.

Submitted by Karen Guenther

The Friends of the Public Gardens

2019-2020 Financial Committee Report

We ended the 2019/2020 fiscal year on March 31, 2020 with an operating surplus of **\$9,872.86**.

Membership dues, donations, and sales of merchandise by volunteers and students in Horticultural Hall were the main sources of our revenues. Also this year The Friends, with support from HRM, initiated a very successful partnership with Tauck Tours. We have plans to continue this partnership in the future.

One of our major accomplishments this year was to make a funding commitment to HRM that resulted in the initiation of the reconstruction of the statue of Diana, which was seriously damaged by vandals several years ago. As part of this project, the Flora and Ceres statues will also be restored to their original conditions. The money to cover this work is currently sitting in our savings account, awaiting completion of the project this summer.

Once the statues are installed, we will have finished all of our capital improvement commitments from our Victoria Jubilee Fund Raising Campaign, and the Jarvis Bequest. Our funds were used to leverage funding from HRM and the federal government and resulted in renovations of the Jubilee Bandstand, the Victoria Fountain, the urns around the bandstand as well as the 3 statues.

The board decided to do some legacy funding this year. We have added \$5,000 to the Jarvis Trust GIC, which helps defray costs for the annual Jarvis Lecture, when needed. We also added \$5,000 to The Friends of the Public Gardens Trust, which supports the day-to-day operations of the organization, when needed.

Total Assets Summarized by Intended Use

The March 31, 2020 Balance Sheet shows TFPG assets totaling \$186,686.91. These funds are currently dedicated for the following uses:

1. <u>Day-to-day operations</u> (expenses and cash flow)	\$16,479.90
2. <u>Capital projects</u> (improvements to features in the Gardens, eg. statues)	\$50,925.49
3. <u>Jarvis Trust</u> (supports the Jarvis Lecture Series, as needed)	\$26,812.85
4. <u>TFPG Trust</u> (supports day-to-day operations, as needed)	\$28,810.82
5. <u>Suellen Murray Educational Bursary</u> (Garden-related research projects)	\$ 7,874.54
6. <u>Funds Available for Future Projects</u>	<u>\$55,783.31</u>
	\$186,686.91

Friends of the Public Gardens

Income Statement - April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020

Revenues

Membership	\$	3,032.25	
General Donations	\$	5,808.11	
Suellen Murray Bursary Donations	\$	1,100.00	
FPG Events	\$	5,674.81	
Merchandise Sales	\$	4,742.50	
Tauck Tours	\$	1,500.00	
Grants	\$	16,743.00	
HST Refunds	\$	4,909.84	
Other (exchange)	\$	94.81	
Interest - GICs and CIA Accounts	\$	<u>1,818.07</u>	
TOTAL Revenues			\$ 45,423.39

Expenses

Payroll Expenses	\$	13,969.90	
Capital Projects and Suellen Murray Bursary	\$	1,645.71	
Text-A-Tree Expenses	\$	3,563.00	
Volunteer Training and Appreciation	\$	619.45	
FPG Events	\$	6,983.41	
Merchandise Expenses	\$	2,209.43	
Software Expenses	\$	2,217.82	
HST	\$	1,386.48	
Other (Supplies, Postage, Reprod, Fees)	\$	<u>2,955.33</u>	
TOTAL Expenses			\$ <u>35,950.53</u>
Operating Surplus (Deficit)			\$ <u>9,872.86</u>

Friends of the Public Gardens

Balance Sheet – as of March 31, 2020

Assets

Current Assets

CUA - Equity Shares	\$	5.00	
CUA - Community Chequing Account	\$	16,479.90	
CUA - Business Savings Account	\$	50,109.53	
GIC - Jarvis Trust (#41)	\$	26,812.85	
GIC - The Friends of the PG Trust (#42)	\$	28,810.82	
GIC #40	\$	18,206.25	
GIC #43	\$	9,203.63	
GIC #44	\$	9,235.52	
GIC #45	\$	9,253.76	
GIC #46	\$	9,262.89	
GIC #47	\$	9,317.76	
Total Cash			\$ 186,686.91

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 186,686.91

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$	-	
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TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ -

Equity

Retained Assets	\$	176,814.05	
2019-2020 Asset Increase	\$	9,872.86	

TOTAL Non-Profit EQUITY \$ 186,686.91

LIABILITIES and EQUITY \$ 186,686.91

Royal Connections to the Halifax Public Gardens

With direction from the Board, the following is an update on the Royals in the Gardens Ad Hoc Committee. The research has taken many hours, interesting, though sometimes frustrating, and not yet complete. We have a fairly complete scenario of which royals visited Halifax from 1790 starting with Prince Edward, The Duke of Kent (Queen Victoria's father) although our concentration, the period 1860 to the present is the goal coinciding with the period of the development of the Gardens as we now know it. During this period many members of the Royal Family including Queen Victoria's children visited Halifax both in relation to official itineraries, as well as those who were present as a result of their duties as, for example, naval officers who used Halifax as a stopping off point because of its strategic location. Included are royals who were to become King Edward VII, King Edward VIII, King George V (who in 1901 was here with his wife the later Queen Mary), King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (the later Queen Mother), Princess Margaret, The Duchess of Kent and her daughter Princess Alexandra, Queen Elizabeth II (both as princess and later queen), and His Royal Highness Prince Charles heir to the throne. We have found records of other significant Royal Family members who appear to have visited the Gardens. The obstacle that we face is finding records documenting actual visits of royals who we know visited Halifax Nova Scotia historian and author, Dianne Marshall is assisting with archival research.

Submitted by John Yogis

Ceres, Flora & Diana Statuary and Swans

Conservator, Susan Feader, reported that the material for the concrete molds was delayed from the US and arrived recently. She will be completing and filling Diana's mold and advises progress is developing well. We expect Diana to return to the Gardens during the 2020 season with her sister statues to follow soon after. All will be enjoying their stature and commanding view of the Gardens in 2021.

Heidi Boutilier, Horticultural Supervisor West, confirmed that once the restoration Griffin's Pond is completed by fall 2020, the decision regarding the purchase of a swan(s) will be revisited. In the meantime, I will visit two swan sanctuaries in New Ross and Shubenacadie this summer to gather additional information.

Submitted by Don Marks

The Ad Hoc Wild Bird Project Report – May 7, 2020

MEMBERS: Joan Harbison (TFPG Board, 2018-2020, and Gisèle d'Entremont, volunteer)

PURPOSE:

This two-year project beginning Fall 2018 is intended to contribute to the constitutional mandate of TFPG to “delight and educate” visitors to the Gardens by providing information about what wild birds might be seen at differing times of year, and how to identify them.

RATIONALE:

In her discussion in the 2008 illustrated book published by TFPG Barbara Hinds, an avid birder, pointed to the Gardens as a habitat for wild birds. Avid birders do frequent the Gardens and one birder has posted a list of 60 species of birds seen over a number of years. Yet knowledge about the number of species of wild birds that can be seen was not generally available.

ACTIVITIES:

To achieve our purpose of introducing the birds that might be seen, and to support visitors in identifying them, we employed a number of strategies.

1. We birded the Gardens regularly – Gisèle d'Entremont often daily – in order to see what might be found throughout the year.
2. Gisèle, a former President of the bird society, is both an expert birder and photographer. Gisèle's photographs of birds seen were displayed on an easel at the entrance to Horticultural Hall last summer. (Our thanks to Bruce Doucette for his creative easel construction.)
3. In Horticultural Hall at the Visitor's Desk we provided a log book for visitors to record their own bird sightings and questions.
4. We also provided birding guide books so that visitors could identify the birds they saw. We ourselves have seen a total of 52 species of birds throughout the year including 15 species of warblers in the migratory period of May-June, 2019.

Sadly, we will not be able to bird the Gardens during the Spring migration this year because of their closure due to the Covid-19 virus.

COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT:

Gisèle has created posters of photographs of the birds visiting the Gardens at various times of year. Later this year a report elaborating on the project, and photographs of the birds seen will be made available on the TFPG website.

Submitted by Joan Harbison

Camp Hill Cemetery Ad Hoc Committee Report – 2020

In early 2020, our Board began to use its contacts and influence with HRM to advocate for improvements to the HRM-operated Camp Hill Cemetery, which is located immediately adjacent to Halifax Public Gardens. The Camp Hill Cemetery contains the gravesites of many notable Nova Scotians, including Viola Desmond, Joseph Howe and Abbey Lane.

In addition to improvements in general upkeep, horticulture maintenance and signage in the Cemetery, we are advocating for aspects of the Camp Hill Cemetery to be developed in a manner that can provide additional recreational and historic educational opportunities for the public while remaining respectful of those buried in the cemetery. Our long-term vision is:

- Develop the perimeter laneways as public space for walking (including walking pets on leash), jogging, biking and sitting and
- an interior area, demarked by the addition of a simple, low metal fence around graveyard proper, which would be restricted to pedestrian and wheelchair access only (no pets, no bikes, no jogging, no sports). The focus of activity within the restricted graveyard area would be walking, sitting, gravesite visits, historical tours (signage and digital) and horticulture (trees and shrubs)

We believe this type of development of the Camp Hill Cemetery will compliment the amenities available in the Public Gardens and will relieve some of the visitor pressure on the Halifax Public Gardens.

Endowing the Gardens Ad Hoc Committee Report – 2020

TPFG is concerned that budgetary constraints are resulting in a management style for the Halifax Public Gardens that is showing signs of drifting from the key elements and principals that make the Gardens a National Heritage Site.

Our Committee is researching a number of aspects related to setting up an endowment fund for the Halifax Public Gardens. We believe that our world-class example of a Victorian garden has the potential to attract financial support through donations, grants and bequests.

Our on-going research includes looking at potential sources of funding, effective ways to encourage the public to consider endowing the Gardens, and how an endowment could be structured so it supports operating activities that we consider to be a priority such as a dedicated Head Gardener/Manager position, improving horticulture displays and education and public programming in the Gardens.

Submitted by Barbara Carleton

TFPG Board Nominating Committee Report – May 7, 2020

The following current Board members are seeking re-election:

- **Donald Arthur Marks**, Tour Operator, Van in Black Tours; Volunteer at TFPG Desk in Horticultural Hall; member of Musicians Federation; past Member of Seabreeze Garden Club, Ship Harbour; Past-President of Carpenters Local 446; former member of Commissionaire Corps Canada.
- **Henri Dominique Paratte**, Writer, radio host (Oui 98.5 FM), researcher; HPG tour guide – in French or English, and some German or Russian; has volunteered in Hort Hall, and with Tartan Team at Hfx Airport.

Four additional ordinary members nominated for election to TFPG Board membership for 2020-2022 are:

- **Barbara Carleton**, Retired geologist, and former member of the board of TFPG serving as treasurer and secretary, as well as on several committees.
- **George Hearn**, Retired, OR Nursing Attendant, NSHA and Victoria General Hospital, Originally from D'Escousse NS. It wasn't on till 2000 that I really started getting more interested in the Halifax Public Gardens listening to music in the bandstand on Sundays and nature itself. Volunteered during 2017 150 Celebrations and since at The Friends Information Desk in Horticultural Hall giving me all kinds of enjoyment and interaction with board members, gardeners, and visitors. Volunteer with the Parade of Lights, the Atlantic Film Festival, and Tall Ships when they came from all parts of the world.
- **Milena Khazanavicius**, 20 year advocate for the blind, partially sighted and a volunteer with CNIB Vision Loss Rehabilitation NS. Co-facilitator, CNIB in training new volunteers; Leader, Youth Leadership Days for sighted youths to learn about sight loss; Volunteer tutor and team leader, Frontier College, assisting young kids in reading. Member, Core Team, Common Roots; Walk N Roll for safe streets and accessibility; Monthly Community Reporter, AMI audio and television for blind or partially sighted in Nova Scotia and across the country. I look forward to a new challenge as a potential coordinator for events for Friends of the Public Gardens.
- **Harry Popowich**, Retired landscaper and gardener, moving to Halifax 12 years ago, enjoying the relaxed life style here and being able to walk to almost any where we want to go. One of my favourite places is the Halifax Public Gardens and I visit it as much as possible throughout the year.

Continuing Board members elected for 2 years at the 2019 AGM are:

Barbara Bickle, Janet Brush, Laura Caswell, Karen Guenther, Peter Gildart, Janet Murray, Frank Streicher, John Yogis
Past-Chair will also serve on the Board.

Submitted by,
Judith Cabrita, Past Chair
Joan Harbison, Board Member retiring
Susan Kerslake, Member