

Public Gardens, Dingle to get facelift

By DAN ARSENAULT Staff Reporter

Two of Halifax's National Historic Sites are getting \$1.35-million worth of restoration work.

The Memorial (Dingle) Tower on the Northwest Arm and the Public Gardens downtown are getting \$850,000 and \$500,000 respectively for the work. The municipality and the federal government are splitting the costs evenly through the National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program.

The Dingle Tower will have its exterior masonry refurbished, and plaques will be restored and stabilized inside the tower and elsewhere.

The Public Gardens bandstand, which was constructed in 1887, is going to be stabilized and improved cosmetically.

Federal Environment Minister Jim Prentice, who is responsible for Parks Canada, announced the federal funding Friday.

Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly said the money will make sure the landmarks last.

"This support will help us ensure these much-loved treasures are enjoyed by future generations," he said.

He said the projects have to go out for tender before the actual work begins, but they will be finished this year.

Noting that Halifax city hall will likely need a \$6-million to \$8-million upgrade, he said it's important to make timely investments to protect older properties to ensure they survive.

"If you don't invest now and protect for the long term, the costs just continue to spiral."

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