

Public Gardens - Victoria Jubilee Bandstand Backgrounder



HRM must protect, conserve and rejuvenate our cultural and historic resources. We are pleased the National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program is providing funding to both the Memorial Tower and the Public Gardens. This support will help HRM ensure these much-loved treasures are enjoyed by future generations.

The Federal Government and the Municipality will match funds so a total of \$500,000 will be spent on the Victoria Jubilee Bandstand in the Public Gardens for structural stabilization which will ensure its continuous and safe use as a working bandstand. Replacement materials and methodology used during a 1970's restoration have radically altered the appearance and character defining elements of the structure. These renovations will not only ensure a structurally sound bandstand but will return its form and material to a more appropriate time-frame.

The 16 acre Public Gardens, one of the finest examples of a formal Victorian Garden in North America, has been receiving visitors since 1867. Since that time it has hosted visiting royalty and dignitaries and has become a backdrop for countless family, wedding, and prom photographs. It is a lush oasis in the heart of the downtown that many people and organizations have worked very hard to protect.

The Friends of the Public Gardens will use this funding as a platform to honour a bequest to the Society from the late Mary Margaret Jarvis of Halifax. The bequest has been held in trust while a suitable capital project within the Gardens was identified. The restoration of the bandstand has been deemed a suitable project.

This work must be completed by March 2011 to receive the Federal Government funding.