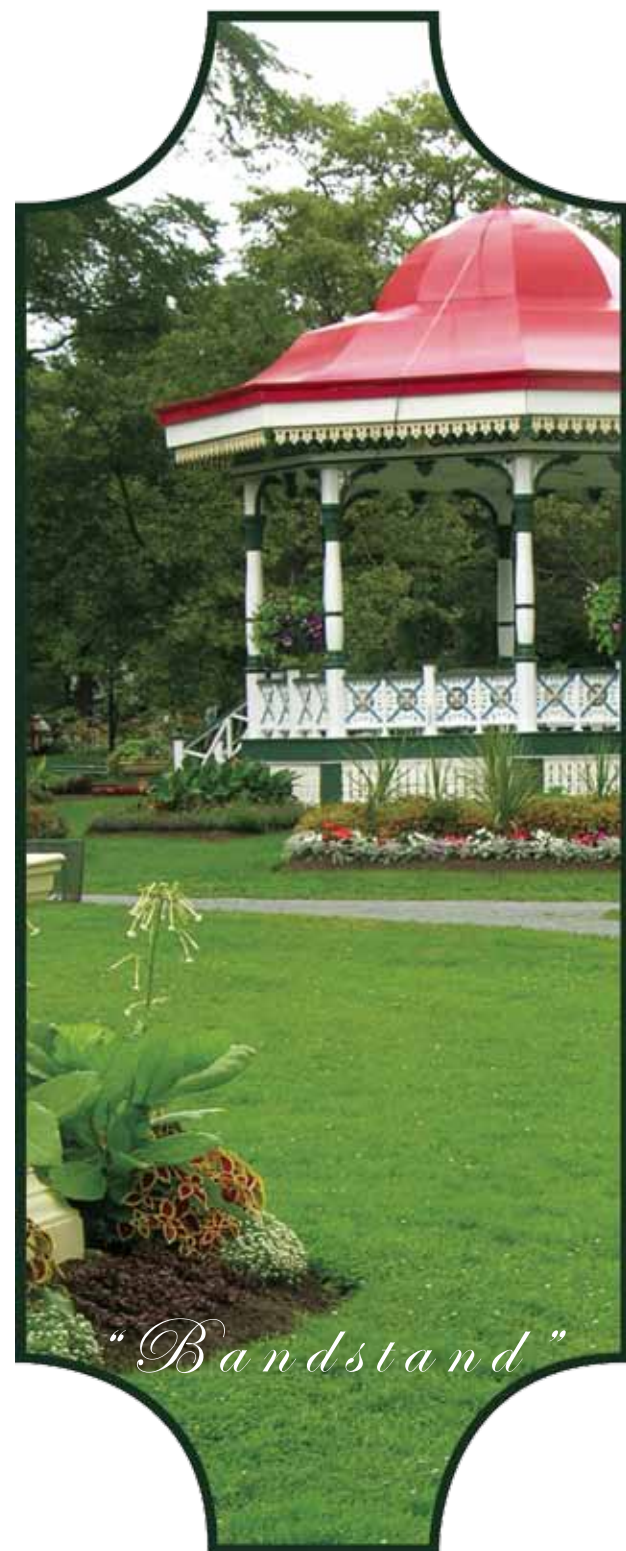


## The Story of the *Public Gardens*

The Halifax Public Gardens is one of the finest surviving examples of Victorian Gardens in North America. It was established in 1874 by the amalgamation of two older gardens, the Nova Scotia Horticultural Society Garden (laid out in 1837) and an adjacent public park (opened in 1867). The Nova Scotia Horticultural Society objectives were to establish the best horticultural examples of vegetables, trees and choice flowers. The current site of the Public Gardens was formerly a swampy piece of ground covered with brambles. A grant of two thousand dollars from the City of Halifax enabled this new ground to be laid out as a free Public Garden for the citizens of Halifax.

In 1872, Richard Power was hired as the Garden's Superintendent. Richard Power provided the vision for the Gardens that we enjoy today. Superintendent Power spent the next 45 years creating a formal Victorian Garden and was responsible for the installation of the following features:

- ~ the symmetrical layout of tree lined paths, lawns and flower beds
- ~ a network of curved gravel paths
- ~ select specimen plants
- ~ carpet beds, scroll beds, and serpentine beds
- ~ the Bandstand
- ~ Diamond Jubilee and Boer War fountains and
- ~ statuary.



## *Public Gardens*

Open daily from 8:00 a.m. until dusk

May until November

[www.halifax.ca/publicgardens](http://www.halifax.ca/publicgardens)

Halifax Public Gardens, Halifax Regional Municipality, P.O. Box 1749, Halifax N.S B3J 3A5

## *Rules and Services*

The Halifax Public Gardens has existed for over 140 years. Please respect the following rules to maintain the Garden for future generations.

- ~ No pets
- ~ No bikes
- ~ No jogging
- ~ No feeding the birds and waterfowl
- ~ Lawn activity only permitted on the Family Lawn Area

Wedding ceremonies are not permitted in the Gardens. Photos are welcome and no appointment is necessary.

### Services

The Public Gardens is open from May until November from 8:00 a.m. until dusk.

- ~ Security is on duty in the Gardens
- ~ Sunday Band Concerts from mid-June to mid-September
- ~ Wheel chair accessible, wheel chairs available in Horticultural Hall
- ~ Photos are permitted in the Gardens
- ~ Public Washrooms
- ~ Light Refreshments

For facility enquiries, please contact 902-490-4000.  
For Public Gardens enquires, please contact 902-490-3995.  
Visit us online at [www.halifax.ca/publicgardens](http://www.halifax.ca/publicgardens)

The information provided in this brochure is courtesy of the Halifax Public Gardens National Historic Site Commemorative Integrity Statement (April, 1999), prepared by Historic Sites. visit: [www.historicplaces.ca](http://www.historicplaces.ca)

## *Historical Facts*

- ~ In 1872, Richard Power was hired as the first Public Gardens superintendent, and for three generations the Power family continued in that role.
- ~ The Halifax Public Gardens was established in 1874.
- ~ What exists today as the Family Lawn Area was originally a public lawn tennis court established in 1876.
- ~ More recently, on September 28, 2003 the Halifax Regional Municipality was hit by a category two hurricane. The Public Gardens were extensively damaged and lost many trees. The Public Gardens Foundation raised over a million dollars to help restore the Gardens.
- ~ Local residents have always had strong emotional attachments to the Public Gardens. There is a long tradition of celebrating personal achievements at the gardens by taking photographs for graduations, weddings, anniversaries and civic events.
- ~ The Halifax Regional Municipality maintains this historic garden as a free public garden.

The Halifax Public Gardens was established in 1874 by the amalgamation of two older gardens, the Nova Scotia Horticultural Society Garden (laid out in 1837) and an adjacent public park (opened in 1866). In 1872, Richard Power was hired as the superintendent. He introduced an axially symmetrical plan which governs the overall design of the site. Over the years, he oversaw the introduction of the bandstand (designed by architect Henry Busch), fountains, statues, and cast iron gates as well as establishing the bedding out of annuals in highly designed carpet beds, redesigned Griffin's Pond and introduced water fowl. He also initiated specimen planting, including many exotic and semi-tropical species. The whole was united by a system of gently curving gravel pathways within a perimeter of mature trees and wide sidewalks acting as buffers between the park and the surrounding city.

PUBLIC GARDENS

HALIFAX  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY