



garden news

A newsletter for the Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Garden, published by

QEII FOUNDATION

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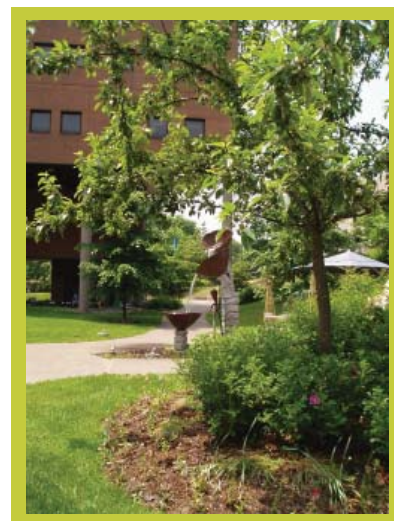


Approximately 10 years ago, a dull parking lot was transformed into a hidden gem, not far from busy Robie Street in Halifax, of colourful flowers, sheltering trees, and pruned shrubs. The Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Garden is a private sanctuary designed for the approximately 175 Veterans who reside at the Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building, their families and their caregivers.

The Garden is fully enclosed giving the Veterans the ability to use and to explore the full

Garden unaided in an area that is safe and secure. Many of the Veterans help with planting, watering, and caring for the Garden giving them an even greater sense of pride for their refuge. Much of the Garden is designed on a horticulture therapy basis because flowers and plants can be extremely powerful therapeutic medicine.

"No two gardens are the same. No two days are the same in one garden"
- Hugh Johnson



Keeping the Garden Accessible



Even though both Charlie Copus and Cliff MacDonald have mobility issues, the Veterans' Garden remains a place where both men can enjoy sitting outside in the sun, surrounded by beautiful plants and flowers.

Charlie (*far left in photo*) has lived in the Veterans' Memorial Building for the last five years; Cliff (*far right in photo*) has

been a resident for the last four years. Both men enjoy being active members



of the Veterans' Council - Charlie is currently the President and Cliff is the Treasurer.

With the help and support of many donors, the Veterans' Memorial Garden received several new improvements last year, several of which focused on increasing accessibility. A wheelchair ramp was installed at the auditorium exit which allows the Veterans access to the Garden directly from the auditorium. Ten tidy trays were purchased which are used by the Veterans for table top or bedside gardening for those who cannot or find it difficult to kneel down. Also, ten patio tables and six umbrellas were added to the Garden to offer additional sitting areas. Thanks to these dedicated donors, the Garden continues to thrive as a private oasis for Veterans like Charlie and Cliff.

Mooseheads' Jersey Auction for the Garden

Earlier this year, Rear Admiral Paul Maddison, Commander, Maritime Forces Atlantic / Joint Task Force Atlantic (and QEII Foundation Trustee), along with several representatives from CFB Halifax, and Bobby Smith, owner of the Halifax Mooseheads, presented a cheque through the QEII Foundation for \$4370 in support of the Veterans' Memorial Garden.

These funds were raised during a live auction which featured autographed Canadian Forces Mooseheads' jerseys, which were worn by the Mooseheads during a DND appreciation night game as a sign of support for Canadian Forces troops and Veterans.

The funds raised will help with the continued maintenance and needs of the Garden.



Photo (left to right): Rear Admiral Maddison, Veteran resident Charlie Copus, and Bobby Smith, owner, Halifax Mooseheads.

Help Shed Some Light in the Garden

By Andrew Ritcey, Health Services Manager, VMB

With the summer season quickly slipping by, the evening daylight will soon disappear earlier and earlier. A major project in the works for the Garden is to install passive lighting to help extend the use of the Garden into the early part of the evening, allowing Veterans to enjoy its benefits a little longer each day.

Shirley Robertson, an outstanding, passionate supporter of the Garden since its inception, has once again stepped forward to help with this important project. The lighting will be the latest LED technology and consist of ambient low level lighting that will follow the pathway in the Garden, along the Walk of Honour to the magnificent cenotaph. The 22 lights, which are each three feet high, will burn in total the equivalent of two light bulbs. This lighting will definitely help many of the Veterans, who have reduced vision and mobility, find their way around the Garden during the twilight hour.

Shirley and her friends have helped raise sufficient funds for the purchase of the lights, but much support is still needed. You can help make this project a reality and shed some light in the Garden. Please contact Katharine Berrington at the QEII Foundation at 473-3325 to discuss your support.

On behalf of the Veterans their families and the Veterans' Memorial staff, thank you in advance for helping with this valuable project.



'Til We Meet Again



To help with funding for the Garden, the Stadacona Band Joint Task Force Atlantic annually presents two concerts in partnership with the QEII Foundation.

Plan to attend this year's 'Til We Meet Again on November 3rd at the Rebecca Cohn in Halifax. Tickets to this evening concert are \$15 each, which includes your reserved seating. Tickets are available to purchase through the Dalhousie Arts Centre Box Office by calling 1-800-874-1669 or online at <http://artscentre.dal.ca/box.html>.

Honour a Loved One

There are many naming opportunities available at the Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Garden to honour your loved one. All gifts are recognized in the *Book of Distinction* on display in the lobby of the Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building.

Walk of Honour - \$300

This marble structure consists of multiple panels with engraved names of individuals or groups who have served in conflict. Honour your loved one by adding their name to the structure.



Tree or Shrub - \$750

Trees and shrubs are found throughout the Garden and provide beauty and shade to Garden guests. Your gift will dedicate a tree or shrub with an inscribed plaque in honour or in memory of your loved one.



Bench - \$1500

Benches provide a resting spot for Veterans and their guests. An engraved plaque with the name of your loved one will accompany the bench situated in the Garden.



The Garden offers many other special areas suitable for a dedication. For more information or to arrange a tour of the garden, please call (902) 473-3325.

Keep the Garden Growing

As with any living, growing space, funds are needed to support the continued maintenance that is required to keep the Garden growing strong. The Garden has a long wish list of items to help with accessibility, as well as add to the beauty of the Garden. The QEII Foundation gratefully accepts financial contributions; please contact (902) 473-3325 and add your special touch to the Veterans' Memorial Garden.



2009 Garden Newsletter

Yes, I would like to contribute to the care of the Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Garden.

Here is my gift to the QEII Foundation of \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ PROV _____ PC _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

CHEQUE VISA MC AMEX #: _____ EXPIRES: _____

SIGNATURE _____

I would like my gift to remain anonymous *Every gift in every Will makes a difference!*

Please send this completed form and donation to the:

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1276 South Park Street, Centennial Building, Rm. 1-040, Halifax, NS B3H 2Y9

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