

\$50,000 reward offered for information related to vandalism at Halifax Public Gardens

Halifax Regional Police set up a tip line for citizens to provide information

HALIFAX, NS Sept. 8, 2022 – The Friends of the Public Gardens and Robert Pace, Chair of The Public Gardens Foundation, are offering a reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for vandalizing 32 trees at the Public Gardens. Anyone with information on the vandalism can report it to a new Halifax Regional Police tip line dedicated to the case.

The \$50,000 reward has been established through \$25,000 in anonymous donations from concerned citizens to The Friends of the Public Gardens and \$25,000 from Mr. Pace to personally match the public donations. The reward for information will be in effect until Dec. 30, 2022.

Halifax residents are proud of their beautiful Public Gardens and these senseless acts of vandalism to the Gardens have greatly impacted residents and galvanized them to help find those responsible for these crimes.

The Friends of the Public Gardens are very grateful for the support of the community and Halifax Regional Police and encourage anyone with information about the vandalism to contact the Halifax Regional Police or Crime Stoppers.

Halifax Regional Police are asking anyone with information, images, or video related to the vandalism of the Halifax Public Gardens to call 1-902-471-7877. Anonymous tips can be sent to Crime Stoppers by calling toll-free 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Online tips can be submitted to <https://crimestoppers.ns.ca/online-tips/>.

Sometime between 9 p.m. on July 25 and 7 a.m. on July 26, an individual or individuals broke into the Halifax Public Gardens and cut large sections of bark from 32 trees in an apparent attempt to kill them. Many of the affected trees range from 50 to 200 years old. Since the incident occurred, four of the 32 damaged trees have been removed and Halifax Public Gardens staff are working to save the remainder. It could take years to know the results of their efforts. Replacement of the 32 trees is estimated to cost more than \$350,000.

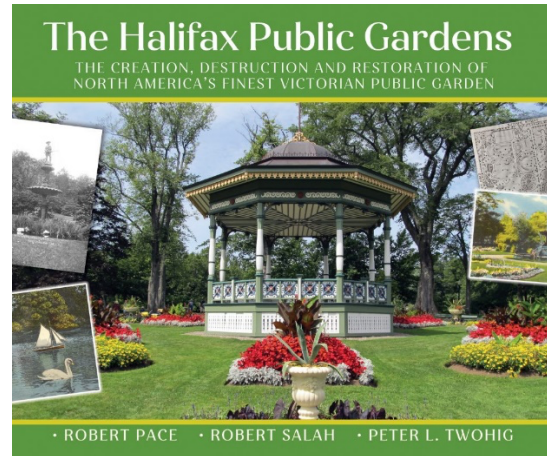
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About The Friends of the Public Gardens

The Friends of the Public Gardens (TFPG) is a registered charity. TFPG's mandate is to encourage and support the preservation, enhancement, and celebration of the Halifax Public Gardens for the ongoing enjoyment of the general public in recognition of its uniqueness as a national resource. The TFPG Board members are all volunteers.

About The Halifax Public Gardens Foundation

Local businessman Robert Pace chaired the campaign to restore the Public Gardens after Hurricane Juan. Mr. Pace, Robert Salah, and Peter Twohig are authoring a book this Fall, illustrating how the gardens came to be and how the severe hurricane destruction led to a beautiful and sensitive restoration.



Media contacts:

Friends of the Public Gardens
Email: info@halifaxpublicgardens.ca

Robert Pace
Chair, Public Gardens Foundation
Phone: 902-456-6268