

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 – 2022



Photograph: Martin wigginton

The Friends of the
Public Gardens
Halifax, Nova Scotia

MINUTES

2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Due to restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was conducted by email, forwarding the documentation and information through a newsletter distributed using Wild Apricot technology. The procedures for the AGM and the results were as follows:

- Notification of the socially distanced AGM, was sent to Members on April 12, 2021 advising all active Members that the 2021 AGM was slated for May 12, 2021 and:
 - a. that documents and motions would be sent on May 6th, 2021 and posted on www.halifaxpublicgardens.ca
 - b. voting would take place on the four required motions from receipt of the information until 11:59 on May 12th, 2021
 - c. That non-voting by Members would be considered a vote-in-favour of the motions
- On May 6th, 2022, all active members received an email containing:
 - a. 2021 AGM Directions on how the AGM would be conducted, how to vote, on the 4 motions on or before May 12 at 11:59 pm and how to ask questions.
 - b. 2021 Annual Report containing the Chairperson report, Committee Reports and the Financial Statements for 2020-2021
 - c. Update from Gardens Management on the Halifax Public Gardens
- An Excel sheet was developed to record the votes directly from the voting sheet to the excel form. . Each vote was checked for membership in good standing. Those persons (17) who responded and their membership was not in good standing were emailed and encouraged to renew Five renewed and met the voting deadline.59 Members voted in favour of all four motions.

Motion #1. Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2019-2020 Annual General Meeting

Motion #2. Motion to approve the 2019-2020 Financial Statements

Motion #3. Motion to approve the Chair report and all the Committee reports

Motion #4. Motion to approve the election of the nominees to the Friends of the Public Gardens Board for the 2021-2022 term as outlined in the Nomination Report

- The final results of the voting will be sent to the Membership and posted on TFPG's website after the first Board Meeting of the 2021-2022 year along with the results of the Board's selection of the Executive.

TFPG Report from the Chair – 2021-2022

Our mandate, as we know, is to Protect, Preserve, Promote and Celebrate the Halifax Public Gardens.

During this 2021-2022, we faced a complex situation: a pandemic that did not seem to end, where regulations we had to abide by changed every few weeks, and the need to maintain good relations with new staff in the HRM Department of Parks and Recreation. Following Heidi Boutilier's retirement, we were fortunate to have found in her successor, Sean Street, Horticultural Supervisor, Halifax West, an open and encouraging partner. Sean, with a team of expert gardeners, does not only make sure that the Public Gardens are beautiful but also that we can cooperate closely and smoothly to enhance that beauty. The 2021 season may have been complex for activities in the Gardens due to health regulations and the need to postpone planned cultural activities and even work in Horticulture Hall. Many comments have shown a feeling by visitors that the Gardens looked better than ever, and the return to a more regular, pre-pandemic situation leads us to see already that our Gardens will be as beautiful as can be for the 2022 Year of the Gardens in Canada and in HRM. For part of December 2021 and January 2022, we even had a display of lights in the gardens which proved popular despite the cold.

Thanks to artist Susan Feader and our statues committee, part of that beauty is the final return in 2022 of all three statues of Roman goddesses to the Gardens. A task requiring financing from TFPG but also support from HRM.

There were a few other changes in our physical environment. Our little corner in Horticulture Hall, our interpretation centre, is now much larger. Heating from the floor even enables us to plan activities, if we wish, during the winter months. To protect people against COVID, plexiglass partitions were installed, and we now also enjoy a sign outside indicating visitors can get information there, with a QR code. The QR code links to our website and the audio tours that have been increasing in number, thanks in particular to immediate past chair Barbara Carleton. There are also companion brochures for each audio tour on specific topics in the Gardens and Camp Hill. On March 15, 2022, thanks to Rick Rivers and Judith Cabrita, we had a gathering of volunteers in HH, which proved enlightening and lively.

Our good relations extend to HRM Youth services as well: thanks to Lee Moore, we are now able to have more space for tasks and meetings, as well as archives in the Power House, even though this year most of our board meetings still used Zoom, Power House proved very useful for smaller meetings.

The gates to the Gardens have increasingly become a place for public statements, and by making sure they displayed this Spring the yellow and blue of Ukraine, we shared an important humanitarian statement well in line with the positive message of a garden. A similar message, with orange lights, had earlier expressed our closeness to the First Nations and the L'Nu community, on whose land our Gardens are located, at a time when the tragedy of indigenous schools became an obvious national nightmare.

It was very gratifying to have the final result of the pre-pandemic Text-a-Tree activity come out in the fall of 2021. Julietta Sorensen Kass, initiator and coordinator of

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the project, did not only make our work known to the academic community but also, with a lovely non-commercial book, ensured that the results are now available for all to read. An e-copy of this book is available through our website. TAT exemplified more than ever the importance of contacts with all life forms. At a time when we all adjust to climate change, this is an essential component of our work. It is remarkable that for her Platinum Jubilee, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II wished trees planted throughout the Commonwealth to mark her special anniversary.

Board work is continuous work and calls for involvement with many. Although plans were repeatedly sidelined by many health regulations changes during 2021 and part of 2022, we were able to start planning concerts and activities for 2022 as part of the 2022 Year of the Garden and the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

Volunteers are essential to our mandate. Our annual gathering of Volunteers took place in person on November 25th at a local restaurant called The Garden. Thanks in particular to Rick Rivers, coordinator of desk volunteers and tour guides, Katherine Deturbide, communications director, and our treasurer, Janet Brush, for its success.

A December 12 sing-along by a group from Neptune Theatre may well become a regular December activity.

In a post-pandemic world, bringing people closer and enabling us to share will be even more important than before. We have enjoyed the support of an HRM community fund, through councillor Wayne Mason, for a musical event around reconciliation and community spirit that moved from 2021 to 2022. We also hope this year to be able to showcase many musicians, from a classical ensemble supported by a bequest to amateur musicians celebrating La Fête de la Musique/Make Music day on June 21st. It was wonderful to learn that, in addition to the classical concert series proposed by Barbara Carleton during this Jubilee year, we had Heritage Canada support for other activities linked to the Queen's Jubilee. Partnering with a museal institution may well, in the future, open new doors to research projects supplementing the Suellen Murray Bursary, which, along with a provincial grant, had made TAT possible.

Support and joint work are increasingly important to what we do. An ongoing agreement with Saint Mary's University, initiated by Novella Nichita for their students, will see regular work by advanced students in their co-curricular activities with TFGP. I attended the HRM Volunteer conference this year, which proves a good way to share experiences and learn from others. We are currently looking at closer ties with other non-profit organizations, starting with the Friends of McNabs Island - many do not know that there was a Victorian garden on that island.

Last year we had again a team of Summer garden interpreters - Ava Sturm, Emily Pesket, Michael Nearing - working under the direct supervision of a supervisory committee - Judith Cabrita, Barbara Carleton, and Janet Brush. Our interns added to our available material. A visual artist, Michael Nearing, worked on several brochures for Camp Hill cemetery and for the Gardens, the latest on the Weeping trees. Ava compiled a collection of photographs depicting each plant in five perennial beds and their blooming times.

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Many others are adding to our knowledge: Giselle d'Entremont has created two beautiful bird posters and is continuously monitoring birds in the Gardens. One of my first tasks in 2021 was a heartfelt eulogy for Captain Ted Worthington, who loved to talk and dance in the gardens – we're a place for joy.

The spirit of John Yogis, a former board member whose knowledge of Royal visits to the Gardens was invaluable, is still with us even though he left us in November 2021. Although many have resigned for different reasons over that complex period, former board members Haruka Aoyama, Milena Khazanavicius, Donald Marks, Roy Johnson, Harry Popovich, and George Hearn are still around, volunteering or offering advice in some cases, and we are glad they do. I would also like to point out the work done by Susan Kerslake and the help from Pamela Sweet with a projected garden tour for our members that should take place in early July of this year.

Organizing board meetings requires the work of many, but I was lucky to have the invaluable assistance of Elizabeth Johnson, our secretary, who brought us closer to sharing documents on Google docs. My thoughts and thanks go to all Board members who give their time and energy to make sure we are following provincial guidelines but also initiating many interesting projects – not forgetting our vice-president, Lynn McCallum.

Founded in 1984, we shall be 40 soon. Many organizations do not live that long. Old-timers will pass the torch to new Board members. It is important for the chair to make sure differing views are heard, projects looked at, and teamwork maintained.

Now that, after several years, cruise ships bring visitors back, the desk hosts and tour guides are ready, and we can carry on with our mandate. I am not forgetting my pet project either – to have a Wardian case from the Victorian era in Horticulture Hall!

Respectively submitted by Henri Paratte



Bursary Committee

Just as 2020-21 was a difficult year for everyone, including the bursary, (named for Suellen Murray and supported by her family and friends,) this past year also provided some difficult times for the Bursary Committee. Just as in the year before, we were unsure as to where the pandemic Covid-19 would take us, and some of the entrants were looking at projects which were too large and/or unsuitable for an “iffy” year.

You may remember that the bursary was last awarded to Tracy Jessen, a long-time gardener at the Halifax Public Gardens, and her project was “The History of the Carpet Beds”. The carpet beds have always been a highlight of the Gardens. Unfortunately, the Halifax Archives, which might have provided some good information, was closed. Nevertheless, Tracy has worked diligently on the project, which we hope will make an interesting addition to our web page, and perhaps will make an excellent Jarvis Lecture at some time in the future. Tracy has been working on a Power Point presentation as well.

The Committee has decided not to award the bursary this year, and to work on the criteria before the coming year. The project was meant to be a small one, with a bursary of \$1000.00, and if you would like to know more, the past winners and their projects are listed on the website of the Friends of the Public Gardens.

Suellen was my daughter – she died of a brain tumour – a glioblastoma – in 2014. She loved The Gardens and walked through every morning on her way to work in the Department of Health. We have had some interesting projects in her name, and would like to sponsor more, so if you have an idea, look at the info on the web page, and apply.

Thanks to the members of the committee – Barbara Bickle, Judith Cabrita, Margaret Anne Bennett, Janet Brush, Dr. Jock Murray for their faithfulness to the project and the committee through the years, and to the late John Yogis, who was both a member of the committee and Suellen’s friend and teacher at Dalhousie Law School.

Respectfully submitted
Janet Murray, Chair
Suellen Murray Educational Bursary

Self-guided Tours

Two years ago, we began to produce self-guided tours of the Halifax Public Gardens and the Camp Hill Cemetery. The tours are presented in two formats:

- beautifully illustrated brochures available for free from our visitors' desk in Horticultural Hall, and
- audio tours for mobile devices, available from our website, halifaxpublicgardens.ca. The audio tours cover the same tour routes as the brochures but provide more detail. These can be listened to on your home computer or downloaded to a mobile device.



We have expanded our brochure tour and audio tour library significantly this year. In the Halifax Public Gardens in addition to a tour discussing the Royal Connections to the Public Gardens, we have started a series which explores the history and horticulture of different parts of The Gardens. For the Camp Hill Cemetery, a tour featuring naval and military history has been added to our general tour which highlights some of the notable people buried in the cemetery.

These self-guided tours were developed by Michael Nearing, Captain Tom Tulloch, retired and Deirdre Morrison with the help of grants from the Halifax Foundation, and HRM Community Grant. Special thanks to Captain Tom Tulloch and Laura Caswell for volunteering their time to this project. We have recently received a Canada Gives donation to develop more tours.

Submitted by Barbara Carleton

Events Committee

Due to the continued Covid restrictions, events in the Gardens were quite limited in the summer of 2021. In addition, the temperamental weather caused a number of events to be cancelled. One example was the performance by the Youth Performance Company of Neptune Theatre.

Despite the obstacles, there were several picnics held in the Family Lawn Area by such various groups as Spencer House, ISANS, and a Day Care celebrating a birthday. A giant thank you to George Hearn who greeted each group and assisted them in whatever they needed.

In August, Dahlia Days was the big event. As usual, Neville McKay of My Mother's Bloomers put on a great show, and the large turnout made the event a great success. The Friends received a grand total of \$662.70 from donations and raffle tickets.

One special event was not held at the Gardens, but was brought virtually to CNIB clients throughout the Maritimes. It was a described tour of the Gardens lead by Mike Nearing, one of our student employees. Many thanks to Mike for offering to learn how to properly describe to blind and partially sighted people like myself. He did a phenomenal job, as evidenced from the many positive responses from CNIB clients. The following message is from a CNIB staff member:

Hi Milena and Mike. Thank you both so much for organizing an amazing event for us last week. Our clients were so interested and excited about the event! Mike, I so appreciate all the time spent on collecting pictures to make the event extra special!. Your descriptive presentation was amazing!

Another advance on the accessibility front was the introduction by Northwood of their Trishaw, a specially designed tricycle which allows mobility challenged seniors to visit the Gardens. I am extremely proud to report that through negotiations with HRM and Northwood, I was able to get permission for the Trishaw to travel through the Gardens, now and in the future, in accordance with provincial accessibility regulations.

In October, two film crews were in the Gardens. One was filming for the travel series Avec our Sans Cash from Quebec. Halifax is one of ten featured cities, and the film will be aired in 2022. The other was a local group, Jibber Jab Productions, who interviewed Gardens patrons on the subject of motherhood.

Finally, our biggest event - a puppet show titled "A Tale on Two Wheels" put on by Gale Force Theatre. Over 100 participants of all ages and diversities thoroughly enjoyed the show. After the show, the actors gave a touch tour for those who could not see the puppets. Many thanks to volunteers Mike Nearing, Katherine Deturbide, Susan Kerslake, and George Hearn for making the show run smoothly.

Respectfully submitted by Milena Khazanavicius

Communications Committee

The Halifax Public Gardens has continued to develop its social media presence primarily through the well-established Facebook page (“Halifax Public Gardens”) as well as the more recent Instagram account (@hfxpublicgardens). Both have seen substantial increases in reach and followers. “Reach” is the number of people who have seen content from our social media accounts both directly and indirectly (e.g., viewing a post that a friend shared). In this fiscal year (April 1 2021 - March 31 2022), the Instagram account saw a nearly 700% increase in reach. This is likely because our posts are being shared more often through larger Instagram accounts with more followers, such as Halifax Noise. The Facebook page saw an increase in reach of 56%. Overall, the Facebook page still has significantly more views and followers than the Instagram account (11,000 ‘page likes’ on Facebook vs. 1,500 ‘followers’ on Instagram). It is also worth noting that the Instagram audience skews younger than on Facebook. Seeing this substantial growth on this platform is an encouraging sign that younger people are interested in the Halifax Public Gardens.

Social media activity was highest in the spring and summer months. The Communications Committee organized a social media strategy with the summer Garden Interpreters or GIs that included regularly scheduled social media posts. For example, “Floral Fridays” included posts about a particular flower that was blooming in the Gardens at the time and included interesting facts about that flower. We also used social media to promote events and activities in the Gardens. To promote Dahlia Days for example, we created a “March Madness”-style competition in the weeks leading up to the event where people would vote for their favourite dahlia using a polling feature in Instagram and Facebook stories.

Respectfully submitted by Katherine Deturbide

Supervisory Committee

Committee members: Chair - Janet Brush, HH Supervisor - Judith Cabrita, Audio Tour Coordinator - Barbara Carleton.

The Supervisory Committee was formed in 2020 to supervise the work of two Canada Summer Jobs students who began the research and production of two audio tours and the related brochures. In 2021 when we were able to reopen the Visitor's Desk in Horticultural Hall, the committee took on the responsibility of getting the space set up and running smoothly.

Once the CSJ funds were approved, the committee recruited and hired two Garden Interpreters or GIs, and Mike Nearing was hired as HH Supervisor, in charge of the two GIs. The season was more successful than expected given the absence of cruise ships, and the drastic reduction in bus tours.

While working in HH, the Interns were able to complete several projects, such as the identification and photographing of the perennial beds. The result was a binder which desk volunteers can use to answer questions from visitors.

The committee also continued and is continuing to oversee the audio tour development along with their related brochures, using the grants received for that purpose. This work will continue into the new year.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Brush

Volunteer Committee

Committee: Rick Rivers, Janet Brush, Michael Nearing, Judith Cabrita

It's been over a year since I was asked to be the volunteer coordinator. At that time, I was requested to design a new tour route for the Public Gardens and that tour has become the focus for the training of guides. Simply, the guide gets familiar with the tour material and on his/her tour I will shadow them and offer constructive criticism. Usually after one or two go's they realize this is for them or not. For the most part this has resulted in great success. We had a good nucleus of 14 guides, covering seven days a week. We were able to provide four free tours daily: scheduling one 3-hour shift a week, morning or afternoon, coinciding with the Desk schedule. Each Guide does a 50 to 60 minute tour at the start and another at the end. Some guides help doing an extra shift per week.

The gardens were very fortunate to have three very capable Canada Summer Jobs employees between June and the end of September. Two Garden Interpreters (GIs) and one Supervisor would help with guiding, the Visitor Desk or working on independent assignments. Michael Nearing, Supervisor, managed the Visitor Information Desk, conducted the early morning Bird Tours in Camp Hill Cemetery and Halifax Public Gardens; plus the regular GI tasks of assisting with the Desk, events, doing surveys, conducting tours at irregular times as needed and filling in on the regular time slots. In addition the GIs completed various research projects with the statues, trees and the perennial flower beds. This research augmented the audio tour research. The five perennial bed project completed by Ava Sturm is now a permanent resource for the Desk and Visitors, Ava took a photo of each bed in full bloom, a photo of that each plant, and created a "blooming chart" for each of the plants in each bed.

Covid caused some minor problems with no International visitation, including no Cruise Ships. The Visitor and Information desk dealt with the difficulties of communication behind plexiglas. However with the four-a-day tour schedule more tourists than ever, Nova Scotians and domestic visitors were provided with a guided tour of the Gardens' glory. It is hoped that an evening tour could be implemented in 2022. Numbers should increase this year with 151 cruise ships to Halifax and opening of restrictions.

In 2021 crested hats were given to the guides and Desk volunteers to go along with identifying pins and lanyards. In November 2021, a "Volunteer Thank You" reception was held at a local restaurant. In midwinter two tours were given to children from the Boys & Girls Club, Dartmouth, which were warmly received, especially after the hot chocolate in Horticultural Hall. In March, 2022 a workshop was held for all volunteers: to discuss matters of interest, increase working knowledge, and build team camaraderie.

Thanks to all the volunteers and board members who cooperated to make my volunteering so easy. As they say, "Time flies when you're having fun".

In appreciation to all

Rick Rivers

The Friends of the Public Gardens

Financial Statements & Treasurer's Report

For the Fiscal Year April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

The Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2022 are much healthier than the previous year, even though the Covid pandemic is still with us.

In May 2021, we were able to open the visitors desk in Horticultural Hall, and with the help of dedicated volunteers and three student interns, we greeted visitors and offered four free tours per day. There were no cruise ships and only a few bus tours, but we did make a modest profit.

Most of our income in the year was from Donations and Grants. General Donations totalled over \$12,000. Three donations were designated for specific purposes, and these are set up as Restricted Funds on the Statement of Financial Position. Grants received are also listed under Restricted Funds, and each has a designated purpose. The library of audio and self-guided tours, which was begun in 2020, has grown with the help of various grants.

In July 2021, the statue Ceres was returned to the Gardens fully restored to her previous beauty. This was paid for from the Victoria Jubilee Trust and the Jarvis Bequest. Flora will be returned this summer, and the Friends will share the cost with HRM. After she is paid for, both the Victoria Jubilee Trust and the Jarvis Bequest will be closed out.

If you would like more details on any of these items, please enquire through infohalifaxpublicgardens@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted
Janet Brush, Treasurer

Financial Statements signed and certified correct by:

Janet brush, Treasurer: _____

Elizabeth Johnson, Secretary: _____

The Friends of the Public Gardens

Statement of Financial Position

As of March 31, 2022

	<u>Total</u>
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
Chequing	36,985.77
Investments	0.00
Bursary GIC 0048	5,050.00
GIC 0043	27,569.76
GIC 0044	9,477.54
GIC 0046	9,533.84
GIC 0047	9,647.19
GIC0045	25,000.00
GIC40	30,000.00
Total Investments	\$ 116,278.33
Savings	40,220.94
Shares Account	5.00
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$ 193,490.04
GST/HST Receivable	1,362.46
Other Receivables	444.60
Wild Apricot	1,602.10
Total Current Assets	\$ 196,899.20
Total Assets	\$ 196,899.20
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Restricted Funds	
Bursary	7,535.09
Canada Gives Grant	20,000.00
District Capital Grant	10,000.00
Halifax Foundation	11,475.98
Jarvis Bequest	15,242.54
Jarvis Trust	22,902.55
Anonymous Bequest	5,000.00
Sensory Garden Donation	2,000.00
TFPG Trust	29,564.94
Total Restricted Funds	\$ 123,721.10
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 123,721.10
Total Liabilities	\$ 123,721.10
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	72,273.21
Retained Earnings	-2,942.11
Net Income for the Year	3,847.00
Total Equity	\$ 73,178.10
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 196,899.20

The Friends of the Public Gardens

General Income and Expenses

April 2021 - March 2022

		<u>Total</u>
INCOME		
Donations		12,234.17
Event Income		463.00
Interest		616.10
Memberships		2,075.00
Merchandise Sales		1,008.00
Tours		800.00
Uncategorized Income		165.00
Total Income	\$	17,361.27
TOTAL INCOME	\$	17,361.27
EXPENSES		
Accounting Fees		1,429.75
Bank charges & Fees		494.60
Bell Telephone		583.32
Bursary Expenses		28.52
Events		766.02
IT		859.84
Membership Expense		1,639.82
Merchandise Expense		50.00
Net Payroll Expenses		3,239.71
Postage		330.13
Supplies		3,820.28
Uncategorized Expense		272.28
Total Expenses	\$	13,514.27
NET INCOME	\$	3,847.00

Saturday, Apr. 16, 2022 08:32:47 a.m. GMT-7 - Accrual Basis

Nominating Committee Report

Board Members are elected for a two year renewable term. Half of the Board is eligible for re-election each year. A full complement Board is 15 members.

The following current Board Members will be serving the second year of their term:

- **Janet Brush**
- **Katherine Deturbide**
- **Elizabeth Johnson**
- **Rick Rivers**

The following board members are seeking re-election:

- **Judith Cabrita**
- **Henri Paratte**

The Nominations Committee presents the nominees for 2022-2024

Carter Beaupré-McPhee

Carter would like to assist the Friends of the Public Gardens in its ongoing modernization, continued development of a robust online presence, and its efforts to attract new and diverse visitors to the Public Gardens. He presently works as a Heritage Planning Researcher for Halifax Regional Municipality. He has completed both a master's degree in urban planning and a bachelor's degree in commerce with marketing specialization, and has gained significant experience in both the public and non-profit sectors. He would like to polish up TFPG's existing social media channels by creating its own YouTube channel. Finally, he would gladly take on the role of TFPG's webmaster to bring about a new, more functional membership system with much lower overhead costs.

Andrea Bishop

Andrea is the Policy Development and Research Manager at the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists (NSCP) and has a PhD from Dalhousie University. Andrea has a strong background in research, grant writing and communications, and recently spearheaded the development of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee at the NSCP. As a board member, Andrea is interested in contributing her skills in the area of research, writing, and summer intern projects, as well as improving the accessibility of the gardens for all. As a hobby gardener, Andrea is passionate about the importance that nature plays in mental health and well-being, and the incredible role that the Public Gardens serves in this capacity.

Sharon Costey

When she was young, Sharon would visit from Glace Bay with her Aunt Sherry who would take her to the Public Gardens and they would feed the ducks. Currently she is a Quality Leader with NS Health with a focus on the patient voice in our system. Sharon is a past-board member of the Halifax Library Board. She has two grown children. One of her most enjoyable experiences in the gardens was people-watching and participating in the Text-a-Tree project in 2019. Sharon is a people person and enjoys being outside and by the ocean.

Nominating Committee Report, continued

Skana Gee

Skana is a former journalist who discovered a new calling as a communications professional working in film and television and with not-for-profits, entrepreneurs, agencies and government. A connector who brings people together through compelling storytelling, dynamic events and well-executed projects, she worked for several years at the NSCC Foundation and Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation. Skana moved to Communications Nova Scotia at the start of the pandemic and is often behind the scenes at Dr. Strang's news conferences. A longtime Dartmouth resident, Skana is mom to two (mostly) wonderful kids, Griffin and Tova. She has volunteered with Screen Nova Scotia, Strategic Arts Management (SAM), The North Grove, Dartmouth Lakers Basketball and, most recently, as an assembler of rapid COVID-19 test kits. She likes running, reading, beaches and a good vanilla latte.

Brad May

Brad is a Newfoundlander who relocated to Halifax in 2020. His love for the Public Gardens grew quickly during his daily pandemic walks. He loves fountains and really hopes to see the Jubilee Fountain running again soon! Brad has spent most of his career in software sales, with a focus on helping financial institutions combat money laundering and fraud. He is process and efficiency oriented and hopes to bring these management skills to TFPG.

Ian Mullan

I think I'd be an asset to the board of the Friends of the Public Gardens as a former employee of museums, someone who has worked in managing public grants and marketing, has been part of equity advocacy, and loves gardening. In the stress of the pandemic I started watching gardening shows just out of curiosity. I've also grown to love all gardens, and what they mean to people and have meant to people throughout history. I would love to be part of the work of the Friends of the Public Gardens in making that connection for people to the history and beauty of gardening and the joy of being in a space that is both natural and cultivated, addressing how these spaces that were once an expression of dominion over nature, can be re-contextualized as spaces that show our dance with nature. I also just want to learn more, and talk with those who care about this gem in the city!

Barbara Taylor

I have been living and gardening in Dartmouth for over 25 years now. I think I might be starting to get the hang of it. I work at Dalhousie University in IT Services, and have lots of skills in technical areas, web sites, training, various forms of number crunching and coding. My education is in mathematics, and I have many hobbies. I like designing and building things and am quite handy. I am taking the Master Gardener program through Dalhousie's faculty of agriculture, online, and have one more module to complete next year. I feel that the Public Gardens are the jewel of downtown Halifax and would be pleased to be involved with its Friends..

Nominating Committee Report, continued

Albee Zhan

Albee is currently an officer at Canada Revenue Agency. Born and raised in Northern China she moved to Halifax in 2014 for studies. She has many years of experience in Customer Service, dealing with people from all different nations. Throughout her career, she also volunteers to help file income taxes with modest income individuals and families. However, her skills are not limited to those. Since she acquired her MBA from Dalhousie University in 2020 and a master degree in Health Informatics from Dal in 2016, she has a background of data analysis. She facilitates meetings and trains people. Especially, she has a strong focus on visible minorities, as we are celebrating the Asian heritage month. She can bring her skills and visions to the board to empower the community of Public Gardens. She would like to see people enjoy coming to the gardens and being a part of our events.

*Respectfully submitted by the Nomination Committee: Janet Brush, Susan Kerslake,
Milena Khazanavicius, Liz Johnson
May 31, 2022*