

## THE SHILLING CEREMONY 2017

The Shilling Ceremony was held in Point Pleasant Park on the grounds of the Gatekeeper's Lodge at 5718 Point Pleasant Dr. at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 28, 2017. This was a festive occasion with good public attendance, interest & sharing of knowledge.

The purpose of this event is to inform the public of the wonderful history of the development and use of the lands of Point Pleasant Park, since the official opening on June 23, 1873.

The 999 year extension to the original term of 99 year lease for Point Pleasant Park was negotiated by Chief Justice William Young, former Premier of Nova Scotia, and the first Chairman of Point Pleasant Park. The rental fee is one shilling per year.

The Ceremony began with their Honours being piped on to the Gatekeeper's grounds by a piper and drummer from the 78<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Pipe & Drum Band. These services were donated by the Regimental Association of Nova Scotia.

Guests who attended this event were our representative of Queen Elizabeth II , His Honour Brigadier-General The Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM,ONS,CD, (Ret'd) Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, and Mrs. Grant, Deputy Mayor Steve Craig, Paula Minnikin, Chair of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee, Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Point Pleasant, and Hannah Ransom & Aine Heavey, young neighbourhood children.

As Master of Ceremonies, I welcomed all and introduced our guests. Hannah & Aine presented hand drawn sketches of the Gatekeeper's Lodge to Their Honours.

Deputy Mayor Steve Craig welcomed all & gave an overview of The Shilling Ceremony. Deputy Craig shared some stories of he and his family's enjoyment of Point Pleasant Park throughout his life!

Having received the shilling from our Deputy Mayor with many photos of the exchange, the Lieutenant Governor expressed the importance of maintaining the Shilling Ceremony as well as the history of the use of the lands of Point Pleasant Park. His Honour mentioned the benefits and the enjoyment of these lands by the citizens of Metro, and visitors from around the world. As well, His Honour noted the healthy benefits of the natural forest to the city.

After the efficiently timed event, we invited the citizens to a reception of tea, sandwiches and sweets to mix & mingle! The piper & drummer played a few more tunes.

There were elderly people, young children, and dogs running about. The sun blossomed from the overcast skies. A wonderful casual event!

Before the event, I had been introduced to Muriel Griswald, a 97 year old lady, who had grown up in the Gatekeeper's Lodge. Her father was Tom Fripps, one of the renowned superintendents of Point Pleasant Park. I publicly welcomed Muriel, as well as a gentleman from Scotland, and a visitor from Australia who had a connection with our wonderful Point Pleasant Park!

I suggested everyone share their stories and enjoy. Quite a fascinating time!

A few people I should mention:

I would like to thank Mike Gillett and Scott MacKendrick, Parks and Recreation staff who were great!

Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks and his staff.

Phoebe Rai, Municipal Clerk's Office who was able to find monies to cover the sandwiches, cookies, and tea expenses.

Paula Minnikin, Dawn Vickers, and other committee members, for helping with the silver service and china tea cups, for the tea setup!

The Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Grant stayed an additional 40 minutes to chat and have tea. His Honour & Mrs. Grant thanked us and shared his plan to recommend this event as a very important event to maintain to the next Lieutenant Governor.

The media coverage was excellent, and the Lieutenant Governor's office posted photos of The Shilling Ceremony on their site the next day.

Deputy Mayor Steve Craig's office called to thank us and to find out contact info for a number of our guests.

A note of interest: a few weeks before this event there was an announcement The Lieutenant Governor's Residence was to be moved to Point Pleasant Park, as the annual rent had not been paid! It was April 1<sup>st</sup>, so this was done in jest.

There was a C.B.C. story written regarding the annual 'Shilling Ceremony'. As well as a broadcast the morning of the event.

This was a positive, informative, and a successful event!

Looking forward to working with you for this event next year?!

Respectfully submitted, Ann Smith Boswick