

# Red oak trees to honour Dockyard 250 celebrations

By Virginia Beaton  
Trident staff

Two hundred fifty red oak trees are being planted in Point Pleasant Park in honour of HMC Dockyard's 250th anniversary.

"We're working mainly along Sailors' Memorial Way, which some people might also know as Shore Road," stated Stewart MacMillan, a landscape architect with Halifax Regional Municipality.

"We're paying particular attention to putting more structure into the landscape and varying the experience."

The red oak tree is one of the many native Acadian forest tree species that park officials are using within the park. "It has special significance to the Navy because of Heart of Oak, and many other symbolic uses," stated MacMillan. "It's wonderful to be able to work with this symbology in the landscape here."

Once the red oaks are planted, MacMillan stated, "Sometimes you'll be able to see the ocean, sometimes the ocean will be obscured and other times the ocean will be framed by the new trees that are going in."



Planners also looked at the spaces around the naval monuments. "What we're trying to do is create spaces around the monument that help to anchor them into the landscape so they're part of the park."

According to MacMillan, the planners also want to improve the space around the monuments in order to allow for ceremonies and circulation of support vehicles. Recently, a group of sailors from the Chilean Navy held a wreath laying ceremony at the Sailors' Memorial. "They did it on the north side of the monument and were facing the ocean," stated MacMillan, who was in the audience for that event.

It was the first time MacMillan had seen a ceremony take place on that side of the monument and he

observed "I noticed there was a beautiful view of both the monument and the ocean, framed by trees on either side, and I thought that was an appropriate image for the Navy and the Navy monument." Now there are plans to expand the area on the north side of that road "to accommodate people who want to watch ceremonies from that side, or to give more flexibility to the Navy for having ceremonies in the front or ceremonies on the other side of the monument."

Some of the red oak trees will be part of the structured landscape, but others will be blended into the forest "so there's a mixture of planned landscape and natural landscape as well. It's a traditional mixture."

At least 100,000 trees have been planted in the park during the past three years "and they're showing very strong growth," stated MacMillan. Recently when he took some measurements of the new growth, "I noticed a lot of the new tree species are growing a foot if not two feet in a year."

Park officials will monitor the progress of the red oak trees "to ensure that they grow healthy and strong."



PAULA TEMPELAARS, TRIDENT STAFF

The red oak trees will enhance the areas around the naval monuments.

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