



Portsmouth Peace Treaty & Living Memorial Cherry Trees

The famous Washington DC cherry trees were a gift from Japan to the US in 1912 in appreciation for our help during the Russo-Japanese War: the Portsmouth Peace Treaty, which was signed at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on September 5, 1905. President Theodore Roosevelt received the Nobel Peace Prize for orchestrating the negotiations. Portsmouth Peace Treaty Living Memorial Cherry Trees, throughout the state, in Portsmouth and elsewhere, are descended from the Washington trees.

Thanks to the 100th anniversary of the Treaty in 2005 and the attention paid to it by Japanese media, the Portsmouth is a destination for Treaty travelers, especially Japanese. Key sites include:

- the **Portsmouth Peace Treaty exhibit** at the John Paul Jones House Museum (run by the Portsmouth Historical Society), including an exhibit on the history of “Diplomats in Portsmouth” and a replica of Theodore Roosevelt’s Nobel Peace Prize
- the **Portsmouth Peace Treaty Trail** (self-guided maps and guided walking tours available)
- and – on the Trail – **the iconic sites of the Treaty including Wentworth By the Sea Hotel** where the diplomats stayed in 1905. The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (that has its own Treaty exhibit) where the formal negotiations took place. Guided tours may be available in Summer 2024.
- Annual events: **Portsmouth Peace Treaty Day, Sep 5th** – the Mayor of Portsmouth reads the Governor’s Proclamation and bells ring at 3:47 pm.
- There are **Portsmouth Peace Treaty Living Memorial Cherry Trees** in many other NH towns: Hanover, Manchester, Littleton, Lancaster, Dublin, Meredith, Milford.

Why is this especially important for New Hampshire? The Portsmouth Peace Treaty, signed at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on September 5th -- now Portsmouth Peace Treaty Day throughout NH -- ended the Russo-Japanese War and changed the balance of power in Asia. The way New Hampshire citizens welcomed the peace conference and the delegates is a dramatic example of citizen diplomacy.

New Hampshire welcomes Japanese visitors and Russian visitors, primarily from Boston. Japanese schoolchildren learn about Portsmouth, New Hampshire in grade school. The Portsmouth Peace Treaty signed here in 1905 was a crowning moment in their history – the first time the world took Japan seriously as a factor in the balance of power.

What do they see when they get to Portsmouth? The Portsmouth Peace Treaty Exhibit in the John Paul Jones House Museum (43 Middle St, downtown, call for hours 603-436-8420) and the Portsmouth Peace Treaty Trail. **Free maps of the Trail** are available at the Museum and at the Chamber Collaborative Welcome Center and information kiosk.

In 1905 the citizens of New Hampshire really were ambassadors, using citizen diplomacy and our enthusiastic welcome to help end what's now known as "World War Zero." As Granite State Ambassadors today we continue to be impartial, welcoming hosts.

For more, visit PortsmouthPeaceTreaty.org Contact: Stephanie Seacord, Director of PR, Portsmouth Peace Treaty Forum, sseacord@lemd.com, 603.205-3008.