**Japan-America Society of NH Celebrates 105th Anniversary of DC Cherry Trees with Portsmouth Peace Treaty Living Memorial Tree Plantings Around the State**

Portsmouth, New Hampshire (February 17, 2017) – In 2012, the 100th anniversary of the gift of the iconic Washington DC cherry trees to the US by Japan, the Japan-America Society of New Hampshire (JASNH) learned that **those famous trees were a direct result of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty, negotiated in Portsmouth NH in 1905**, ending the Russo-Japanese War. Research showed that the Mayor of Tokyo, Yukio Ozaki, who facilitated the cherry tree gift, described in his autobiography a desire to thank the US for its role in ending the War. That conclusion resulted in a 2012 op-ed in the Washington Post by the Ambassador of Japan to the US and the JASNH being designated to receive cherry trees descended from the Washington trees in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the diplomatic gift.

Since 2012, the Japan America Society of New Hampshire has planted those trees at key sites related to the Treaty history, as a living memorial to the Portsmouth Peace Treaty and the citizen diplomacy involved in reaching the successful conclusion. Although President Theodore Roosevelt never came to Portsmouth, having promised Japan and Russia that he would not be at the table, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906, for orchestrating the negotiations. By planting descendants of the iconic Washington cherry trees that are a living connection to the Treaty around New Hampshire, cities and towns across the state have created a living memorial to the Treaty and citizen diplomacy.

Portsmouth Peace Treaty Living Memorial Cherry Trees are found in:

* **Hanover –** where Japanese student Kan’ichi Asakawa attended Dartmouth College. He later wrote *The Causes of the Russo-Japanese War* and was funded by Dartmouth President William Tucker to travel to Portsmouth to observe the 1905 peace conference. Tree is located at Hanover Town Hall.
* **Dublin** – where Japanese Ambassador and public affairs liaison Baron Kentaro Kaneko frequently visited residents and G. B. Putnam & Sons publisher Joseph and Corinna Smith, whom he had met as friends of Theodore Roosevelt in 1901. Tree is located at the Dublin Historical Society Schoolhouse Museum.
* **Manchester** – where Baron Komura and Japanese newspapermen were entertained by local businessmen and other dignitaries during their stay in New Hampshire for the peace conference. Tree is located at the Gen. John Stark Memorial in Stark Park.
* **Lancaster** – boyhood home of Henry Willard Denison, chief legal counsel to the Japanese Foreign Ministry, who accompanied the Japanese delegation to Portsmouth in 1905. Tree is located in Cross Park opposite the Weeks Public Library. Col. Edward Cross was commander of the famed NH 5th Regiment during the Civil War and was Denison’s father-in-law.
* **Meredith** – where Jutaro Komura spent a summer “rusticating” on a local farm between semesters at Harvard.
* **Littleton** – host to a 2015 NH Humanities Council program, “Teddy Roosevelt’s Nobel Peace Prize” presented by Charles B. Doleac, president of JASNH and chair of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty Forum. To receive a Portsmouth Peace Treaty Living Memorial Cherry Tree, towns must agree to care for the tree, to host the NH Humanities Council program that explains the Treaty history, and to commemorate Portsmouth Peace treaty Day on September 5th by ringing bells each year at 3:47 pm on that date, the day the Treaty was signed in Portsmouth in 1905.
* **Portsmouth** –. A new group of young trees in Portsmouth join the large cherry trees blooming at City Hall that were planted in 1985, thanks to a gift from Nichinan, Japan – Portsmouth’s Sister City and the hometown of Baron Jutaro Komura, the lead Japanese diplomat at the 1905 peace conference that led to the Portsmouth Peace Treaty ending the Russo-Japanese War. Portsmouth Peace Treaty Living Memorial trees are located in Portsmouth surrounding the South Mill Pond at City Hall, at all of the Portsmouth public schools, at Wentworth By the Sea Hotel, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, in the Community Garden at Strawbery Banke Museum and the Portsmouth Historical Society’s John Paul Jones House museum.

To receive a cherry tree, each location has agreed to:

* Host the public program, “Teddy Roosevelt’s Nobel Peace Prize and the Portsmouth Peace Treaty” by NH Humanities council scholar Charles B. Doleac, to understand the history of NH citizen diplomacy
* Plant and maintain the tree in a protected spot
* Commemorate Portsmouth Peace Treaty Day on September 5th with bell-ringing at 3:47 pm.

**2017 is the 105th anniversary of the DC cherry trees and the 5th anniversary of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty Living Memorial. Complimentary maps of the iconic sites of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty summer and the cherry trees are available at Wentworth By the Sea, Strawbery Banke, the Portsmouth Historical Society’s Discover Portsmouth Center and the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce.** For more information about the Portsmouth Peace Treaty and the cherry trees, visit [www.portsmouthpeacetreaty.org](http://www.portsmouthpeacetreaty.org)

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