



Portsmouth set to begin peace treaty celebration

SPECIAL TO THE BEACH NEWS

PORTSMOUTH | All eyes were on Portsmouth during the summer of 1905 as Japanese and Russian envoys met to end the bloody Russo-Japanese War.

For 30 days, Baron Sergei Witte and Minister Komura — the plenipotentiaries representing Tsar and Emperor — gathered every available resource including the social graces found in a Seacoast summer to draft the Treaty of Portsmouth that ended the fighting on September 5.

President Theodore Roosevelt won the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize for bringing the countries together and for the back-channel diplomacy that aided the face-to-face negotiations of the extraordinary Russian and Japanese diplomats.

But Portsmouth helped achieve the peace, thanks to the US Navy's peace process and the hospitality of the citizens of New Hampshire. Today it is called multi-track diplomacy.

A committee of Portsmouth citizens representing businesses, cultural groups and a diverse host of community organizations have spent the last several months putting together a calendar of events that will let visitors in the summer of 2005 see how it all happened 100 years ago.

Centennial events include re-enactments, parades, performances,

exhibits — right up to and including the 100th anniversary of the moment the Treaty was signed: 3:47 p.m. EDT on September 5. Event highlights are noted below. For more information, visit www.PortsmouthPeace-Treaty.com.

- **Peace Treaty Trail**, Chamber of Commerce walking/ step-on tours, boat tours. Jul 1 through October

- **"The Peace of Portsmouth"** Pontine Movement Theatre, August 11,14, and 28, and September 1

- **"PEACE! Pictorial History For Young People,"** Children's Museum of Portsmouth, July 1 through September 4

- **"War and Peace: Images from the Russo-Japanese War 1904-1905"** Exhibit at the Portsmouth Athenaeum, opening June 16

- **Portsmouth Peace Treaty Process Exhibit**, Portsmouth Historical Society, opening July 1

- **Treaty of Portsmouth Lecture Series** at the Portsmouth Athenaeum, July 16, August 4 and 25, September 6, 20, and 27, and October 1

- **Sunday Concert Series**, Local area churches, July 17 through September 9

- **African Peace & Reconciliation Symbols Exhibit**, Seacoast African American Cultural Center, opening July 31

- **Gun Salute, Bell Ringing, Boat Parade;**

"Protocol for Peace" Exhibit Opens, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, August 6

- **City of Portsmouth Welcoming Parade**, August 6

- **Old York Historical Society Treaty Exhibit**, Perkins House Visitors Center, York, Maine, August 15-27

- **"Peace Day!"** For older kids aged 8-12, August 16; for ages 5-7, August 18

- **Centennial Ball**, Rockingham Hotel, August 19

- **"Peace and the Pursuit of Pleasure"** Exhibit, Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, August 21 through September 25

- **Baha'i Symposium, "Toward a Culture of Peace,"** Green Acre Baha'i Conference Center, August 26-31; Peace Flag-raising, September 5

- **Treaty Signing Re-enactment**, Bell Ringing Ceremony, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and throughout Portsmouth, September 5, 3:47 p.m.

- **Centennial Tea & Reception**, Wentworth by the Sea Hotel, September 5

- **Dartmouth International Conference, "Portsmouth and Its Legacies,"** Dartmouth College, Hanover, September 8-10

We Are Now Accepting Reservations



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A TALE OF TWO EMPIRES — With Portsmouth and the Shipyard acting as a neutral ground, the assembled representatives of the Empires of Russia and Japan worked out a peace treaty to conclude the Russo-Japanese War. — Beach News File Photo

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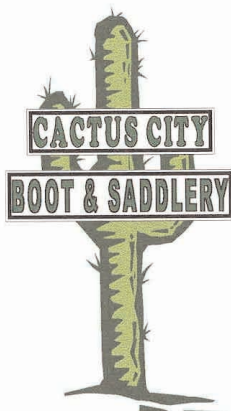
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