

ABOUT

Halifax, founded in 1749, and is a community and former city in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia. View of Halifax From Davis Mill (Dartmouth) 1801 Enlarge View of Halifax From Davis Mill (Dartmouth) 1801 Halifax ceased to exist as an incorporated city when it was amalgamated with Bedford, Dartmouth and the County of Halifax in 1996 to form Halifax Regional Municipality, commonly referred to as HRM , a single regional governmental structure that is unique to Nova Scotia.

The town of Halifax, the "Warden of the Honour of the North," was founded to counter French power in Acadia, now known as the Maritime provinces and Gaspe. A fortress town and naval station, Halifax rarely prospered except during conflict and war for most of its early history. Despite Halifax's status as the regional centre and provincial capital, the city rarely saw commercial or economic success. It was not until the late 20th Century that the city began to see cultural and economic diversity and to truly come into its own.\



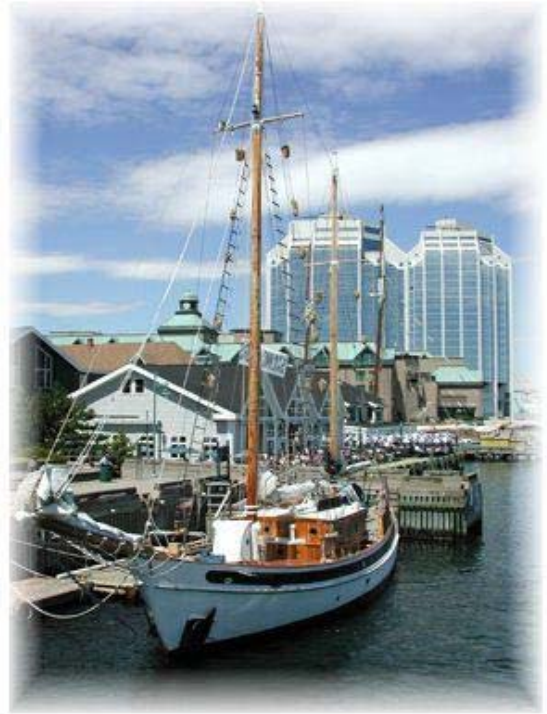
POINT PLEASANT PARK

Located on the southern tip of peninsular Halifax, Point Pleasant Park is the historic jewel of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Over looking at the entrance to Halifax Harbour, its 186 acres, is home to the unique flora and fauna of an old Acadian forest and has seen and experienced history of Nova Scotia. Given to the people of Halifax in 1873 by Queen Victoria (on a 999 year lease for a shilling a year), over 1.1million visitors stroll the miles of shaded pathways and relax or picnic at the historic sites. Open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk, Point Pleasant is the people's park.



HOME

Halifax, the capital region of Nova Scotia, is a lively and colourful combination of urban and rural living at its best. Governor Edward Cornwallis and 2500 settlers created Canada's first permanent British town here in 1749, on the scenic shores of the world's second largest natural harbour. The historic downtown waterfront areas of Halifax and Dartmouth are perfect for discovering on foot, while the other communities around the harbour are accessible by public transit or car. Beyond the harbour, the Regional Municipality stretches both south and west along the South Shore, and east through the coastal villages of the Eastern Shore and the pastoral landscape of the Musquodoboit Valley. Read on for individual exploration tours that will introduce you to the sights, sounds and places that make the Halifax Regional Municipality all you could want in a vacation.



PUBLIC GARDEN

The Halifax Public Gardens (44°38'35" N 63°34'59" W) are Victorian-style public gardens formally established in 1867 and located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, adjacent to Spring Garden Road and South Park Street. The gardens are open annually from May 1 until November 1. The style of the garden is fairly formal. People are not allowed on grassy areas, and it closes at night. The garden features a gazebo sometimes used for musical displays.



CITADEL

Citadel Hill, more commonly referred to as the Halifax Citadel, was the first massive British Empire military base on the North Atlantic. The British established Halifax, Nova Scotia as a fortified town and harbor in 1749 in response to the French establishment of Fortress Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island. It began an era of history which has made Halifax known as the "Warden of The North".

The first fortification on the Hill began in 1761 by Bastie, and has been rebuilt several times. The present stone citadel was begun in 1828 and finished in 1856, inspired by the designs of Louis XIV's commissary of fortifications Sébastien Le Prestre, Seigneur de Vauban - a star-shaped hillock fortress with internal courtyard and clear harbour view from armoured ramparts. The various fortifications surrounding Halifax are known as the Halifax Defence Complex. The British constructed a similar citadel in Quebec City known as the Citadel of Quebec.

According to Thomas Head Raddall, Citadel Hill was "like Vesuvius over Pompeii, a smiling monster with havoc in its belly". The noon gun is still sounded daily over the city by animators -- costumed, historically knowledgeable actors who are interpreters for what is now a national park, and are also used for 21-gun salutes. The cannons have never been fired in anger.

