

DARTMOUTH COMMON CHRONOLOGY

- 1788 King George III grants 37 acres of common land to three Quakers and then an additional 150 acres to the same three citizens in trust for the people of Dartmouth
- 1834 First cemetery established on the Commons at Geary Street and extended in 1859
- 1841 Original Common Act was passed giving authority to three private trustees to oversee the protection of the Common who soon after subdivided the Common into 41 lots and sold them for private use
- 1842 Public burial ground established at Victoria Road and Park Avenue followed in 1902 by the Mount Hermon Cemetery at Victoria and Boland Road
- 1844 Citizens expressed concern about the dwindling Common and private encroachments on Common lands
- 1848 First roads were built across the Common which later formed Windmill Rd, School St., and Shore Rd.
- 1873 Park School was built followed by Exhibition Hall (first covered rink) in 1884 which was later destroyed by the Halifax Explosion in 1917.
- 1889 Joint provincial - municipal Park Commission was established taking over from provincially appointed commissioners
- 1960's Private and public developments on the Common including: Dartmouth High School, Bicentennial Schools, Memorial Rink (later replaced by Dartmouth Sportsplex), Dartmouth Shopping Centre, Holiday Inn, approaches to the MacDonald Bridge, and Dartmouth City Hall
- 1971 City of Dartmouth adopts planning policy for the preservation of the remaining municipally-owned Dartmouth Common lands as permanent open space and policy for the protection of view planes
- 1978 City of Dartmouth adopts Recreation Master Plan with policy to protect and develop the Dartmouth Common for public recreational use
- 1986 Dartmouth Common Act adopted to “preserve and protect the Dartmouth Common for the use and enjoyment of present and future inhabitants of the City of Dartmouth.”
- 1987 Province establishes Dartmouth Common Committee comprised of municipal, provincial, federal and citizen representatives

- 1989 Dartmouth Common Enhancement Plan developed by the Dartmouth Common Committee and endorsed by the City of Dartmouth
- 1994 Amendment to the Dartmouth Common Act to permit an addition to the Dartmouth Sportsplex Facility
- 1996 Amalgamation of the former City of Halifax, City of Dartmouth, Town of Bedford and county areas
- 2000 Downtown Dartmouth Secondary Planning Strategy adopted recognizing the Dartmouth Common as a significant local and regional open space asset emphasizing the need for a Dartmouth Common Future Land-Use Designation for all reclaimed lands within the original Common boundaries and a Park Zone to all public lands within the Dartmouth Common
- 2007 Halifax Regional School Board initiates “Imagine Our Schools” process for school sites across the HRM. Dartmouth High School identified for future enhancement as a centre for sport and recreation
- 2008 Halifax Regional Municipality Charter adopted including amendments to the Dartmouth Common Act permitting (up to) a six acre expansion to the Nantucket Road Metro Transit Terminal
- 2009 Dartmouth Common Master Plan process commences