



Play

Creative. Active. Dynamic.

Whatever your interests – indoor or outdoor – there’s always something exciting going on in HRM, and that’s why more and more people are living and working here.

Enjoy the buskers that perform along our waterfront boardwalk in the summer, enjoy fine-dining or live entertainment in one of our many restaurants and pubs, take in a professional theatre or symphony performance, take a stroll in the historic Public Gardens or Point Pleasant Park, go sailing in the harbour on the Bluenose II schooner, take in an exciting hockey game, or visit one of our many museums, galleries, or heritage sites.

HRM also offers a variety of recreational facilities and activities for your enjoyment including natural parks for walking, cycling, or cross-country skiing; paddling groups; yacht clubs; golf courses; and fitness facilities. If you love organized sport – as a spectator or participant – you’ll find something to get your pulse pumping all year round.

Culture and Heritage

Creativity is what drives every dynamic and modern community. Halifax Regional Municipality has combined its rich history, its access to educational opportunities for people of all ages, and its relaxed way of life to provide a rich array of opportunities for new and current residents.

Apart from the strong quality of life, there are numerous art galleries, libraries, theatres, and museums including the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. There are also many free events taking place throughout the year for your family to enjoy.

Whatever your preference, this section gives an overview of some of the Culture and Heritage opportunities Halifax Regional Municipality has to offer and where to find more information:

Art Galleries

- Anna Leonowens Gallery www.nscad.ns.ca/gallery
- Art Gallery of Nova Scotia www.agns.gov.ns.ca
- Dalhousie University Art Gallery <http://artgallery.dal.ca>
- Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery www.msvuart.ca
- St. Mary’s University Art Gallery www.smu.ca

There are also many private galleries in HRM.



The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Museums

Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia www.bccns.com
Citadel Hill, National Historic Site
www.parkscanada.ca
Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage www.fnsh.ns.ca
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
museum.gov.ns.ca/mma
Museum of Natural History
www.museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh
Pier 21 National Historic Site www.pier21.ca

Music

JazzEast www.jazzeast.com
Scotia Festival of Music www.scotiafestival.ns.ca
St. Cecilia Concert Series www.stcecilia.ca
Symphony Nova Scotia www.symphonymovascotia.ca

Special Events

Atlantic Film Festival www.atlanticfilm.com
The Halifax International Busker Festival
www.buskers.ca
Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo www.nstatattoo.ca

Theatre

Eastern Front Theatre www.easternfront.ns.ca
Mermaid Theatre www.mermaidtheatre.ns.ca
Neptune Theatre www.neptunetheatre.com
Theatre Nova Scotia www.theatrens.ca
There are also many community theatres.

Recreation

Recreational activities can help you and your family stay healthy – and meet lots of great people. For children and youth, participation leads directly to healthy development as well as the development of many important values and life skills. Recreation also builds strong families and healthy communities and can help bridge understanding among diverse cultures. HRM is an active community. Take a look at what is offered by HRM Community Recreation:

- numerous programs on everything from rock climbing to gardening, sailing to oil painting
- 300 junior leadership training opportunities
- 23 supervised beaches and 3 indoor pools
- 21 recreation centres
- 7 skateboard parks and 4 BMX dirt jump sites
- 175 ball parks
- 325 playgrounds
- 130 sports fields

For more information, please call the recreation hotline at 490-6666 or visit www.halifax.ca/recreation. Ask to be included on the e-mail newsletter list and receive the latest information on HRM's recreation programs. To sign up, simply drop a line to reconnect@halifax.ca.

Tip

HRM Kids is a program to provide financial assistance to ensure that children and youth can participate in sport, art, cultural and recreation activities. For more information call 490-4760 or go to www.halifax.ca/recreation/HRMKids

Community Recreation Centres

Your local community/recreation centre is a great place to meet new people and get involved in your community. www.halifax.ca/recreation/Facilities.html



Sports facilities

Apart from the community recreation centres and the facilities mentioned above, HRM has numerous other sports facilities worth checking out. For instance, Dalhousie University and Saint Mary's University both have excellent athletic facilities that are open to the public. If you are interested in using one of these athletic facilities, please visit www.athletics.dal.ca or www.smu.ca/athletics. Other sports facilities include:

- Cole Harbour Place www.coleharbourplace.com
- Dartmouth Sportsplex www.dartmouthsportsplex.com
- Halifax Forum www.halifaxforum.ca
- Sackville Sports Stadium www.thestadium.ca
- St. Margaret's Arena www.stmargaretscentre.ca



Parks

Halifax Regional Municipality has over 1,200 parks, many open spaces and hundreds of kilometres of recreation trails that appeal to many people. Runners, walkers, dog walkers, nature enthusiasts, scientists, hikers, and picnickers all enjoy HRM's parks and open spaces as places to enjoy nature only a stone's throw from their community. HRM's parks are open year-round. For more information, visit the visitors section of www.halifax.ca and click on "Trails, Parks & Wilderness Areas" in the left-hand menu.



Joe Colley of the Nova Scotia Mass Choir

- Italian weekend
- Lebanese Festival
- Polish Festival
- Latin Festival

Fans of jazz, blues, rock, pop, classical, hip-hop and urban, folk, country and Celtic music will find lots to enjoy in HRM. Over the years, hundreds of talented musicians have arrived here to join a strong and welcoming arts community. Out of this has risen the Halifax Pop Explosion, In the Dead of Winter Festival, the Scotia Festival of Music, Ceilidh on the Docks, the Halifax Highland Games and Scottish Festival, Maritime Fiddle Festival, and DRUM, where four cultural groups come together to stage a breathtaking performance.

Be sure to check out Symphony Nova Scotia, the Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society, private music schools, our modern and flamenco dance troupes, and much more.

For more information on Festivals and Events, call HRM's 24-hour line at 490-6776 (ext. 2) or visit www.halifaxinfo.com for the most up-to-date information on what's happening.

For information on large-scale events, please visit:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Dalhousie Arts Centre | artscentre.dal.ca/box.html |
| Destination Halifax | www.destinationhalifax.com |
| Events Halifax | www.eventshalifax.com |
| Ticket Atlantic | www.ticketatlantic.com |

Festivals and Fun

HRM residents come together regularly to celebrate events such as Canada Day, Bedford Days, and Natal Day. Then there are events which attract performers and spectators from around the world including the Atlantic Jazz Festival, the Halifax International Busker Festival, and the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo.

The city's *major event venues* include the Halifax Metro Centre, the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium and the Sir James Dunn Theatre (both part of the Dalhousie Arts Centre), the Cunard Centre, and the Schooner Room (at Casino Nova Scotia). In some cases, various churches open their doors for musical events which can seat audiences of several hundred.

There are also many smaller venues like The Music Room, and bars and pubs which host all kinds of music.

The Nova Scotia Multicultural Festival usually takes place in June in Dartmouth. There are other cultural festivals taking place throughout the summer:

- Acadian Festival
- Greek Fest

Restaurants

HRM is home to a delicious – and diverse – array of restaurants. Visit www.thecoast.ca for a listing of places to eat. Simply click on the "Food & Drink Guide" or visit the Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia's website at www.edining.ca.



Enjoy one of HRM's many outdoor patios



Westmount Inclusive Playground

Good Neighbours, Great Neighbourhoods Initiative

Great neighbourhoods don't just happen... they happen one good neighbour at a time.

Becoming involved in your neighbourhood makes it a safer, healthier place for you and your family. Municipal government is the level of government where you can have the most input into the issues that affect your life. You can effect change in your neighbourhood through many different kinds of volunteer involvement with HRM, including Community Visioning and opportunities to work with Police, Fire and the library. All those opportunities can be found in one place on www.myHRM.ca.

How to Get Involved

Municipal boards, committees and commissions

HRM's Mayor and members of the Regional Council appreciate and encourage citizen participation on municipal boards, committees and commissions. Each year in September, HRM advertises in local newspapers and on the HRM website for volunteers. In addition to this annual recruitment process, vacancies may arise at other times throughout the year and are advertised separately. You may submit your application electronically using the form provided on www.halifax.ca, or if you prefer, you may print the application form and mail or fax it to the Office of the Municipal Clerk, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Main Floor, P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5 or fax it to 490-4208.



Public Holidays

	2009	2010	2011
New Year's Day	Jan. 1	Jan. 1	Jan. 1
Good Friday	April 10	April 2	April 22
Easter Monday	April 13	April 5	April 25
Victoria Day (Monday preceding May 25)	May 18	May 24	May 23
Canada Day *	July 1	July 1	July 1
Natal Day (first Monday of August, except in Halifax where it varies from year to year, usually August or July)	Aug. 3	Aug. 2	Aug. 1
Labour Day (first Monday of September)	Sept. 7	Sept. 6	Sept. 5
Thanksgiving Day (second Monday of October)	Oct. 12	Oct. 11	Oct. 10
Remembrance Day	Nov. 11	Nov. 11	Nov. 11
Christmas Eve (1/2 day)	Dec. 24	Dec. 24	Dec. 24
Christmas	Dec. 25	Dec. 25	Dec. 25
Boxing Day	Dec. 26	Dec. 26	Dec. 26

* The Holidays Act provides that July 2 is Canada Day when July 1 is a Sunday.



Crystal Crescent Beach