

### NATION FLAG DAY & HERITAGE DAY



The Federal Government has proclaimed Feb. 15th as National Flag of Canada Day. In 1965, fifty-three years ago, the old Red Ensign Flag with the British Union Jack was replaced with the Red Maple Leaf. To know more facts about our nation's flag and/or other official symbols of Canada, go to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/official-symbols-canada.html>

Be sure to wave our Provincial and Municipal Flags too! Heritage Day is the third Monday in February and each year is set aside for communities to celebrate local, provincial and national heritage. This year's date is February 19th, so please enjoy the day!

In 2018, Nova Scotia Heritage Day honours **Mona Louise Parsons**. For more information about Heritage Day and Mona Parsons please visit <https://heritageday.novascotia.ca>

### 34TH NS AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

February 2018 will mark the 34th year Nova Scotians have celebrated African Heritage Month. This year's theme is: "Educate, Unite, Celebrate Community". It will honour and pay homage to African Nova Scotians and their long legacy of uniting a passion that has provided a base to educate and celebrate an important part of NS culture and heritage. Our Province has over 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities, dating back over 400 years. These communities have a unique and rich legacy of resistance, resilience and triumph that needs to be shared with all. The Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) provides event listings as an information sharing service. Check out the ANSA website for its calendar of special events and functions at: <https://ansa.novascotia.ca/calendar>. Events are subject to change. To update any program date or event details, contact [ansa\\_newsletter@novascotia.ca](mailto:ansa_newsletter@novascotia.ca) or by fax to 902-424-7189.

### PUBLIC GARDENS WINTER WONDERLAND



The Halifax Public Gardens will be open year-round, starting this winter from 8 AM to 4 PM throughout the winter months as weather permits. Major paths will be maintained and the four corner gates will be kept unlocked. However; there will not be any access to the washrooms. The Gardens may be closed for safety reasons in the event of a major storm and if a significant amount of snow removal is needed. The Public Gardens always look splendid regardless of what season it is.

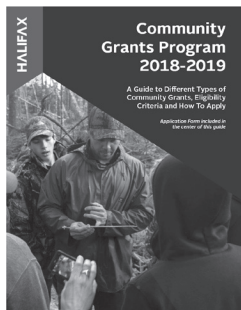
### ICE THICKNESS SAFETY REPORTS



HRM has an ice thickness testing program during the winter season, but there may still be noticeable thin ice and open water in many lakes across the region. Throughout the winter months, ice thickness reports for lakes tested by the municipality will be available to the public at any time by calling 902-490-3577 or 311 for the HRM Citizen Contact Centre. Reports are updated weekly <https://apps.halifax.ca/icethickness>. More than 100 lakes, mostly in the urban core, are tested regularly by HRM Parks and Recreation staff. There are 8 tested sites

in or near our district area. They are: Lake Loon, Lake Major, Long Lake in North Preston, Nelson Lake in East Preston, Lake Echo by the Community Centre and McCoys Pond by Churchlake Drive in Lake Echo, Porters Lake and Middle Porters Lake. The municipality reminds all citizens to ensure ice conditions are safe, and to exercise extreme caution when walking, skating or participating in other outdoor events on frozen lakes this winter season. For more information about Ice Safety Tips, please visit the Canadian Red Cross web-page site: <http://www.redcross.ca/training-and-certification/swimming-and-water-safety-tips-and-resources/swimming--boating-and-water-safety-tips/ice-safety>

### HRM COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM



HRM is now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 Community Grants Program. The deadline for applying is March 31st, 2018. Application forms and program guidebooks are available on-line or by calling 311 or pick one up from a HRM's Citizen Service Access Centre or get it at my district office or by making an e-mail request to: [nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca](mailto:nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca)

The HRM Community Grants Program is a centralized program that provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout HRM. There are two types of grants: (1) a project grant of up to \$5,000 and (2) a capital grant of up to \$25,000. Grants are one-time and project-specific within the following funding sectors: Environment; Recreation & Leisure; Affordable & Supportive Housing; Emergency Assistance; Neighborhood Safety; Community History; Community Diversity; and Arts & Crafts. More information can be found at: [www.halifax.ca/business/doing-business-halifax/community-grants](http://www.halifax.ca/business/doing-business-halifax/community-grants)

### HOMEWARMING AID PROGRAM

HomeWarming helps Nova Scotians living on a low wage save money on heating bills and feel more comfortable in their homes. For free, no catch! HomeWarming offers no-charge energy assessments and home upgrades to income-qualified homeowners. If an efficiency audit discovers that upgrades will help reduce heating and power bills, they will be installed at no cost to the homeowner. Clean Foundation and Efficiency Nova Scotia are working together to offer low-income homeowners these free energy efficiency improvements. Clean Foundation looks after electrically heated homes, while Efficiency NS takes care of houses with non-electric heat sources. The program is supported by NS Power and the NS Government. Interested homeowners can find more information at [www.HomeWarming.ca](http://www.HomeWarming.ca) or you can speak confidentially with a Service Advisor about program eligibility by e-mail to Sonia Smith [outreach@homewarming.ca](mailto:outreach@homewarming.ca) or by telephone: 902-818-1926 or Toll-free 1-877-434-2136. Application deadline March 31st.

### COMMUNITY WELLNESS GRANTS

The Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Valley Community Health Board (ESMCHB) will be hosting a "Celebrating Community & Food" event on Saturday, February 3rd (Snow date Feb. 17th) at OPA-Oyster Pond Academy (#10583 Hwy #7) from 11AM to 2PM. There will be a showcase of local groups and food projects, a light lunch, networking and the presentation of Wellness Funds to this year's recipients. This is a FREE event but individuals and community groups MUST register to attend by January 19th, with: [denise.vanwychen@nshealth.ca](mailto:denise.vanwychen@nshealth.ca) or call her at 902-891-0372.

### INPUT ON COMMON MASTERPLAN

The general public have an opportunity to give input on the future masterplan for the Halifax Common. Provide your input with the online survey before February 12th. Share your ideas through Facebook, Twitter & Instagram #imonthecommon and the HRM web-site: [www.Halifax.ca/HalifaxCommon](http://www.Halifax.ca/HalifaxCommon)



### Councillor David Hendsbee

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