

Shine a Light on a Volunteer

Volunteers add so much value to our communities by contributing countless hours of service and help to improve the quality of life for all residents.

Do you know an outstanding individual or group making a difference in your community? Consider nominating them in one of three categories for the 2014 HRM Volunteer Awards. The three categories are adult, youth (ages 13-19), and community group. For the nomination application, visit www.halifax.ca/volunteerservices or call (902) 490-6577. The application deadline is December 13th.

Volunteer Conference 2013

The citizens of the Halifax Regional Municipality have a deep history of voluntarism. It is estimated that approximately 200,000 volunteers through the communities of HRM contribute approximately 318,000 hours of service per year.

One way that HRM recognizes and supports its volunteers is through the annual HRM Volunteer Conference. This year marks the 13th year for the conference which provides valuable networking and learning opportunities for local volunteers. Volunteering contributes towards public safety, fosters good neighbours and builds great neighbourhoods.

This year's conference will be held on November 22nd & 23rd at the Dartmouth Harbourview Holiday Inn. To find out more about the conference including fees and registration, please visit <http://www.halifax.ca/volunteerservices/VolunteerConference.html>. To register or ask questions about the conference, please contact: hrmvolunteerservices@halifax.ca or call Darren at 490-1946.

Holiday Events

The annual Holiday Parade of Light will be held in Downtown Halifax on Saturday, November 16th from 4:30 pm to 6:15 pm in Downtown Halifax. The Parade begins on Upper Water Street at Cornwallis Street, continues over the Barrington Street overpass onto Barrington Street and turns right onto Spring Garden Road. It then turns left on South Park and then right onto University Avenue, concluding at the corner of University Avenue and Robie Street. Parents are reminded to keep children off the street and on the sidewalk at all times. There will be no parking along the Parade route. The public is encouraged to use Metro Transit and expect traffic and parking delays.

The 2013 HRM Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, November 23rd from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Grand Parade in Downtown Halifax. This is a free event for the whole family!

Celebrate Chanukah with the lighting of the Menorah in the Grand Parade on November 27th at 6:00 pm, followed by a reception at 7:00 pm in Halifax Hall. All are welcome to attend. For more information call 422-4222.

The Fairview Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on Sunday, December 1st from 6:00-7:00 pm at 3671 Dutch Village Road (in front of L'il New Yorker). Everyone is welcome to join in the festivities.

Tax Exemptions for Non-Profit Organizations

HRM can help some non-profit organizations reduce their level of property tax through the Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Program. It is available only to active registered non-profit and charitable organizations located within HRM. Application deadline is November 30th. For details visit: www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/TaxExemptionsforNon-ProfitOrganziations.html A reminder that it is mandatory for organizations already enrolled in this program to re-apply annually in order to maintain their tax exemption status.