

NATION FLAG DAY & HERITAGE DAY

Not many people realize that the Federal Government has proclaimed February 15th as National Flag of Canada Day. In 1965, the old Red Ensign Flag with the British Union Jack was replaced with the Red Maple Leaf. To learn more about our flag's history and some other related trivia, go to: www.pch.gc.ca/special/jdn-nfd/index-eng.cfm. Be sure to wave our Provincial and Municipal Flags too! The Province has declared the third Monday in February to be a statutory holiday - Heritage Day - for communities to celebrate local, provincial and national heritage. This year on February 16th we will honour Viola Desmond, a black woman who was jailed and fined in 1946 for refusing to give up her seat in the whites only section of a New Glasgow movie theatre. For more information go to: <http://novascotia.ca/lae/employmentrights/NovaScotiaHeritageDay.asp>. Enjoy the day!

31st NS AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

February 2015 will mark the 31st year Nova Scotians have celebrated African Heritage Month. The Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) provides event listings as a service. Check out the ANSA web-site for its calendar of special events and functions at: <http://ansa.novascotia.ca/events-calendar>. Events are subject to change. To update any program date or event details, contact ansa_newsletter@gov.ns.ca or fax 424-7189.

REV. W.P. OLIVER WALL OF HONOUR

Each year the Black Cultural Society of Nova Scotia hosts the annual Rev. Dr. William P. Oliver Wall of Honour Night at the Black Cultural Centre as recognition and in memory of the works of Rev. Dr. Oliver. He exemplified what it means to be a "community leader." Members of the Society are invited to send nominations to the Selection Committee for consideration of this annual award. The Night of Honour will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 6:30 PM in the Centre at Cherry Brook.

NS HOME/AKOMA FUND-RAISER

The Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children (NSHCC) in Westphal has existed there for 94 years since 1921. The original Home in Halifax was destroyed during the 1917 Harbour Explosion. It was developed to provide a shelter for African Nova Scotian children and youth who had no other placement options. In 1931, the NSHCC first Annual Broadcast for Funds was conducted as a means to supplement their operations. The Annual Broadcast transitioned from radio to Cable TV, and the production site grew from a one-room studio to the spacious NS Community College Waterfront campus setting. Sadly, due to circumstances beyond their control, the Annual Broadcast ceased operation two years ago after a long run of 81 years. The NSHCC's telethon

was the oldest fundraising campaign in North America. The inability to hold the broadcast has a major impact on programming for its residents of the Akoma Family Centre. As a result a substitute fundraising event will be held on Wednesday, February 11th at 8 PM at the Casino Nova Scotia in Halifax. The event will be a Musical Extravaganza Showcase of local talent. Tickets are \$100. Income tax receipts will be issued for \$75 if requested.

2015 - 15th HOCKEY DAY IN CANADA

This year's Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada festivities will be headlined by a series of hockey events, where fans of all ages are encouraged to celebrate our nation's favourite pastime. The event will be televised from Halifax in a 13 hour national broadcast featuring five NHL games hosted by Hockey Night in Canada favourites Ron MacLean and Don Cherry, as well as other Sportsnet personalities and NHL Alumni. The broadcast will feature celebrations across the country, including Ladner, British Columbia; Downsview, Ontario; Chambly, Quebec; as well as a number of Halifax events. Running from February 11th -15th, the community activities and events will celebrate the game across the Halifax region, culminating in an all-day, live NHL broadcast produced by Rogers. All information can be found at <http://www.halifax.ca/hockeyday/>. The 5 day festival ends with the free Rogers Hometown Hockey Festival at Cole Harbour Place on Sunday, February 15th where Ron MacLean will host an NHL broadcast live from the Sportsnet Mobile Studio. A number of other free, local community activities will also take place over the multi-day hockey celebration including public viewings of the Stanley Cup and a special day of hockey at the Emera Oval on Saturday, February 14th. Hockey fans will enjoy the first ever shinny tournament, as well as ice and snow sculptures, a live broadcast with coverage of simultaneous NHL games, and the Valentine's Day Jersey Skate. For young local hockey players there will be Community Hockey Fest on Saturday, February 14th, where minor hockey teams will be coached by NHL Alumni coaches. On Thursday, February 12th the "Stolen from a Hockey Card Concert" takes place at the Spatz Theatre. The Celebrity Luncheon will be hosted at the Cunard Centre on Friday, February 13th. Fans are gearing up to make this an exceptional experience for residents and visitors alike. So get out your favourite hockey jerseys and wear them all week long. Let's show Canada some real team spirit! It's 'Game On' time!

ICE THICKNESS SAFETY REPORTS

HRM has an ice thickness testing program during the winter season, and 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 will be available to the public by calling 902-

490-3577. Reports will be updated weekly at this web-site link: <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 11 tested sites in or near our district area. They are: Lake Loon, Lake Major, Long Lake in North Preston, Nelson Lake & Frog Lake in East Preston, Lake Echo, Lewis Lake by Bumpy Lane and McCoys Pond by Church Lake Drive in Lake Echo, Lawrencetown Lake in Mineville, 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.

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER PLAN

The release of the draft Moving Forward Together Plan is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17th. Halifax Transit (HT) will be reaching out to various stakeholder organizations to do briefings on its draft transit plan during mid-February. HT is expecting to do some "on the street" info displays and to solicit opinions at public places such as shopping centres, farmers markets, and transit terminals. If you have any thoughts and opinions about this transit redesign strategy you are encouraged to contact HT at movingforward@halifax.ca. There will also be a couple of on-line surveys that you can take. The "Shape Your City" website at: www.halifax.ca/shapeyourcity/ will be updated with the Moving Forward Together Plan and some other relevant information about this consultation process.

CYCLING ON THE EASTERN SHORE

The Deanery Project is planning an exciting opportunity for people who are interested in cycling initiatives on the Eastern Shore. Pedaling the Path: Trails, Jobs, Active Living - A Forum about Cycling Opportunities on the Eastern Shore will take place on Wednesday, February 18th from 10AM - 3PM at the Deanery in Lower Ship Harbour. There will be presentations on cycling projects and initiatives being undertaken in the area and a mapping exercise around the Blue Route initiative by Bicycle Nova Scotia. There will also be round table discussions on several topics such as: Advancing Cycling Culture; Tourism; Health; Education and Safety; Advocacy for Paved Shoulders; Active Transportation and Greenway Building on the Eastern Shore. Lunch will be provided and registration is free! Register by e-mail: programs@thedeaneryproject.com or call the Deanery Project at 902-845-1888 for more information.

