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HALIFAX HIGHLIGHTS

Introducing you to Halifax, and helping you get ready for the fall

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MUSEUMS AND HISTORY

One of the things that visitors and newcomers often find striking about Halifax is its sense of history. Halifax is one of Canada's oldest cities, and there are many museums and historic sites that celebrate various aspects of Halifax's past that you should be sure to visit while you are here. In this issue, we hope to highlight some of these historic places.

If you want to learn more about Halifax's story, be sure to visit the Halifax Regional Municipality's brief history on their website: <http://www.halifax.ca/community/history.html>



[Halifax Citadel](#)

5425 Sackville St

This national historic site is open year-round (though services and interpretation are only available from May to October). The hill, now a very visible and well-known tourist attraction, was the site of Fort George and the centre of Halifax' elaborate defensive system for about one hundred-fifty years. Today, costumed interpreters offer tours and explanations of life in the fort as it would have been in the year 1869.

[The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21](#)

1055 Marginal Road

Pier 21 was a passenger terminal used to process immigrants to Canada arriving via ocean liner from 1928 to 1971. Opened as a national museum in 1999, Pier 21 celebrates the story of Canadian immigration, going back to 1867 and as far up as the present day. Permanent exhibits tell the story of the millions of people who travelled from afar to begin their lives in Canada, and the museum also has regular temporary exhibits celebrating Canadian multiculturalism.

[Maritime Museum of the Atlantic](#)

1675 Lower Water St

The Maritime Museum has displays on a variety of topics related to Canadian maritime history. Popular galleries include exhibits on the Titanic, shipwrecks of the Atlantic, the Halifax Explosion, the Canadian Navy, steam ships, sail ships, as well as the CSS Acadia, a survey ship built in 1913 and housed by the museum that guests can tour. The museum also offers regular temporary exhibits on various topics relating to maritime history.



[Museum of Natural History](#)

1747 Summer St

The Museum of Natural History provides ample information on the plants and animals of Nova Scotia, local geology, local marine life, and much more. In addition to stuffed specimens, they also have some live residents, including Gus, the museum's 89-year old gopher tortoise.

[Old Burying Grounds](#)

Spring Garden Rd and Barrington St

While it might seem like a rather unusual place to visit, the Old Burying Grounds in downtown Halifax is actually a fascinating glimpse into life in the 18th and 19th centuries. Over 10 000 people were buried there, though only a few thousand headstones remain, complete with names, dates, occupations, and in some cases, the cause of death. Over the summer months you can even take a guided tour through it.



[Ghost Tours](#)

As an old city with a colourful past, Halifax is thought to have more than a few resident ghosts. There are two companies ([Tattle Tours](#) and [Halifax Ghost Walk](#)) that will take

you on a walking tour around the city in the evening and share some of these ghost stories (while explaining more than a few interesting facts about Halifax history along the way).

[Discovery Centre](#)

1593 Barrington St

The Discovery Centre is not a history museum, but it is a great way to spend some time with the family on a rainy weekend afternoon. This center for young people specializes in hands-on activities to teach children about science through exhibits, movies, and interactive workshops.

[Dartmouth Heritage Museum](#)

26 Newcastle St

The Dartmouth Heritage Museum is a smaller-scale but very unique museum celebrating the heritage of the Dartmouth area. With a few heritage houses and lots of donated items, the museum does programming for both youth and seniors and has a constantly changing array of exhibits.

[Maritime Command Museum](#)

CFB Stadacona, Gottingen St

This military museum, located on the Stadacona Canadian Forces Base, houses medals, uniforms, photographs and old weapons that highlight Canadian and British military history.

[Atlantic Canada Aviation Museum](#)

Hwy 102, across from Stanfield International Airport

This museum is actually located outside of urban Halifax by the airport, but is definitely worth the trip if you are interested in aviation history. The museum holds dozens of retired planes and helicopters that were utilized by the military and the private sector. The museum also houses a replica of the famous Silver Dart plane that was the first powered aircraft to make a controlled flight in Canada.

FAVOURITE OLD THING IN HALIFAX

Over the next few weeks we'll be bringing you some tips on the best things to do and see in Halifax as suggested by Faculty of Graduate Studies staff.

"I really enjoy visiting the Dingle. The views are lovely and [Sir Sandford Fleming Park](#) and playground areas are great for families."

"Considering that we are a military town, Fort George is my favourite "old" thing. It is also known as The Citadel and gives visitors the opportunity to explore the history of the fortress and literally touch a piece of Halifax's military history."

"I really enjoy [York Redoubt](#) - the scenery is beautiful there, and walking around and exploring really transports you back in time to Halifax's British military days."

"I like just walking around downtown and looking at the century-old houses—they are so big and full of history and really take you back to when Halifax was a navy and merchant town."

"[Province House](#)! It's not as big a legislature as some of the other provinces, but is the oldest legislature building in Canada and a lot of very significant things related to Confederation happened there."



The Dingle tower and the Northwest Arm in Halifax.

YOUR SEPTEMBER 'TO DO': VISIT OUR WEBSITE

If you aren't really into cooking but you also aren't looking forward to months of ramen noodles and Kraft Dinner, have no fear. Dalhousie offers meal plans to students even if they are living off campus!

There are a variety of pricing options with varying degrees of flexibility, and the plans can be used at any of Dalhousie's four meal halls. Check out the [Campus Dish page](#) for information on off-campus meal plans.

The website also has a listing of the [many places on campus](#) where

you can catch a bite to eat. Meal halls are open to the general public, which can be a good place to go when you are just feeling like a real, home-cooked meal in between classes.

Alternatively, if you are a foodie and look forward to making your own meals, some of the local grocery stores offer a **Student Discount Day**.

That's right, every Tuesday, students who visit [Sobeys](#) or [Superstore](#) and show their student ID get 10% off their grocery purchases. Not a bad way to stock your cupboards!

Remember to sign up for [Orientation](#)!

International students: Visit the International Centre's [information page](#) to sign up for the international graduate student and Faculty of Graduate Studies orientation sessions on September 3rd and 4th.

Canadian students: [Click here](#) to sign up for the Faculty of Graduate Studies orientation session on September 4th.