

An aerial photograph of a city, likely New York City, showing a large green field in the foreground, possibly a park or sports field. The field is surrounded by dense urban development, including various buildings and a bridge in the background. The text "CELEBRATE the COMMON 250" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**CELEBRATE**  
**the COMMON**  
**250**



*Nov Scotia*

*877*

*L. Belcher*

*July 23 1763*

*Oct 23 1763*

To all to whom these presents shall  
Come Reading Know ye that I Jonathan  
Belcher Esq<sup>r</sup> Lieutenant Governor and Commander  
in and over his Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia  
or Acadia by Virtue of the Power and Authority  
to me Given by his Present Majesty King George  
the third under the Great Seals of Great Britain  
have Given Granted and Confirmed and Do  
by these Presents by and with the Advice and  
Consent of his Majesty's Council for the said Province  
Give grant and Confirm unto the Honorable  
John Collier Charles Morris & Richard Buthley  
Esquires William Nicoll and Charles  
Brooker Esq<sup>rs</sup> and William Best the Survivors  
of them and the Heirs of such Survivor in  
Trust to and for the uses hereafter  
Mentioned all that and those four Lots of  
Land situate lying and being in the  
Peninsula of Halifax Containing in the  
whole two hundred and thirty five Acres  
which Lands are bounded Southerly by a  
Highway at the front of the Lots Commonly

Called the Justices Lots westerly on a highway  
at the head of the five Acre Lots of the Middle  
Division Northerly on a highway lying between  
the said Common and the Lands of Joshua Manger Esq<sup>r</sup>  
North Easterly on a highway lying between the  
Common and ~~and~~ Lots Granted in the North  
Suburbs of Halifax and Easterly on vacant Lands  
ungranted said Lands being Surveyed Laid out  
and Registered for a Common for the Inhabitants  
of the town of Halifax by order of his late  
Excellency Charles Lawrence Esquire Governor  
of the said Province of Nova Scotia as by said  
order the Chief Surveyors Report and plan  
thereto annexed and Registered in the Register Office  
of this Province and hereto annexed may more  
fully appear and also five Acres more So  
Have and to hold the said Granted premises  
with all the rights Members Privileges profits  
Commodities and Appurtenances thereunto belonging  
to them the said John Collier Charles Morris  
Richard Buthley William Nicoll Charles Brooker

and William Best and the survivor of them and  
the Heirs of such survivor to and for the use of the  
Inhabitants of the Town of Halifax as Common for  
ever In Witness whereof I have signed these  
Presents and Caused the Seal of the Province to  
be therunto affixed at Halifax this Twenty third  
Day of June in the third Yeare of the reign of our  
Sovereign Lord George the third by the Grace of God  
of Great Britain France and Ireland King  
Defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of  
our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and Sixty three  
By Command of the Lieutenant Governor  
with the Advice and Consent of his Majesty's Council  
Rich Bulkeley Esq

# CELEBRATE the COMMON 250

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# CELEBRATE<sup>the</sup> COMMON 250

**2013** marks the 250th anniversary of the gift of the Halifax Common to the “inhabitants of the Town of Halifax as Common forever”, by King George III in 1763. The production of this catalogue is one aspect of Celebrate the Common 250, a series of lectures, tours, art projects and festivities organized by the community group “Friends of Halifax Common”. This catalogue presents an overview of changes to the South, Central and North Common over the past 250 years. In illustrating this evolution we’ve made visual connections between recent images by photographer Alvin Comiter and archival records of past times. Our presentation relies heavily on historical research by Susan Markham-Starr.

The present Halifax Common bears little resemblance to that of many generations ago. In its early days, the Common was a treed marsh. A brook meandered through it from Cunard Street to South Street, down a ravine and under the Kissing Bridge into Halifax Harbour. Known as Freshwater Brook because it was a reliable water source for ships, by the 1880s it was piped underground as a main sewer

line and gradually disappeared by 1890.

A young Mi’kmaq boy in the 1800s might have learned to hunt black duck, trap beaver, or catch moose along Freshwater Brook, or, where this brook flowed into Black Duck Pond on the Central Common. From the early 1900s until the 1960s Black Duck Pond became known as Egg Pond, and was a destination for swimming, skating and punting. Today’s Egg Pond, now drained, is part of the Halifax Skate Park. The only remnant of the little-known buried stream is Griffen’s Pond in the Public Gardens.

Early commoners used the area for grazing cattle and collecting firewood. Decisions to use Common land for other purposes were not always popular and were sometimes seen to benefit the elite. For example, in the 1840s Joseph Howe successfully advocated for a grant of Common land for the newly formed private Horticultural Society. Later, improvements to this site were criticized by commoners who knew a public garden would mean less land for those such as the poor widows with their single cow and large family to feed.

At about this same time other uses of the land began. This began with a hospital, continued with a poor house, a convent, a school for the blind, an exhibition building, a university, gardens, parks and a graveyard as well as private houses.

The military preferred that the land was cleared because a clear view made the forts and town easier to defend. When many changes to the Common started to interfere with the military access to it, the War Department made regulations (and put up a fence) about uses of the northern parts of the Common so that military drills and mounted practices would have enough room. This changed in the 1940s as many more buildings began to fill in the Central Common.

Today’s soccer, cricket or baseball players on the Common may not be aware that this area remains open because it was an important location for military exercises. And people living or working on the South or Central Common may not know that these areas are a part of the Common.

It is estimated that 15-20 000 additional people will live on the Halifax Peninsula by 2030. Preserving



*Friends of Halifax Common ([www.halifaxcommon.ca](http://www.halifaxcommon.ca)) was co-founded by Peggy Cameron & Beverly Miller in 2006. Membership is open to anyone committed to caring for the Halifax Common in the spirit of the original land grant to the inhabitants of Halifax 'forever'.*

and expanding public open space as the population grows is healthy for a city. The Halifax Common, at the heart of the Peninsula, can continue to provide vital breathing space for present and future residents and for those who work and visit here.

The 1994 Halifax Common Plan was developed as the result of a thorough public engagement by Halifax City Council. Adopted by the City of Halifax, now the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), the plan commits HRM to retaining existing public lands, not divesting any public lands and recapturing former Halifax Common land. The Friends of Halifax Common value this planning and work in the spirit of that document. We encourage the public to remind politicians of the 1994 Halifax Common Plan and keep the heart and lungs of the city green and vibrant.

### **CELEBRATE THE COMMON!**

*Peggy Cameron  
Co-chair, Friends of Halifax Common*



View of the Citadel, Halifax from the North-West, 1857 by Gaspard LeMarchant Tupper. AGNS: 1987.54

# HALIFAX COMMON

The Halifax Common was laid out under the authority of Lieutenant Governor John Belcher between 1760-62. The 23 June 1763 Halifax Common Crown Grant by King George III, was for 235 acres of common land and 5 acres of roads. It is recorded in the Nova Scotia Land Grants, Old Book 3, p.168 as belonging..." to and for the use of the inhabitants of the Town of Halifax as Common forever".

The land grant, behind Citadel Hill, stretched from the present Cunard Street to South Street. The eastern boundary extended along today's North Park Street, Ahearn Avenue, Bell Road and South Park Street to South Street. The western border followed Robie Street between Cunard Street and South Street. The original Common boundaries were outlined in red on the map from 1898. Here the boundary is in green.





## SOUTH COMMON

### THE SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART

The Society of the Sacred Heart was founded in post-revolutionary France and brought to North America in 1818. In 1849 the Society of the Sacred Heart established a convent, chapel, dayschool and boarding school on the Common lots at the corner of Summer Street and Spring Garden Road.

### VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL

In 1859, the City and Provincial hospital were built on affordable land on the South Common, the beginning of many institutional land grants. In honor of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 both hospitals were renamed the Victoria General Hospital. The current Victoria General Buildings at South and South Park Streets were constructed in 1948.





Courtesy of The Halifax Herald Limited



## 6 SOUTH COMMON

### **SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, 1963**

In 1868, Common land located on the South side of Morris Street and Tower Road was appropriated for the establishment of a School for the Blind. As a result of the encroachment on the Common, a group of concerned citizens formed the city's first conservationist movement dedicated to the preservation of the Common. After 112 years of educating visually impaired students from Atlantic Canada, the School was demolished in 1984 and moved into another facility, Sir Charles Frederick Fraser School on South Street. In November 2012, a monument as a reminder that hundreds of blind and visually impaired children lived here with dedicated teachers, staff and volunteers was installed.

### **VICTORIA GENERAL, 1986**

In the mid-1980s after a public meeting, the decision was made to approve a "Park within a Park" design presented by Peter Klynstra Landscape Architects Ltd. as part of the Victoria General Hospital's main entrance redevelopment. The result was a decision to close a portion of Tower Road between South Street and University Avenue and to give that street section as well as the former School for the Blind lands to the Victoria General. In exchange the VG committed to create a landscaped park with 200 trees, a scented garden, walking paths and lawns and 200 parking places. The agreement was never honoured. In the late 1990s the scented garden was bulldozed and replaced with twelve parking spots.





### **EXHIBITION BUILDING**

In 1879, the Exhibition Building opened on Tower Road (now Martello Road). Used for agricultural exhibitions, craft shows and carnivals, in the winter, it became an indoor public skating rink. This 1899 composition photograph shows 200 costumed waltzing skaters and 1000 spectators at a winter masquerade.



### **CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, 1988**

The Gothic Revival Cathedral Church of All Saints was built between 1907-1910 and presently stands on the original site of the Exhibition Building. In 2003, the Cathedral was heavily damaged during Hurricane Juan. For the next 10 years, as a way to fund repair and maintenance costs the Church demolished three Victorian houses and leased their south and north lawns for 99 years for the development of commercial and residential buildings such as a private seniors residence.



## 8 SOUTH COMMON

### **SOUTH PARK HOUSES, 1987**

Prior to the construction of the twenty-one storey Park Victoria Apartments, situated at the corner of Morris Street and South Park Street in 1969, Victoria Park was bordered along South Park Street by Victorian houses and trees offering an attractive backdrop to the small two acre park. To reduce the impact of the high rise at the street level, the building was set back and landscaped in front. Today newer buildings such as the Trillium have built to the sidewalk edge.

### **LINDA OLAND FOUNTAIN, VICTORIA PARK**

A strip of green space along South Park Street was first referred to as Victoria Park in city minutes recording a request to erect a bandstand on the grounds in 1898. The bandstand would not be the first proposal to be denied as efforts to improve the Park continued. In 1902 it was an unrealized site for a Carnegie Library. In 1912 the Civic Improvements Committee's suggestion to intersect a road through it was rejected. In 1966, city council approved a new decorative fountain gifted by the industrialist Col. S.C. Oland, in memory of his wife Linda Oland. Several other statues are located in Victoria Park including Robbie Burns (1919), Sir Walter Scott (1932), and the William Alexander Monument (1957).



### **OCCUPY NOVA SCOTIA DEMONSTRATION, VICTORIA PARK**

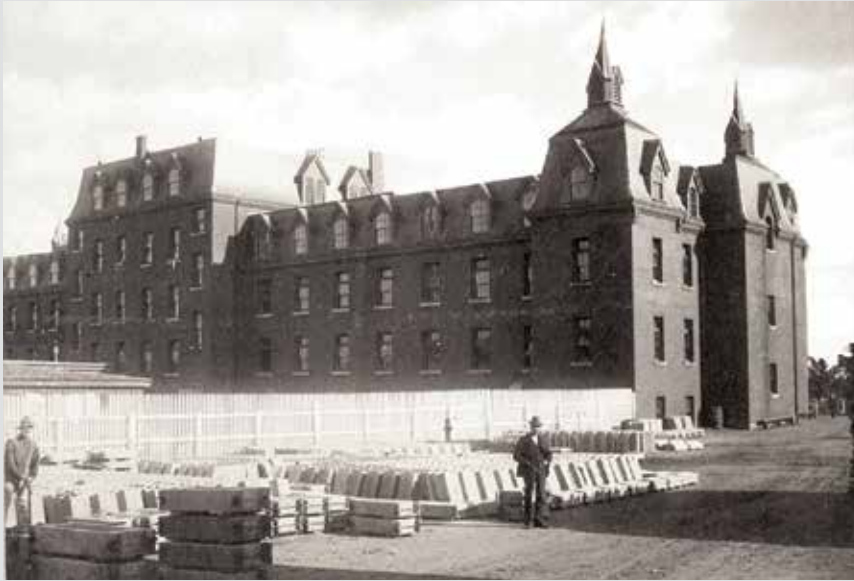
In the early morning of Remembrance Day in 2012, the City enforced an eviction notice under a camping ban to the Occupy NS demonstrators in Victoria Park. The Occupy NS demonstration began at Grande Parade in Halifax on October 15th, 2012. It was one of many demonstrations across the country after a challenge by Adbusters was pursued with the Occupy Wall Street movement in the United States.



### **YOGA, VICTORIA PARK**

Today Victoria Park is a frequent travel route to and from the Spring Garden Road area and a popular location for musicians, craft and information fairs and leisure activities. Here a Yoga practise ends with Shavasana, a form of deep meditative relaxation.





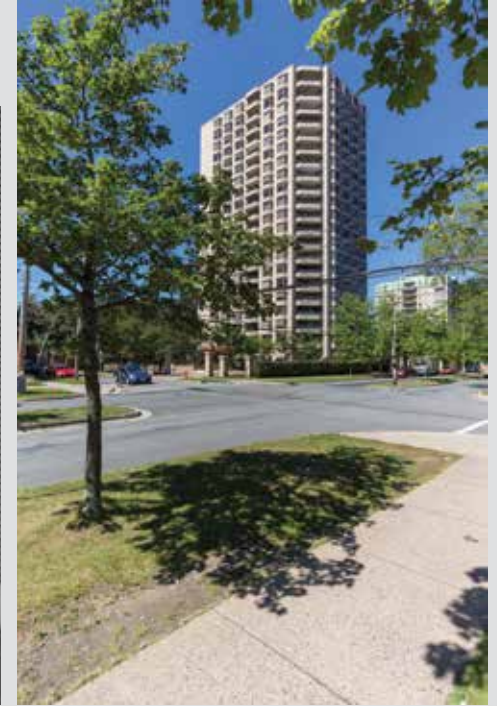
## 10 SOUTH COMMON

### POOR ASYLUM

The Poor Asylum or Poor House was the primary institution for the care of the elderly, mentally ill and poor. Originally situated on Spring Garden Road at the present site of the Halifax Memorial Library, it was relocated to the South Common in 1866. On the night of November 6th, 1882, a fire swept through the building. Of the 343 “inmates” that resided in the House, 31 residents died. An inquest revealed that intended fireproofing features had been inadequate and that management had acted ineptly during the crisis. The Poor House was rebuilt in 1886 and inmates were employed in revenue generating activities in an effort to offset operation costs. In 1972 the building was demolished for construction of the IWK Children’s Hospital.

### POOR HOUSE POND

This 1886 view of the Poor House Pond and South Common was taken from the Dalhousie College’s newly built Forrest Hall situated at University Avenue and Robie Street. Since then, new buildings have gradually expanded the Dalhousie Campus.



### **VICTORIAN HOUSES, 1984**

In 1871 Halifax City Council authorized the selling of Common lots on Spring Garden Road to encourage suitable private development without incurring any public cost. In 1898, Hart House a fine example of Queen Anne architecture was built at Spring Garden and Summer Streets. Eighty-five years later, in 1985 Dalhousie University inherited the house and sold it to a commercial developer. The house sale included a row of Victorian houses on Summer Street.

### **SUMMER GARDEN BUILDING**

The Hart House and Victorian Row houses were demolished despite public protest and a petition signed by over 18,000 citizens. In 1990, the twenty-one storey residential Summer Gardens high rise was built at the site on the corner of Spring Garden Road and Summer Street.



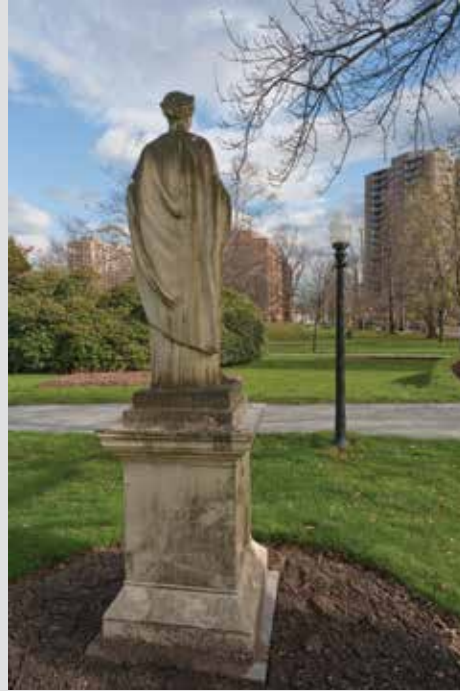
## 12 SOUTH COMMON

### PUBLIC GARDENS

In the late 1830s, a private Horticultural Society established a Horticultural Gardens on the South Common. For a small fee the gardens and sports facility could be accessed by members of the general public. In 1841 the advocacy of individuals such as Joseph Howe led the city to grant 5.5 acres of land and to pay for improvements and introduce laws to protect the work. After the city incorporated in 1841, the first Charter gave the city title to the Common and oversaw council's management of the land. Ten years later, the 1851 City Charter introduced specific regulations dealing with the number of animals that could be pastured, washing clothes and bathing in places other than designated areas. The City began

making public improvements (cleaning, construction of roads, planting etc.) to the area around the Horticultural Gardens and Egg Pond. These restrictions drew criticism from the townspeople who felt the improvements would benefit the elite rather than the poor by eliminating pasture land from the use of cattle owners and widows. Work continued despite the controversy. By 1867 city council began landscaping two acres of Common land on the north side adjacent to the Horticultural Society's garden. The new garden was open and free to all. Eventually the two gardens amalgamated to form today's Public Gardens. In 1984, the Public Gardens were designated a National Historic Site.





### **STATUE “PUBLIC GARDEN CERES”**

In 1887, the estate of chief justice Sir William Young donated three Greek statues to the Public Gardens. Seen here is Ceres, the Roman goddess representing agriculture and fertility.

### **GARDENER’S LODGE, 1993**

In 1872, Richard Power was hired as the superintendent of the Halifax Public Gardens. By 1875 he began to implement his symmetrical plan in the Gardenesque style which included Serpentine Garden Beds and two thousand trees taken from the Horticultural Society’s nursery. Rows of trees were also planted along the perimeter of the Gardens as well as in the center in order to merge the whole. Four years later the work came to an end with the carving of a more natural shaped artificial pond, now known as Griffin’s pond. Built next to the greenhouses in 1902, the Gardener’s Lodge was home to garden superintendents. Today it is used for HRM administration.



## 14 SOUTH COMMON

### **CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTRE, CARLETON CAMPUS, 1988**

In 1886, a land grant on the western edge of the South Common went to Dalhousie University or Dalhousie College as it was known at the time. The following year the College moved from its original site on the Grand Parade in downtown Halifax where City Hall stands, to the Forrest Building on the Carleton Campus. Seen here is Dalhousie's Clinical Research Centre, built in 1922-1924 and originally the Public Health Clinic. Its funding came from the Rockefeller Foundation and Carnegie Corporation. It was designed by Halifax Architect, Andrew Cobb.

### **SALVATION ARMY GRACE MATERNITY HOSPITAL, 1987**

The Salvation Army Grace Maternity Hospital opened in 1922 at Summer Street between College and University Streets. It closed in 1992 and was combined with the IWK Children's hospital building which opened a block away. The former site was not reinstated as public open space as part of the Common. The old site of the hospital was leased to Dalhousie University for five years for use as a parking lot in exchange for absorbing the cost of demolishing the old hospital. After Dalhousie University occupied the parking lot for twelve years it received a minor variance to build the Life Science Research and Brain Repair Center, which opened in 2010.



### **GARRISON GROUNDS, 1830**

Concern about the impact of improvements to the Common on the military use of the Common led officials to grant the 12 acres on the western side of the Citadel to the military for slope protection. In the 1830s, the twelve acres which comprised Garrison Grounds were officially granted to the military with a caveat that no buildings could be erected within 600 yards of Citadel Hill. The restriction is still in effect today.



### **GARRISON GROUNDS AS SEEN FROM CITADEL HILL, 2013**

Although many private and public buildings were placed on the South Common, the area from Jubilee Road north was not permitted to be built upon as the British Military reserved clear firing sight lines from the back side of the citadel to guard against a land-based attack. More recent buildings on the South Common include the IWK Children's Hospital (1970); five to six Victoria General site buildings, Dalhousie Carlton Campus buildings, Church of All Saints Cathedral Developments and several highrise apartments along Spring Garden Road.



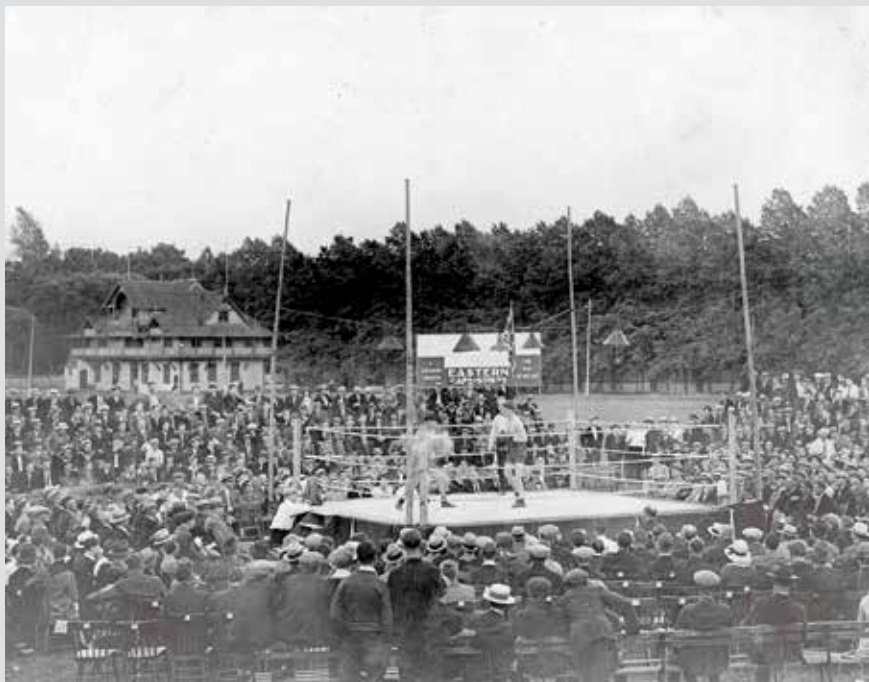




### **QUEEN'S COLOURS, 2009**

This image captures the Queen's Colours ceremony held on the Garrison Grounds on June 27th, 2009. The consecration and presentation of the Queen's Colours is one of many events that led up to the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy. During the ceremony Governor General Michaëlle Jean presided over a parade of 500 sailors and officers from across the country. The traditions of the ceremony go back to Elizabethan England and have been a part of the Royal Canadian Navy since it was established in 1910. The Queen's Colours is a symbol of duty to Sovereign and country.





### WANDERER'S GROUNDS

In 1886, the city leased the Wanderer's Grounds to the Wanderer's Amateur Athletic Club for sports such as baseball, lawn bowling, snowshoeing and rugby. This image of a boxing match on the Wanderer's Grounds dates back to the 1920s. The second image shows an interesting contrast in the composition of the audience with many more women and children in attendance.





### **CAMP HILL CEMETERY**

In 1757 Halifax hosted an influx of British Redcoats preparing for the second siege of Louisbourg. The soldiers encamped on a rough knoll west of the Citadel known as Camp Hill. Later during the American Revolution, Halifax was the sole camp of the British forces in North America for several months in 1776. For a second time the overflow of troops from the barracks and slopes of the Citadel stayed on Camp Hill. Errant soldiers were often hanged on the Common or shot behind Citadel Hill later to be buried in unconsecrated ground near Jubilee and Robie Streets. In the 1840s the city traded Camp Hill with the military for Fort Massey land to create Holy Cross Cemetery. In 1844, Camp Hill Cemetery was consecrated following the closing of the Old Burying Ground. Throughout much of the nineteenth century, “night soil” (human waste) and garbage were dumped in open pits just outside the Cemetery north of Jubilee Road.

### **ZOMBIE WALK, CAMP HILL CEMETERY**

Since 2007 hundreds of Haligonians have participated in an annual Zombie Walk. The first known public gathering of costumed zombie participants was organized by a horror movie fan in October 2003 in Toronto. The popularity of these walks has grown worldwide for fun and for charitable causes.



**CENTRAL  
COMMON**



### **STAFF, CAMP HILL HOSPITAL**

At the beginning of the twentieth century, a military hospital was designated to be built at Camp Hill known as a traditional military campsite. The temporary building was completed in 1917 just in time to treat those injured by the Halifax Explosion. Pictured here are Camp Hill staff, sub-staff and convalescents post-WWI. The building was added on to and continued to be used until its replacement in the late 1970s.





## 22 CENTRAL COMMON

### PLAYGROUND

As a result of the Halifax Explosion in 1917, many inhabitants were left homeless and housed in the Armoury until temporary housing was built on the Garrison Grounds. Many families called the Central Common home including these children shown in the playground on the Central Common near Egg Pond and not far from the WWI army barracks by the Armoury. This photo was taken on August 21, 1918 by Gauvin & Gentzel.



### PUNTING, EGG POND

The Egg Pond, now the skate park was a popular spot for swimming and punting in the nineteenth and early twentieth century.



### **WADING POOL**

Children swimming and playing in the wading pool on the Central Common circa 1960s.



### **SKATEPARK**

The skatepark is situated across from the CBC studios on Bell Road, on the site of Black Duck Pond which was later referred to as Egg Pond because of its round shape. In 1995, the space was transformed into the concrete crater known as The Bowl by local avid skateboarders.



### **CENTENNIAL PROJECT AND CANADA GAMES**

Between 1964-1969 the Centennial Project and Canada Games resulted in the development of softball diamonds, tennis courts and the Pavilion on the Central Common. In 2011 the Canada Winter Games left the skating oval as its legacy for the North Common.





### **NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BELL ROAD CAMPUS, 1987**

Available land spurred a building boom on the Central Common including Queen Elizabeth High School (1942-2011), the Halifax County Vocational High School (1948-2005), CBC-TV (1954-2013), Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History (1970), Abby J Lane Hospital (1971), the new Camphill Hospital (1979), Veterans Memorial Hospital (1987), the new Halifax Infirmary (1998) and Citadel High (2007). In 1948, the Halifax County Vocational High School was built on the east side of Bell Road. Later known as the Nova Scotia Community College Bell Road Campus, it closed in 2005.



### **CITADEL HIGH SCHOOL**

Citadel High School shown in the foreground of this photo. It opened in September 2007 on the site of the former Nova Scotia Community College Bell Road Campus. Citadel High School replaced Queen Elizabeth High School and Saint Patrick's High School (built in 1955).



# NORTH COMMON



### **WWI REGIMENT ON NORTH COMMON**

Authorized on September 14, 1915, The 85th Battalion, C.E.F. (Nova Scotia Highlanders) was a unit of the First World War Canadian Expeditionary Force. The Battalion mobilized at the Halifax Armoury on October 14th, 1915 with ample tentage being provided on the common. The Battalion embarked from Halifax on October 13th, 1916, arriving in England on the 19th, then moving on to France in February of 1917. On April 9th, 1917 the unit participated in the Battle of Vimy Ridge, taking hill 145.





### VIEW FROM CITADEL HILL TOWARDS CUNARD

In 1858 the Halifax Cricket Club proposed to build a gymnasium and cricket ground. The cricketers received a lease from the city to do so on the North Common but Maj. Gen. Trollope, Commander and Chief of the Troops objected because it infringed on the military's rights to use the land. The military refused to permit the construction of any structure within six hundred yards of the Citadel. The dispute reached its high point in 1859 when Maj. Gen. Trollope ordered that part of the fences on the Common be torn down to reinforce the military's right to the land. The conflict was settled in 1860, the city agreed to leave the Common open and the military for their part agreed to make some improvements to the North Common.

### VIEW FROM CITADEL HILL TOWARDS CUNARD, 2013

Today the view of the North Common from Citadel Hill still has many of the original houses along North Park Street and the Armoury. Newer high rise apartment buildings along Cunard Street and Gladstone Street as well as larger trees dramatically change the look in that direction. On the North Common glimpses of structures such as the public washroom, the four-year old temporary garage, light standards and electrical poles are also a reflection of another era.



## **CIRCUS**

Countless circuses came to Halifax in the early 1800s and many were held on the Common. In 1876, P.T. Barnum's famous 'Greatest Show On Earth' visited the North Common and featured several hundred circus performers (see detail), an estimated six hundred horses and sixty cages containing exotic and ferocious animals and amphibians. Thousands of people attended the 3-day event and paid an admission of just 50 cents. At the centre of this photographic record of a popular day's activities is the high diving act.



### **AERIAL VIEW OF NORTH COMMON**

Harness racing on the North Common was a regular occurrence from the 1940s to the 1960s when the Sackville Downs opened. The horseracing left the North Common in desperate need of rehabilitation. In the mid-1960s, the city initiated a public recreational and accessibility plan by resodding the Common, adding landscaped paths, constructing a Centennial fountain and building a softball diamond on the Central Common for the Canada Games held in 1969. The city continues to emphasize the importance of public recreation. Projects include baseball fields and an oval skating track as well as permanent structures such as maintenance garages, public washrooms and works of public art.

### **BASEBALL**

Early English and Gaelic games such as cat, cricket and rounders may have been played on the Common before baseball emerged as a formal game in the mid-1800s. Today, although baseball is the signature game for the North Common players are respectful towards pedestrians walking along the paths. Previous large scale sporting events have included horse races and car races. Now regular team sports such as soccer, cricket, rugby, football and many individual leisure activities are enjoyed.





### **POW WOW**

The North Common has a long history of being used as a popular venue for major public gatherings and spectacles. Highlights from the past few decades include the Royal Family in 1983, a Papal visit in 1984, a concert by the Rolling Stones in 2006, Paul McCartney in 2009 as well as many others.

Pictured here in this night shot are wigwams that were installed on the North Common as part of the Membertou 400 Halifax POW WOW, the 2010 celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Membertou's baptism. A variety of activities were planned to mark the occasion in K'jipuktuk, the traditional Mi'kmaq name signifying the great harbour, now more commonly known as Halifax..



### POSTER POSTS

In 2005, the City installed new community kiosks and notice boards to encourage businesses and residents to use these for posters, advertisements and signs instead of commonly available utility poles, in an effort to reduce clutter.

### BIKE STANDS

Cycling as a recreational activity has been around since the late 1800s. In 1893, the first cycling club in Nova Scotia formed and operated out of the Wanderers' Amateur Athletics Association, founded and housed on the Central Common. Since the 1990s, with the effort of individuals and of volunteer-based organizations such as the Ecology Action Centre and its programme Bike Again, Haligonians are warming up to cycling. Although more bike stands and bike lanes are available, many trails used by walkers, runners and cyclists on the Common follow dirt desire lines instead of asphalt paths that follow formal but less functional routes.



## **HALIFAX JUNIOR BENGAL LANCERS, CENTRAL COMMON**

The Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers stables and horseback riding arenas are home to 30 horses on the Central Common. Founded in 1936, the Lancers are known for outstanding horseback riding programs for children and adults. Their musical ride has been performed for Governors-General and Royal visitors including the Queen and Princess Anne. The Lancers have also performed with the world famous R.C.M.P. Musical Ride.

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COMMON**