

HALIFAX • DARTMOUTH

natal day

Since
1895

Monday, August 3rd, 2026
Starts at 10:30 am

129th  natal day parade

HALIFAX

Participants

(see 2026 parade route on back)

Rules & Conditions

1. The objective and overarching principle of the Natal Day Parade Committee and the Halifax Regional Municipality is to provide an enjoyable and safe Natal Day Parade for all those who attend and participate. For over 125 years, the Natal Day Parade has been an event where citizens and visitors feel welcomed and valued through the tradition of community spirit and mutual respect. The Natal Day Parade Committee will review all parade applications with these standards in mind and reserves the right to accept or refuse any parade application.
2. There may not be an entry fee for Antique Vehicles (Nova Scotia Licence Plate Registered), Bands, Clowns, Cultural Demonstrations, Floats, Festival Sponsors and/or Partners, Historical Re-enactments, Honour Guards, Majorettes, Mascots, Horses and anything deemed to have an "Entertainment Value" by the Natal Day Parade Committee.
3. Commercial & Promotional Vehicle & Walking (Non-float) Entries
 - a) Each commercial vehicle with the exception of the Festival Sponsors entries with floats will be charged a Parade Entrance Fee of \$400.00. The entrance fee must accompany the Parade Registration in the form of a cheque or money order.
 - b) Each non-profit, political and/or charitable vehicle, with the exception the Festival Sponsors and entries with floats, will be charged a Parade Entrance Fee of \$100.00. The entrance fee must accompany the Parade Registration in the form of a cheque or money order.
 - c) The parade entrance fee (\$400.00) will be charged for each participating entry in the Natal Day Parade (Example: 3 cars entered under the same commercial entry will be required to pay \$1,200.00 total)
4. Cheques or Money Orders are to be made payable to: **Halifax Regional Municipality**
5. **All entries must comply with the Nova Scotia Occupational Health & Safety Act and practice due diligence with regard to safety and the supervision of children. Entrants must respect the safety instruction of the Natal Day Parade Committee, the Parade Marshals and Halifax Regional Police.**



6. All electrical devices must meet Canadian Safety Standards and electrical output must not exceed the maximum amperage of the generator. The use of fire, gas or propane lights or apparatus is not permitted.

7. A certificate of insurance for all vehicles must be received no later than the 3rd Friday of July or by the discretion of the Natal Day Parade Committee. Each vehicle must show proof of a minimum of two million dollars in liability insurance. Vehicles without a certificate of insurance will not be permitted to participate in the parade.

8. Parade vehicle drivers must have a valid drivers license & proper classification. Vehicles must have a valid safety inspection sticker.

9. Float and vehicle dimensions are not to exceed 70 feet long, by 8 feet wide by 13 feet high.

10. Parade participants must be cleared through registration and meet in the marshalling area not before 9:00 a.m. and no later than 10:00 a.m. Note marshalling area on map.

11. Parade participants must be ready to depart the marshalling area at 10:30 a.m.

12. Alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are strictly forbidden.

13. All floats are expected to practice due diligence with respect to safety to the people on board, especially children. Floats exceeding 53 feet in length must have two adult spotters on each side of the float throughout the route for navigating tight turns and negotiating blind spots.

14. Adults must supervise children on parade floats.

15. Practice Safety First: All participants must not get on or off moving floats or parade vehicles.

16. No candy or promotional items are to be thrown or distributed from moving floats or vehicles. The only candy or promotional materials that may be handed out, must be done so person-to-person by a walking participant along the

parade route. All candy and promotional items must be pre-approved by the Natal Day Parade Committee prior to the start of the parade.

17. Floats are not permitted to release balloons, and where balloons are used, they are to be secured to floats in such a manner, as they will remain on the float until the parade is concluded and the float is dismantled properly. **Balloons are not to be released at the end of the parade.**

18. No water balloons or water guns are permitted in the parade by any participant. This is a ban!

19. Solicitation of personal information, collection of funds, or goods is not permitted.

20. All Parade Registration Forms must be received with payment (if applicable) no later than the 3rd Friday of July (July 17, 2026).

21. All participants must complete the entire parade route.

22. Please register soon, maximum 55 individual entries in 2026.

For additional Pepsi Natal Day Parade Festival information, please contact:

Stephen MacDonald, Chair of Parade
stephenmacdonald@ainsworth.com

OR

Simone Boudreau, Parade Registrar
Phone: 782.321.1649
simone.boudreau@halifax.ca





Awards

As has been the tradition, the Halifax-Dartmouth Natal Day Parade Committee continues to present Parade Awards.

This year the Natal Day Parade Committee will be offering awards in the following six categories:

Please Note: All decisions on parade awards are final. Judging will be performed by the Knights of Columbus.



Best Commercial Float



Best Community Group Float



Most Original Entry



Most Humorous Entry



Best Natal Day Sponsor Float



The Parade Marshal's Pick

History

Today's Natal Day festivities sprang from humble beginnings more than a century ago. The first celebration was a single city celebration held in Dartmouth in 1895.

By the mid-1970's, the event had evolved into a local-municipal holiday for both Halifax and Dartmouth. The Annual Halifax-Dartmouth Natal Day has continued to grow and provide residents, sponsors and countless visitors with a multi-day celebration that features top notch live entertainment, and low cost family focused activities throughout the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Since 1948,

marshalling the parade has been the sole responsibility of the Austenville Owls' Club and it's members.



The first Owls' Club parade marshal was C.W. "Charlie" Wambolt, who continued in that capacity until his death in 1956. The following year Andrew N. (Scotty) Ferguson was the Owls' Club new representative on the committee and new marshal. He stepped down in 1965 and was replaced by Gordon Waterfield until 1970.

From 1970 until 1994, the task of marshalling the morning parade was given to Art Merrick. Harris Dunn assumed the role of parade marshal in 1995 until 2007. In 2008 Greg Hayward became parade marshal and Chair of the Natal Day Committee until 2017, when his brother Gord Hayward became the parade marshal. In early 2026 Gord Hayward passed away very suddenly and, in his honour, the 129th Pepsi Natal Day Parade will be held in his memory. Gord was an avid supporter of the annual Natal Day community celebrations and his contribution to the Natal Day parade and his support of other Natal Day events will be greatly missed. Thank you, Gord.

Our new 129th Pepsi Natal Day Parade Chair and Parade Marshal representative from the Austenville Owl's Club will be Stephen MacDonald.

Registration Information: Deadline Friday, July 17, 2026. (Late registrations will require committee approval)

Please provide accurate information and mail or email PDF:

2026 Halifax Regional Municipality Customer Service
Main Floor, Alderney Gate
PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5
Email: simone.boudreau@halifax.ca

Parade Submissions: (check one)

- Float *
- Mascot
- Majorette
- Band
- Clown
- Horse
- Commercial / Promotional (must include registration fee)
- Non Profit Charitable # _____ Society # _____
- Other (please describe)

Complete All Sections:

Contact Name: _____

Company / Organization Name: _____

Address: _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Brief description of entry and actual length:

Does your entry have recorded or live music? Please specify:

I / We have read the rules/conditions and agree to comply with same.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please Note: Floats and vehicles must not exceed 70 feet long, by 8 feet wide, by 13 feet high.

2026 Pepsi Natal Day Parade Committee

Halifax Regional Municipality Customer Service
 Main Floor, Alderney Gate
 PO Box 1749
 Halifax, NS, B3J 3A5
Email: simone.boudreau@halifax.ca

INSURANCE

All parade participants are reminded there are risks involved in any activity, involvement in a Parade is no different. The Parade Committee reminds all entrants to ensure they are properly insured for the Parade and participate at their own risk. Each vehicle must show proof of a minimum of two million dollars in liability insurance.

Because of the risks associated with the operation of motor vehicles and horses and with certain other activities the Parade Committee requires proof of insurance as follows:

- a. MOTOR VEHICLE ENTRANTS must provide proof of Public Liability and Property Damage Insurance for the motor vehicle(s) to be used in the Parade. Coverage must be at least that required by law to operate the vehicle. Proof must be given by:
 - i. A copy of the Insurance Pink Slip (enclosed), and
 - ii. by providing the following particulars:

Parade Entrant: _____

Name of Insured: _____

Type of Vehicle: _____

Insurance Company: _____

Policy Number: _____

Amount of Public Liability Coverage: _____

Date of Policy in effect: _____

Date Policy expires: _____

Agent: _____

- b. RIDERS & HORSE HANDLERS must provide proof of Public Liability and Property Damage Insurance for the horses that will participate in the Parade. Riders & horse handlers are requested to take special care when in the Parade to avoid injuries to bystanders by nervous horses.
- c. OTHER ENTRANTS may be asked to provide proof of Public Liability and Property Damage Insurance for their entries if the Parade Committee believes proof of such insurance is desirable.
- d. SUPPORT BUSES must follow at the end of the parade or be parked at the designated area at the end of the parade route.

Please Note: Supply this information with your application.



HALIFAX DARTMOUTH

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