

## **2011**

### **Canada Games Celebrates Nova Scotia Day**

The Halifax 2011 Canada Games Host Society celebrated Nova Scotia Day, Feb. 16, at Grand Parade in Halifax to cap five days of free public events and activities to mark the One Year Countdown Celebration to the Games.

That day was also Nova Scotia Day at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver where more than 300 media, delegates, business leaders and expats attended a friends and family reception hosted by the province at Atlantic Canada House. Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter also hosted a breakfast meeting for business contacts and tourism media in Vancouver, showcasing the province and the 2011 Canada Games.

In Halifax, local celebrities and friends of the Canada Games gathered at the Grand Parade for a ball hockey tournament, complete with medal ceremony. The lunch-hour crowd was treated to music from DJ Plaeboi, refreshments, and prize draws.

A large video screen featured messages from Premier Darrell Dexter and Halifax Regional Municipality Mayor Peter Kelly as well as a virtual tour of the Canada Games Centre, being built on the Mainland Common, and a 2011 Games countdown clock.

Sackville Heights Elementary School students wished everyone a happy Nova Scotia Day live from their gymnasium via Skype. Seventeen HRM-area schools caught the spirit by hosting a Canada Games Day.

As well as the Grand Parade festival, a dozen other free sport activities took place across the province including at Ski Martock, Dartmouth Sportsplex, Amherst Stadium, Digby Area Arena, Queens Memorial Arena in Liverpool, Bowles and Gray arenas in Dartmouth, and the Lebrun Centre in Bedford.

### **Celebrating the Countdown to the Games**

The Halifax 2011 Canada Games celebrated the one year countdown to the Games by offering more than 20 free public events that promote sport and encourage physical activity. An estimated 8,000 people attended a total of 63 events in 28 different venues around HRM and the province.

The celebration began Thursday, Feb. 11, exactly one year from the opening ceremonies of the Canada Games, and ran until Feb. 16, Nova Scotia Day at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, and in Halifax.

The Halifax 2011 Games sport venues celebrated by opening their doors to the community, giving

everyone a chance to get active while enjoying the facilities that will soon host Canada's future champions. Activities included public skates, a family swim, curling, skiing and snowboarding lessons, and admission to a hockey game.

Throughout the week, live sport demonstrations and interactive games broke out in unexpected places around HRM. Times and locations were announced via Facebook and Twitter shortly before they began.

The festivities reached their peak during Nova Scotia Day Celebration in Halifax Grand Parade on Feb. 16, from noon to 1:30 p.m. The event featured a celebrity street hockey game, live music, video displays, prize draws and seasonal refreshments.

In honour of the 2011 Countdown Celebration, the 2011 Games flag was flown outside Province House from Feb. 11 to 16 and the Halifax Regional Municipality proclaimed Feb. 9 to 16 as Canada Games Week.

The celebration spread to communities across Nova Scotia such as Digby, Amherst, Windsor, Liverpool, and Bridgetown where local recreation facilities hosted free events to promote sport, recreation and physical activity in their area.

Schools in HRM and beyond caught the spirit of the Games by hosting a Canada Games Day on Feb. 16.

### **Canada Games Needs 5,000 Volunteers**

The Halifax 2011 Canada Games Host Society is looking for 5,000 people to share in the excitement of delivering the Games in February 2011.

The Host Society launched its [volunteer recruitment campaign](#) on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Five-thousand planning, pre-Games, and Games-time volunteers will fill roles ranging from transportation, IT, and medical to media support, ceremonies and venue operations. The Host Society already has 527 planning volunteers.

Volunteers will be screened and asked to commit at least 24 hours over the two-week Games period.

Jean-Paul Deveau, Chair of the 2011 Games, said volunteers are the heart of the Canada Games experience.

“The 5,000 volunteers we’re looking for will be true ambassadors for Nova Scotia,” said Mr. Deveau. “Their combined experience will form a great human legacy that will remain long after 2011.”

Atlantic Lottery is the presenting sponsor of the Games volunteer program, providing care and comfort with volunteer lounges at Games venues.

People interested in volunteering who will be at least 14 years old by Feb. 1, 2011 can apply online at [www.canadagames2011.ca/volunteer](http://www.canadagames2011.ca/volunteer). The application process takes 15 minutes.

### **Looking Ahead...**

- Tickets for the Games will go on sale in Fall 2010. Stay tuned to our [ticket page](#) for the latest information.
- The 2011 Canada Games is looking for artists from various genres to [perform](#) during the Games in February 2011. Help us host the nation!