

HALIFAX CITADEL

National Historic Site



Welcome



On behalf of Parks Canada, welcome to the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site. We hope you have a pleasant and informative visit. Please feel free to share your questions and comments with us. All proceeds from admission and retail operations are reinvested in the site and its operation. Thank you for helping us preserve an important piece of our country's heritage.

Our Heritage to Share

The Halifax Citadel endures as a gateway to Canada's colonial heritage and passage to nationhood. Once the command post and landward bastion of Halifax's defences, the Citadel stands watch as it has done since the city was the principal British naval station in North America.

Since Halifax's founding, in 1749, Citadel Hill has served as the site of four different forts. Each was built during a time of perceived threat. The Citadel you see today was the last to be built, and took over 28 years to complete. This Citadel, finished in 1856, was intended to deter an overland assault on the city in the event of war with the United States.

The British garrison of Halifax was ultimately withdrawn in 1906 in response to growing tensions in Europe, leading up to the First World War. The Citadel continued to serve an important role with the Canadian military. During two World Wars the Citadel served as a sentinel on the home front and a symbol for those departing for overseas. Such was the strength of the Citadel and harbour defences that no enemy ever dared attack.

In 1951 the Citadel was declared a National Historic Site, signalling the end of its proud military career. Today its restored walls welcome all who wish to experience our rich and diverse shared heritage.



Officers of the 78th Highlanders in front of the Citadel's Officers' Mess, circa 1871.

Credit: Scottish United Services Museum

cover: Douglas Anderson

Daily Hours of Operation

July 1 to August 31 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
September 1 to June 30 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

We Need You!

The presentation of Canadian heritage is enriched by volunteers. Currently, volunteers participate in all of our presentation and support operations. If what you see here interests you, then join us. We welcome your enquiries.

How to Reach Us

Halifax Defence Complex, P.O. Box 9080, Station A
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3K 5M7
tel: (902) 426-5080, fax: (902) 426-4228
e-mail: denise_graham@pch.gc.ca

Visit Our Web Site

http://parkscanada.pch.gc.ca/parks/nova_scotia/halifax_citadel/halifax_citadel.htm

Our Partners

The Halifax Citadel Regimental Association is a not-for-profit association that is managed by a volunteer board. This Parks Canada partner sponsors the Citadel's Living History and Interpretation programs, as well as operating the Regimental Gift Shop and Tea Room.
tel: (902) 426-5705, www.regimental.com

The Army Museum is a non-profit institution created in 1953 to preserve the memory of Atlantic Canada's soldiers. tel: (902) 422-5979, fax (902) 426-4228

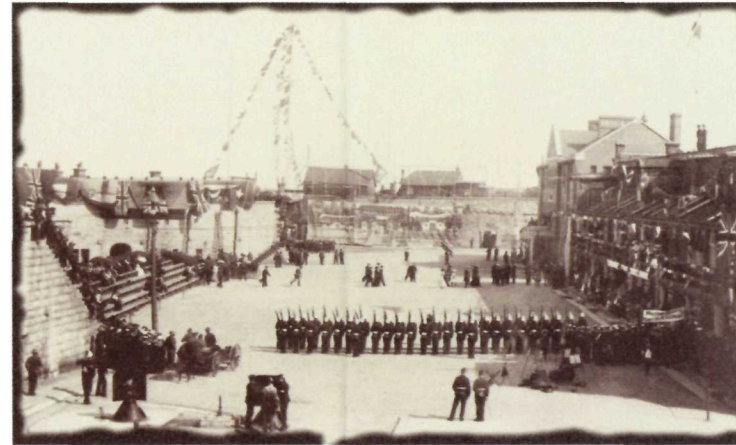
Parks Canada, as part of the Department of Canadian Heritage, manages one of the largest national park systems in the world. This system includes a diversity of wilderness parks, historic sites, and heritage canals. Parks Canada strives to present these resources in a manner that fosters understanding of their value to all Canadians while protecting them for future generations.

While in the area, we suggest you visit nearby Prince of Wales Tower and York Redoubt National Historic Sites. Our staff would be pleased to give you directions to these sites.

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français.

Celebrating 250 Years of History

Join the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site in 1999 as we celebrate 250 years of history. Special activities are planned at the Halifax Citadel and throughout the Halifax Regional Municipality to commemorate our heritage. We look forward to seeing you in 1999 as we bring history into the next millennium. Please stop by our Information Center to find out how you can join the celebrations.



left:
Colour-Sergeant and Mrs. Patrick of the 78th Highlanders.
Public Archives of Nova Scotia

right:
Military Tournament at the Citadel, circa 1903.
National Archives of Canada (28396)

Group Services

The Halifax Citadel plays host to a variety of events. The historic ambiance of the Citadel is a popular venue for meetings, dinners, receptions and special group functions. Advance bookings for the Tides of History and Guided Tours are recommended for visiting groups. We also make house calls; our re-enactment pipers and soldiers can provide demonstrations and atmosphere for your event. A little pomp and circumstance could make your next event truly historic! For further information call (902) 426-5080.

For Your Safety: The Halifax Citadel is a 19th-century fortification with steep masonry walls surrounded by a ditch up to nine metres deep. To have a safe visit, please observe the following: **Do not climb** onto the earthen walls or out

Citadel School Program

School programs are available for group bookings from May 1 - June 30 and September 1 - October 31. **Citadel School Days** is an interactive role-playing session exploring the lives of 19th-century students, suitable for Grades 4 - 7.

Changing Walls, Changing Ways is a site exploration using shared learning to focus on the concept of change, suitable for Grades 7 - 9.

New Special Programs

Our latest programs feature a new experiential visit for school groups. The school program was designed for the Nova Scotian Grade 6 curriculum, and allows participants to discover the dramatic and exciting changes occurring in the classrooms of Victorian Halifax.

Another unique experience, offered year round, are the piping and drumming programs. Participants can learn the art of playing the great highland pipes or the snare drum. Interested persons can inquire as to day sessions, available year round, or enrol in our week-long summer music camps. **Pipe & Drum Camps:** July 5 - 9 and August 9 - 13. For more information contact Rod MacLean, (902) 426-5080.

into the gun openings, which slope directly into the ditch and are especially slippery and dangerous when wet. Young children should be under close supervision at all times. **Watch out for** low doorways and uneven steps and floors.



Exhibits


- 1 Fortress Halifax - Warden of the North** New, Must See! This exhibit tells the whole story of the Halifax Defence Complex.
- 2 Guard Room** The centre of the Citadel's security and lock-up for troublesome soldiers.
- 3 Citadels Exhibit** Here you will find three detailed models of forts built on Citadel Hill.
- 4 Engineering Exhibit** This exhibit tells of the years of toil that were required to build the Citadel.
- 5 Communication Exhibit** Find out how the Citadel's tall masts were used for communications.
- 6 Expense Magazine** Cool, dark and dangerous; charges for the cannons were kept in this underground room.
- 7 School Room** Children will want to stop here for a lesson from the School Master. The School Room's magic lantern is always a favourite.
- 8 South Magazine** Be careful where you step; this is where the gunpowder was stored.
- 9 Casemates of Defence and Garrison Cells** A jail when at peace. The guns here could be fired into the ditch if the Citadel came under attack.


- 10 Barracks** Come visit the 19th-century home of the Citadel's soldiers.
- 11 The Army Museum** Atlantic Canadians in the Great War, 1914-1918, is the theme of this year's exhibition.
- 12 The Tides of History** A spectacular audio-visual presentation that tells the story of Halifax's defences. Starting every quarter hour, this presentation lasts for 48 minutes.


Services

The Regimental Gift Shop
Located on the first floor of the Cavalier Building, the Regimental Gift Shop provides a unique shopping experience for visitors wishing to take home a piece of history.
Tel: (902) 423-1445 or (902) 423-0907

The Regimental Tea Room
Also on the first floor of the Cavalier Building, stop in for refreshments or a light meal.
Tel: (902) 425-1641 or (902) 423-0907


 **Services for Visitors with Disabilities**
The grounds, the main floor of the Cavalier Building, the Army Museum, most exhibits and the washrooms are all wheelchair accessible. The Tides of History audio-visual show is closed-captioned.


 **Elevator** There is an elevator in the lobby of the *Tides of History* that gives wheelchair access to the upper level of the walls. The Army Museum can be accessed by the lift located next to the Information Centre.

 **Smoking is not allowed in buildings.**

Pets Only pets on leashes are permitted on the grounds; pets are not allowed inside the buildings.

 **Parking**

 **Information**

 **Washrooms**

Do not climb to the highest level of the earthen walls or into the gun openings.

Making the Most of Your Visit

Starting Your Visit Plan to spend one to three hours exploring the site. We recommend you begin your visit at the information centre. Our staff in the centre would be happy to help you plan an exciting and enjoyable visit.

Safety We want your stay with us to be a safe one. Please remember not to climb to the highest level of the earthen walls or into the gun openings.

Noon Gun Each day, save for Christmas Day, noon time in Halifax is marked by the firing of the Noon Gun, a local tradition for the last 142 years. Dressed as the Royal Artillery of 1869, our Living History unit performs drills taken from British Army manuals of the period.

Tours Guided tours start at the information centre regularly throughout the day. Tours are 45 to 60 minutes in length and cover many aspects of the site's history. Our knowledgeable guides will be happy to answer questions on all aspects of the fort's history.

A Living History The Citadel is brought to life by two historic regiments of the British army, soldiers' wives, civilian labourers and even some children. During our peak season, you may see 78th Highlanders parading or standing guard, their wives doing the laundry, pipers and drummers playing, Artillerymen working the great guns and labourers maintaining the works.

For visits of all lengths Take in the panoramic view offered from the viewing platforms. Tour the new *Fortress Halifax, Warden of the North* exhibit **1** to really understand the story of the Halifax Defences. Do not forget to pick up a souvenir or a gift for someone at home from the Regimental Shop.

For a visit of less than one hour The *Citadels Exhibit* **3** has spectacular models of the fortifications that have been on Citadel Hill; these will show you the full scope of the Citadel. We have several restored rooms that are pockets of the 19th century recreated throughout the Citadel. These rooms will give you a sense of the soldiers' lives.

For a visit of one to two hours Take in a guided tour or view the *Tides of History* **12** to get the story of the Citadel. Explore the ditch, ramparts and parade to see the whole fort. You will also have enough time to see many of our exhibits.

For a visit longer than 1.5 hours Be sure to catch both the *Tides of History* **12** and a guided tour. Complete your stay by visiting the *Fortress Halifax, Warden of the North* exhibit **1** and the Army Museum **11**. All of our exhibits add to the story of the Citadel and the people who worked and lived here.

Remembering your visit Take home the sights and sounds of your day at the Citadel by stopping into the Regimental Gift Shop. We offer videocassette versions of the *Tides of History* and our new musical CD, *The Pipes and Drums of the 78th Highlanders*. Now you can share your visit with friends and family at home. We would like to remember you too - so don't forget to sign our guest book in the information centre!