



MUNICIPALITY *of the*  
COUNTY *of* KINGS

Municipal Message

August 1, 2022

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**Natal Day:**

**A message from the Municipality of the County of Kings**

August 1 is a civic holiday throughout Canada. In Nova Scotia, the observance of the holiday is known as Natal Day. It serves as a day to celebrate the founding of the Halifax-Dartmouth area.

Natal Day has been celebrated as Halifax's birthday for quite some time but for the first time, in 1895, Dartmouth joined the celebration giving us the Natal Day celebration we know today. The day is celebrated in many ways; often resembling a birthday party (much like the word "Natal" suggests). Traditions such as the parade from Dartmouth to Halifax, fireworks, Dartmouth's Road Race Run and cake are all examples of different ways community members celebrate.

Importantly, this is also a time to recognize Indigenous Peoples as the original rights holders of the Land and reflect on how this Land, *Kjipuktuk*, became Halifax and Dartmouth. Nova Scotia is in Mi'kmaq territory and has a long history of discrimination against and displacing Mi'kmaq peoples.

The Municipality of the County of Kings, through the Strategy for Belonging, commits to truth, reconciliation, and decolonization in all aspects of municipal government. The Municipality also encourages all to commit to these values, in hopes of achieving the Municipality's vision of being "a community of communities where all people belong."

Happy Natal Day to all.