



MEDIA ADVISORY

12th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Halifax

Halifax, March 4, 2019 - The Irish, and the Irish for a day, will be out in full force and full green for the 12th annual Halifax St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 10.

"The parade is growing every year and we're looking forward to number 12," says parade chairman Brian Doherty. "If you're in Halifax, there's no better way to begin the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The parade is free, fun for families and a welcome change of scenery in the middle of winter."

Presenting sponsor, The Charitable Irish Society of Nova Scotia, will lead the parade along with honorary marshal, Mayor Mike Savage, followed by acts that are sure to entertain including pipe bands, horses, princesses and a long list of Irish cultural groups from Gaelic footballers to Irish dancers. Donations of cash and food will be collected along the route by Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank. Following the parade, the Lower Deck Waterfront is opening up for an after party with live traditional Irish music by Shannon Quinn, Ian MacMillan and Seán Ó'Feinneadh.

"All of the people involved in putting on the parade have been working hard to make it a great success and this year we're pleased to bring back our awards for best band, float, car, group and Irish costume, to recognize our participants," says Doherty. "Now all we need is for Mother Nature to do her part."

When: Sunday, March 10, 2019

Time: Marshaling begins at 12:30 p.m., parade begins at 1:00 p.m.

Where: Marshaling takes place at Pier 20, then the parade travels down Terminal Road onto Lower Water Street through historic Irishtown to finish at Historic Properties

Flag raising: Two days prior to the parade, Mayor Mike Savage, the parade's Honorary Grand Marshal, will raise the Irish flag and read a proclamation. The flag raising ceremony takes place on Friday, March 8, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. in Grand Parade Square.

About the Halifax Saint Patrick's Day Parade

2019 marks the 12th anniversary of the Halifax Saint Patrick's Day Parade in its current iteration. The parade brings together Irish and non-Irish alike to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day in Halifax! Over the past decade the parade has moved around, beginning in Halifax's North End and now to its current route through Irishtown along Lower Water Street, but all along it has remained a symbol of Irish pride. The parade's presenting sponsor is the Charitable Irish Society of Halifax.

The objectives of the parade are:

- To commemorate the life of St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland.
- To celebrate Ireland's influence in Halifax, and throughout the world, and to create an awareness of the ongoing Irish social, economic, cultural, democratic, religious and scientific contributions to Nova Scotia since our region was founded.
- To reinforce the long historic links between Ireland and Nova Scotia.
- To engage as many members of the Irish Community in Nova Scotia as possible. To encourage as many members of the non-Irish communities as possible to participate in this celebration. To invite all those who are interested in joining in the fun to be "Irish" for the day and to "wear the green", the symbolic colour of Ireland.

It's traditional for Halifax's St. Patrick's Day Parade, and many across North America, to be held on the weekend preceding St. Patrick's day - even when March 17 falls on a weekend. The Halifax parade is hosted each year on a Sunday and serves as a kick-off to a time of celebration of St. Patrick, and Irish culture and heritage. In 2019, the parade will be followed by a full week of opportunity around the city of Halifax to enjoy this special holiday.

The annual parade is organized by volunteers of the Halifax St. Patrick's Day Parade Society.

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Parade contact

Becky Chapman

902-221-7492

becky@risingtideacademy.ca

www.halifaxstpatricksdayparade.ca

2018 Photos available at <https://www.halifaxstpatricksdayparade.ca/gallery>