

Hello everyone. This weekend, you and your family are invited to take part in Heritage Quest, a fascinating new experience and a precursor to World Heritage Day on Monday. Heritage Quest is a unique opportunity to explore and celebrate HRM's social history during what could well turn into an annual event.

It will be two days of interesting events helping us understand how our community got to be the way it is today. You can tour the site of an old gold mine; visit a heritage farm and even an entire heritage village; you'll even have the opportunity to research your own family tree.

Activities will take place around HRM and, at a number of them, you're likely to find storytellers, musicians, dancers, tours and artifacts.

For details, please go to <http://www.halifax.ca/events/heritagequest.html> or call (902) 490-4740. This promises to be a fun, interesting weekend for all.

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When it comes to civic pride, HRM residents are in a class by themselves. That's why I'm confident that hundreds of you will be at the launch of this year's Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up, set for the morning of Saturday April 16 in Eastern Passage.

This ongoing anti-litter program is organized by Clean Nova Scotia and makes a big difference in how our community looks. If you'd like to be involved in the launch or anytime, contact Jillian Isenor at Clean Nova Scotia at (902) 420-7924 or toll free: 1800-665-5377. You can also visit <http://www.nspickmeup.ca/> for more details.

Speaking of civic pride, just a reminder that HRM provides special kits to help residents and businesses fight the blight of graffiti. Learn more at <http://www.halifax.ca/> or by calling 490-4000.

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If you know someone who's making an outstanding contribution to our region's literary community, or who's a talented book illustrator, HRM wants to hear from you.

Nominations are open for the 2011 Mayor's Awards in Literary Achievement and Excellence in Book Illustration.

Both awards will be presented at the 2011 Atlantic Book Awards on May 19, along with a \$1,500 prize. For information or nomination forms, please contact Christine Lavoie at (902) 490-1989 or at [lavoiec@halifax.ca](mailto:lavoiec@halifax.ca). You can also find out more on the HRM website at [www.halifax.ca/Culture/Opportunities.html](http://www.halifax.ca/Culture/Opportunities.html). Nomination packages will be accepted until noon, Wednesday, May 4, 2011.

Meanwhile, please join me in applauding the winners of the 2011 Mayor's Theatrical Awards. This year, Martha Irving won for Achievement in Theatre and Leesa Hamilton won for Emerging Theatre Artist. Congratulations, both of you!

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And finally, I'm happy to report that I can see out of my office windows once more. Last fall, the west end of City Hall became cocooned in scaffolding and sheathing as crews began the approximately three-year job of repairing the deteriorating exterior. Next for fixing is the centre of the side facing Grand Parade. Personally speaking, it's nice to see daylight once again!

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