

Arnold D. Johnson North Preston Sport Field Opening



Photo Credits: Anjuli Patil/CBC

The grand opening of the Arnold D. Johnson Sport Field was held Saturday, July 21, 2018, a highlight of last year's North Preston Day event. Many family and community members joined elected representatives, MP Darrell Samson, HRM Councillor David Hendsbee and then Halifax Water General Manager Carl Yates for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The playfield is located at 857 Upper Governor St, North Preston, on land owned by Halifax Water and where the Allan W. Evans School used to stand. It is across the street from Nelson Whynder Elementary School. The field's location will provide school students with a green space upon which to play and a place for the whole community to enjoy, which they did not have before.

The Arnold D. Johnson name was selected through a vote, which he would have approved of according to his son, Allister. In a CBC interview with Anjuli Patil, Allister said that what would have pleased him most is that the facility and infrastructure was designed for community enjoyment.

[The following is an excerpt of a biography provided to us in 2009 by Arnold's good friend and fellow JAC colleague, J. R. Mac McMenemy.]

Born and raised in North Preston, Arnold was an extraordinary community leader, activist and volunteer, second only to being a proud family man who was married to Josephine for 58 years and with whom he had 5 children. After serving in World War II, Arnold re-enlisted in the military in 1958 and served with the Black Watch Regiment as a signaller until 1964. In 1965, he was elected Councillor to Halifax County Council, and served in that role for twelve years. During that time, he also served on the Halifax County School Board and established the District 16 Volunteer Fire Department, the North Preston Housing Demonstration Fund (later the Preston Area Housing Fund) and the North Preston Residential Subdivision, which included the first municipal water and sewage services in the community.

Arnold also held many positions at his beloved St. Thomas United Baptist Church and was a founding member of many North Preston community groups including the Ratepayers, Recreation and Medical Society associations, the Black Cultural Society of Nova Scotia, the George Washington Carver Credit Union and the Joint Action Committee (JAC).

The JAC was formed in the 1970s to protest placing regulations on housing in North Preston, and in nearby communities including Lake Major (now Westphal), Cherry Brook and East Preston. Arnold welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with these communities and invited the Black United Front to join the cause as well. This union of the Preston area communities evolved into the JAC, with Arnold at the helm, which helped to resolve many community issues, including defining the Lake Major potable water supply watershed area boundaries and developing its regulations. These efforts were conducted through cooperation between provincial and municipal bodies and the JAC. The JAC later became the Watershed Association Development Enterprises Limited (WADE), which still exists today, and upon which he also served for many years as Chairman.

Arnold D. Johnson Sr. was a well-respected role model for his and other communities. Naming the North Preston Sport Field after him is a fitting tribute to an honourable man who led the way to achieve many goals that benefitted his community.

Arnold D. Johnson Sr. Award for Water Resources

This is the time to apply for the Arnold D. Johnson Sr. Award for Water Resources. The **deadline for applications is August 31, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.** The Award is worth \$3600 to full time students enrolled at Ivany Campus in the Environmental Engineering Technology or Mechanical Engineering Technology programs.

This award was named in honour of Arnold D. Johnson Sr., who was instru-



mental in creating the Watershed Association Development Enterprise and the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board. The Award was established through Halifax Water to support Indigenous African Nova Scotian students entering Environmental Engineering Technology at the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCCC).

Included with this Award is an opportunity for the recipient to complete their required work term with Halifax Water, as well as an opportunity for summer employment with Halifax Water.

If you or anyone you know is interested in applying for this award, please find more information by visiting the [NSCC website](https://www.nsc.ca/Admissions/scholarships_and_bursaries/student-awards/Detail.aspx?l=6) at https://www.nsc.ca/Admissions/scholarships_and_bursaries/student-awards/Detail.aspx?l=6.

Good luck to all applicants!

Preston Area Events—Summer 2019

This summer, the Preston area communities are very busy hosting and celebrating the following events:

In honour of the African Nova Scotia communities of East Preston, North Preston and Lake Loon/Cherry Brook, the first ever **Preston Township Homecoming** will occur August 9 – 16. This celebration will highlight the events influencing the development of the communities that have been home to African descendants since the 1600s as well as to the descendants of the Black Loyalists, Jamaican Maroons and Black Refugees of 1812, who have helped weave the fabric of Nova Scotia and Canada ever since. The Homecoming will feature various activities in each community that will inspire, entertain, educate, and engage the spirit of young and old alike. Homecoming highlights include a parade, dances, guided tours, BBQs, theatrical plays, and much more! For more details see www.prestontownshiphomecoming.ca/.

From 10:00 am – 4:00 pm this Canada Day, the East Preston United Baptist Church hosted **A Taste of East Preston**, a celebration for all ages, at the East Preston Recreation Centre, featuring live gospel music, art exhibits, history presentations, games, BBQ and, of course, traditional foods. See <https://ansd.ca/event/taste-of-east-preston-2019.html>.



(Photo Credit: TOEP Facebook) Page

North Preston Day will occur July 20, and is co-sponsored by Women with a Vision and HRM. Event plans include fireworks, a parade, Caribbean-style costumes and lots of entertainment for everyone.

Also, watch for details on the much-anticipated **Grand Opening of the newly renovated Basketball Court** at the North Preston Community Centre. Who knows, maybe it will be the training ground for the next Raptors star!

The 3rd **Annual Peace Basketball Tournament** promoting peace, basketball and culture is August 22 -25 throughout HRM. Call (902) 981-6955 or (902) 809-4164.

And as many of us do when company's coming, we tidy up! **Two clean-up events were held June 15 and June 22** with help and sup-



Photo Credit: HRM

port from HRM's Youth Live program and Transportation and Public Works, the RCMP,

the North Preston Community Centre and Station 33 staff, Councilor David Hendsbee, MP Darrell Samson office staff, as well as many community volunteers.

Lake Major Dam Replacement Project Update



(Photo Credit: Halifax Water)

The current Lake Major dam is a timber crib structure constructed in the 1940s that was built and used as part of a local lumber mill operation. The replacement for this dam is a concrete structure designed to be built over multiple phases:

Phase 1: includes site grading on the south portion of the site, construction of the south abutment wall, fish ladder, sluice gates and approximately half of the labyrinth spillway (which can be seen on the right side of the dam, as shown in the photo). Phase 1 concrete work was completed in February 2019.

Phase 2: the current phase of construction – includes site grading on the north portion of the site, the north abutment wall and the remainder of the spillway. This phase was completed on schedule in July 2019.

Phase 3: will involve removal of the existing dam, re-grading of the river channel between the structures and construction of a saddle dyke dam at an existing culvert under Lake Major Road. This phase is scheduled to be completed by the end of August 2019. Landscaping will be done after Phase 3 is complete.

Once complete, the concrete dam will have a slightly higher spillway crest, which will allow for more storage within the reservoir. This feature, along with new sluice gates will provide a more efficient dam operation and flexibility to maintain required environmental flow downstream in the Little Salmon River during the drier summer months.

Halifax Water on Screen

To see the work and some faces of the dedicated Halifax Water staff performing this work, we invite you to visit our

YouTube Channel link at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4SuO2XqgECbp2qNFK7f7kQ>

The Lake Major Watershed Newsletter is a Halifax Water publication.

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