



The Halifax Humanities Society

2222 Brunswick St.
Halifax, NS B3K 2Z3
Phone: 902.425.7589
halifaxhumanities@gmail.com
www.halifaxhumanitiessociety.ca
Amy Bird
Director

Dear Friend of Halifax Humanities,

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Thanks to your support last year, Halifax Humanities was able to continue making life-changing educational experiences available to individuals who would not be able to access them otherwise. Back in June at the Halifax Humanities 101 graduation for the 2023/2024 class I had the privilege of celebrating with a group of enthusiastic, passionate learners that had completed their journey through our program. They had read over 45 different texts, spanning more than 3,000 years. They had started the program as strangers and graduated as friends. Our valedictorian identified that love was the unifying factor:



“I found Halifax Humanities quite by chance...I didn’t know what to expect. I thought, in the best-case scenario I might fall in love. I did. I fell in love with knowledge. I fell in love with stories, characters, ideas, theories, philosophy, history, and art. I fell in love with my classmates and the lecturers.”

– Halifax Humanities 101 Valedictorian 2024

This Fall the new 2024/2025 class has been hard at work making their way through the Ancient and Medieval Sections, and I have been reflecting on the subtle ways that the course can make an impact. One student mentioned to me in her interview that her world felt very small and she hoped the class would broaden her

perspective. When I checked in with her after a month, she animatedly told me how important this class had become to her. Another student shared with me that before the class she had felt very busy, like she was full of noise, and that in the class she had found “quiet in her heart”. Still another had told me that she found it difficult to get out of the house due to a recent injury, and our classes have become the thing she most looks forward to in her week. Beautiful moments like these highlight, for me, what our programs are all about.

