

## **Car-free family hits the road without the expense of car ownership, thanks to CarShareHFX**

*featured quote, to use in design: "CarShareHFX has made life easier, especially with kids. Knowing that CarShareHFX is there has just made it that much easier for us to decide to continue living without owning a car." - Brad Dykema*

*(recommend page is set as two columns; also add CarShareHFX logo and photo from either Brad or of a CarShare car)*

When Brad Dykema and his wife Sarah moved to Halifax over 13 years ago, they knew they wanted to continue the car-free life they'd come to love while living in Toronto, Vancouver and Amsterdam. They found a home in a central Halifax location, where they could walk, bike or bus to the necessities.

"We really enjoy the lifestyle of everything being dense and easily walkable. The financial benefit of not owning is a big bonus, but we really made this decision for lifestyle reasons," says Brad. "We just enjoy the lifestyle of living on our feet."

But your feet can't get you everywhere – at least not easily. To get to harder-to-reach Halifax areas, such as Bayers Lake and the airport, Brad and Sarah used the occasional taxi and car rental. The expense added up, and the couple wanted a more flexible option for those few times a month they needed a car.

### **Family adventures made easy and affordable**

Becoming members of CarShareHFX was the obvious next step. With cars in their neighbourhood, easy online booking, and the ability to book a car for as little as 30 minutes or as long as a day (or more), CarShareHFX was the flexible and affordable option that Brad and Sarah were looking for.

"It's exactly what I hoped it would be," says Brad. "Really just knowing there was a car nearby that we could just grab at a little more than a moment's notice for a short trip, that kind of flexibility, was what mostly drew us to membership."

The now family of four – 5-year-old Malcolm and 2-year-old Saskia round out the gang - uses CarShareHFX mostly for family adventures and errands. As their kids get older, Brad and Sarah find themselves relying on it more and more.

"CarShareHFX has made life easier, especially with kids," says Brad. "Knowing that

CarShareHFX is there has just made it that much easier for us to decide to continue living without owning a car."

The burden of car ownership is something Brad and Sarah would like to avoid. According to the Canadian Automobile Association, the average cost of owning a car in Canada starts at \$8000 a year. "I'd have to use CarShareHFX an awful lot to come anywhere close to \$8k a year," laughs Brad.

And compared to renting cars, Brad figures CarShareHFX saves his family at least a thousand dollars a year. He points out that if they don't need a car for the whole day, CarshareHFX makes a lot more financial sense than a car rental.

"Plus, as a family dedicated to living sustainably, I liked the idea of supporting a company that makes it easy for people to also choose to live more sustainably," he adds.

Brad, Sarah, Malcolm and Saskia are looking forward to more family adventures outside the city. "I think every summer since we've been members we've had a trip out to Shubenacadie Wildlife Park," he says. "That's something the kids always enjoy and look forward to and it's CarshareHFX that gets us there."

### **About CarShareHFX**

CarShareHFX can get you moving. With membership as little as \$40 a year and 24 cars (and counting) in Halifax and Dartmouth, you get all the benefits of owning a car with none of the hassle. Book your car online and hit the road! Find out more at [www.carsharehfx.ca](http://www.carsharehfx.ca).