



Update

May 2009

Downtown Halifax Urban Design Plan

BACKGROUND

HRMbyDesign is the urban design study of the Regional Centre, being conducted as part of the larger community visioning process for neighbourhoods and districts throughout HRM. The Regional Centre study area includes the Halifax peninsula and Dartmouth within the Circumferential Hwy. The goal of the project is to establish a clear and compelling vision of our city's future, including supporting policies, over the next 25 years.

The project is led by the volunteer-based, 17-member **Urban Design Task Force**, which includes citizen representatives from various neighbourhood and industry groups including business, architecture, heritage, development, sustainability, and culture, as well as three members of Regional Council.

THE DOWNTOWN PLAN

For the past 18 months, the Urban Design Task Force and project staff have been working with the community to develop the Downtown Halifax Urban Design Plan, through a **significant public consultation** program. Over 100 presentations, open houses, forums, workshops, and meetings with thousands of HRM citizens, as well as several interim reports to Council, have informed the contents of the Plan.

To see how the Plan will improve heritage protection, housing affordability, sustainability, design quality, and the development approvals process, visit www.hrmbymdesign.ca to view:

- **Project fact sheets**
- **Council reports**
- **Downtown Plan documents**
- **Council presentation – March 24, 2009.**



Downtown Plan Area

vibrant streetscapes...beautiful architecture...beloved heritage...splendid public spaces...

THREE ADVISORY COMMITTEES RECOMMEND THE PLAN TO REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION

February 18, 2009 marked a major milestone in the approval process for the Plan. The **Urban Design Task Force and the Regional Plan Advisory Committee**, both committees of Council, voted overwhelmingly to recommend the Downtown Halifax Plan and its related documents to Regional Council for consideration.

On March 11, 2009, the **Heritage Advisory Committee** also voted favourably to send the Downtown Halifax Urban Design Plan and its related documents to Regional Council for consideration. That all three committees voted to recommend the Plan to Council indicates that the Plan represents a balance between the preservation of our historic past, while encouraging new growth in HRM's economic, social, and cultural centre.

The public will have one final opportunity to share their comments on the Plan when Regional Council hosts a **public hearing on May 5, 2009**.

FIRST READING & PUBLIC HEARING

Regional Council moved First Reading of the proposed Downtown Halifax Plan and its related documents on April 7, 2009. The public hearing will begin on **Tuesday May 5, 2009 at 6:00 pm** at City Hall (Council Chambers). The sign-up sheet to speak at the public hearing will be available at City Hall at 5:30 pm. **You must sign up on May 5 in order to participate in the hearing.** In anticipation of an expected large turnout, Council has set aside time on the following day, May 6, to continue the hearing if required. A more detailed overview of the public hearing process and procedures is outlined in the document "public hearing procedures.pdf" that is attached to this email. All interested HRM citizens are encouraged to participate in this public hearing and share your comments on the HRMbyDesign Plan with Council.

The Plan documents and related Council reports can be accessed online at www.hrmbymdesign.ca and at the following locations:

HRM Customer Service Centre
Scotia Square - Lower Mall
Duke & Barrington St. Halifax

HRM Customer Service Centre
Acadia School, Basement Level
636 Sackville Drive, Sackville

Alderney Gate Public Library
60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

HRM Customer Service Centre
West End Mall, 1st floor
6960 Mumford Road, Halifax

Keshen Goodman Public Library
330 Lacewood Drive, Halifax

Spring Garden Road Memorial
Public Library
5381 Spring Garden Road, Halifax

HRM Customer Service Centre
Alderney Gate, 2nd floor
40 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

Office of the Municipal Clerk
City Hall - 1841 Argyle Street,
Halifax

Halifax North Memorial
Public Library
2285 Gottingen Street, Halifax