



## 2003/2004 - The Year in Review

This Annual Report addresses the major accomplishments of the Capital District Task Force during 2003 & 2004. In its third year, the Capital District continued working toward carrying forward the vision developed through public consultation in 2002 and 2003, as well as providing leadership in coordinating service delivery in key areas such as maintenance, capital budget, and urban design. Other highlights include partnerships and collaborative planning with Capital District business commissions.

*Capital District Vision Statement: "Together, our harbour community will ensure the sustainability of a diverse, civilized, magnetic Capital District for Halifax Regional Municipality and the Province of Nova Scotia."*

Through regular meetings of the Capital District Task Force, HRM business units and external service providers in the Capital District worked together over the past year to gain awareness and develop capacity to solve issues and identify opportunities within the downtown areas.

### Major Accomplishments:

#### Communications

- **New web site, email address & Capital District Logo**  
[www.halifax.ca/capitaldistrict](http://www.halifax.ca/capitaldistrict)  
[capdistrict@halifax.ca](mailto:capdistrict@halifax.ca)
- **Regular Newsletters**  
 This past year, Capital District has continued to communicate to its stakeholders through regular newsletters reporting on the visioning process and key projects.
- **Joint Communication with Regional Planning**

identify common issues and opportunities to maximize resources. The goal was to identify projects that can be addressed more effectively with a cooperative approach. The Capital District Holiday Brochure and the centre spread in the Metro Visitor's Guide are two successful examples of this initiative.

In addition, HRM and the BIDs planned and delivered a maritime conference on urban safety issues and scheduled a meeting with the Minister of Economic Development to discuss future opportunities for the Capital District.

#### Marketing & Promotions

- **Cooperative promotions with area Business Commissions.**  
 Capital District partnered with the four area business commissions (Downtown Dartmouth, Downtown Halifax, Spring Garden Road, & Quinpool Road) to

- **Outreach support for BIDs outside of Capital District**  
 Capital District staff in partnership with Financial Services continues to assist Business Associations complete the process to become a BID. Three business communities completed the process last year including Spryfield and Sackville who received a supporting

vote, and Burnside who were not successful and continue to work through a volunteer board.

## Urban Design

- **Urban Design Project Complete.**  
A key milestone is the completion of the Capital District Urban Design Project which provides important direction on how to promote good design for streetscapes and public spaces. The project includes streetscape guidelines and plans for the five commercial districts, new wayfinding and identity signage, and tools for encouraging design in buildings and sites. It will provide a foundation for guiding future investment and programming in the Capital District and a template for other communities across the region.
- **Streetscape Improvements Completed or Underway**  
The streetscape plans have already been put in motion with the completion of key projects including new sidewalks and universal design improvements along Lower Water Street, Dartmouth waterfront upgrades, various public art projects, the installation of new benches and garbage cans throughout the districts. Upcoming projects include: Portland Street reconstruction, Halifax North Memorial Library Project, Oxford Theatre Pocket Park, Scotia Square Transit Terminal, and restoration of the Public Gardens.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Capital District Urban Design Awards Program**  
The Awards program was developed in an effort to showcase and celebrate excellence in design. Three categories were identified, including buildings, amenities and open space. Twenty four submissions were received from across the Capital District and eight awards were given in all three of those categories. In addition, 120 votes were cast to designate a "People's Choice" recipient.

## Maintenance

- **Enhanced Seasonal Maintenance Plan**  
Through Real Property and Asset

Management (RPAM), a coordinated Maintenance Plan was delivered for the Capital District to enable an enhanced maintenance during the high tourist season. HRM is reviewing ways to build on and further extend the maintenance plan during the shoulder season.

- **Maintenance Reserve Created**  
The Business Improvement Associations (BIAs) located within the HRM Capital District are contributing towards an annual maintenance reserve to support long term maintenance of streetscape amenities being funded by HRM. Other sources of funding will be explored to build up this reserve over time.

## Public Lands Planning

- With a significant proportion of lands within the urban core publicly owned, the Task Force has been working with other levels of government on joint planning for publicly owned lands. A recent milestone saw the completion of research on future publicly facility needs. This report will aid decision making as HRM moves forward with plans for municipal lands. It will also enable collaboration with other levels of government to foster development that is consistent with the vision for the Capital District.
- **Waterfront Programming**  
Capital District has been working with Real Property and Asset Management to address various issues within HRM's Waterfront Parks. Staff implemented a vending permit process to allow artisans and craftspeople to vend their wares along the Halifax Waterfront, and developed guidelines for waterfront berthing on HRM property.

## Regional Planning

Capital District continues to be an important part of the Regional Plan reinforcing the vision as the economic and cultural heart of HRM and the Province. Over the past year Capital District has been involved in the development of the Regional Planning goals, objectives, and alternatives for growth. The Task Force will continue to play a role in the coming year as a Regional Plan is developed.

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