

# Downtown Works

a regular update of what's happening in HRM's urban core

August, 2010

## Khyber Building to Become Arts and Culture Incubator

Thanks to the support of Regional Council as well as the hard work of both HRM staff and the Khyber Arts Society, arts and culture has found a new home on Barrington Street - in the historic Khyber building. Regional Council recently directed both municipal staff and the arts society to begin developing arts and cultural programming after approving a three-year operating strategy for the building. This decision is seen as a positive one in terms of fostering our important arts community as well as supporting our goals to create a healthy and vibrant downtown. The city has owned the building since 1986. [See full release.](#)

## Capital Ideas

In July, Regional Council approved a broad array of initiatives intended to spark investment and growth in the downtown. These initiatives, collectively known as **“Capital Ideas,”** are centred around the creation of the Strategic Urban Partnership. This group, or partnership, will be comprised of major downtown stakeholders, whose job it will be to identify strategic urban investments that will precipitate private development and make downtown more competitive in attracting growth. The Capital

Ideas proposal was brought to Council by the Capital District Steering Committee - comprised of staff, some members of Regional Council, and several downtown merchant associations. This team is now working on the next steps, which include inviting potential stakeholders and partners to join their ranks in the new Strategic Urban Partnership. Worth noting is the reinforcement of HRM's Capital Ideas in the recent **“Savoie Report”** commissioned by the Province's Department of Economic Development. One of the recommendations from the report entitled “The Way Ahead for Nova Scotia,” points to the importance of a vibrant and thriving downtown core to the overall health of the entire province.

## Putting a Positive Spin on Hip Hop

The Municipality has partnered with local artists to bring hip hop to the downtown. The new annual festival, entitled “Hopscotch,” is a celebration of hip hop culture. It takes place from Sept. 4-11 around the downtown, and will feature Bboys, emcees, DJs and urban artists. A free all-ages event, featuring “Classified” - Atlantic Canada's best-selling hip hop artist, will take place

*(see following page)*

## Downtown Organizations

[Halifax Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Spring Garden Road Business Association](#)

[Downtown Halifax Business Commission](#)

[Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission](#)

[Waterfront Development Corporation](#)

[Halifax Port Authority](#)

[Greater Halifax Partnership](#)

[Destination Halifax](#)





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on the closing day of the event in the Grand Parade. [See full release.](#)

### **HRMbyDesign and the Heritage Conservation District (Barrington Street)**

Barrington Street is reaping the many benefits resulting from the municipality's [HRMbyDesign](#) plan, and its protected status as a conservation district. Thanks to clear rules around heritage protection as well as the more than \$2 Million in incentive-based grant programs and tax credits approved by Regional Council since 2009, the street is showing signs of revitalization. Recent additions to the area include **Starbucks Coffee** - at Barrington and Sackville streets; and **TAO Outfitters**, which moved into the old Freemasons building - at Barrington and Salter this summer. Opening soon are E-Pin Grillhouse, a Korean restaurant - also in the Freemasons building; a new wine bar called Obladee (located in the old Frozen Ocean location at Sackville and Barrington); and an alternative clothing shop called 24twentyeight (the corner of Granville and Sackville streets). But perhaps the biggest news for Barrington Street was the recent approval of the new "E-Space" development which will combine the Sam the Record Man and Granite Brewery properties into a single retail/office space.

The project will restore the heritage facades of these structures while also adding a modern two-storey rooftop addition. This was the first downtown development project approved under the new HRM by Design plan.

### **New Central Library Public Consultation Process Continues**

The journey to create the best new central library possible, continues on. The third of five public consultation meetings takes place August 25, from 7-9 pm at Pier 21, Kenneth C. Rowe Heritage Hall, 1055 Marginal Rd. This time Library staff and the design team are looking for public input on how to make the building as environmentally sustainable or "green" as possible. The fourth meeting will take place on September 30<sup>th</sup>, and a fifth and final meeting - where the architects (Fowler, Bauld and Mitchell and Denmark's Schmidt Hammer Lassen) unveil their design - will happen on November 4. For more information visit:

[www.halifaxcentrallibrary.ca/](http://www.halifaxcentrallibrary.ca/)

### **Proposed Convention Centre**

A July 19th RFP (Request for Proposals) deadline for a new downtown convention centre has now past, with a submission by Halifax's Rank Group. The RFP submission outlines a design and

facility management plan, financing and price. The RFP is in the hands of the province and is being thoroughly reviewed before any decisions are made on proceeding. See the Province's [April news release](#) for additional information.

### **King's Wharf Development**

The much anticipated King's Wharf development - located on the old Marine Slip site on the Dartmouth waterfront - is finally underway. Work began in June, within days of Fares Real Estate Inc. being granted permit for the project. The \$300 million redevelopment project will, when completed, include cruise ship facilities, a 200-room hotel, condominiums, townhouses, 160,000 square feet of office space and 70,000 square feet of retail on the ground level. The pedestrian-friendly community will also have ample green space and boardwalks. Billed by the developers as a "beautiful waterfront community," it's a welcome development for the people of Dartmouth and gives a much needed boost to the Dartmouth waterfront.



[www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca)