

Downtown Works

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

August 2011

HRM Expands Blue Bag Recycling Program

Starting September 1st, HRM residents will be able to place all plastic containers in the blue bag, including yogurt, margarine, and ice cream containers, ketchup, beverage containers and detergent bottles. No more looking for codes on the bottom. The items should be clean and empty. Caps should be placed in the garbage. Styrofoam continues to go in the garbage.

Solid Waste Resources also recently created a video featuring a tour of HRM's recycling and compost facilities. Please visit the ['Recycling, Composting and Garbage' playlist on YouTube](#).

For more details on the enhanced program and "What Goes Where" in HRM, visit the [Solid Waste Resources website](#) or call 490-4000.

Metro Transit Accessibility Policy & Procedure Changes

Metro Transit will soon implement changes to some of its accessibility policies and procedures. Highlights of the upcoming changes, scheduled for implementation by November 21, 2011, include Accessible Low Floor (ALF) bus pick up or drop off for passengers with wheelchairs regardless of the route; fare included for attendants travelling with passengers; improved and priority snow clearing at Mumford Road bus stop adjacent to the Mumford Terminal and, Wyse Road bus stop in front of the Dartmouth Sportsplex next to the Bridge Terminal; and extended hours for disabled passengers for Request A Stop program which currently provides the opportunity to disembark between designated stops for safety at night. For more information is available on the [Metro Transit website](#).

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](#)

[Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association](#)

HRMbyDESIGN
Regional Centre Urban Design Study
www.hrmbdesign.ca

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Oval Update

Construction on the site of the permanent skating Oval on the North Common has begun. Residents can now expect to see construction activity for the permanent Oval which is scheduled to open for public skating this December.

Phase 1 work will take place this summer and fall and focus on construction of the fields of play, mechanical/electrical work and temporary structures. Phase 2, which is subject to Council approval as part of the 2012-13 Project Budget, will include the proposed construction of permanent buildings to house the ice resurfacer, skate storage, skate sharpening and washrooms.

For more information and updates visit the [SkateHRM website](#).

Central Library Enters Construction Phase

The Halifax Central Library took a big step forward with the Design Review Committee approval of its site plan application. With this approval in place, final construction permits can be obtained and increased activity on the site is expected. The coming months will see archaeological work conclude and site work begin including relocation of electrical infrastructure and rock breaking activity to accommodate the building's foundation.

For more information on the Central Library project visit the [website](#).

Convention Centre

On August 15, 2011, Defence Minister Peter MacKay announced a federal funding commitment of \$51.4 million toward the proposed convention centre project for downtown Halifax. Regional Council's support for the proposed project was subject to key terms with the Province of Nova Scotia including a commitment by the Government of Canada to provide funding for one third of the capital costs and that HRM and the Province would be equal partners in funding the balance. Final partnership arrangements are subject to Council approval. Staff will now bring forward a report for consideration.

More information on the Convention Centre project can be found [online](#).

Spring Garden Area Gets Info Kiosk

Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC) and Spring Garden Area Business Association (SGABA) have partnered to present a Visitor Information Kiosk. The Kiosk is now open in front of the Spring Garden Road Memorial Public Library on the corner of Spring Garden Road and Grafton Street. Its hours are Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit the [DHBC](#) or [SGABA](#) websites for more information.

Welcome to Downtown Halifax

Downtown now boasts new welcome signs. Downtown Halifax Business Commission has installed four new signs to welcome visitors and locals to Downtown Halifax. They are located at: Sackville Street, Cogswell Interchange, Rainnie Drive, and on the Stayner's Wharf building - wall mounted across from the Halifax Ferry Terminal.

Try Something New

Downtown Halifax Business Commission kicked off it's "Big Day Downtown" campaign on August 17th with an event for participants at Barrington Street's new desserterie, The Middle Spoon. The campaign gives 30 local bloggers, journalists and media personalities \$100 to "try something new" in Downtown Halifax. In return, participants will talk about their experiences on their blogs. Participants have more options than ever now that The Maritime Summit Shop, The Middle Spoon and Bistro Le Coq have all recently opened their doors. Visit the [Downtown Halifax website](#) for links to blog posts about "Big Day Downtown - Try Something New".

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New Web Series

Do you have a fun, fresh idea for a new web series? Downtown Halifax Business Commission is looking for light, informative content that is informative and profiles or features a store or business located Downtown. Each episode will focus on a particular theme in a lifestyle magazine format. If you have a story idea or angle, please send a brief description to Ivy Ho at ivy@downtownhalifax.ca. Entries will be reviewed by an editorial committee for consideration.

Dartmouth View Planes

A July report to Harbour East Community Council summarized the results of community engagement with respect to Dartmouth view planes. At this meeting, Community Council confirmed its wishes to discontinue the Brightwood view plane, and endorse in principle four potential views from the Common to replace the two that currently exist.

Modelling of the four views is now underway to determine potential impact on development along Alderney Drive between Ochterloney Street and Park Avenue. It is expected that the results of the modelling will be presented to Harbour East Community Council at its October session for discussion and final recommendation to Regional Council. More information on this review process is available [online](#).

Sands at Salter Now Open

Located next to Bishop's Landing, this one-acre area on the Halifax waterfront is now home to new green space as an interim use of the overall site. Sands at Salter features sand and grass areas for an urban beach feel, and areas for leisure activities.

Waterfront Development officially opened the site on August 21st at the IncrEDIBLE Picnic which was held on the waterfront for the first time to celebrate local fresh food, entertainment and community.

Sands at Salter will also become home to the FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch Junior World Championships set to run from August 31-September 4 this year. This five-day tournament will see delegates and athletes from more than 30 countries dig, set and spike at the Sands at Salter courts on the Halifax waterfront. The best of the best in junior volleyball will compete for both the men and women's championships.

September on the Waterfront

This September three diverse arts and culture events are taking place on one weekend.

The International African Bazaar, running from September 22-25, is an exciting part of the African Diaspora Heritage Trail Conference that is free and open to the public. It features 30 booths highlighting products of African origin from Nova Scotia, Canada and beyond.

The Franco Festival, from September 23-25, is a gathering of Francophone cultures from around the world featuring music, art and literary exhibits.

This exciting September weekend wraps up with The Word on the Street on September 25th. This is a free national celebration of literacy and the written word hosted on both the Halifax and Dartmouth waterfronts.

Visit the [WDCL website](#) for information on these and other events on the waterfront.



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