

Downtown Works

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

September 2011

Central Library Excavation

Construction on the Central Library ramped up during the month of September when excavation contractor Dexter Construction began rock breaking and blasting activity. The archaeological detailed dig is now complete. Excavation for the Library foundation will continue through the Fall.

In October a ground breaking event, to include funding partners from all three levels of government, will take place at the Library site. For more information on the Central Library project visit the [website](#).

Have Your Say on the Oval

With construction activity well-underway for Phase 1 work on the Oval, planning continues for Phase 2 work tentatively scheduled for next year. A public consultation session will be held on Wednesday, October 26th from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. at the Atlantica Hotel.

The session will provide information on construction activity currently taking place and solicit feedback on concepts and options for the look, feel and character of the permanent building and outdoor spaces that will become fixtures on the site. This information will help inform recommendations to be presented to Regional Council for consideration

as part of the plan for Phase 2 work that will take place next year.

The Oval is on schedule to open for public skating before Christmas this year. For more information and updates visit the SkateHRM [website](#).

New Bridge Terminal Construction Moves Forward

As part of the implementation of Metro Transit's Five-Year Strategic Operations Plan, the tender for the construction of a new Bridge Terminal behind the Dartmouth Sportsplex was recently awarded to Pomerleau Inc. Onsite preparation and construction began mid-September, with project completion anticipated for the summer 2012.

The new terminal will be better positioned to accommodate the terminals' 22,000 daily passengers, and provide improved safety, access, and amenities for customers and operators.

Visit the [website](#) for information and updates.

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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](#)





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Heritage Grants Approved

On September 27th, Regional Council approved three 2011-12 Heritage Incentives Grants in support of the Barrington Street Heritage Conservation District Program. Specifically, Council approved grants for facade restoration, roof replacement, and interior common space improvements at the former Carsand Mosher building located at 1559 Barrington Street, facade restoration on the former Brander Morris building located at 1566 Barrington Street, and penthouse masonry repair and facade restoration on the former G. M. Smith building located at 1717 Barrington Street.

All grants are conditional upon the applicant completing the work as set out in the respective applications to the satisfaction of the municipality, all necessary documentation being provided, and the signing of an agreement that the property will not be for 20 years from the date of the agreement.

More information on the Barrington Street Heritage Incentives Program can be found [online](#).

Street Direction Changes

On Monday, September 19th, some downtown Halifax streets changed from one-way traffic, to two-way (and vice versa). This was the first set of changes to traffic direction downtown. Two more phases, which will include additional downtown streets, are scheduled for October 2011 and March 2012.

Affected streets for Phase 1 include:

Converted to one-way:

Blowers Street between Grafton and Barrington, Market Street between Prince and Carmichael, Sackville Street between Brunswick and Barrington, George Street between Barrington and Hollis and Granville Street between Salter and Sackville.

Converted to two-way:

Grafton Street between Prince and Sackville.

Changed direction:

Market Street between Sackville and Prince.

Further information on the project including a map is available [online](#).

French Newcomer's Guide Launch

On September 23rd, HRM, in cooperation with the Fédération Acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FANE), introduced the first ever French language Newcomer's Guide. The Newcomer's Guide for Francophone newcomers provides an overview of key information for newcomers on settling, working, transportation, recreation opportunities, participation in local government, volunteer organizations, and community and cultural events.

In the past year, close to 240 French-speaking people and/or families benefitted from Immigration francophone services. The Guide will be available through Immigration francophone, other settlement organizations, HRM Public Libraries, Customer Service Centres, Recreation Centres and [online](#).

Farmers' Market Examines Pricing

A price comparison recently conducted by Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia revealed that shopping at a local farmers' market can be less expensive than shopping at a chain. Researchers compared prices from the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market with those at Sobeys and

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Superstore over this past summer and found that most of the local food price-checked at the Farmers' Market was cheaper or similar in price to NONLOCAL products found at chain grocery stores.

For a full list including specific price comparisons during this time period, visit the [website](#).

White Glove Award

The [Spring Garden Area Business Association](#) recently introduced the White Glove Award. It will be given to a department at HRM that demonstrates excellent public private partnership. This year Donny Pellerine in HRM's Transportation Public Works received recognition for his efforts on an audit of current waste practices in the Spring Garden area resulting in the installation of proper receptacles.

Destination Halifax Launches App

Destination Halifax is introducing a new free tool for visitors - the Visit Halifax Mobile Application. This application allows travelers to effortlessly plan and navigate their Halifax experience using the one device most people don't leave home without - their smartphone. The free App is accessible for use on all smartphone devices including iPhone, Blackberry and Android. The "Visit Halifax" Mobile App will provide residents, visitors with

information they need to explore the city. In Halifax, the App's GPS-mapping technology will pinpoint the user's location and provide them with up-to-date information on nearby events, attractions, restaurants, shopping, hotels and more. The platform also allows Destination Halifax to update content instantly and continuously and industry operators can update their own information on the backend of the Destination Halifax [website](#).

WalkHalifax Kicks off with Waterfront Walk

The WalkHalifax project kicked off on September 21st. The first of six free, weekly walks was a "Naval Gazing – Harbourfront Walk" along the waterfront. The collaborative WalkHalifax walks are designed to encourage Halifax community members working and living in Downtown Halifax to get out and learn something new about the city while walking.

A team of volunteers hosts the walks meant to encourage conversation about our city based on some facts about the history and current news about development. WalkHalifax Fact Cards will include several interesting facts and a question for people to consider on the walk.

The WalkHalifax series extends until the end of October. For more information and updates on WalkHalifax, visit the [website](#).

Carbonstok Offers Business Incubator

In a quest to create a more welcoming environment for would-be entrepreneurs in Nova Scotia, the Uncommon Group is introducing the CarbonAccelerator concept and is inviting entrepreneurs to rise to the challenge by creating a "pop-up store" within the Carbonstok store on Barrington Street.

The notion of pop-up stores has become a phenomenon in retail circles. The benefit to participants is that they can try a concept out for two weeks or a month without any great commitment. Uncommon Group will provide the space, access to staff, cash registers, and will help with merchandising, displays, marketing and promotions. They'll even hold a launch event to kick-off the pop-up store opening. Participants must pitch their product to be able to be included, and are responsible to staff the store while it's set up. To make further inquiries, or to apply to participate visit the [website](#), or email gordon@theuncommongroup.com.



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New Directors Welcomed to HRM

Following extensive recruitment processes, HRM recently announced the hiring of new directors for Metro transit and Finance and Administration. Eddie Robar, former Manager, Service Development for Metro Transit, was named Director for Metro Transit. He assumed his new role in late August.

Jim Cooke, was hired as Director of Finance and Administration. He is a Certified General Accountant who held progressively senior positions with Sobeys Inc. - most recently serving as Vice President, Finance Atlantic for the organization.

Waterfront Playground News

As summer winds down, Waterfront Development is gearing up to get the children's play area ready for its next chapter. In late September the playground will close for a few weeks to prepare the area for the arrival of the new submarine, underwater garden wall and other elements of the new playground.

The submarine and the underwater garden wall are currently being built by local craftspeople. The playground is expected to reopen in October. Read more about the project and see recent photos

[online](#).

A Blue Flag Waterfront

The Halifax waterfront is now Canada's first Oceanic Blue Flag Candidate and could become Atlantic Canada's first Blue Flag Award winner. Recently Waterfront Development Corporation (WDCL) made a commitment to manage its property to the strict environmental criteria outlined by the United Nations endorsed eco-label for marinas and beaches.

This makes Halifax Canada's first Atlantic Blue Flag candidate community, and could make the city's waterfront an award winner as early as next summer. To win the Blue Flag award, the waterfront must meet 24 criteria covering everything from water quality, environmental education and sustainable management to the safety provisions and services marina users can expect to find when they visit.

Blue Flags currently fly at 3,650 sites in 44 countries around the world, including 16 beaches and three marinas in Canada. More details about Blue Flag and the certified marinas and beaches can be found on the [website](#).



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