

Downtown Works

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

October 2011

Regional Plan Moves Forward

On October 4th, Council approved RP+5, a review of HRM's Regional Plan first adopted in 2006. This five-year review will further enhance the ways in which HRM plans for sustainable growth and strong communities. It will be shaped by four themes: a focus on sustainable solutions; improved suburban and urban design; coordinated land-use and transit planning; and, enhancing the Regional Centre.

The five-year review and the further development of the Centre Plan were articulated as future requirements at the time the Regional Plan was adopted in June 2006, and are prominently positioned in the 2011-2016 HRM Economic Strategy.

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

TD Tower moves to next Development stage

The TD Tower project, an expansion and complete renovation of the TD bank building on Barrington Street, recently received approval from the Design Review Committee and from Regional Council relative to the associated alteration of an adjacent heritage property - the Macara-Barnstead building on Granville St. The developer may now prepare detailed drawings which will be necessary for the construction permit.

Bridge Terminal Project Underway

Preliminary clearing of Metro Transit's eagerly anticipated new Bridge Terminal site by Pomerleau Inc. is almost complete. The work got underway the week of September 20th. The existing Bridge Terminal will continue to operate regularly during construction.

This terminal is the busiest transit terminal in HRM with approximately 23,000 passengers travelling through, or making connections there on a daily basis. The new, fully accessible terminal is expected to be completed by late summer 2012. Visit [Metro Transit's website](#) for more information.

More Transit Shelters

The 2011/12 transit shelter installation program is nearing completion. Transit passengers will enjoy protection from the elements at the following additional sites: Barrington and Richmond, Parkland and Farnham Gate, Highfield Park at the Ultramar, Tacoma and Hartlen (relocation), Horseshoe Lake at Access Nova Scotia, Victoria and Albro Lake, Main at Quigley's Corner (awaiting approval), Purcell's Cove and St. Cecilia, Damascus at

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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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Wal-Mart, Commodore and LaMont, Robie and University, Pleasant and Atlantic, Cumberland and Cole Harbour, Chebucto near the Rotary, Chain Lake in front of Subway.

Find out more on [Metro Transit's website](#).

Ferry Service Goes Hollywood

HRM's ferry service is currently being featured on video as part of an exhibit at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum Exhibit, entitled "Channel Crossings, Work School and Play". The curator of the L.A. museum is originally from Boston and was familiar with HRM's service as one of the existing commuter ferries operating in North America. The L.A. Maritime Museum is situated in an old municipal ferry building on Los Angeles Harbour.

Central Library Update

Plans are well underway for an official project celebration on November 7th. This will include funding partner representatives from all three levels of government. In the meantime, excavation work continues. Blasting activity was completed at the beginning of October and the contractor will soon finish final clearing of the excavated area. A tender package for site work, concrete, elevators and waterproofing will close on November 2nd.

Phase 2 of Downtown Traffic Changes

On Monday, October 17th, traffic flow on Lower Water Street converted to one-way, marking the second phase of traffic changes in the downtown that will allow for increased parking and more consistent traffic flow.

It is expected that the new traffic configuration will increase capacity through an added northbound lane, reduced number of large trucks along the waterfront and improved flow of goods out of the port. Traffic signals will be installed at Duke Street in the spring, to better organize pedestrian crossings adjacent to Historic Properties.

The street network changes were initiated by a recommendation from HRMbyDesign and developed through public consultation. The last phase is scheduled for March 2012. Visit the [website](#) or call 490-4000 for more information.

HRM to Pilot New Approach to Parking Ban

The season of snow will soon be upon us and HRM is advising residents of changes to the annual winter parking ban. This year, HRM's Traffic Authority will implement a one-year trial amended winter parking ban with changes intended to offer flexibility to those most affected by the ban without compromising HRM's snow and ice clearing operations.

The overnight parking regulations can be implemented between Dec. 15th and March 31st and enforced during declared snow and ice operations. When the parking ban is in effect, it will run from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. - ending one hour earlier than in previous years.

Weather conditions and clearing operations will determine how long a ban will be in effect. HRM will issue public service announcements to promote when the ban is being enforced and lifted. Residents are asked to stay informed and plan for off-street parking for the winter season. Find updates at any time on the HRM [website](#).

GO Award Winners

Two HRM staff members were among the nine winners, and 27 finalists celebrated for their commitment and passion at Fusion's 2011 GO Awards on October 1st.

Jennifer Church, Managing Director, Government Relations & External Affairs, was presented with the Metropolitan Award and Richard MacLellan, Manager of Environment and Energy was given the Sustainability Award.

The GO Awards were established in 2010 and designed to recognize "young movers, shakers and difference makers" in HRM. All categories are designed to recognize

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people ages 20 to 40, except for the Metropolitan and Urban Design awards, which are open to all HRM residents.

Visit the Fusion [website](#) for more information and to view other GO Award winners.

Waterfront News Tourism Award Finalist

The Waterfront Development Corporation (WDCL) is one of three finalists for the Canadian Tourism Award's Corporate Partner of the Year for the second year in a row. The awards, selected by the Tourism Industry Association of Canada, recognize success, leadership and innovation in Canada's tourism industry.

The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, Celtic Colours, and White Point Beach were also selected as finalists, and T4G received an honourable mention. The winners will be announced at an event in Ottawa on Nov. 24th.

Children's Playground

On October 11th, the waterfront's new orange playground submarine left Tern Boatworks in Gold River, NS, made its way through downtown Halifax on a flatbed truck and ultimately arrived at its new home on the Halifax waterfront.

The submarine was designed by McGowan Marine Design and built by Bruce Thomson and his crew at Tern Boatworks. It is 15-feet high and 60-feet long, and includes a slide, periscope, portholes, climbing feature, and interactive elements inside. The first level is wheelchair accessible.

Cunard Block Update

In June 2011 Waterfront Development asked the public to provide feedback on design concepts for the Cunard Block site on the waterfront with a view to its redevelopment plan. Significant feedback was received and WDCL staff continues to review and incorporate these viewpoints into a final development plan which embodies the Waterfront Development Principles and demonstrates the objectives of the HRM Municipal Planning Strategy and Design Manual.

The final plan will be presented for community consultation, following which WDCL will issue a call for proposals. This is expected in the spring of 2012. The successful proponent will join WDCL in a final development application. The conceptual designs are available for viewing [online](#).

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