

# Downtown Works

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

Sept. 2010

## Downtown Development Update

The revival of Barrington Street continues, with the newest addition to its retail slate, **Oddjects**, in the Starfish Properties-owned G.M. Smith building - which will be opening soon. **Obladee**, the new wine bar at the corner of Barrington and Sackville, is slated for an October opening. Meanwhile, the Dixel Developments project at **Hollis and Morris - "The Vic"** - is well underway. The 10-storey development - complete with underground parking - once completed (scheduled for Summer 2011) will be a mix of residential and commercial units. Also of interest is the fact that the building will incorporate the latest technologies with regards to energy conservation and green building practices, including a sloped roof which aids in the collection of rainwater for use in toilets and landscaping. **The Nova Scotia Power building** continues to push towards completion. Interior work on the former power plant - which is being turned into new offices - will begin soon. The project includes a publicly accessible café and conference centre, as well as access from Lower Water Street to the waterfront boardwalk. Nova Scotia Power's new offices will be the first in Atlantic Canada built to LEED platinum standards for environmental efficiency and

sustainability. For more information on the building's amenities, LEED components, site history and other project details, visit: [www.nspower.ca/community/lowerwaterstreet](http://www.nspower.ca/community/lowerwaterstreet)

## VivaCity: Downtown Symposium

Later this week, Fusion Halifax, a downtown organization which "works to capture the voice, spirit and engagement of 20-40-year-olds in shaping the future of our great city," will hold "VivaCity" a forum for getting involved in how the downtown will look and be developed in the future. Developers representing development plans, proposals and work currently underway, will be on scene and ready for your feedback. This evening event - taking place at the **Art Gallery of Nova Scotia September 29** from **5-7 pm** - will provide a chance to see and learn more about these development projects, while getting a glimpse into the possible future of the downtown. Guest speakers include Central Library architect, Morten Schmidt, of the Danish firm schmidt hammer lassen, who will pose the question: Can Halifax Learn from Copenhagen? For more information visit [www.fusionhalifax.ca](http://www.fusionhalifax.ca).

(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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## **A New Economic Strategy**

The Greater Halifax Partnership, which supports economic growth and confidence in HRM, is currently working on the renewal of Halifax's five-year economic strategy. Recent consultations by the group with over 250 people from across 13 different sectors and stakeholder groups including digital, education and knowledge, volunteer and young and emerging professionals resulted in a number of common themes coming to the front. These themes included the importance of a vibrant and attractive urban core; the need for the public and private sectors to work collaboratively to grow and become more competitive; the need for governments at all levels to work together to create a climate that fosters growth and entrepreneurship; and the need for a strong, confident voice when promoting the potential of Halifax (HRM) nationally and internationally to attract talent and business. In the coming weeks and months, the GHP will be creating an implementation plan. They're looking for input from interested individuals, and invite both those who participated in past sessions, as well as those people with an interest in seeing HRM thrive economically, to visit their site at [www.greaterhalifax.com/economicstrategyrenewal](http://www.greaterhalifax.com/economicstrategyrenewal)

## **New Central Library Update**

The fourth of five Central Library public consultation meetings will take place at the end of this month. At the meeting, taking place at the World Trade and Convention Centre on **Thursday, Sept. 30** from **7-9 pm**, the architects will present plans, introduce interior design features and show how the space may look, feel and function. There will also be updates on the external form of the building. Drop by to meet the architects and participate in a discussion about how the new library will look inside. **Doors open at 6:30 p.m.** Individuals who can't attend the meeting, can watch live and engage online at [HalifaxCentralLibrary.ca](http://HalifaxCentralLibrary.ca). To join the Central Library e-mail list, contact: [central@halifaxpubliclibraries.ca](mailto:central@halifaxpubliclibraries.ca)

## **Parking Lot Sale**

As part of a three-year plan, the first of three lots of land around the new Central library area will be going on the block this fall. This first lot, located at the corner of Queen and Clyde streets, will be developed as part of HRMbyDesign's plans to rejuvenate the Spring Garden Road area. The sale of the remaining lots - one parking lot on Clyde street, between Dresden Row and Birmingham, and the lot in the old Infirmary location at Queen and Morris - will follow over the next three years. Any development proposal will need to include a provision to replace current parking as well as plan to


provide extra parking for new business generated by the development.

## **Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market**

The new market, currently open every Saturday, will be moving to three days a week - for fresh local produce (**Sat., Sun., and Wed**) and six days a week - for craft vendors - sometime this fall, once the building is completed. Fridays at the market will soon become more international in scope, with foods from around the world featured by both current as well as new vendors to the space. This new addition to the market roster will be open from **noon-7 pm (Friday only)**.

## **Recycling and Wi-Fi on the Waterfront**

The Waterfront Development Corporation (WDC) hopes its new recycling program - the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada - helps forward its green initiative plan. Under the program, ten, four-stream receptacles, now located on the waterfront between the ferry terminal and the Tall Ships Quay, will efficiently target waste, recyclables, paper, and organics. The receptacles (including two from HRM) contain a solar-powered waste compacter that is expected to reduce collection frequency by up to 80 per cent. The program, which will be in a study phase for the first three months - with an end report to determine how well the program



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is actually working - is as a result of a partnership between WDC, The Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFP Nova Scotia) and Nestle Waters Canada. WDC is also going wireless. From Cable Wharf to the Tall Ships Quay, visitors to the waterfront will now be able to access the online world while visiting the area. For more information, visit [www.my-waterfront.ca/](http://www.my-waterfront.ca/)

### **Downtown Halifax Business Commission**

This summer, the Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC) launched a new promotion called Big Day Downtown. The program highlighted Downtown Halifax as a destination for shopping, dining, doing business, working and living. DHBC gave 30 bloggers and media personalities \$100 to spend in Downtown Halifax. They were then asked to talk about or blog about how they spent their \$100. The second part of Big Day Downtown includes a public campaign. This month, the DHBC has been giving away \$100 pre-paid gift cards through Twitter and Facebook to encourage the public to experience their own Big Day Downtown. For more information on the promotion, visit <http://downtownhalifax.ca/index.php/dhbc/bigday/>

### **Improved Downtown Transit**

This fall, a new transit centre and a series of service adjustments will translate into improved service for the downtown core. These include: **New Route 8 Waterfront (Accessible Low Floor)** – Providing 30-minute service, 7 days a week, the route 8 Waterfront loops from Scotia Square to the Cunard Centre and the Water Street Terminal via Hollis Street, Terminal Road, the Halifax Seaport, and Lower and Upper Water Streets; **Route 20 Herring Cove Saturday Service** – Now providing all-day service on Saturdays from Herring Cove to downtown Halifax; **Urban Express Downtown Limited Stop Service** - all route 30's have been reintroduced as Urban Express, providing limited stop service within the urban core while maintaining existing local service; more routes converted to Accessible Low Floor (ALF) – as Metro transit upgrades its existing infrastructure and fleet to become more accessible, **more routes are being designated as fully Accessible Low Floor (ALF)**, including the 58 Woodlawn (serving both downtown Dartmouth and Halifax) and the 62 Wildwood (downtown Dartmouth). All ALF routes are also bike-friendly as all low floor buses have been equipped with bike racks.

### **Fallen Peace Officers' Monument Unveiling/Dedication**

The official unveiling of the Fallen Peace Officers' monument, currently being erected in the Grand Parade, will take place on **October 17 at 9 am**. At the unveiling ceremony a laying of wreaths will take place to mark the deaths of the many peace officers who've died in the line of duty over the last century. For more information on the monument, visit: [www.halifax.ca/cah/FallenPoliceOfficersMonument.html](http://www.halifax.ca/cah/FallenPoliceOfficersMonument.html)



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