

Downtown Works

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

October 2010

Downtown Street Changes

Changes to traffic patterns in downtown Halifax, through the use of one-way streets, if approved, may be implemented as early as the spring of next year. The proposed changes, which will be unveiled and discussed at a General Public Consultation meeting in November, will look at turning some key two-way streets downtown, including Blowers, Market, and a stretch of Sackville, into one-way streets. Halifax's tighter grid network and the closeness of our streets means that extra traffic on one-way streets will be minimal. The proposed changes are seen as a way to improve traffic flow, and to increase available street space for on-street parking and bike lanes, among other things. For more information, visit www.halifax.ca/traffic/

Final Central Library Meeting

Since June, Halifax Public Libraries and the architects for the central library have been engaging the public through consultation meetings. Now, the architects will identify the trends from all four of the public meetings and show how the building design has responded. Public feedback

over the past four meetings has resulted in a "wishlist" of sorts, in terms of what people would like to see in the new building. This includes a desire to see an eco-friendly design, with a focus on green technology; awe-inspiring, distinctive architecture; an accessible and welcoming space; and a design which reflects the aesthetics of the city. The \$55 million Central Library, designed by Halifax's Fowler Bauld & Mitchell in conjunction with Denmark's schmidt hammer lassen, will be designed with the ultimate goal of achieving a LEED (Leader in Energy and Environmental Design) silver accreditation. The new Central Library is scheduled for completion by the end of 2013, and will open in 2014. HRM and Halifax Public Libraries are currently working on timelines to meet this deadline. This final presentation will take place on **Thursday, Nov. 4 from 7-9 p.m. at Pier 21.** Doors open at **6:30 p.m.** with tea, coffee and displays. If you can't attend the meeting, watch live and engage online at HalifaxCentralLibrary.ca

To join the Central Library e-mail list, contact: central@halifaxpubliclibraries.ca

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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HRMbyDesign Picks Up Two Prestigious Awards

The municipality's much lauded HRMbyDesign urban development plan, recently picked up two national design awards: the National City Planning award, presented in Montreal on October 3 at the Canadian Institute of Planners conference, and The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's 2010 National Urban Design Award presented on October 21 at the Lord Nelson Hotel. The awards were accepted by HRM Planner and HRMbyDesign project manager, Andy Fillmore, on behalf of the Urban Design Task Force, who, along with countless HRM residents, made HRMbyDesign the progressive and award-winning plan it is. HRMbyDesign is a key element of the Regional Plan adopted by Council in 2006. It is intended to provide a sustainable urban design strategy for the Regional Centre, which includes downtown Halifax and Dartmouth, inside the Circumferential Highway. For more information on the awards, see the [full release](#). For more information on HRMbyDesign, check out [this video](#) with Project Manager, Andy Fillmore.

Mayor's State of the Municipality Address

The Mayor's recent State of the Municipality address, which he gave at a September 30 Chamber of Commerce meeting, touched upon some key important issues. Here are just a few of the highlights from that speech: In the past decade construction values in HRM topped \$6 billion, and developments worth approximately \$5 billion are either in the preliminary stages, proposed, or actually underway; the municipality's Gross Domestic Product topped off at \$13 billion and should increase by 3.2 per cent this year. In terms of population, data from Environics Analytics shows us as having surpassed the 400,000 number this past May. Green initiatives, including the \$333 million Harbour Solutions Project; infrastructure development and investment in recreation, with the \$45 million Canada Games Centre and the 4-pad arena. Projects which represent a government investment of over \$137 million in recreation for the general well-being of residents. The mayor's address touched upon several other important topics, including public safety, downtown design, transit, and

more. To read the entire State of the Municipality Address, please visit the Mayor's page:

<http://www.halifax.ca/council/mayor/index.html>

National Tourism Award Nominations

The municipality and the province will be well-represented on next month's list of nominees for the Toronto Star's National Awards for Tourism Excellence. Nominees include RCR Hospitality (Business of the Year — Multiple Unit), Halifax International Airport Authority (Corporate Partner of the Year), Waterfront Development Corporation (Corporate Partner of the Year), Grand Chief Membertou 400 (Event of the Year), Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon (Event of the Year), Halifax Sociable! — Destination Halifax (Online Marketing Campaign of the Year) and The Prince George Hotel (Award for Excellence in Human Resources Development). Nova Scotia's nominees also include Joggins Fossil Institute Association (Sustainable Tourism Award) and Celtic Colours International Festival (National Cultural Tourism Award). The awards will be announced at Canada's Tourism Summit, in Gatineau, Que., on November 2.



Oval Events

The Canada Games Oval, set to open in December, will be open to the public until the games begin in February. Daily public skating, school skating programs, speed skating clinics, as well as holiday skating events, will all be part of the schedule of events. After the games, four of the six chillers will be moved to areas around the Municipality for use on outside community rinks. For more information on Oval events, visit HRM's website at www.halifax.ca/canadagamesoval/

A Good Cruise Season

The Port of Halifax recently released its cruise ship numbers, which show that over a quarter million passengers visited the port this season. These numbers, according to the Port Authority, translate into an estimated expenditure of \$50 million from passenger, crew, and cruise lines to the Halifax area. This year's cruise season started on April 27th and finishes on October 30th.

The GO Awards

Fusion Halifax, a creative think tank for 20-40-year-olds, will be holding its first annual "GO Awards," on November 6 at Windows, at the World Trade and Convention Centre. According to the group's website, the awards are: "... an evening to recognize commitment and passion, and a chance to celebrate friendships, partnerships, and our city." Nine awards will be given out during the night, including the Metropolitan Award - sponsored by the Mayor's Office. This award "Recognizes a Haligonian who is a city promoter of overall progress, prosperity, success and wellness for Halifax." For more information on the GO awards, visit the Fusion Halifax site at www.fusionhalifax.ca

Queen's Landing Development

In a recent joint press release from the Waterfront Development Corporation and The Armour Group, the two groups announced the beginning steps of a new project destined for the Halifax waterfront. A conceptual plan for a development which includes 100,000 sq. feet of office space, a 200-room 4-star hotel, as well as underground parking to support the development, is currently on the table. The next step in the process is for the Armour Group to seek approval for the project by HRMbyDesign, the municipality's urban design plan. Queen's Landing is in the section of the waterfront which sits between the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and Nova Scotian Crystal. No proposed construction start date has yet been announced.

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