

# Downtown Works

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

## Property at Birmingham and Clyde goes on the Market

The first of three HRM owned "sister" lots to be placed on the market as part of the financial plan for the new Central Library will be coming to market in late January. The first lot is located at the corner of Queen St. and Clyde St. The other properties, the Clyde Street Merchant parking lots and the former Infirmary lands, will be brought to market in phases over the next few years.

The sites are located in one of downtown's most appealing and vibrant mixed-use areas and represent a unique development opportunity. Through a bid process, HRM is seeking proponents that are prepared to purchase and undertake the timely development of the property under the policies and vision of the Downtown Halifax Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy. An RFP was released on January 26th, 2011 and can be viewed on the HRM Procurement [website](#).

## Downtown Development Map

Wondering what the status is on development projects in downtown Halifax? The Downtown Halifax Business Commission and The Planning and Design Centre have partnered to create a free newsletter presenting the status of current, approved and planned development projects in Downtown Halifax. The issue includes a full-colour, fold-out map highlighting projects that are proposed, approved or currently under construction. To view the PDF of the newsletter and map, go to [pdcentre.ca](http://pdcentre.ca).

For more information on the Downtown Halifax Business Commission visit the [website](#), the [Facebook](#) page or follow @DowntownHalifax on [Twitter](#).

## Convention Centre Talks Continue

In mid-December, the Province of Nova Scotia and HRM reached an agreement on a new convention centre, and talks continue between the province and Ottawa. In the meantime, the development company extended its deadline for a decision three months forward from its initial date of January 15, 2011. The construction of a

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January 2011

## 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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new convention centre would create thousands of jobs and new economic development opportunities in the urban core of HRM and across the province. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

### **Nathan Green Square Revitalization Project Underway**

HRM and the Waterfront Development Corporation (WDCL) are putting a fresh face on a well-travelled and well-loved focal point of the HRM waterfront. The Nathan Green Square Revitalization Project will refresh the public area located next to the Halifax Ferry Terminal, between the Halifax Harbour and the Law Courts.

Pedestrians can expect minimal disruption through this area with the majority of the work completed by March 31st. The changes will provide more seating, enhanced landscaping, improved lighting and water views, as well as better access between the Square and Historic Properties.

Part of the project includes replacing several trees with new vegetation designed to provide a healthier green space, while improving water views and enhancing safety. HRM and the WDCL are each contributing \$200,000 toward the Capital District Opportunity Project. For more information visit [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or [my-waterfront.ca](http://my-waterfront.ca).

### **Waterfront Work**

In the coming weeks, Waterfront Development will be repairing and replacing sections of the Halifax Harbourwalk and other substructures. Current work in front of The Cable Wharf building includes the construction of a 100-foot timber boardwalk that will provide another link for the public in the continuation of the Halifax Harbourwalk.

The Summit Boardwalk repair project includes repair and replacement of decking, wheel guards and other substructures along the Halifax Harbourwalk seawall. Maintenance of the seawall, wharf and boardwalk components allows the visiting public to continue to enjoy safe access to the Harbourwalk and extends the useful life of the structures.

This reinvestment into the Halifax Waterfront is a part of Waterfront Development's 25-year asset management plan.

### **Funding for Art Gallery of Nova Scotia Study**

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS) will receive funding from the provincial and federal governments for a feasibility study on the costs and benefits of expanding its facility. The two levels of government will invest \$108,000 with AGNS contributing \$12,000 for the study that will help the gallery develop a

sustainable plan for the future.

To complete the project, a consultant will study the costs for improving the gallery's ability to display and interpret potential acquisitions and travelling exhibits. The study will also explore how a larger space will allow AGNS to display more of its impressive collection and allow the gallery to host more educational, community and corporate events. Find our more [online](#).

### **Port of Halifax - Steady Growth in Cargo Volumes in 2010**

The Port of Halifax recently released some positive 2010 statistics.

- Containerized cargo (in TEUs) grew 26 percent over 2009
- Containerized growth attributed to new shipping lines, more frequent port calls and more cargo with existing lines, plus expanded trade routes
- Breakbulk cargo (e.g.: machinery, metals, forest products) up 23.7 percent over 2009
- Bulk cargo (e.g.: oil imports and gypsum exports) down 14.0 percent over 2009
- Ro/Ro cargo (e.g.: automobiles) up 15.9% over 2009
- Cruise passenger count up 14.7% over 2009 with 261,216 passengers - a record year for Halifax

Visit the [website](#) for more information on the Port of Halifax.

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### **Market Parking and More**

Off to the market? The Cunard Lot at 1325 Lower Water St. now features hourly parking for \$3/hour, and 10-minute increments. From this lot, it's just a short walk to either of the markets and other waterfront and downtown destinations.

Out for the evening? Park After Dark is now year-round with a flat overnight rate of \$6 from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily. This option is available at Waterfront Development Pay & Display lots on Lower Water St.

For more info visit  
[www.my-waterfront.ca](http://www.my-waterfront.ca)

### **Valentine's Day at the Farmers' Market**

This year, think about visiting the Seaport Farmers' Market to treat your loved one to something unique and local for Valentine's Day. On February 12th and 13th vendors will be selling Valentine's- themed gifts at the Market.

For last minute shopping or for something fresh and tasty, come to the Market on February 14th. Gourmandises Avenue and Seabright Greenhouses will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to sell fine French patisserie, chocolates and flowers.

### **Dartmouth Viewplanes**

A report submitted to the Harbour East Community Council on January 13th and scheduled to be taken to Regional Council in early February recommends that Council formally initiate a planning process to revise Dartmouth viewplanes. Harbour East Community Council agreed with the report's recommendations, which suggested a revision and expansion of the designated view planes from the Dartmouth Common, elimination of the viewplane from Brightwood Golf Course, and a review of policies and standards regarding building height and form in the Downtown Business and Waterfront designations.

If approved, consultants retained by HRM to assist in the technical aspects of the review will prepare additional computer models showing various view and building scenarios. Further public consultation will then be held to seek broad community input, both on eliminating the Brightwood view plane and on selecting views from the Common which merit protection.

The full report and minutes from a public information meeting held in July 2010 are available [online](#).

### **Downtown Halifax: Excitement Hub of the 2011 Canada Winter Games**

As the countdown to the Halifax 2011 Canada Games continues, so does the energy and excitement in Downtown Halifax. Hosting the official 02.2011 Boutique (in Barrington Place Shops), Athletes Village, Celebration Square (Grand Parade) and the Metro Centre, Downtown Halifax will be a hub of excitement during the largest multi-sport event held in Nova Scotia.

### **Canada Games "Celebration Square" Line-up Released**

Proving that the Games will deliver something for everyone, the host society recently announced the entertainment line-up for "Celebration Square at Night" at Grand Parade in Halifax for both weeks of the Games.

#### **Week 1 (Feb 14 -19)**

- Feb. 14 The Joel Plaskett  
Emergency
- Feb. 15 Sloan
- Feb. 16 Hey Rosetta!
- Feb. 17 Matt Mays
- Feb. 18 Hawksley Workman
- Feb 19 Great Big Sea

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## Week 2 (Feb 22-26)

Feb. 22 Rawlins Cross  
Feb. 23 Old Man Luedecke  
Feb. 24 Buck 65  
Feb. 25 Radio Radio  
Feb. 26 City and Colour

Celebration Square will also feature noon-time performances. A full schedule of events is available online. Visit the official Halifax 2011 Canada Games website

[www.canadagames2011.ca](http://www.canadagames2011.ca).

## Canada Games Oval

Since its ribbon-cutting and first public skate celebrations on December 20th, the Canada Games Oval has hosted thousands of recreational and competitive skaters. Currently, between 3,000 and 3,500 people skate on the Oval every day – weekdays included.

Based on the extraordinary public support for the venue, HRM staff submitted an information report to Regional Council on January 11th exploring some factors at play in making the Oval a permanent feature. Staff will follow-up by submitting a more detailed report to Council including detailed costs and budget implications, siting considerations and an overview

of how a permanent Oval would fit within with HRM's overall plans for recreation facilities and public spaces.

Visit the [website](#), join the [Facebook](#) page or follow on [Twitter](#) at @skateHRM for information and updates including a full calendar of events for the Oval.

## Metro Transit is proud to support the Halifax 2011 Canada Games!

Look for the special Canada Games transit service flyer on board buses and at all 54 retail outlets for a guide to take transit to the Canada Games venues in HRM. Each location is listed with details on the sporting events being hosted, as well as the best routes to get you there and back.

The Alderney Ferry will provide additional service on February 11, 19, and 26 to accommodate the Opening Ceremony at the Halifax Metro Centre and special concerts being held in Celebration Square. The Woodside Ferry will maintain regular service throughout the Games.

Full event 'Games Pass' holders will have free access to all Metro Transit services from February 11-27 inclusive by showing their pass upon boarding the bus or ferry. Free access to transit is also extended

to Canada Games volunteers and athletes displaying an accreditation badge from February 10-27 inclusive.

For more detailed information on route maps and schedules, refer to a Riders' Guide, contact the HRM Call Centre at 490-4000, or visit [www.halifax.ca/metrotransit](http://www.halifax.ca/metrotransit).



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