

Downtown Works

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

June 2011 Issue

Central Library Site Activity

Activity at the Central Library site began this month. Site fencing work was completed and exploration activity for archaeological work began. The project team is currently finalizing the site plan application to be submitted to the Design Review Committee. A decision is expected from the Committee in mid-July. In the meantime, archaeological work will continue with construction activity expected to begin in August.

For more information on the Central Library project visit the [website](#).

Council Awards RFP for Spring Garden Area Properties

On June 28th Council voted to accept a proposal submitted by a partnership between [W.M. Fares Group](#) and BANC Developments Ltd., to purchase two municipally-owned properties.

The sites, known as [Mary Ann and Margareta](#), are located in one of the downtown's most appealing and vibrant mixed-use areas centered on the lively Spring Garden Road commercial corridor. The RFP closed on March 24, 2011. It attracted unprecedented interest with submissions from eight proponents.

Releasing this property for development is a critical component of Regional Council's approved funding plan for the Central Library. For more information on the Central Library visit the [website](#).

Oval Update

In March 2011, Halifax Regional Council approved a recommendation that a permanent skating oval be installed on the North Common in the same location as the hugely popular Canada Games Oval. The work to create a permanent facility is underway and will be divided into two phases.

Phase one will happen this summer with basic ice surface preparations for the 2011/12 skating season. During this phase, the oval will be converted from sand to a concrete base and the infield will be sodded. Site grading along the perimeter of the oval will be improved to better integrate with the rest of the North Common. The electrical building onsite will be adapted to accommodate the chiller units and consolidate all of the mechanical and electrical functions.

Phase two will involve public consultation to seek feedback on aspects of the completed site, including the look, feel and character of proposed permanent structure. This will happen this fall and throughout the 2011/12 skating season with a plan to implement the final elements for the 2012/13 season.

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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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Public Gardens Concert Line-up

HRM and the Spring Garden Area Business Association will once again feature free concerts at the Public Gardens every Sunday at 2 p.m. The concert series will run until September 11th.

Concert schedule:

June 19 - Mike Cowie

June 26 - Garth Proude Band

July 3 - Shirley Jackson and the Sidecats

July 10 - Graham Bowser Band

July 17 - Al Fine Little Big Band

July 24 - Chebucto Big Band

July 31 - Jubilee Orchestra

August 7 - The Olympic Symposium

August 14 - Swingology

August 21 - John Alfonse and the Waterfront Stompers

August 28 - Opus 1

September 4 - Morgan Davis Trio

September 11 – TBA

The Summer Concert Series is presented by the [Spring Garden Area Business Association](#) and [Halifax Regional Municipality](#).

For more information, visit the Public Gardens [website](#).

Sands at Salter Opening Soon

A new public outdoor space on the Halifax waterfront is set to open this summer at the foot of Salter Street. About one third of the site next to Bishop's Landing, will be temporarily converted into green space called Sands at Salter.

As per suggestions received from an informal session with interested community members and other public feedback, the space will have a mix of beach-like spaces and grassy areas for leisure activities and events. The work began this month and will be phased. The boardwalk on both sides will be connected to the extended portion built in 2009.

The site will be the venue for two signature events this summer - the TD Bank Jazz Fest and the 2011 SWATCH Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) Junior World Championships.

As a legacy, close to 2,000 tonnes of sand used for the volleyball courts will remain, donated by FIVB host Sports and Entertainment Atlantic. Visit the [WDCL website](#) for more information.

Input Sought for Waterfront Concepts

Waterfront Development is inviting public input on a mixed-use development on the Halifax Waterfront. Concept designs for the Cunard block, located at 1325 Lower Water Street, are available for viewing and input [online](#). Comments will be received until July 14.

Waterfront Development retained a team led by Lydon Lynch Architects to assist in the development of concepts for the site. Each design features ground level retail, office and residential space, and public open space around the building. One concept also provides the option for larger commercial and/or office space.

New Bike Rental Business in Downtown

I Heart Bikes will open on the Halifax Waterfront between Bishop's Landing and the new Emera Building on July 1st of this year.

With an initial fleet of 10 bicycles, all featuring baskets, bells, red gingham picnic blankets and fenders, I Heart Bikes promises a unique experience for visitors or locals interested in seeing the city under their own steam. Rentals will be available at a rate of \$9 per hour.

I Heart Bikes will also offer self-guided tours that incorporate cycling, walking, dining, and sightseeing. Routes include

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a beginner trip to Point Pleasant Park, a garden tour, a little treasures shopping tour, a gallery tour and a Dartmouth excursion.

I Heart Bikes will also provide a full-service shop and sell bicycle accessories. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Baton Rouge Serves First Customer

Another new downtown business opened its doors this month. On Wednesday, June 15th, Baton Rouge opened to the public in the historic Morse Tea building on Lower Water Street. The restaurant offers steak, ribs and sandwiches for lunch and dinner. With a stunning renovation, the owners transformed the building to accommodate a modern and efficient restaurant operation while maintaining many of the building's original features. Visit the [website](#) to review the menu and to make reservations online.

FUSION Halifax Calls for Nominations

GO, presented by FUSION Halifax, is a celebration of "young movers, shakers, and difference makers" in Halifax. Peer-nominated and peer-driven, nine outstanding individuals will be recognized for inspiring change in Halifax in 2011.

The awards will be presented at an event on October 1st. This is the second year for the event to be held

at the World Trade and Convention Centre. Nominations close on August 5th. All categories are designed to recognize people ages 20 to 40, except for the Metropolitan and Urban Design awards, which are open to all HRM residents. Companies may also be nominated for the Urban Design award. One person can be nominated in more than one category. Information and an online form are available at www.fusionhalifax.ca/go.

More information on FUSION Halifax and the GO Awards is available [online](#).

Starfish Property takes Shape on Barrington

Starfish Properties has been hard at work on developing its property at 1652-1656 Barrington St. Plans for the former Sam the Record Man storefront are for a mixed-use building with a boutique hotel. A rendering of the finished streetscape can be seen [online](#).

Walking Wednesdays Takes Off

Walking Wednesdays in Downtown Dartmouth has been a great success. An initiative of the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission and sponsors: Dartmouth Community Health Board, A Body in Balance, All About You Fitness, Pillars of Health and Portland Physiotherapy, the weekly walk has attracted people from the surrounding businesses as well as community members from around Dartmouth.

The weekly walk is free and open to everyone. It takes place every Wednesday of the summer, until August 31st. Registration for the walks begins at noon on Wednesdays and runs for about 45 minutes. Visit the [DDBC website](#) for more information.

Dartmouth Viewplanes

Community engagement on Dartmouth view planes has continued in June. An online survey closed on June 6th. The survey was a follow up to an April 20th open house session. Planning staff are now preparing a report and recommendations to be presented to Harbour East Community Council at its July meeting. An overview of the process to date is available [online](#). The report and a summary of public comment will also be posted when available.



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