

Submitted by:

**Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin, District 12, Timberlea-Beechville-Clayton Park West
Councillor Russell Walker, District 10, Halifax-Bedford Basin West**

We are pleased to provide this update and hope you find it informative. We thank the Chronicle Herald for providing the opportunity to stay connected with our communities and will provide regular updates to you.

Halifax and West Community Council approved in principle a site on Lacewood Drive, between the Canada Games Centre and the Mainland North Linear Parkway Trail, as the location for the new transit terminal. Consultants have been engaged to evaluate traffic conditions, review the environmental and geotechnical conditions of the site, prepare a preliminary schematic design of the proposed terminal and calculate the estimated cost. Information will be available this spring and will then go to Regional Council for consideration.

On February 26th Regional Council gave approval to Metro Transit to begin planning for a new Five Year Strategic Framework. There will be two rounds of public consultation during the preparation of the Five Year Strategic Framework, which will guide transit service improvements and changes for the next five years. The first round of public consultation will begin in June 2013. Watch for more information on opportunities to participate in shaping the future of public transit in HRM!

Get ready for spring planting in Fairview! On September 25th, Halifax Regional Council approved the Urban Forest Master Plan. The goal of the plan is to ensure a sustainable future for our urban forest and to create awareness about environmental stewardship. The plan was developed in cooperation with Dalhousie University's School for Resource and Environmental Studies (SRES) after many years of research, public engagement, workshops and reports. This year, five neighbourhood areas have been selected to take part in a pilot program to significantly increase the number of street trees planted. The pilot program will include improved tree planting and maintenance programs, as well as opportunities for volunteers to get involved. We are pleased that Fairview has been chosen as one of the five neighbourhoods. In Fairview one hundred and thirty-six new street trees will be planted along Main Avenue and Willett Street. A variety of hardy native tree species will be selected. In years to come these trees will beautify the neighbourhood and grow tall to form a protective canopy cover. Fifteen evergreens will also be planted in the HRM greenspace bordering Highway 102 and Westerwald Street. Planting starts in early April and will continue through the spring.

While we're glad to welcome spring, with it comes issues left behind by the departure of winter such as potholes, damage by snow plows, etc. To report these issues and any municipal issue, please call 3-1-1. Staff will be available from 7 am to 11 pm seven days a week except Christmas Day and New Year's Day.