

Councillor Russell Walker District 10

Halifax - Bedford Basin West



HRM Launches Open Data Catalogue

On April 10th, accessing popular city information became easier when HRM launched its open data catalogue, as part of a pilot project to release readily available, high quality data sets for public viewing, and use in the development of web and mobile based applications.

The launch of this free, online data catalogue represents the first step in an ongoing effort by members of Council to make city government more open and accessible to residents.

Seventeen data sets will be released during this phase of the pilot project including information on HRM parks, buildings, garbage and recycling collection zones, civic addresses, and transit routes and schedules. These data sets were selected because they were complete and accurate, with good data management practices already in place,

were free of personal and confidential information, and had been previously requested by HRM citizens.

HRM will be looking for feedback on additional data sets citizens would like to see released in subsequent phases of the project and is excited to engage citizens, developers, academia and industry in the development of innovative and creative applications using the initial data sets during our upcoming open data contest.

HRM's open data contest will run from July to November. Nova Scotia residents, application developers and post-secondary students will be encouraged to submit applications, or ideas for applications, using one or more of HRM's free data sets. More details on the contest will be available over the next few months in advance of the contest launch in July.

Following an evaluation of the initial data release and results of the application contest, HRM staff will bring forward a report to Regional Council with recommendations on how to move forward on expanding HRM's open data program.

To view the new online catalogue visit, data.halifax.ca

BACKYARD COMPOSTER SALE

ONE DAY ONLY !

Saturday, April 20, 2013
9 am to 3 pm

Mic Mac Mall Parking Lot
(Next to former Zellers)

\$25 each (tax included)

Payment can be made by
Cash, Debit, VISA or Mastercard

One bin per household.
HRM Residents only.
First come, first served.
Quantities are limited.



Halifax Public Gardens Reopens

Halifax Public Gardens will open its gates for regular operating hours, 8 a.m. to dusk each day, starting Monday, April 15.

Visitors to the Gardens are encouraged to enjoy the space on a lunch hour, stroll through the park area for exercise, or enjoy

the free open-air concerts on Sundays during the summer. Uncommon Grounds coffee shop in Horticultural Hall will also be open for business on April 16.

In an effort to preserve the Gardens for future generations, HRM asks that visitors please respect the “no pets, no biking, no jogging” guideline. Visitors are also reminded not to feed the ducks because this can make them dependent on an unnatural food supply and interfere with their natural migratory patterns in the fall and spring.

One of the finest surviving examples of Victorian Gardens in North America, the Halifax Public Gardens began on Common land by the Nova Scotia Horticultural Society in 1836. The Gardens was recognized as a National Historic Site in 1984.

For details on the gardens visit the website at halifaxpublicgardens.ca.

Curbside Give Away Feedback Survey

Curbside Give Away Weekend has been promoted for the last three years in HRM. It is held twice annually in conjunction with Environment Week (June) and Waste Reduction Week (October). It was modelled after highly successful events in Winnipeg and Ottawa. This year's curbside Give Away Weekends will be June 8th & 9th and October 19th & 20th.

The intent of the Give Away Weekend is to:

divert reusable items from the land fill; educate residents about the “Re-use” component of the 3 R’s; and contribute to a more sustainable HRM.

Since participation in this event is difficult to track, HRM wishes to reach out to residents to find out how the event is being received and if there is anything we can do to make it better. To participate in the survey please visit:

<http://fluidsurveys.com/s/CurbSideGiveawayFeedback/>

Nomination Call for HRM Poet Laureate

HRM is seeking nominations for the 2-year term of 2013-2015 Poet Laureate.

The position of HRM Poet Laureate will commence in late spring 2013. Know someone who might be interested? Visit the website:

halifax.ca/culture/PublicArt/PoetLaureate

HRM defines the Poet Laureate as a resident poet or spoken word artist who has achieved excellence amongst their peers and whose work is of relevance to the citizens of HRM. The Poet Laureate is an advocate for literary arts and reflects the life of HRM through their work. As an advocate for poetry, language and the arts, the Poet Laureate attends events across the Municipality to promote and attract people to the literary world.

HRM administers the Poet Laureate program including: facilitating the selection process,

including appointing the Selection Committee, collecting nominations, and providing administrative support to the Poet Laureate including publicity, promotion and project coordination.



During the spring, Municipal Operations’ staff are busy with the clean-up that the winter season leaves behind. Spring maintenance includes pothole repairs on HRM streets and roads and preparing seasonal parks for the pleasure of HRM residents and visitors. To view information about service standards and the spring clean-up schedule, please visit <http://www.halifax.ca/MunicipalOps/Spring.html>

To report issues such as potholes, street maintenance, sidewalk maintenance, graffiti, etc. please call 3-1-1.

Contact

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District 10 – Halifax - Bedford Basin West

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HRM website: <http://halifax.ca>

How could the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market have the greatest impact on our lives and our city?

Since 1750, our community has enjoyed a wonderful Farmers' Market which has served as a popular gathering place and a destination for the best of local products that Nova Scotia has to offer. You are invited to a conversation on how to make the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market YOUR Market!

Join us to see early designs and build the vision that will shape the future of the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market and the role it will play in the lives of Nova Scotians.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION – VISION AND PRINCIPLES

**THURSDAY
APRIL 18
5:30-8 PM
HALIFAX SEAPORT FARMERS' MARKET
1209 MARGINAL ROAD**

Light refreshments and snacks will be provided. Parking is available. For planning purposes, please RSVP by April 11 to Pam at pwaterhouse@portofhalifax.ca or call 426-5040. Walk-ins are welcome but seating is limited.

A second session – *Space and Programming* – will be held on May 22. Same time and location.

**MAKE IT
YOUR
MARKET**

