

Councillor Russell Walker District 10

Halifax - Bedford Basin West



HRM Proposed Budget 2014/15

Regional Council unanimously approved Halifax Regional Municipality's 2014-15 operating and project budgets on April 1, 2014. The \$845-million gross operating and \$144-million gross project budgets include a residential tax rate decrease of one cent while the urban commercial tax rate drops by 11.5 cents. The transit tax rate remains unchanged. Regional Council approved a budget that will ensure 88% of homes and 57% of commercial properties will have a tax bill this year that will be the same or lower than last year.

The general rates of taxation (per \$100 of Assessed Value) on residential property will be set at:

- \$0.658 for the urban area (Last year: \$0.668)
- \$0.625 for the suburban area (Last year: \$0.635)
- \$0.619 for the rural area (Last year: 0.629)

The general rates of taxation on commercial property (per \$100 of Assessed Value) will be set at:

- \$2.939 for the urban area (Last year: \$3.054)
- \$2.939 for the suburban area (Last year: \$3.054)
- \$2.590 for the rural area (Last year: \$2.691)

Tax rates associated with Transit (per \$100 of Assessed Value) will be set at:

- \$0.051 for the Regional Transportation tax rate (Same as last year)
- \$0.105 for the Local Transit tax rate (Same as last year)

The new budget reflects an ongoing commitment to achieve Regional Council priorities – with investment in initiatives ranging from planning for the future transit network and enhancing Metro Transit's current technology (\$8.8-million), to maintaining and improving the road network throughout the region (\$24.5-million). For more information on the approved 2014-15 budgets visit www.halifax.ca/budget.

BLT/COLTA Trails Construction

Dexter Construction, on behalf of Halifax Water, is undertaking construction activity along the BLT/COLTA trails related to the Lakeside Diversion Project.

This work will require temporary closures of the trail. Appropriate signage will be posted at trail entrance sites.

Halifax Water regrets any inconvenience these temporary closures may cause.

For more information on the Lakeside Diversion Project and for updated closures of the trail please visit www.lakesidediversion.com

Public Gardens Full Season Opens on April 10th



The Public Gardens opens for the 2014 season on Thursday, April 10. Residents and visitors will be able to visit the Gardens each day starting at 8 a.m. The Uncommon Grounds coffee shop located in the Gardens' Horticultural Hall will also be open for business starting on April 10.

Residents are encouraged to stroll through the park and enjoy the first signs of spring in one of the finest surviving examples of Victorian gardens in North America. The Halifax Public Gardens was established in 1874 by the amalgamation of two older gardens, the Nova Scotia Horticultural Society Garden, laid out in 1837 and an adjacent public park

that had opened in 1866. The Public Gardens were recognized as a National Historic Site in 1984.

Visitors to the Gardens are reminded to respect the "no pets, no biking, no jogging" guideline, in an effort to preserve the park for future generations. Visitors are also asked to not feed the ducks, as it makes them dependent on an unnatural food supply and may interfere with their natural migratory patterns in the fall and spring.

For more information on the Gardens please visit: <http://www.halifax.ca/publicgardens/>

Fairview Community Association Announces Funding

The Fairview Community Association is excited to announce that they will be receiving funding for an Action for Neighborhood Change through the United Way. This funding was secured through the tireless efforts and labors of a number of volunteers within the Fairview community. While the United Way will be partnering with the community, it was members of the community who reached out and invited the United Way to provide this funding.

So what is the Action for Neighborhood Change? In short, 'Action engages resident leaders and encourages participation through community forums, meetings and has often provided small grants to kick start a project.' The program is aimed at improving the community through sustainable development and neighborhood revitalization.

This is a very exciting opportunity for Fairview and all of its residents. With a strong partnership with an experienced organization, they are very excited at the potential and possibilities for the Fairview area. This is a five year commitment that started with a community coordinator position. They are pleased to share that the community coordinator for 2014-

2015 is Kendall O'Connor. Kendall can be contacted by email koconnor@unitedwayhalifax.ca and by phone (902)476-0262.

For more information on the United Way partnership and the ANC please visit the following links or visit the Fairview Community Association website for updates:

United Way release:

<http://www.unitedwayhalifax.ca/news-releases/december-13-2013-for-immediate-release-united-way-halifax-extends-neighbourhood-support-to-fairview-halifax-ns-united-way-halifax-is-extending-action-for-neighbourhood-change.html>

ANC:

http://www.anccommunity.ca/index_english.html

FCA: <http://fairviewcommunityassociation.com/>

foster a sense of community and positive change. Examples of interventions from other cities include: conducting rickshaw rides for seniors restricted to nursing homes, hosting public music lessons for students without access to instruments, decorating bus shelters to become more welcoming spaces and creating safer intersections in pedestrian-unfriendly areas.

HOW 100in1Day HAPPENS

Participant Workshops: Organizing an intervention begins with community members generating ideas to improve the city. Beginning in April, they will be hosting workshops throughout the city to provide guidance to individuals and groups looking to stage an intervention.

Community Organizations: To kick start the process to develop interventions, they're enlisting community organizations across HRM to contribute interventions, volunteers and cross promotion.

HOW CAN YOU BE PART OF 100in1Day?

Some of the ways partners are getting involved...

- supporting 100in1Day by spreading the message to your network
- organizing an intervention or incorporate existing events or programming into the day
- sharing volunteer call-outs
- providing in-kind donations such as space to hold a workshop, printing, skills such as workshop facilitation, photography/videography, etc

Join them in uniting for a day of active citizenship that celebrates the potential of our city!

Check out their [website](#) & [Facebook page](#) for more exciting 100in1Day details!

You can also check out this video of Copenhagen's 100in1Day, to get a sense of what's possible here in Halifax! [Copenhagen 100in1Day](#)

Website: www.100in1day.ca/halifax/

Facebook: @ [100in1Day Halifax](#)

For more information, contact Julia at 100in1DayHFX@gmail.com



On Saturday, June 7th, 2014, 100in1Day is coming to the Halifax area, and you are invited to participate!

This festival of citizen-driven action provides a platform for people to showcase their ideas for a better city in the collective launch of over one hundred acts of change, or urban interventions. Halifax will be joining cities around the globe in this grassroots phenomenon. 100in1Day began in Bogota, Columbia in 2012 and has since spread to 15 other cities, including the North American launch in Montreal in October 2013.

An urban intervention is a one-day community-based project, led by an individual, group of like-minded residents, or an organization. These projects are a fun, simple and low-cost way for people to showcase their ideas for a better city. They engage participants and on-lookers alike to

Open 7 days a week from
7:00 am to 11:00 pm
except Christmas Day and
New Year's Day



The EPIC Canadian - Run for Canada

This Canadian-themed, 10K & 5K, is the BEST way for Runners and Walkers to celebrate the biggest holiday on the Canadian calendar.

Sprint, Run, Jog, Walk, or Stroll, Celebrate your Inner-Canadian in style with your best Red & White for the kickoff event of the EPIC Multisport Canada Day Weekend 2014. Single loop courses (New for 2014!) make a better event for BOTH the fast runners off the front, AND the Families and Walkers starting near the back - no one gets passed, and no one has to navigate through a crowd.

On June 28th the 10K event starts at 8:00 AM, and the 5K? *exactly* 90 minutes later, at 9:30 AM.

To register for this event visit:

<http://epiccanadian.ca/register/>

View the video on facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=607805419296149>

Contact

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

Municipal Operations



During the spring, Municipal Operations staff is 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.

Tough winter conditions have resulted in more potholes than usual, and made it difficult to repair them immediately.

Crews are repairing potholes every day and night, as the weather permits. HRM endeavors to fill potholes on main arterials within 7 days if they are deeper than 8 cm. Potholes on streets that feed main roads are repaired next, followed by those on local streets. If you spot a potholes, please contact the Call Centre at 311. Please visit <http://www.halifax.ca/MunicipalOps/Spring.html> for information about spring maintenance.

