

# Councillor Russell Walker District 10

Halifax - Bedford Basin West



## HRM Volunteer Award Nomination Deadline Extended



Each year Halifax Regional Municipality, the Mayor and Regional Council recognize the extraordinary contributions of individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in HRM communities.

The deadline for nominations for the Volunteer Awards has been extended to **Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. If you know an outstanding individual or group making a difference in your community you can nominate them for a 2014 HRM Volunteer Award. The three award categories are adult, youth (ages 13-19) and community group. For the nomination application and to find out more information please visit [www.halifax.ca/volunteerservices](http://www.halifax.ca/volunteerservices).

## Northcliffe Site

On Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, Regional Council approved a sale agreement for 3 acres, of the approximately 16-acre site, where the building was formally located for institutional development. The zoning is parks and institutional and zoning will remain unchanged. The tennis infrastructure and programmed recreational open space are not surplus to municipal requirements and will remain for HRM recreational purposes.

## Shape your City – Shape your Budget

HRM residents are invited to contribute to the 2014 budget consultation process by participating in online engagement. Citizens are encouraged to share their thoughts on service priorities and how they would like to see their municipal tax dollars allocated. Please go to [www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/hfxtax](http://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/hfxtax) and click on the budget allocator tool found there. This allocator tool will allow you to say what municipal service you value most and where HRM needs to focus for the next budget year.

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



## Winter Hours at Public Gardens

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, the Public Gardens closed to daily visits for the winter season, and will remain closed until mid-April. However, staff will make an effort to allow limited daytime visits as weather permits. The Gardens will be open by chance Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm during the winter. If the gates are open, you are welcome to enter.

- Keep valuables out of sight.
- Don't leave high-end purchases in your vehicle.
- Don't leave laptops, cameras, cellular phones or other electronics in your vehicle.
- Report suspicious activity to police by calling 490-5020. Provide the time, location and a detailed description of the individuals. This information will help police identify suspects.
- Report thefts from vehicles, even if the item stolen is inexpensive. Knowing where, when and how a theft occurred gives investigators valuable clues and helps predict if shopping areas are becoming "hotspots" for certain types of crimes.

Practicing these easy crime prevention tips will help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime this holiday shopping season. Visit <http://www.halifax.ca/police/PublicSafety/HolidayHomeSafety.html> for more holiday safety tips



PARTNERS IN POLICING

## Holiday Shopping Tips

The holiday shopping season is in full swing. HRM Partners in Policing encourage citizens to take precautions to make their holiday shopping trips "merry and bright."

For most of us, the holiday season is a time of giving but for thieves, it's a time for stealing. They look for an easy opportunity and a vehicle full of holiday purchases is a temptation they can't resist. Stay one step ahead of thieves by following these simple tips:

- Always lock your vehicle.
- Park in well-lit, well-travelled areas.

## Keshen Goodman Library is looking for ESL/ELL Tutors

Interested in helping adults who are learning English as a Second (or additional) Language practice their English conversation or speaking skills? The Keshen Goodman Library in Halifax is looking for volunteer tutors (ages 19+).

The program takes place once a week: Tuesdays 6:30 to 8:30 pm or Wednesdays 1 to 3 pm, 3:30 to 5:30 pm or 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Here are a few ways you can volunteer:

- Visit [www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca](http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca) and click on "volunteer" at the bottom of the page
- Ask for an application at the Library

- Contact Jen Hill, Literacy Coordinator, at 490-6408 or [hillj@halifax.ca](mailto:hillj@halifax.ca)

## Best Decorated House Contest

Live in the Clayton Park Area? Submit a picture of your house on our Facebook or Twitter page for a chance to win great prizes! Winners will be announced

December 21<sup>st</sup>



Friends of Clayton Park Society



@FCPsociety



## Saturday 'Open Gym' Program in HRM Schools

Winter is no fun if you hibernate! The Halifax Regional School Board, with the provincial Department of Health and Wellness and HRM Recreation, is offering families the opportunity to come and play, **free of charge**, in five school gymnasiums across the municipality. I am pleased to say that Fairview Junior High is one of the five schools and that from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm every Saturday, beginning October 19, 2013 until May 31, 2014, school-aged children and youth, along with their parents are welcome to come and play tag, kick-ball, or anything else that might seem fun, to keep active during the cold winter months.

HRM Recreation staff will be onsite, but parents are encouraged to join the children for a game of tag! Gymnasiums will not be available during the month of December 2013, January 4, and March 15, 2014.



Winter

With winter – comes snow! Though snow and ice operations take priority during winter months, Municipal Operations continues with priority activities that are necessary in maintaining safe infrastructure and year-round municipal services.

## Radio Transmitter Lands

HRM staff is currently working on the Stage II Development Agreement for Phase I of development on the radio transmitter lands. Phase I includes the development of single unit dwellings, townhouse units, two multiple unit dwellings and the conveyance of parkland.

During the 2013/14 winter season, HRM's Traffic Authority will continue with the trial of a modified winter parking ban. The changes offer some flexibility to those who are most affected by the ban, such as shift workers, residents without a driveway and business owners, without compromising HRM's snow and ice clearing operations. The overnight parking regulations will be in effect from December 15<sup>th</sup> until March 31<sup>st</sup>, and will be enforced during declared snow and ice operations only. When in effect, the parking ban



runs from 1:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m. If you require on-street parking during the winter months, please plan ahead and find alternate parking in the event of a snow storm.

### **CityWatch phone and email notifications on the parking ban.**

HRM offers residents the option to subscribe to notifications letting them know when the overnight winter parking ban would be enforced. Residents can subscribe to our CityWatch program to receive phone and email messages by emailing [citywatch@halifax.ca](mailto:citywatch@halifax.ca) or by calling 490-7403 with the following information:

- Please indicate that you are requesting to sign up for notifications about the overnight winter parking ban
- You have the option to provide up to two phone numbers and up to two email addresses or a combination of both

Residents are asked to please not rely on notifications alone and to please also check our website, twitter feed "@hfxgov" or call our citizen contact centre by dialing 311.



### **Wondering when your ROAD will be cleared after a snow storm?**

HRM asks that residents please allow 12 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow main roads and bus routes.

HRM asks that residents please allow 24 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow residential and rural streets.

### **Wondering when your SIDEWALK will be cleared after a snow storm?**

HRM asks that residents please allow 12 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow sidewalks on main arterials.

HRM asks that residents please allow 18 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow sidewalks on school routes and bus routes.

HRM asks that residents please allow 36 hours after the end of a snowfall for crews to plow sidewalks on residential and rural streets.

For more information on snow operations including snow standards and snow safety tips visit:

<http://www.halifax.ca/snow/>

### **Party on the Parade CTV & HRM are celebrating New Year's Eve 2013!**



**DECEMBER 31, 2013  
9:30 pm - 12:30 am  
GRAND PARADE**

Join the hosts of CTV Morning Live for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the region's largest New Year's Eve gathering – *Party on the Parade*. It's a free, two-and-a-half hour concert in Halifax's Grand Parade featuring high-energy entertainers from around the Maritimes.



## Lacewood Transit Terminal

The first phase of construction has now begun on the new Lacewood Transit Terminal. The terminal will be located along Lacewood Drive, between the Canada Games Centre and the Mainland North Linear Parkway Trail. The entrance to the terminal will be directly across from Radcliffe Drive. The contractor will be working this winter to clear and fill the site.

## Free Designated Driver Service on New Year's Eve!

Ring in the New Year with Metro Transit by taking the ferry, bus, or Access-A-Bus on us.

Bus & Access-A-Bus: 8:30 pm to 2:00 am (check schedules for last trip times)

Alderney Ferry: 8:30 pm – 1:45 am (last departure from Halifax)

MetroLink and Metro X services excluded

Visit

<http://www.halifax.ca/metrotransit/SpecialEvents.html> for more information.

## Free Transit Service for Seniors on Tuesdays

In August 2012, HRM Regional Council approved a motion to offer transit service free to HRM residents 65 and older for parts of Tuesday afternoons and evenings. As such, seniors can travel free of charge on Tuesdays, from 10 am to 3:30 pm and after 6 pm on regular bus and ferry services, including Community Transit. MetroX, MetroLink and Access-A-Bus services are excluded from the program.

Seniors who qualify for free travel should carry proper photo identification as the operator may ask for proof of age.

## Public Voting for Apps4Halifax People's Choice Award has begun



HRM wants to know which HRM-focused applications entered in the Apps4Halifax Open Data Contest you'll be downloading to your computer or mobile device.

Public voting for the People's Choice Awards in the Apps4Halifax Open Data Contest began on December 2, 2013 and runs until January 6, 2014. Residents are invited to visit [www.apps4halifax.ca](http://www.apps4halifax.ca) to try out the apps and then choose their favourite in each category through an online vote, giving the app developers a chance to win 1 of 4 \$1,000 cash prizes. The People's Choice Award winners will be announced on January 8, 2014.

Thirty-eight (38) apps were entered in the app development contest, which closed on Friday, November 29. To be eligible, apps had to have used at least one dataset from HRM's Open Data Catalogues and fit within at least one of the four categories: Keep 'er Movin', Live it Up, Go Green or Your City. There will be five cash prizes awarded in each category for a total of \$44,000: Gold - \$5,000, Silver - \$3,000, Bronze - \$1,000, Top Student App - \$1,000, and People's Choice - \$1,000. The contest is open to all Nova Scotia residents and full contest rules are on the contest website. Students and startup companies who built an app using Esri

Canada's ArcGIS technology are also eligible to enter the Maps in Apps Student and Startup challenges for a chance to win additional prize packages.

The Apps4Halifax contest was created to encourage public engagement and inspire the development of user-friendly applications for Nova Scotia citizens using HRM open data. The Open Data Pilot, launched earlier this year enables public viewing and use of a selection of HRM datasets free of charge for a 12-month period. For more information about the Apps4Halifax contest, visit [www.Apps4Halifax.ca](http://www.Apps4Halifax.ca) or follow @hfxgov on Twitter, #apps4hfx.

## Civic Event Grants

The 2014/15 grant application is now open and closes Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 noon. Please note that there will only be one intake for the 2014/15 fiscal year due to implementation of a new granting structure. The Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline is the only deadline for 2014/15.

HRM supports events that build communities, foster good community relations, develop local economy and tourism industry, and enrich the quality of life for all residents and visitors.

Preference will be given to events which:

- are free to the public.
- are run by non-profit organizations.
- have a broad appeal.

There are three funding programs for which you can apply:

- Festival and Events Grant Program
- Summer Festivals Grant Program
- Marketing Levy Special Events Reserve

For more information about the Civic Event Grants, please visit

<http://www.halifax.ca/events/grants.html>

## New Year's Eve at the Emera Oval



6:00 - 7:00 pm - Family event - skating and fireworks

9:30 pm - midnight - Open Skate -

## Contact

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District 10 – Halifax - Bedford Basin West  
Phone: 902-497-7215  
HRM website: <http://www.halifax.ca>



Happy  
Holidays!

My wife, Cheryl and I extend best wishes for a happy holiday season and a healthy, safe and prosperous New Year!