

Councillor Russell Walker District 10

Halifax - Bedford Basin West



Spring & Summer Registration for Recreation Programs



As of February 26, 2014, you can register online for recreation programs. Take advantage of over 8,000 recreation programs available throughout the year! Get out, get active, and have some fun!

To find out more information about the Spring and Summer Programs and to register visit <http://www.halifax.ca/rec/ProgramsandActivities.html>

Nova Scotia's Heating Assistance Rebate Program 2013/14

If you need assistance with the cost of heating your home or apartment Access NS has a Heating Assistance Rebate (HARP) Program. The deadline for applying is March 31st, 2014. You must be able to show that you paid the bill and that you are applying for a rebate from this program.

It is really worth checking to see if you are eligible. The Program distributes rebates to low-to-modest income Nova Scotians to help with the cost of heating.

This program offers a one-time rebate cheque of up to \$200. Single people with a net income of \$27,000 or less, or households of two or more with a net income of \$42,000 or less can qualify for this rebate. Seniors who receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement or applicants who receive Income Assistance from the Department of Community Services also qualify. You can access the information at www.accessns.ca.

HRM Community Grant Program

HRM is now accepting applications for the 2014-2015 Community Grants Program. The deadline for applying is March 31st, 2014. Application forms and program guidebooks are available on-line at www.halifax.ca/grants, by calling 311 or from one of HRM's Citizen Contact Centres.

The HRM Community Grants Program is a centralized program that provides annual grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout HRM. There are two types of grants: (1) a project grant of up to \$5,000 and (2) a capital grant of up to \$25,000. Grants are one-time and project-specific within the following funding sectors: Environment; Recreation & Leisure; Affordable & Supportive Housing; Emergency Assistance; Neighborhood Safety; Community History; Community Diversity; and Arts & Crafts.

For information see:

www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/CommunityGrantsProgram.html.

Solar City Program is Accepting New Registrants

Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) is pleased to announce that it is opening its Solar City Program to a limited number of new registrants beginning Monday, March 3, 2014. Residents can register on line at: www.halifax.ca/solarcity. The program allows eligible homeowners in HRM to finance solar water heating systems through the municipality.

Through the Solar City Program homeowners in HRM may finance these solar water heating systems through a new solar collector account with the HRM. In order for this to happen, the Province of Nova Scotia amended the HRM Charter to allow for

the financing of any energy or environmental improvements through the municipality. By mid-February 2014, over 250 homes will have participated in the Solar City Program; by comparison, in 2012, just 52 homes in HRM had solar systems installed. As of mid-January, over 1,000 homes have had a free solar assessment.

Upcoming Events at the Oval



C100 Skating under the Stars

Friday, March 7, 2014
from 7 to 9 pm

Lace up your skates for fresh air and rosy cheeks. Grab the kids and the long-johns - C100 will have the tunes! Don't miss C100's Skating Under the Stars at the Emera Oval! You could win tickets to Investors Group *Stars On Ice* Presented by Lindt - April 25th at Halifax Metro Centre. Join C100 for some free family fun.



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

We Can Help!
3-1-1
HRM SERVICES

Fairview Family Centre Offers Free Women's Yoga



FREE Women's Yoga starting Friday, March 7th at 1:30 pm. The classes are for all ages and beginners. The classes will take place every Friday afternoon at the Fairview Family Centre (across from the

Giant Tiger) 3424 Dutch Village Road (lower level). The facility has parking and is wheelchair accessible. Unsupervised playroom is available for children. Call 443-9569 for more info.

Zebra Crosswalks to be installed across HRM



Halifax Regional Council has approved new markings for crosswalks without lights.

The plan is to paint zebra crossings at all crosswalks that do not have flashing lights or are not part of major intersections. This work should be in the Spring/Summer 2014.

The bold, white painted lines have been popular in larger cities and should help make Halifax intersections safer for pedestrians.

Halifax Public Libraries' Home Delivery Service

The Library's Home Delivery Service operating out of the Halifax North Memorial Public Library has space for new clients living in the Halifax Peninsula, Clayton Park and Bedford areas of HRM. This service is available to residents who are unable to visit a library branch due to disability, long-term illness, or caregiver responsibilities. Library materials are delivered to your home every three weeks by Library staff, free of charge. You can request specific items or have library staff help you choose books (including large print), magazines, audio-books and DVDs.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about Home Delivery, please call 490-5725.

Calling for Nominations! The Order of Nova Scotia



The Order of Nova Scotia is the highest honour of the Province of Nova Scotia. Established in 2001, it encourages excellence by recognizing Nova Scotians for outstanding contributions or achievements.

Members of the Order of Nova Scotia have distinguished themselves in many fields of endeavour and have brought honour and prestige to themselves and to Nova Scotia.

The province is asking for submissions for the 2014 Order of Nova Scotia program. Please visit <http://novascotia.ca/iga/order.asp> to download a nomination form. **The closing date for submissions is Friday, March 21st, 2014.**

Halifax Celebrates Earth Hour



Lights out! Join us this Earth Hour and help make a difference on March 29, 2014 from 8:30-9:30pm.

Reducing energy use saves money and reduces our contribution to climate

change all at the same time! Earth Hour is a grassroots initiative that began 8 years ago as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia and has since expanded to more than 7000 cities and towns worldwide. Earth Hour encourages individuals, businesses and communities to turn off non-essential lights for one hour as a visual symbolic act showing their commitment to the planet and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. HRM has participated in Earth Hour since 2009. Halifax Regional Council has committed to participating in this event by directing staff to turn off non-essential lights in municipal buildings during Earth Hour.

Like the idea of saving on energy costs? Check out Efficiency Nova Scotia for more ways to save through their free programs: www.energycns.ca

Did you know?

Halifax Regional Council has adopted a target to reduce corporate greenhouse gas emissions to 30% below 2008 levels by 2020. Find out more here: <http://www.halifax.ca/environment/documents/CorporateGreenhouseGasEmissionsReductionPlan2012Update.pdf>



HRM is calling on organizations and community groups to register their events for Bike Week 2014,

taking place June 6 – 15. The registration deadline to ensure the event is included in printed promotional material is midnight, April 7, 2014.

The HRM Bike Week committee made up of staff, individuals and groups with an interest in promoting cycling, are offering Bike Week event grants. The application deadline for the grants is midnight, March 16, 2014. This grant program exists to encourage and support groups in hosting Bike Week events within their own communities, and to ensure events align with HRM Bike Week goals and objectives. Grants are available in amounts up to \$150 each, and the funding may be used for food, equipment, promotion, prizes, and speaker honorariums. A limited number of 'special' grants of up to \$2,000 each will be considered this year. These special grants will only be awarded to events that can produce high attendance numbers, present unique opportunities in HRM, or capture this year's theme, which is youth. To register an event and/or to apply for a grant, visit www.halifax.ca/bikeweek.

HRM Bike Week is a ten day-long community event that aims to celebrate all forms of cycling, improve awareness of cycling safety and education as well as increase the numbers of people cycling throughout the region. There is something for everyone, even for those who do not own a bike. HRM's Active Transportation Plan supports Bike Week and aims to encourage people of all ages and abilities to get outside and be more active. Last year's Bike Week welcomed over 6,000 participants to approximately 60 events.

Contact

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