

**COUNCILLOR RUSSELL WALKER**  
DISTRICT 10 ONLINE NEWS  
HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

## Participate in the Centre Plan Public Consultation Process

The Halifax Regional Municipality is pleased to have initiated the next phase of the Centre Plan public consultation process, one of the most exciting and impactful municipal planning processes to be undertaken since the HRMbyDesign Downtown Plan approved in 2009.

The Centre Plan is phase three of HRMbyDesign, following the establishment of the overall Regional Centre vision and principles in phase one and the creation of the Downtown Halifax Plan in phase two. Taken as a whole, the three phases present a vision of a dense, livable and prosperous Regional Centre (Dartmouth and Halifax urban core) that will create sustained social, economic and environmental benefits across the entire municipality.

The objective of the Centre Plan is to consolidate existing municipal planning strategies and land use by-laws for the Regional Centre into one combined policy and by-law set. Many of these documents are out of date, and do not reflect existing or forecasted

social, environmental and economic conditions. New policies will protect the scale and character of existing neighbourhoods while removing existing barriers to well-designed and appropriately scaled development.

Residents are invited to engage in this phase of the Centre Plan public consultation process by visiting <http://shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/centre-plan>.

Through the online portal, residents can review project background and research material, and provide feedback through questions and answers and comments in the discussion forums section of the site.

More details on the broader public consultation program will be available in the coming weeks, with the first events anticipated in early 2016. Stay tuned to <http://shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/centre-plan> for the most up-to-date project information.

We look forward to listening to residents' ideas and feedback throughout this project as we shape new, clear and predictable policies that will allow us to collectively build better communities.



## Annual Fall Leaf Cleanup Program



Autumn is in full swing in the Halifax region and residents are once again encouraged to help city staff keep the

streets, sidewalks and public walkways clear of fallen leaves.

The annual Fall Leaf Cleanup Program began on Monday, November 16. Crews will be collecting and removing the leaves from streets in the heavily treed areas of the former City of Halifax first, and as required in other areas of the urban core boundary of the Halifax region. This service will happen only once on a street-by-street basis.

The municipality is asking for your cooperation to efficiently complete this program. Temporary No Parking signs will be placed in neighbourhoods prior to cleanup in that area. In order to facilitate proper cleanup, residents are asked to abide by those signs and not park on the street.

The potential for street flooding is greatly increased when catch basins are clogged with leaves and debris. Residents are also asked to respect municipal by-laws that prohibit the sweeping or depositing of leaves along the gutter of the street or in the roadway.

Cleanup on private property is the responsibility of the property owner. Leaves and yard waste are collected on regular green cart (organics) collection

weeks. Leaves and yard waste are permitted in the green cart and any excess should be placed in large paper bags.

Each household or business can place a maximum of 20 bags at the curb on their respective collection days. Each bag should weigh no more than 25 kilograms (55 pounds). Residents are reminded that grass clippings are not accepted in the green bin or bags. For tips on grasscycling, visit <http://www.halifax.ca/recycle/grasscycling.php>.

For more information on the Fall Leaf Cleanup Program and other municipal services, please visit [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca) or call 311.

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## Municipality will accept Excess Leaf and Yard Waste in Plastic Bags

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that effective immediately clear and orange plastic bags, in addition to large paper bags, will be accepted for the curbside collection of excess leaf and yard waste materials.

Excess leaf and yard waste materials were to be placed curbside in paper bags only as part of a number of amendments to By-law S-600 *Respecting Solid Waste Collection and Disposal*, that came into effect on August 1, 2015. However, the program changes have been so successful that local retailers have been unable to keep up with high demand for the large paper bags, and we understand residents are struggling to properly prepare this material for collection curbside.



## COUNCILLOR RUSSELL WALKER

HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

The municipality will reintroduce the requirement to use only large paper bags for excess leaf and yard waste in the spring 2016. This will allow more time for our retailers to ensure they can maintain an adequate supply of bags for sale throughout the region.

We wish to thank residents for their continued cooperation and participation in our solid waste management program. For more information on proper preparation of leaf and yard waste materials, please visit [www.halifax.ca/recycle](http://www.halifax.ca/recycle).

### HRM Volunteer Awards

Each year the 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 our communities.

If you know someone who should be receiving one of these awards, check out the full criteria and nomination information on our [website](#).

Make sure to have your nominations in by December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for consideration.



Open 7 days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. (except Christmas Day & New Year's Day)

### Seniors Snow Removal Program



Registration for the Seniors' Snow Removal Program has started. The application is available online now at

[www.ymcahrm.ns.ca](http://www.ymcahrm.ns.ca) and the number to call is 902-483-3678.

**Application Deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.** This is a first come first served process, if the maximum is met before the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline the program will close. It is important that only applications with proper documentation will be considered for the program.

### Residential Property Tax Exemption

The program is now open for the current 2015/16 fiscal year. Halifax Regional Municipality can help homeowners pay their property tax through a payment plan, a property tax rebate, or deferral of property taxes (payment is put off to a later date). These programs are available to all homeowners with a combined household income of \$32,000 or less a year who live within the boundary of Halifax Regional Municipality. There are different programs to choose from depending on a person's needs. It is important that you know what choices exist.



## COUNCILLOR RUSSELL WALKER

HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

You can have your exemption award direct deposited to your bank account by completing the payment registration form and returning it with your application and a **Void Cheque**.

The [2015-16 Residential Property Tax Exemption Application form](#) and a [Guide](#) are available each year from HRM Customer Service Centers, the HRM Call Centre, the HRM Financial Services Department and on this website. Each year an advertisement is placed in the newspaper to inform the public that the program is open for applications. After you have filed your personal income tax for the current income tax year 2014 filed in April 2015 and have received the Notice of Assessment back from Canada Customs and Revenue Agency confirming your income, you can then complete your application. **A copy of this must be submitted with your application form as confirmation of income is required.** For more information about the program visit <http://www.halifax.ca/taxes/exemption/>

### Contact

Russell Walker, Councillor  
District 10 – Halifax - Bedford Basin West  
P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5  
Phone: 902-497-7215  
Email: [russell.walker@halifax.ca](mailto:russell.walker@halifax.ca)  
HRM website:  
<http://www.halifax.ca/District10/index.php>

Please click the link to [UNSUBSCRIBE](#).



The YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth personally invites you to

### YMCA Open House for Peace

**Saturday, November 21**

**11:00 - 1:00 pm**

YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs  
65 Main Avenue, Halifax

Join us for a peace inspired community event free for all ages.

Together, we'll participate in peaceful activities including arts and crafts for the kids, learn songs of peace, and enjoy snacks and refreshments. The YMCA will also present the YMCA Peace Medallion to a local peacemaker.

Please RSVP to [sarah\\_ernest@ymca.ca](mailto:sarah_ernest@ymca.ca) by November 19, 2015.

[ymca.ca/peaceweek](http://ymca.ca/peaceweek)

### Heating Assistance Rebate Program

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) provides help to lower-income Nova Scotians with the cost of home heating. You qualify for this program if you pay a heating bill at your current address and meet ONE of the following criteria:

- live alone with an income of \$27,000 or less;
- live with others and have a combined income of \$42,000 or less;
- receive Income Assistance from the Department of Community Services; or,
- receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement from Service Canada.

HARP applications are now available! Please find the HARP 2015-16 application form [here](#).

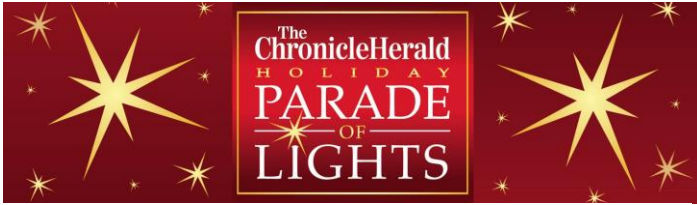
**You must apply by March 31, 2016 to receive a rebate.**



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### Holiday Parade of Lights



The 20th Annual Chronicle Herald Holiday Parade of Lights presented by Eastlink takes place on **Saturday, November 21, 2015** in downtown Halifax. Join the fun as we kick off the holiday season with a festive parade full of lights, music and entertainment...and a visit from Santa Claus! The parade will be broadcast live on Eastlink TV. Don't forget to bring a donation of non-perishable food or cash for FEED Nova Scotia, a new, unwrapped children's toy for the C100/Cineplex Toy Drive, and your letter to Santa for Canada Post! In celebrating the parade's 20th anniversary we are pleased to present the first **Red Nose Run presented by Subway**, a pre-parade fun run open to runners and walkers of all ages! Email questions to [parade@herald.ca](mailto:parade@herald.ca).

The Chronicle Herald Holiday Parade of Lights presented by Eastlink takes place in downtown Halifax. The Parade begins on Upper Water Street south of the CFB Halifax Dockyard and continues onto Barrington Street via the Cogswell Interchange. The Parade continues on Barrington Street and turns right onto Spring Garden Road, continuing along Spring Garden Road and turning left onto South Park Street. The Parade turns right from South Park Street onto University Avenue, past the IWK Children's Hospital, and ends at the corner of University Avenue and Robie Street.

For more information about the Parade of Lights visit: <http://holidayparadeoflights.ca/>

### 2015 Halifax Christmas Tree Lighting

The 2015 Halifax Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, November 28, 2015 from 6-7 pm at the Grand Parade in Downtown Halifax. A FREE Christmas event for the whole family! The event has something for all ages including a live dance party with Shrek's favourite cat – Puss in Boots, the Big Fish Band, a visit from Santa Claus, lighting of the Christmas tree, and fireworks.



Don't have time to take in the entire event? Here is the schedule so you can plan accordingly!

- 6 to 6:30 pm Enjoy the live stage show.
- 6:30 to 7 pm Sing along to your favourite Christmas tunes!!
- 7 pm The event finishes with a bang as Santa comes on stage to help light the Halifax Christmas tree and ignite an amazing fireworks show!!!

Food donations of non-perishable food or cash will be accepted at the event for Feed Nova Scotia. For more information about the event, visit: <http://www.halifax.ca/events/HRMChristmasTreeLighting.php>

# HALIFAX