

### **HRM Volunteer Awards**

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. Individuals or groups can be nominated by someone in their community by filling out the HRM Nomination Form. The 2014 Award Nomination Forms are now available. For a copy of the form or more information on the awards, please visit the website at <http://www.halifax.ca/volunteerservices/awards/index.html>. All nominations are due by Friday, December 13, 2013.

### **Moving Forward Together - The Metro Transit Five Year Plan**

Over the next few months, Metro Transit will be asking some fundamental questions about how our community values transit, and how it should grow in the future. The consultation process will include public events, a survey, an online discussion forum and a website that offers residents an opportunity to share their thoughts on where Metro Transit should focus its resources in developing the transit system over the next five years. If you are unavailable to attend one of the public sessions, you can submit your feedback at <http://shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/transit-service-plan> or send a written submission to [movingforward@halifax.ca](mailto:movingforward@halifax.ca).

### **HRM Launches New Online Community Engagement Tool**

HRM has launched a new community engagement tool that provides innovative and more flexible options for residents to share their thoughts on HRM initiatives. The Shape Your City Halifax Community Engagement Hub will increase opportunities for meaningful dialogue with residents. This engagement tool takes online interaction to an important new level. HRM's Shape Your City Halifax Community Engagement Hub will be used to host information, feedback, and discussions regarding initiatives HRM has identified as having a public engagement component. The first project to be hosted on the new engagement hub is the Metro Transit Five-Year Service Plan. In addition to background material on the project and a schedule for public meetings, the site also features an online discussion forum, a survey with embedded videos, and interactive questions and answers. Another initiative that will soon be highlighted on the site is the Solid Waste Strategy Review. This project is in the initial stages of the consultation process and in the coming days HRM plans to share information and garner feedback regarding this important initiative. Residents interested in participating in the latest option for community engagement are encouraged to visit <http://shapeyourcityhalifax.ca> and register.

## **Curbside Give Away Weekend**

Curbside Give Away is a bi-annual event that promotes diversion of reusable items from landfill by offering items for others to claim. Since participation in Curbside Give Away is difficult to track, HRM wishes to reach out to residents via an on-line survey, 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, visit <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/CurbSideGiveawayFeedback>.

Fall is here, so it is time for many of us to reduce our homes clutter, give someone the chance to reuse things you no longer need, by recycling your clean and working goods. The next dates are Saturday & Sunday, October 19th & 20th. Visit [www.halifax.ca/wrms/CGAW.html](http://www.halifax.ca/wrms/CGAW.html) for more details on this year's event.

## **Tax Exemptions for Non-Profit Organizations**

HRM can help some non-profit organizations reduce their level of property tax through the Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Program. It is available only to actively registered non-profit and charitable organizations located within HRM. Application deadline is November 30th. You can find details of the program on our website [www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/TaxExemptionsforNon-ProfitOrganziations.html](http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/TaxExemptionsforNon-ProfitOrganziations.html). A reminder that it is mandatory for organizations already enrolled in this program to re-apply annually in order to maintain their tax exemption status.