

#### INPUT ON HRM BUDGET DEBATES

The general public will have an opportunity to speak directly with Regional Council as it deliberates the HRM 2015-16 Budget. There will be some dedicated public time at the end of each Committee of the Whole (COW) debate for citizens to comment on particular program subjects that are the topic of that particular Budget meeting. The proposed schedule for each of the business units & program services to present their respective budgets before HRM Council COW is:

FISCAL DIRECTION	October 21st, 2014
PRIORITY DISCUSSION	November 18th, 2014
CAPITAL BUDGET	December 3rd, 2014
CAO, GOVERNANCE & LEGAL SERVICES	January 14th, 2015
HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, INFO - COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY	January 21st, 2015
POLICE, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	January 28th, 2015
TRANSIT	February 4th, 2015
PARKS & RECREATION, PUBLIC LIBRARIES	February 11th, 2015
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS	February 18th, 2015
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	February 25th, 2015
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES	March 4th, 2015
FISCAL & CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS	March 11th, 2015
FINAL BUDGET – FULL REVIEW	March 24th, 2015
	March 31st, 2015 (if necessary)

Dates could change due to inclement weather or Council demands on its schedule. Please check with the HRM Clerks Office at [clerks@halifax.ca](mailto:clerks@halifax.ca) or call 311 for the most up to date Budget Debate listings.

#### TRANSIT MOVING FORWARD INPUT

Halifax Transit will be asking for more public input on its "Moving Forward Together" Strategic Plan. They are now focussing on a concept that uses elements of a transfer based transit model that can be best adapted to our municipality's geography and road network. It will also build on some of the most successful services and routes currently operating in the network. Hopefully more Metro-Link and Metro-X Park & Ride Terminals will be considered.

It is now anticipated that a draft plan will be released January 16th, 2015 and a robust multifaceted consultation will take place in early 2015. The extended public input window to garner more advice and opinions ought to be a 6 to 10 week exercise. This will allow Halifax Transit staff to facilitate a larger consultation process that will include more opportunities for participation. Stay tuned for more details at [www.halifax.ca/movingforwardtogether/](http://www.halifax.ca/movingforwardtogether/).

#### ICE, SNOW & WINTER MAINTENANCE

The NS Dept. of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal (NSDTIR) does most of the snow removal, ice control and winter road maintenance services in District 2. Our local NS Highway Depots are in West Chezzetcook at 902-827-2544 and in Spry Bay at 902-885-2821. The communities of North Preston, Westphal, and all of the subdivision streets in the Lawrencetown area are done under the auspices of HRM. If you have any concerns about our Snow and Ice Control winter road maintenance, please call the HRM Contact Centre at 311. Drivers can get up-to-date road conditions across Nova Scotia by calling the SNOW-line: 1-800-307-SNOW (7669) or 511 or 1-888-432-3233 or 902-424-3933 or online at <http://novascotia.ca/tran/winter/> and click on the Road & Weather Report Icon Button. The SNOW-line is updated regularly at 7 AM, 1 PM and 5 PM or more frequently in case of a major storm event. For information about Halifax Winter Road Maintenance visit: [www.halifax.ca/MunicipalOps/Winter/index.php](http://www.halifax.ca/MunicipalOps/Winter/index.php). Be sure to have proper tires and emergency supplies on hand in your vehicle. Please drive carefully this winter season.

#### WILLIAM P. OLIVER WALL OF HONOUR

Each year the Black Cultural Society of Nova Scotia hosts the annual Rev. Dr. William P. Oliver Wall of Honour Night at the Black Cultural Centre (BCC) as recognition and in memory of the works of Rev. Dr. Oliver. He exemplified what is meant to be a "community leader." Members of the Society are invited to send nominations to the Selection Committee for consideration of this annual award. Nominations are open until early January. The Night of Honour will be held in early February at the BCC in Cherry Brook. For more details, go to: [www.bccns.com](http://www.bccns.com) or their Facebook Page or call them at 902-434-6223

#### ESMCHB DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

The Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Community Health Board (ESMCHB) has funding available to support local groups and organizations to improve the health of our communities. The purpose of the Community Development Fund is to encourage community groups to address health issues, establish partnerships with other organizations, create solutions, and build healthier communities. If you have an idea or would like an application form, please call the office at 902-889-4118, send an e-mail to the ESMCHB Co-ordinator: [Monique.mullins-roberts@cdha.nshealth.ca](mailto:Monique.mullins-roberts@cdha.nshealth.ca) or go online to: [www.cdha.nshealth.ca/eastern-shore-musquodoboit-community-health-board/documents](http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/eastern-shore-musquodoboit-community-health-board/documents). Apply by Friday, Jan.16th, 2015.

#### HERITAGE VILLAGE TO GET V.E.E.P.

Heritage Village in Lake Charlotte will be getting some technical upgrades to implement its Visitor Experience Enhancement Project (VEEP). Technology infrastructure will include the installation of Wi-Fi Fibre Op connections and Quick Response (QR) smart tag codes. These technologies will allow visitors to scan QR Codes with smart phones to view multi-media re-enacted productions of how specific artifacts were used in daily life. This was all made possible by tripartite funding from the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments broken down as follows: \$210,550 from the ACOA Innovative Communities Fund; \$61,375 from the NS Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage; \$63,994 from the NS Department of Economic & Rural Development & Tourism; \$19,000 from the HRM Community Grants Program and \$21,000 from various Councillors. I want to thank the following Councillors who joined me in giving some of their own District Capital Funds towards this project: Barry Dalrymple, Bill Karsten, Lorelei Nicoll, Gloria McCluskey, Darren Fisher, Matt Whitman, Reg Rankin, Steve Craig and Tim Outhit. We all see this particular project as having regional significance for tourism. For more information about events and activities at Heritage Village in Lake Charlotte go to: <http://heritagevillage.ca/home/index.php/site/index>.

#### LAKE CHARLOTTE LAUNCH UPDATE

The new public boat launch site in Lake Charlotte may be completed by this Autumn. Delays were due to securing the necessary permits from the Federal Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) and NS Dept. of Environment (NSDOE). With the exceptionally dry weather this past summer the lake is at its lowest levels in years. HRM has been granted an extension on its permits until November 30th to allow construction of the concrete slipway. The tender (#14-255) for this work was issued and closed October 2nd. Two bids were received. Once awarded, the successful contractor will have to commence work as soon as possible in order to take advantage of the current climatic conditions. If the weather changes for the worse and we experience excessive rains, then the project may have to be suspended until next summer.

#### PEACE ON EARTH & GOODWILL TO ALL

My wife Susan and I want to wish everyone the very best of this Holiday Season. During this joyful time of year there are many types of spiritual and cultural celebrations: Merry Christmas, Joyeux Noel, Season's Greetings, Happy Hanukkah, Al Hijra, and Kwanza. The message for Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All is universal. Have yourself a blessed time with your families, friends and neighbours. May we all strive for peace, tranquillity and harmony in our daily lives. Remember those who may be less fortunate or are experiencing hardship and despair. Please give to your local food bank. Or give the gift of life and donate blood. May all of us be blessed with good health, happiness and prosperity throughout the New Year.

