

INPUT VIA BUDGET ALLOCATOR

As a resident of HRM, you're invited to contribute to the 2015-16 Budget Consultation process by sharing your thoughts on service priorities and how you'd like to see municipal tax dollars allocated. You can provide feedback through this online community engagement hub: www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/hfxtax.

HRM has an on-line tool, the Budget Allocator: <http://halifaxtax.budgetallocator.com/>, which provides people with a unique glimpse into the experience of balancing the city's budget. It allows you to simulate adjusting the municipal tax dollars allocated to various services like transit, property development, parks, recreation, libraries, garbage collection, governance, fire and policing services – and see the potential impact this has on both service delivery and the overall budget. How would you spend the current municipal budget? This online option is open from early October until late November. If there's sufficient demand to warrant an extension, then this online survey process could continue on into early December.

14TH HRM VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

One way that the municipality recognizes and supports its local volunteers is through its Annual HRM Volunteer Conference. This year marks the 14th year which provides valuable networking and learning opportunities for local volunteers. Volunteering contributes towards public safety, fosters good neighbours and builds great neighbourhoods. The conference will be held on Friday & Saturday November 21st & 22nd at the Dartmouth Harbourview Holiday Inn. www.halifax.ca/volunteerservices/VolunteerConference.php. If you have any questions about the conference call Darren Hirtle at 902-869-4755 or find information on the web site: hrmvolunteerservices@halifax.ca

HRM VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2015

Each year the 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 Nomination Form. Please read the nomination criteria (on the form) carefully before filling it out. The 2015 Award Nomination Forms are now available at: www.halifax.ca/volunteerservices/awards/index.php There are two options for submitting a nominee: Make a submission online or download a PDF form to print and complete and then mail or drop it off at locations listed on the form. Nominate worthy individuals in the adult, youth or community group categories. If you would like a hard copy of the nomination application mailed to you, please contact

Phil Hammond at 902-869-4018 or hammonp@halifax.ca. Deadline for nominations is Friday, December 12th, 2014.

NON-PROFIT TAX EXEMPTIONS

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. Information about the program is available at: www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/TaxExemptionforNon-ProfitOrganizationsReview.php. A reminder that it is mandatory for all previously registered entities already enrolled in this program to re-apply annually in order to maintain their tax exemption status.

VOLUNTEER BOARDS & COMMITTEES

HRM is looking for citizens to serve on a number of municipal Advisory Boards and Committees. To review these opportunities, please check this web page link: www.halifax.ca/boardscom/Volunteer.php. Apply by Friday, November 14th, 2014.

LOCAL WATERSHED STUDIES DONE

As a part of the Regional Plan Strategy, community watershed reports will become a mandatory step as a prerequisite study that must be undertaken before any area embarks on Community Visioning and Secondary Planning Processes. Go to www.halifax.ca/planHRM for more details. To date we have had 4 such studies done in our District. Here is a list of links to each of the community areas:

Musquodoboit Harbour: www.halifax.ca/visionhrm/MusquodoboitHarbour/documents/MusquodoboitHarbourJune192014.pdf
Porters Lake / West Chezzetcook: www.halifax.ca/planhrm/documents/101015.00-RE-002-PortersLakeFinalReport5Sept2013.pdf
Lake Echo / Mineville: www.halifax.ca/boardscom/hhcwab/documents/LakeEchoWatershedStudy.pdf
North Preston / East Preston / Lawrencetown: www.halifax.ca/planHRM/documents/20140902PrestonFinalReport.pdf

For more details contact HRM Staff: Cameron Deacoff – Environmental Performance Officer at 902-490-1926 or 902-476-0363 or by email at cameron.deacoff@halifax.ca or the PlanHRM Facebook page for more information.

VETERANS' WEEK OBSERVATIONS

This year, from November 5th - 11th, hundreds of commemorative ceremonies and events will take place across our country to commemorate Veterans'

Week. These are opportunities for all Canadians to recognize the contribution our Veterans have made and to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of Canada. There are so many ways to remember and honour our Veterans: wear a poppy; attend a local Remembrance Day ceremony; thank a Veteran by sending a postcard for peace; talk to a friend or relative who served with the Canadian Armed Forces in Afghanistan or in other areas of conflict; view the "Heroes Remember" videos and listen to Veterans talk about their experiences. However you choose to remember, be sure to share it with everyone you know. Together, it is our duty to pass on our gratitude and keep the legacy and memories of our Canadian Veterans alive. Our deep military history and way of life recognizes the need for us to remember the sacrifices made by those who fought for our liberty, peace, security and freedom. This Veterans' Week, take time to remember them, and at the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month take time out and observe a two minute moment of silence. Thank you!

14 DAYS IN DECEMBER – 22 YEARS

It has been more than two decades since the Peace in Our Communities – Gentle Ways Are Best campaign first started - www.14days.ca. This year's tree lighting celebrations will be held during the first week of December at the Lake Echo Community Centre, Porters Lake Elementary School and Musquodoboit Harbour Railway Museum.

SENIORS SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

There is a snow removal referral program available to seniors (65 years of age or older) and for persons with disabilities in HRM. The program is NOT available to landlords. You must reside in a single dwelling home that you own or rent. Its mandate is to provide a resource to clients for the removal of snow for safe access. The program is limited to those households with a combined total income not exceeding \$30,000. To make more enquiries about this program, please call the HRM Contact Centre at 311 or the YMCA at 1-902-457-0938 or 902-483-3678. Or go to these web sites for further details: www.halifax.ca/snow/seniorssnow.php and www.ymcahrm.ns.ca/Portals/o/SRP%20Details%20and%20Application%20Form%20-%20202014.pdf. Registration deadline is December 1st or sooner depending upon the demand. Applicants will be placed on a list based on a first come, first serve basis.

