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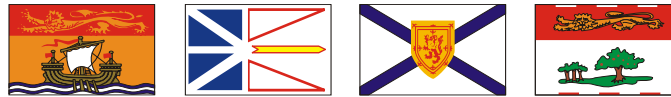
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## Downtowns Atlantic Canada (DAC) established



The Downtown Business Improvement Area Associations of Atlantic Canada held a meeting in Moncton on December 3rd, 2009. Representatives from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island joined together to sign a Memorandum of Understanding which will outline the benefits that downtowns contribute to our individual communities and to the provinces Atlantic Canada.

The new organization is to be known as the Downtowns Atlantic Canada (DAC), an alliance that will work to improve the positioning Downtown Business Improvement Areas as unique, diverse, vibrant and economically healthy urban cores.

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## East Dartmouth Boys & Girls Club Annual Breakfast



Although it was a 7:30 am start and there was a winter blizzard in full force, several hundred people attended the East Dartmouth Boys & Girls Club fundraising breakfast at the NSCC Akerley Campus on January 29.

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## Main Street BID meets with PC Party Leader



Left to Right: Jim Knox (Vice President), Heather Johnson (President), Bill Mills (Executive Director), Karen Casey (Leader of NS Progressive Conservative Party), Darren Fisher (HRM Councillor, District 6)

On Friday January 29, the Main Street board of directors met with Karen Casey, leader of the Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative Party at the BID office, 175 Main Street. Our HRM councillor, Darren Fisher, also joined in the discussion. The board told Ms. Casey about the Main Street BID and our plans to grow business in the Main Street area. We also discussed the provincial deficit and told her that we do not support increased tax on small business to help reduce the deficit. We explained that small business is an economic driver in the province and would help grow the economy to reduce the deficit. The Main Street Business Association will maintain ongoing discussion with all Nova Scotia political parties on issues affecting small business.

## Classic Physiotherapy moves to Main Street

Classic Physiotherapy have moved from 73 Tacoma Drive to a new modern facility at 177 Main Street. Vanita Malhatra and her team of therapists provide physiotherapy, occupational therapy and work rehabilitation services.



The warm, friendly and knowledgeable staff of Classic Physiotherapy



The Main Street board of directors strategic planning meeting

## Strategic Planning for next three years

The Main Street board of directors met in the boardroom of Scotiabank in the Westphal Plaza on February 8th to consider the future direction and project activity for our association. After three hours they came up with a large number of projects and promotional ideas where we can work together to grow and develop business in the Main Street area.

## Downtowns Atlantic Canada (DAC) established

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DAC's mission is to be recognized as the collective voice of the Downtown Business Improvement Areas of Atlantic Canada. The new Association wants to increase partnerships with Provincial and Municipal governments as well as with the Federal Government to achieve their goals of growth and investment in our urban cores. In addition, they desire to bring the challenges of urban economic development to the attention to decision makers able to facilitate actions which will result in prosperous and vibrant business improvement areas.

DAC is committed to work toward prosperity for our downtowns, which is the purest form of economic development, as our concept is a self-help approach to revitalizing our defined Business Improvement Areas.



**DAC Membership** (L to R) Sitting: Bruce McCormack (Fredericton), Dawn Alan (Charlottetown), Paul MacKinnon (Downtown Halifax)  
 Standing: Daniel Allain (Moncton), Trina MacDonald (Fredericton North), Peter Asimakos (Saint John), Deborah J. H. Elliott (Truro), William Mills (Main Street Dartmouth), Tim Olive (Downtown Dartmouth), Bernard Smith (Spring Garden, Halifax), Karla Nicholson (Quinpool Road, Halifax), Ron Casey (Summerside)

There are a number of benefits to the development of DAC that include but are not limited to the following opportunities such to increase funding partnerships and policy development with all levels of government and a stronger voice for downtown revitalization. Also, the benefits obtained through this cooperative effort will be provided through promotion of an urban strategy which identifies such challenges as brought about by an aging population, environmental impacts relating to growth, business retention, urban sprawl, residential and urban planning, economic development, tourism and heritage and culture.

Additionally, the benefits will include partnerships to address challenges around social issues such as housing, homelessness, urban poverty, addiction and crime.

The Main Street Dartmouth and Area Business Improvement Association is pleased to be a founding member of Downtowns Atlantic Canada.

## Temporary Sign By-Law Meeting



David Lane of HRM planning staff presenting to Main Street business owners

The Main Street Business Association hosted a meeting on December 8, 2009 to consider the proposed changes to the HRM temporary sign by-law. David Lane from the HRM planning department reviewed the proposed changes to the by-law, lead the general discussion and answered questions for Main Street business members.

Thank you to Sobey's, Tacoma Drive for providing the community room along with coffee and sweets for the meeting.

### Business Connects @ Main Street

is a monthly networking meeting for business owners and managers, anyone interested in what's going on in the Main Street area.

You are invited to drop by for morning coffee and friendly chat.

We meet at 8:30 to 9:30 the third Wednesday each month.

**February 17**  
 PMG Printing and Promotions  
 169 Main Street

**March 17**  
 Inspired You Spa  
 Tacoma Plaza

**April 21**  
 The Flag Shop  
 115 Main Street

**May 19**  
 Classic Physiotherapy  
 177 Main Street

**East Dartmouth Boys & Girls Club Annual Breakfast**  
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The Main Street Dartmouth and Area Business Association is very supportive of the Boys and Girls Club and was well represented at the breakfast with the executive director and several board members attending.

In the future the Main Street BID will be considering innovative projects that will support the Boys and Girls Club and other organizations in our area. We believe that if residents, businesses, schools, churches and other organizations work together we can build a better Main Street community.



From Left: Bill Mills – Executive Director, Heather Johnson (Smitty's Restaurant) President, Bryant Clarke (Scotiabank), Susan Casey (Scotiabank) Director, Jim Knox (Exit Optimum Realty) Vice President

## Main Street Area Plan Review Update



Things may seem quiet with the Plan Review Project, but staff and consultants have been very busy working on a draft land use by-law and a local transportation study. This work is a critical step toward realizing the Streetscape Study vision and addressing the input received from businesses and residents at last year's public workshops.

HRM staff are currently tweaking the draft bylaw and will be preparing some diagrams to facilitate interpretation. HRM has awarded the contract for the transportation study to Terrain Group with assistance from Atlantic Road and Traffic Management. Traffic counts have recently been done.

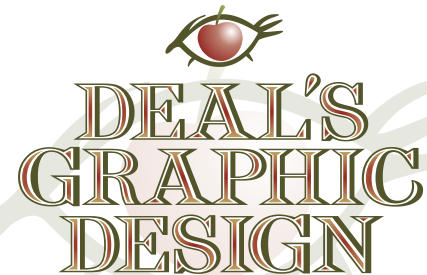
HRM staff intend to bring the draft land use bylaw and a draft planning strategy to a final public workshop in late March. At that time we also hope to have some interesting findings from the transportation study. This will enable us all to have one more discussion as a community of businesses and residents, based on sound analysis and a set of draft policies and rules. Your input at that workshop will enable staff to make any final changes and take our new plan and bylaw to Regional Council for public hearing. Watch for announcements from HRM and your BID in the local paper and via e-mail, and please plan to attend this milestone meeting as we prepare for a new chapter in the history of the Main Street area. If you have any questions, ideas or comments in the meantime, feel free to call Marcus Garnet, Senior Planner at 490-4481 or send him an e-mail at garnetm@halifax.ca.

You can also check out the project web site at <http://www.halifax.ca/regionalplanning/MSMPSReview.html>.



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