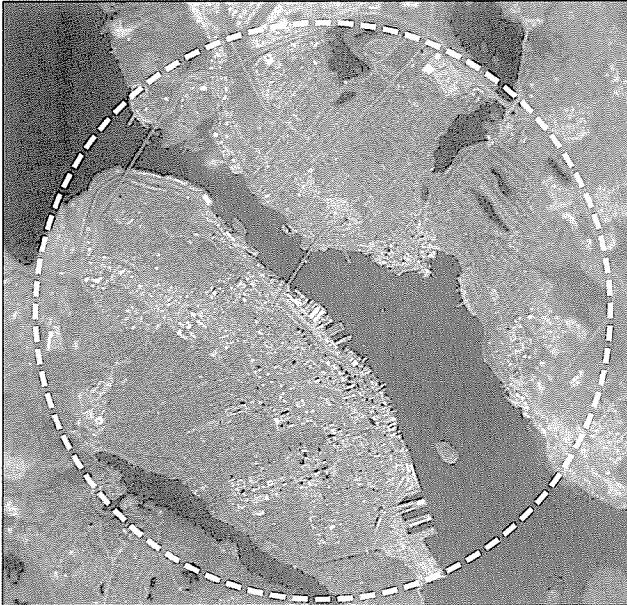


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e-news

i s s u e 0 1



What is the Regional Centre Urban Design Study?

The Regional Centre Urban Design Study was mandated in the recently adopted Regional Plan. HRM by Design will serve to be an umbrella name for all subsequent initiatives that relate to urban design in the HRM.

The study area is the Regional Centre (as defined by the Regional Plan) which includes the Capital District and surrounding central neighbourhoods on the Peninsula and Dartmouth within the Circumferential Highway (left image).

The objective of the Urban Design Study is to provide a physical vision for the Halifax Regional Municipality by addressing the nature, intensity and quality of development in the public and private realms. This Study will result in a strategy and implementation framework to direct development to be in keeping with the Regional Plan. The Study will address issues such as open space, streetscapes, residential infill, architectural design and the development approvals processes.

The study process has been design specifically around a series of public engagement events to serve as opportunities for the community to determine the future look and feel of the Regional Centre.

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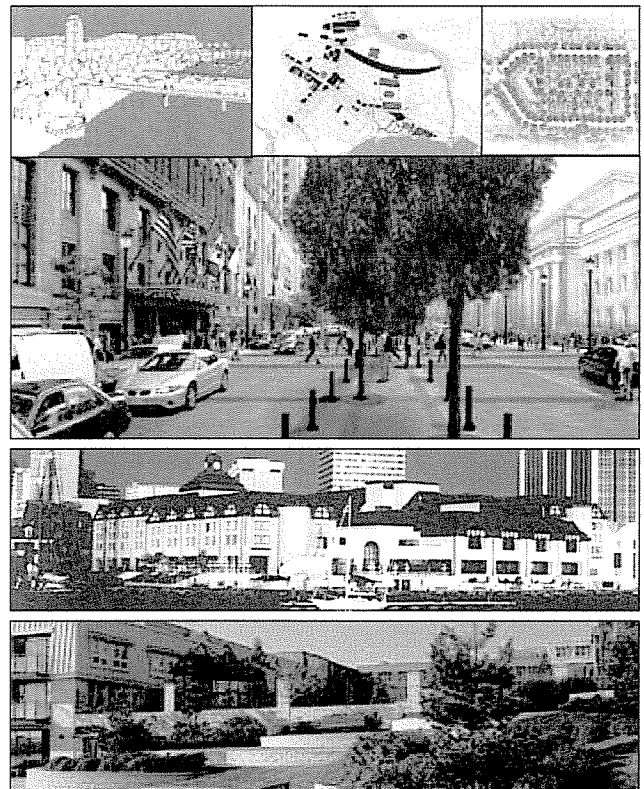
Who Will be Undertaking this Study?

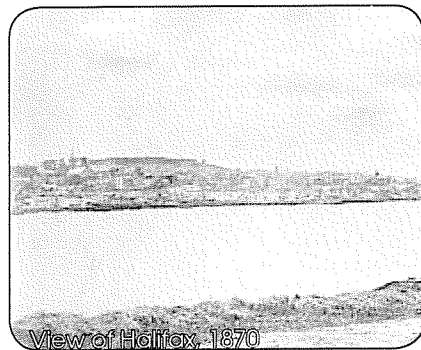
The HRM Capital District working with Office for Urbanism as lead consultant has teamed with Halifax-based Lydon Lynch Architects and Landscape Architects Vollick McKee Petersmann & Associates to undertake the Regional Centre Urban Design Study.

Office for Urbanism is a multidisciplinary firm of planners and designers who focus on the complex processes of city building by thinking carefully about places, people and environments. Office for Urbanism works on a variety of scales, from campus master planning to the analysis of specific redevelopment sites, and in diverse settings, from the Canadian Arctic to China.

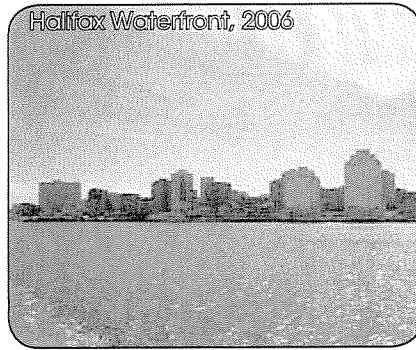
Lydon Lynch Architects Ltd. provides complete architectural services to both public and private sectors throughout the Atlantic Provinces. Successes include the award winning Sheraton Halifax Hotel, which opened in 1986 and the Bishop's Landing development along the Halifax Waterfront.

Vollick McKee Petersmann & Associates is the oldest landscape architecture practice in the Atlantic Provinces. The firm has extensive experience in complex site design projects such as major hospitals, university campuses, housing, institutional and military facilities, commercial developments, waterfront parks and urban features and a broad range of educational facilities from elementary to senior high schools in communities across the region.





View of Halifax, 1870



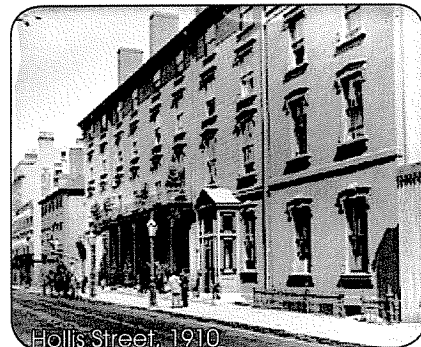
Halifax Waterfront, 2006



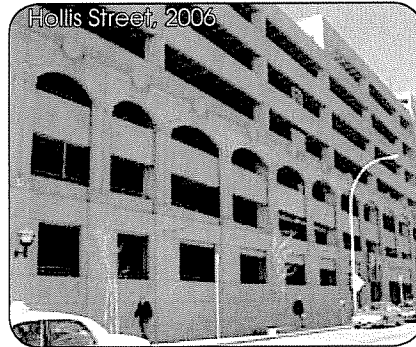
Cronville Street, 1871



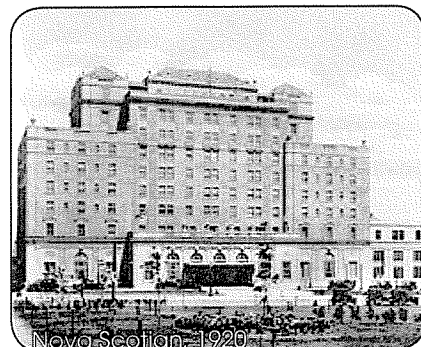
Cronville Street, 2006



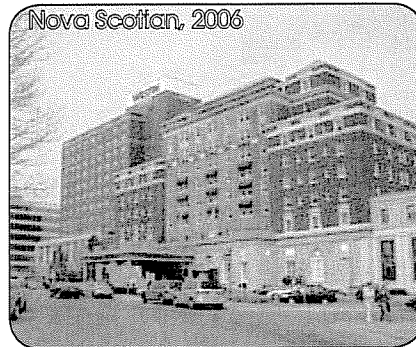
Hollis Street, 1910



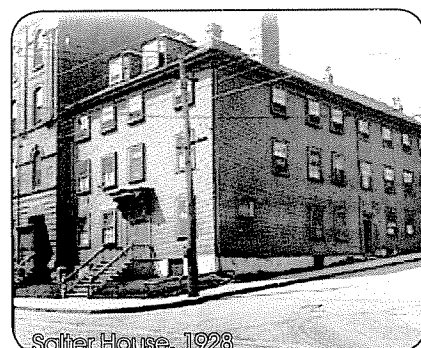
Hollis Street, 2006



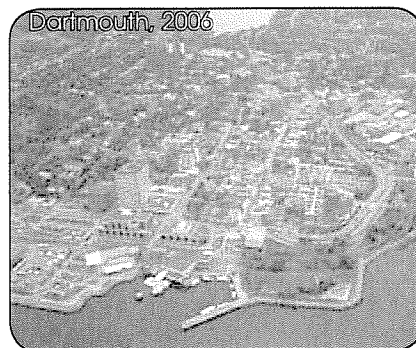
Nova Scotia, 1920



Nova Scotia, 2006



Salter House, 1928



Dartmouth, 2006

3

What is the Process?

The Regional Centre Urban Design Study process is designed to incorporate the various voices of a wide array of interests, including resident groups, design professionals, heritage groups, businesses, property owners and development interests.

The 18-month study process will unfold over 6 phases (see Study Process Summary Diagram on facing page). As a community-driven process, inputs from one phase will be integrated into the next. These inputs will be derived from key consultation events called Forums, where the public will be engaged, building upon and advancing ideas. These events will be exciting opportunities for the entire community to participate, gain information, and to contribute to the Regional Centre Urban Design Study.

Phase 1 – Reconnaissance & Analysis

During phase 1, the consultant team will be gathering background information from stakeholder interviews, meetings with the Steering Committee and the Urban Design Task Force, in addition to reviewing previous plans and studies that have been completed.

Phase 2 – Vision, Principles & Guiding Frameworks

The first Forum will define a Vision, Guiding Principles and Urban Design Frameworks. Following the Forum, the consultants will assimilate the ideas and feedback to refine and further develop the outcomes.

Phase 3 – Infill Case Studies

Builds on the outcomes of Forum 1. Forum 2 will focus on developing urban design strategies and guidelines for infill in a variety of urban contexts and conditions found in the Regional Centre.

Phase 4 – Opportunity Sites

Builds on the outcomes of the previous 2 Urban Design Forums. Forum 3 will focus on key opportunity sites throughout the Regional Centre to develop detailed demonstration concepts and guidelines that are consistent with the direction set in the previous phases.

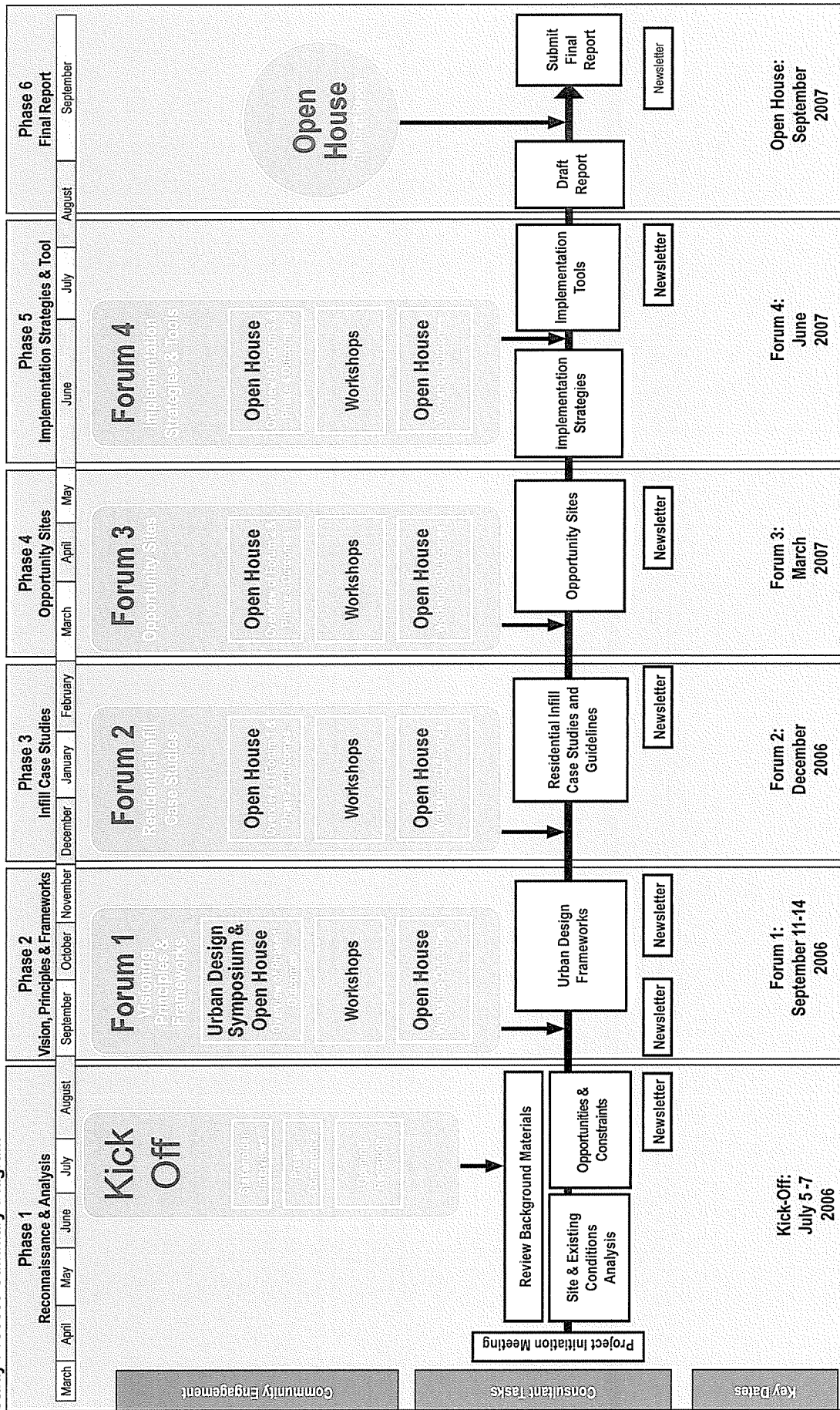
Phase 5 – Implementation Strategies & Tools

The phase focuses on the preparation of implementation strategies, tools and mechanisms to ensure the outcomes of the previous phases can be successfully realized.

Phase 6 – Final Report

The Draft Final Report will be presented at an Open House. The feedback received during the Open House will be assist in finalizing the Report before its submission.

Study Process Summary Diagram





4

What's Next?

The Urban Design Study process is now nearing the end of the first of six phases. In this first phase, the Consultant Team has met with stakeholders, reviewed background materials, undertook an analysis of the existing conditions, and is formulating the opportunities and constraints analysis in preparation for the next phase of the study process.

Forum 1 - Visioning, Principles & Frameworks

The second phase of the process is the preparation of a long-term Vision, Guiding Principles and Urban Design Frameworks for aspects such as open spaces, street character and neighbourhoods. This begins with the first of four Urban Design Forums. The Forum is an exciting and intensive event that will serve to facilitate discussion, debates and the generation of constructive ideas by involving the Consultant Team, Steering Committee, Urban Design Task Force, stakeholders and members of the public.

e-news issue 02- What is Urban Design?

The upcoming issue of the newsletter will be released in time for Forum 1 and will focus on building an understanding of Urban Design, its value to this city and how it is applied.

Forum 1 - Key Events

Sept. 11
5:45 pm - 9:00 pm Urban Design Symposium and Public Forum @ the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic (Small Craft Room) in Halifax.

Sept. 13
5:30 pm - 9:00 pm Urban Design Symposium and Public Forum @ Alderney Theatre in Dartmouth. (repeat of september 11 program)

Sept. 13 + 14
12 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch Viewing @ the seminar room, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. Come see the work that's been produced to date.

Sept. 14
6 pm - 9 pm Closing Presentations - Wrap up of forum 1 outcomes @ the Potter Auditorium, Rowe Management Building, Dalhousie University (6100 University Ave).

Feedback and Contact Information

Your comments and feedback on the Regional Urban Design Study are important to the success of this study.

For further information on the study or if you have additional comments, please do not hesitate to contact:

- **Jennifer Keesmaat**, Partner
Office for Urbanism at jk@officeforurbanism.com
- Or
- **Andy Fillmore**, Capital District Urban Design Project Manager
at fillmoa@halifax.ca

For further information please visit www.hrmbdesign.ca

