

KENTVILLE CONNECTION

Your town. Your news.

Volume 5, Number 1

Spring 2011

Message from the mayor



Spring is upon us and with it comes new energy, a sense of renewal and excitement for the upcoming summer

months. The year 2011 is a big one for Kentville – we are celebrating our 125th birthday! I hope you will participate in some of the activities and events taking place throughout the year to mark this special occasion.

This year has also brought some changes to Town Hall. We're sad to have seen Keith Robicheau, Chief Administrative Officer and Greg Kehoe, Director of Public Works, move on; however, we recognize that opportunities and family commitments can change the course we're on. Keith and Greg have both moved to Ontario to take on new roles in their respective fields and be closer to their families. The Town of Kentville staff and council want to wish them both well in their endeavors. Fortunately for the Town, we have excellent staff and as a result, have appointed Mark Phillips, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services as Interim CAO. We are

Cont'd on page 2



Celebrate our birthday!

Sometimes, a good way to figure out where you're headed is to look back at where you've been. As Kentville turns 125 years old this year, we reflect on 125 years of progress, change, new beginnings and accomplishments.

Kentville was named for His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, who visited the Township in 1826. Imagine if you can what it looked like then; hitching posts, dusty muddy streets, a few hotels and businesses clustered around the downtown surrounded by a couple dozen family homes. What a long way we have come, and how very much has changed!

The railroad came to Town in 1869, bringing along with it prosperity, and a larger population. Kentville became the place to be, a retail hub of activity and the business centre of Kings County and the Annapolis Valley.

Kentville's economic growth continued through the beginning of the 20th Century. Camp Aldershot relocated from Windsor to North Kentville in 1904. Vast agricultural land surrounding Kentville supported the establishment of the experimental farm at the east end of Town in 1912. A huge celebration commemorating 100 years of being called "Kentville" was held in 1926. Soon after, the iconic Cornwallis Inn was constructed and quickly became famed throughout the Valley. The first Apple Blossom Festival was hosted by Kentville in 1933 marking the beginning of a tradition that remains strongly supported by the Town of Kentville still today, 79 years later.

Cont'd on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

SOON TIME TO PLAY

Planning continues for a new playground at the new KCA. **Page 3**

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Find out what some town departments have been doing lately. **Page 4**

MARKET CHANGE

The Kentville Farmers' Market is back and is its own entity. **Page 8**

Mayor

From page 1

also very fortunate and thankful that Hal Henderson, our former Director of Public Works has taken on the task of Acting Director of Public Works while we search for a new candidate to fill the position permanently.

The Town of Kentville honoured its volunteers at a special awards dinner during April's Volunteer Week and I would like to thank everyone who came out to celebrate with us.

Congratulations to Doug Macdonald, who was appointed as Kentville's volunteer representative at the Provincial Volunteer of the Year Awards, for his volunteer efforts over the past 46 years. I would also like to extend congratulations to Jason Blanchard and his team at Kentville Save Easy. Jason was presented with the Mayor's Corporate Award for his team's tireless efforts and remarkable amount of volunteer work undertaken in our Town.

On a sad note, the Town has lost a long-time volunteer and outstanding citizen, Mr. Doug Eaton, who passed away in December 2010. We have created a memorial to Doug at Centennial Arena and it has been dedicated as Coach's Corner in his memory.

A recent disappointment for the Town is the provincial government's announcement that it is no longer going to honour the Memorandum of Understanding signed with municipalities. This will negatively impact all municipalities as they have to deal with costs of housing and corrections and increased costs in education and assessments. The Town is continuing to work with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to convince the provincial government about the negative impact of the unfair current assessment CAP arrangement.

I was very pleased on behalf of council, along with Mark Phillips on behalf of staff, to attend the Ducks Unlimited dinner where the Town of Kentville was awarded a Conservation Service Award for its involvement in the Miner's Marsh project. I would invite all citizens to visit Miner's Marsh for a walk. They'll be pleasantly surprised – it's a gem to behold in the middle of our Town!

I was also very honoured this past year when the Kentville Lions Club gave me the privilege of Honorary Lion Status. This is not something to be taken lightly and the kind of honour I'm not sure I'm deserving of, but I certainly appreciate.

Council and I look forward to seeing you at the many 125th birthday celebrations this summer!

Mayor Dave Corkum

125th birthday

From page 1

Examining our Town's past clearly illustrates that while Kentville is a town rooted in tradition and history it has not shied away from change and progress over the years. The first Kings County Academy opened in 1870 on what was known as Academy Hill and was attended by students from all over the County. Now, 140 years later, we look forward to a brand new school set to open this September.

Kentville has reinvented itself over the past 125 years growing over time from a meager collection of people and buildings into a highly populated retail destination, and eventually into a service centre and noted recreation Town. Ranked the #1 Town in Nova Scotia by author Richard Rogers, Kentville has become a well known place to visit, live and do business. If His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent could return for a repeat visit today, he certainly would be delighted by what he found here, and perhaps would even decide to stay.

(Information from: Comeau, L. V. (2003) Images of our past: Historic Kentville. Halifax: Nimbus Nichols, M. G. (1986) The Devil's Half Acre. Kentville: Kentville Centennial Committee

A variety of signature and special events are taking place to mark Kentville's 125th Birthday. New events, and your old favorites with added twists are being planned to mark this very special occasion. Please join us for the following:

Kentville Farmers' Market – Beginning May 25
Canada Day Celebrations – July 1
Kentville Street Fest – August
Kentville Harvest Fest Kickoff – Oct. 1
Torchlight Parade & Skating Party – Nov. 24
Kentville's 125 Birthday Celebration – Dec. 7



Kentville Connection is published twice a year by the Town of Kentville.

*Comments and story ideas are always welcome.
Call 679-2540 or email communitydevelopment@kentville.ca*

Playground plans ongoing



While work on the KCA school is complete, fundraising efforts continue for a new playground at the school.

Construction of the new Kings County Academy (KCA) is nearing completion and it is expected that some of the areas around the new school, such as Soccer Fields #1 and #2 and the school parking lot, will be available for use this summer.

Correspondence between the Town of Kentville and Superior Propane is continuing. Both parties are working towards completing the anticipated relocation of Superior Propane to the Kentville Industrial Park before the beginning of school in September.

In this year's capital budget, the Parks and Recreation Department has proposed future development of the former Shell property. Plans for redevelopment include a parking area, soccer clubhouse, washroom facilities and the focal point, the new KCA playground.

With the construction of the new school, there is a need for new playground facilities. The goal is to create a playground that will be inclusive and accessible to all students. Currently, there are a few students in wheelchairs or with mobility issues and there are several other known students expected to enroll over the next three years. There are also several hearing impaired students.

As a result of the diverse and special needs of the student population, the design plan for the new KCA playground is to be accessible to children of all abilities. Special features of the design include a wheelchair accessible swing, a ramp with activity panels on the lower level, and a metal slide for students with hearing aids (plastic slides create too much static). The playground components that are accessible will have rubberized matting underneath so children in wheelchairs can access the playground and participate with their peers. The new KCA playground will also be a community playground and available for use to the general public when school is not in session.

The total cost of the playground is expected to be \$120,000. Over the past year, the KCA PTA's playground committee has raised approximately \$35,000. The committee has also received a grant through Central Kings Community Health. To learn more about the project or to make a donation, find them on Facebook under KCA Playground, or email kcaplayground@gmail.com. Together we can provide a place for all children in Kentville to play.

Department updates

Public Works

Public Works will be busy completing work that can only be done in good weather and preparing the Town for Apple Blossom. Line painting, patching, street sweeping and in general a spring cleaning of the town will become top priority.

The Water Commission has installed a new well at the end of Mitchell Avenue which will act as a supplement to our overall water supply. An air release valve is being installed at the top of Prospect Avenue which should eliminate the build-up of air in the mains and services during power outages.

The following are some of the capital projects which were completed in 2010.

- Construction of the new street by the new school, Gary Pearl Drive, and a second connection between West Main and Park Streets.
- Upgrade to West Main Street - an extension of the existing sidewalks.
- Renewal and upgrade to the West Main Street/River Street storm sewer.
- Renewal of Glenview Avenue with new mains and concrete curbs.
- Replacement of sidewalks in a Main Street section of the downtown.
- Renewal of sewer and water on Brook Street extension.
- A separation of the river water storm sewer from the sanitary sewer near the Cornwallis Bridge.
- New storm water pumps that have been installed in the dyke that will pump water from the West Main Street collection area.

Planning

In 2010 there were 94 development/building permits issued, with a year end building valuation of \$6,839,625.

Council approved amendments to the Land Use Bylaw allowing Single Family (R-1) uses within the Residential Futures (RF) Zone. These changes will expedite new single family residential development in Town.

Deer Haven and MacDougall Heights continue to prosper as new single family homes are built. Plans are underway for new development in Fox Hollow.

Since the snow has melted, the Department has received a number of complaints regarding properties that may be considered dangerous and unsightly Premises under the Municipal Government Act. Property owners are reminded to keep their properties clear of debris and clutter and their buildings maintained.

Parks and Recreation

Smoke Free Spaces

Kentville Town Council recently passed a smoke-free spaces bylaw. Signs to promote Kentville as a Smoke Free Space have been created to remind residents and visitors of this new policy. Work crews will be installing the signs around the downtown and green space areas over the next few weeks.

Kentville Home Show

The 2011 Kentville Home Show was held April 15-17. It was once again a huge success, selling out with more than 77 different companies participating. There was a lot of traffic through the doors and thanks to some of the participating businesses, we were able to put together a backyard giveaway package valued at over \$7,000. Everyone who attended the Home Show had an opportunity to qualify to win the prize.

On April 18, live on Magic 94.9, John Boulter's name was drawn the lucky winner. A big thanks goes

Cont'd on next page



Kevin Bennett, Mayor David Corkum and AVR staffers delivered a \$7,000 backyard prize package to lucky winner John Boulter and his family April 21. He received his prize after entering a draw at the Kentville Home Show the weekend before.

Department updates

From facing page

out to Magic 94.9 / AVR for their continued support; they go above and beyond every year to help promote the Home Show. Thank you also to all of the businesses that participated. They did a fantastic job representing their businesses and helped make the Home Show a success. The Kentville Home Show is the only locally-run Home Show still in operation and we are proud of it and its continued success year after year. We're looking forward to another successful Kentville Home Show in 2012.

Volunteer Awards

The Provincial Volunteer Awards Dinner was held on April 4th at the Westin in Halifax. Kentville Volunteer of the Year Doug Macdonald received a provincial award for his 46 years of volunteer service to many Kentville and area organizations.

More than 25 local volunteers received recognition awards from the Town of Kentville on Thursday April 7th at the Kentville Volunteer Recognition Dinner and Awards Ceremony held at the Kentville Fire Hall. The Kentville Save Easy was this year's recipient of the Mayor's Corporate Award, and owner Jason Blanchard and members of his team were in attendance to accept the award.

Princess Tea & Princess Kentville

Congratulations to Princess Kentville 2011 Brianna Vaughan! Brianna will be representing the Town of Kentville at the 79th Apple Blossom Festival. Brianna was chosen as Princess Kentville 2011 during Kentville's Princess Tea, held April 28 at the Fire Hall. Accompanying Brianna will be Child Attendant MacKenzie Belen. Three young ladies participated in the Junior Princess Mentor Program this year. Alison Bray, Cecilee Herber and Taylor Simmons all received Junior Princess Kentville status.

Apple Blossom Festival, May 25 – May 30

Planning for the 79th Apple Blossom Festival is well underway. This year's festival will consist of all the traditional family components that usually take place in Kentville including the fireworks, Children's Parade, Grand Street Parade, and musical entertainment at Memorial Park. This year's festival runs from May 25th-30th. A full list of events can be found at www.appleblossom.com

Summer Programs

Planning for this year's slate of summer programs has begun. The Tennis nets are up at Memorial Park and the courts are now open for public use.



Princess Kentville 2011 Brianna Vaughan will represent the town at the 79th Apple Blossom Festival.

Memberships and clubhouse keys will be available beginning in June. Information about registration for Day Camp, Tennis and Swimming lessons will be available in the next few weeks on the Town Website, www.kentville.ca

Rotary Clock Project

A new Town Clock will be placed in the triangle between the Cornwallis Inn and Town Hall. The clock was donated to the Town by the Rotary Club of Kentville, and the Town is coordinating the installation. The installation is expected to be complete before the start of the Apple Blossom Festival, and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held once the clock is in place.

Keep active this summer

LIFECYCLE - JUNE 26

On Sunday, June 26 the Valley Cardiac Rehab Society and the Town of Kentville will partner to host "LifeCycle!" It's the first annual event to celebrate the preventive and healing powers of exercise and active living.

The day's festivities will include 25, 50 and 100-km road rides, mountain bike skill workshops, a ride for kids, a trail walk and ride, Zumba and yoga classes, and a health fair where people can learn about healthy living. Join us for a fun filled day in Kentville! Email lifecycle@kentville.ca for more information or visit www.valleylifecycle.ca

4TH NOVA SCOTIA 55+ GAMES: SEPT. 22-25

Nova Scotian seniors are an active bunch! The 55+ games bring participants from six regions of Nova Scotia together bi-annually for four fun filled days of activity, socialization and friendly competition. Events will be held throughout Kings County. Facilities will range from municipal recreation facilities to Acadia University to local private facilities and community halls.

To get in on the action participants must be a Nova Scotia resident at least 55 years old by the end of 2011. All skill levels are welcome.

Some activities that will be taking

place over the four days will be events such as

- 45s
- Golf
- 8-ball
- Men's / women's hockey
- Tennis
- Darts
- Triathlon
- Archery
- Swimming
- And much more.

For a complete list of events or for more information or to register please contact the host committee, Bruce MacArthur at 902-690-6124 or visit the following websites: www.novascotia55plusgames.com www.atlanticchip.ca/events



Last year's day campers had fun soaking up the sun after a dip in the Kentville pool at Memorial Park. Daily trips to the pool for public swim are a special part of the Kentville day camp program.

Summer programs for kids start in July

Looking for something fun for the kids to do this summer? Swimming, tennis and day camp programs will be back in Kentville again this summer starting in July! The Town of Kentville will be running the usual slate of summer programming again this season for children, adults and families. Sessions begin July 4th and run for 8 weeks.

Registration dates and times:

Tennis: June 16th, 6 p.m.- 7 p.m. at the Tennis Courts
Swimming: June 16th 6 p.m.- 7 p.m. at the Pool
Day Camp: June 16th, 6 p.m.- 7:30 p.m at Town Hall

Community policing update

Catching those that commit crimes is a major part of what your police service does, but we also work within the community to prevent crime and encourage safety. With summer fast approaching, we must continue to keep our community safe from crime and keep ourselves safe from injury while enjoying outdoor activities like walking and riding bicycles. The following are bits of information to consider:

Home Safety

Many incidents of crime are those of “opportunity.” Criminals will leave more often than not when they discover doors to your home and vehicles are locked. Making any type of noise will bring unwanted attention to themselves. If you will be away for an extended period, let a neighbor know how long you will be away and who is expected to be around your property during this time. Ask them to keep an eye on your property and to call the police if they see or hear something unusual around your property.

Keep your trees and shrubs trimmed so not to block the view of entry points to your residence, which would give criminals ample time to work on a lock or window.

Walking

Walking is great exercise and often a way to relieve stress. However, it is important to be safe. If possible, walk facing traffic and wear reflective clothing or carry a flashlight at night. At a controlled pedestrian cross walk, never assume that a driver has seen you and that the car will stop. Even with the modern technology of

flashing overhead lights you still need to look both ways. Look the driver in the eyes to be sure that they see you before you cross.

Cycling

Kentville’s trail system makes it easy to get from one end of town to the other by bicycle. When off the trail and on the roads, please remember that bicycles must follow the same rules of the road as motor vehicles. On a bicycle, travel with traffic not against it and use hand signals to signify your intent. The most important safety strategy for bicycle riders is to always wear a helmet. It can save you from a significant head injury and from paying a fine, because in Nova Scotia helmets are mandatory.

A bit more to think about

The public is a valuable source of information and that is why we appreciate citizens doing their part to prevent and sometimes solve crime. Information that you think is not important, can help us solve a crime. If the incident relates to a motor vehicle, try to get the license plate number, the make, model or color of the vehicle and direction of travel. A description of the driver and the number of occupants is also helpful. If the person(s) are walking around, make note of age, height, weight, clothing and any noticeable physical features.

Cst. Mike Goss
Community Policing Officer
Kentville Police Service



Nearly two dozen volunteers who support Kentville and the surrounding community were honored April 7 at the Town’s volunteer recognition awards ceremony and dinner at the Kentville Fire Hall.

Kentville Farmers' Market in 5th season

On May 25 the Kentville Farmers' Market will open for its 5th season! It will run Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Centre Square.

This year is the first year that the Market will be its own entity and will no longer run under the umbrella of the Wolfville Farmers' Market. The Kentville Market will be run by its own board of directors and supported by the Town of Kentville.

The process of developing a new logo has begun, and there are plans to extend the season to December, although an indoor location has yet to be secured. Michelle Summer Fike will be returning as Market Manager, as will most of your favourite vendors who bring with them fruit, produce, jewellery, prepared foods, clothing, baked goods and more. You will also notice a new general store booth that will carry popular local items such as mushrooms, honey and fresh berries, which are currently not offered by our vendors. As always, there are a number of special events planned and there will be special guests in attendance throughout the season.

So beginning May 25, take a walk through Downtown Kentville and Centre Square on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and experience the friendly atmosphere of the Kentville Farmers' Market. Meet up with your friends, grab lunch, have a seat and enjoy the live music and ambiance the Kentville Farmers' Market has to offer. Shopping local has never been so fun and easy!

