

# KENTVILLE CONNECTION

*Your town. Your news.*

Volume 6, Number 1

Spring 2012

## Message from the mayor



Spring has arrived, and with it comes all the excitement of the season. Change is in the air, as trees begin to bud and grass turns green again. Our streets and trails are coming alive with people eager to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather. Change is a sign of progress and growth.

Along with the changes of the season, we have experienced some changes at Town Hall over the past few months as well. Mark Phillips, formerly Director of the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department, is now in a new role as Chief Administrative Officer. Mark has been with the Town for more than 10 years, and we are happy to see him continue his career with us in this new capacity.

We also said farewell to long time Director of Engineering and Public Works, Hal Henderson. I wish to welcome Fred Whynot as the new

*Cont'd on page 2*



## KCA community playground a wonderful success story

Kentville is holding its annual Volunteer Recognition Awards dinner April 17 as part of National Volunteer week.

The recent completion of the KCA Community Playground Project is a reminder of just how important our volunteers are, and a great example of the wonderful things they do for our communities.

What started as unused, undeveloped land beside the new school has been transformed into a play space for not

only the students of KCA but also members of the community. Looking at it now, it is hard to believe that only a year ago the plot of land where the playground now sits was full of brush and rocks.

The story of the KCA Community Playground begins in the fall of 2010 when a group of parents and PTA members decided that a bigger and better playground would be a great accompaniment to the new

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# Playground a community success story

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KCA School that was to open the following year. A playground committee was formed, chaired by PTA vice-president Kathy Boutilier, and comprised of several volunteer parents. The goal was to raise \$125,000 to create a fully-accessible playground to meet the needs of the students at KCA, as well as the Kentville Community.

The Town of Kentville identified and donated a piece of property beside the school to be used for the project, and the hard work of fundraising began. Fundraising was one of the biggest challenges faced by the committee, but the volunteer group showed that hard work and dedication can pay off. A series of successful fundraisers, both large and small in scale, proved to be very effective.

Chair of the fundraising Laura Churchill-Duke brought expertise in grant writing to the committee, and spearheaded a number of fundraising events. Projects included a New Year's Eve community dance, bottle

drives, a family fun fair and a dinner auction which in itself raised \$15,000 for the project. Through additional fundraising and grant writing, as well as some collaborative work with the Town of Kentville, the committee had the money they needed by October of 2011.

"It now seems like a blur," says Churchill Duke. "We did so much in such a short period of time!"

With cash in hand, design selection and site preparation could begin.

"The priority was to ensure that this playground was accessible and could be used by children of all abilities," Boutilier says. The current student body at KCA includes some students in wheelchairs or with other mobility issues and a few hearing impaired students. Several other students with mobility challenges are expected to enroll over the next few years.

The Town prepared the site for installation which involved clear cutting, excavation, building up and leveling of the site.

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## Mayor

### **Cont'd from page 1**

Director of Public Works. Fred comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience and we are looking forward to moving ahead with him as part of our Kentville team.

There have also been some exciting developments surrounding the business community in Town. A group of local businesspeople are working hard to reinstate the former Kentville Development Corporation Ltd., and a newly formed retail and food services group has been meeting regularly to share ideas and work collaboratively on a number

of projects. I like to see these types of initiatives being carried out by our business community and want to support their efforts and wish them the best moving forward.

We look forward to crowning a new Princess Kentville later this month, a change that happens every April and marks the beginning of an exciting, year-long journey for one special young lady. We will also be saying goodbye to Princess Kentville 2011 Brianna Vaughan, who I wish to personally congratulate on a job very well done at last year's Apple Blossom Festival and all year long.

Finally, congratulations to the volunteers of the KCA Playground

Committee on the completion of the playground project and opening of the playground. Many thanks are due to the volunteers who contributed to that project.

Special congratulations to Kathy Boutilier and Laura Churchill Duke who have been selected as this year's Representative Volunteers of the Year for their hard work and dedication.

I encourage everyone to enjoy all that Spring has to offer us by getting out and hitting the trails, stopping by Miner's Marsh to admire nature, and of course visiting our newly opened KCA Community Playground.



*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](mailto:communitydevelopment@kentville.ca)*



Volunteers move a piece of equipment for the new KCA community playground during its construction last fall. A team of volunteers worked with town staff to build the \$125,000 structure.

## ***‘A true sign of community effort’***

### ***Cont’d from page 2***

Once the equipment arrived volunteers were organized to install the actual playground. A group of volunteers gathered on site each day in November to install the equipment. Some days were cold and snowy, and an early storm delayed installation, but not for long.

“Installation of the playground was a true sign of community effort,” says Churchill Duke.

Each day, parent volunteers worked alongside Town staff and community members to get the

work done. Teams from both the Kentville Baptist and Kentville United Churches helped out, as did a group of students from Highbury School in New Minas. Food was donated each day by local businesses, church groups and individual members of the community.

“It was so heartwarming to see people of all ages working together to bring this project to fruition,” says Churchill Duke. Installation was finally completed on Dec. 9, less than a year after the fundraising campaign began.

The KCA community playground is now open, and is a symbol of how a community coming together can achieve great things.

The project would not have been successful if not for the efforts of volunteers. For their contributions to the playground project, Laura Churchill Duke and Kathy Boutilier were named Representative Volunteers of the Year for 2012 by the Town of Kentville, and were recognized at the Provincial Volunteer Awards in Halifax April 2.

*Did you remember to change the batteries in your smoke detector when you put your clocks ahead one hour?*

*— A reminder from The Kentville Volunteer Fire Department*

# Planning and development

Development within the Town of Kentville was steady in 2011, bringing in a total building valuation of \$11,329,685. Much of this is attributed to the redevelopment of the old hospital lands with 2 new apartment buildings; the expansion of the Cornwallis Inn, and the continued revitalization of Webster Court. These new apartments and Blackberry Ridge, a proposed semi-detached housing development in Kentville will meet the changing demand for housing needs seen across the Province due to changing demographics. Our aging population no longer need or want the trials of single family home ownership. These “empty nesters” are looking to downsize, and are increasing the demand for apartments, condominiums and attached units.

## Kings 2050

Kentville has partnered with Kings County and all other municipalities within the county to initiate *Kings 2050*, a guide to the long term sustainable development of Kings County. Identifying the Vision, is the first step, so keep your eye on the Town’s Website for up coming opportunities to get involved. Hand in hand with *Kings 2050*, Kentville is undertaking a review of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw. This is your opportunity to ensure Kentville remains the #1 Town in Nova Scotia. Anyone interested in being part of the review can please call Beverly Gentleman at 679-2535 or email [bgentleman@kentville.ca](mailto:bgentleman@kentville.ca).

# Lifecycle returns to Kentville

On June 24, the Town of Kentville and Valley Cardiac Rehab Society will once again host LifeCycle.

Last year’s inaugural LifeCycle, hosted on Park Street from Memorial Park to the Soccer Dome brought hundreds of participants from all over the province to Kentville. The focus of the event was to bring awareness to the importance of heart health while providing people with a large variety of activities to participate in that promote cardiac health.

Planning for the event started out centred on Cycling, but eventually began to grow as the planning committee came up with more ways to appeal to a larger participant base.

“We thought, maybe not everyone wanted to ride in a 100km road ride, but maybe we could reach someone who’d not cycled much by offering a leisurely ride along the trail”, said event chair Howard Wightman. “We wanted to provide an event that truly does include everyone, and I think we were successful in doing that.”

Cyclists enjoyed 25km, 50km or 100km road routes or had the option of cycling on the car-free Kentville Trail System to Coldbrook and back. Participants also had the opportunity to walk, practice Yoga, try Zumba and participate in aerobics classes.



Members of the Kentville Police Service hosted a bike rodeo for children, which taught the fundamentals of cycling including road safety and the importance of helmets. The event also included a trade show which featured different organizations and resources available in the Valley to people looking for other healthy living opportunities.

This year’s LifeCycle event will offer a program similar to last year’s for adults, with plans to add to the activities available for children.

More information on this year’s event is available at [www.valleylifecycle.ca](http://www.valleylifecycle.ca) or by calling Active Living Coordinator Nichole Lutz at 679-2556.

# Kentville prepares for 80th Apple Blossom Festival

Spring is in the air, and as grass turns green, temperatures rise, and the lines on the streets of Kentville get painted, you can't help but anticipate what's just ahead.....Apple Blossom! Residents and visitors look forward to the Valley-wide festival each year, and this year will be no disappointment.

This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apple Blossom Festival, which celebrates our rich valley agricultural heritage and brings people to the area from all over Canada. This year's theme is "80 Years of Growing Together."

Kentville, being in the centre of the Valley, hosts a number of events for the festival. This year, Memorial Park will once again host K-Rock's Birthday Bash and the Festival Fireworks. That event takes place on Friday June 1 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. with the fireworks scheduled for 10 p.m. sharp. On Saturday the Children's Parade will take place at 10 a.m. around the downtown square, with the Grand Street Parade commencing at 1 p.m. and traveling from the east side of town to the west via Main Street and Park Street.

One part of the festival many people look forward to is the selection of Queen Annapolis. One lucky Princess will be chosen from a number of candidates and crowned at the coronation ceremony Friday night at Acadia University's Convocation Hall in Wolfville. One of those hopeful candidates will be Princess Kentville 2012, Mackenzie Ellsworth.

On Monday, April 23, Princess Kentville 2011 Brianna Vaughn will be passing on her crown. During her reign as



**The Kentville and Apple Blossom Festival mascots will be front and centre for this year's Apple Blossom Parade and Children's Parade, which take place June 2.**

Princess Kentville, Briana has been an excellent ambassador for the Town of Kentville and will provide encouragement and insight to our new Princess as she prepares for the year ahead.

MacKenzie Belen, the 2011 child attendant, will be passing on her responsibilities to Grace Phillips.

The Town of Kentville will also be running the Junior Princess Kentville Mentorship program again this year. Young ladies from the Kentville community will have the opportunity to experience first-hand the process of becoming a candidate for Princess Kentville, learn about the responsibilities of being Princess, and will participate in events in our Town during the festival.

Join us for the 80<sup>th</sup> Apple Blossom Festival starting with the Princess Kentville Tea on April 23 at 7 p.m. at the Kentville fire hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about the Apple Blossom Festival please visit [www.appleblossom.com](http://www.appleblossom.com).

# Farmers Market re-opening May 16



**The Kentville Farmer's Market will reopen for the season on May 16.**

The Kentville Farmers Market re-opens for the 2012 season on Wednesday May 16, and will be open every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until Dec. 19.

Join us for our Grand Opening "Garden Day" on May 16, featuring a seed exchange, a plant swap, gardening speakers, seed and plant vendors, and all our new and existing vendors for 2012.

## There's no place like Home Show

The Kentville Home Show, the largest in the Annapolis Valley, is gearing up for another exciting season. Kevin Bennett has been hard at work preparing for this season's show taking place April 20 to 22 at the Kentville Centennial Arena and has promised this show to be even better than the last. "We have over 70 vendors, 99 booths, and we're offering Environmental Workshops in partnership with the Town's EAC (Environmental Advisory Committee) and local businesses. There's something for everybody!"

A new addition to the Home Show this year, is the Environmental Workshops taking place throughout the weekend. Gillian Morrison explained that the EAC has been working closely with Kevin Bennett and businesses in the Valley to create workshops that will provide information on Energy Efficient programs and grants, reducing energy loss in homes, retrofitting homes to save energy and alternate energy systems.

"These workshops will be taking place on Friday evening and Saturday during the day, there is no cost after paying admission to the Home Show and you can be entered to win a free home energy evaluation just by

The Kentville Farmers Market features up to 30 vendors with 100 per cent locally-produced fruits and vegetables, eggs and meat, lunch and prepared foods, fair-trade coffee and tea, giftware and artisan crafts, jewelry, local wine, a market store, jams and preserves, and much more.

The Kentville Farmers Market also boasts comfortable outdoor bistro seating for customers, live local musicians, an information booth, a community membership program, non-profit organizations, new recycled cloth market bags, a monthly \$25 prize draw, and a wonderful down-home community atmosphere.

New vendor applications are now being accepted.

Join us on May 16 in Centre Square, downtown Kentville, and make "Wednesdays at the Market" part of your weekly routine.

More information is available at [www.kentvillefarmers-market.com](http://www.kentvillefarmers-market.com) or by calling 679-2514.

attending," she said.

In addition to the Environmental Workshops, the list of vendors this year is impressive and has a wider range than in years gone by. "We've got a little bit of everything, really." Bennett said. "We've got floor specialists, gardening gurus, home décor booths, technology booths, baby gear and even a beauty supply vendor. You'll be hard pressed to find something missing on our list."

Great care goes into providing a range of services on offer at the Home Show each year, but this year's vendors list is impressive in its diversity.

Last year, one lucky winner took home a Backyard Prize Package worth more than \$7,000 but Kevin Bennett was hesitant to give away too many details when asked about this year's prize. "You'll just have to come and take a look for yourself" he said "But I will tell you, that I think this is one of my favourite giveaways yet!" So come out with the family, enter your name for the prize give-away, and check out the vendors; no ruby slippers required.

**Dates: April 20 5-9 p.m.; April 21 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; April 22 noon-4 p.m.**

# Spotlight on business: Reid's Jewellers among Kentville award winners

Kentville Businesses cleaned up at this year's Eastern Kings Chamber of Commerce Best of Kings business awards on Feb. 23 at Acadia Fountain Commons, where winners were announced and presented with awards.

After more than 7,637 people voted for their favorite businesses in 25 different categories, Kentville businesses had a total of 20 top three placements. Seven of those businesses claimed first place awards, and several were repeat winners.

Reid's Jewellers claimed the top prize in the category of Best Jewelry Merchant, and Café Central, Rockwell Home Hardware and CentreStage

Theatre were also repeat winners this year. Scotia Mcleod, Lawtons, and A Beautiful Bouquet took home awards for the first time in the categories of Best Financial Service, Best Pharmacy and Best Florist respectively.

For Reid's Jewellers, this year's win was especially exciting. The store picked up its fourth award in a row, meaning no other jeweler has topped them in number of votes since the inception of the Best of Kings Awards.

D.M. Reid Jewellers Ltd. was founded in 1988 by Jim Duguid and Dave Reid. The staff have more than 100 years combined experience and training, and the small business prides itself on quality customer service. Reid's has been recognized with a variety of awards over the years including being named Atlantic Provinces Jeweller of the Year in 2001. Reid's was awarded the Better business Bureau's Community Achievement Award in 2004, and the Mayor's Corporate Award



The staff at Reid Jewellers earned the company its fourth Best of Kings award.

from the Town of Kentville in 2009 recognizing the organization for outstanding community involvement and support.

Dave Reid recently helped organize a group of Kentville retailers and food service businesses in an effort to find ways to collaborate on projects benefitting the Kentville business community as a whole.

"As retailers we are all a vital component of Kentville's downtown. We give it life," he says. "It's important that we work together and share ideas."

Reid is happy with the participation so far.

The Town of Kentville is very happy for Reid's, and is extremely proud of all the Kentville businesses nominated this year. Mayor Corkum, members of Town Council and Staff send congratulations to the owners and staff members of those businesses.

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## Town of Kentville Summer Programs

The Town of Kentville will once again be hosting programs for kids aged 3-12 this summer including junior and senior adventure camps, tennis lessons, kiddie camp, swimming lessons and public swims. Programs start July 2 and run for eight weeks.

Registration night for all summer programming is June 7 at Town Hall from 5:30p.m. to 7 p.m. For further information on all town-run summer programs contact Gillian Morrison in the Recreation Department at 679-2540 or recreation@kentville.ca

### Kentville Minor Baseball

Mosquito, PeeWee, Bantam and Midget players must

be registered by April 15. Mosquito House ages 9 to 11 & rookies ages 5 to 8: players must be registered by May 12th, 2012. Forms are available at [www.kentvilleminorbaseball.com](http://www.kentvilleminorbaseball.com) Participants are encouraged to register by mail, sending the registration, signed Code of Conduct and payment to box 554, Kentville, Nova Scotia, B4N 3X7 Walk-in registration will be available on April 15th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kentville Indoor Soccer Facility. An additional walk in registration will be held (for Mosquito House and Rookie ages only) on May 12th from 9 a.m. to noon at the Kentville Recreation Center.

# Webster Court work complete

In the last issue of *Kentville Connection*, Webster Court was featured as a work in progress. The work has since been completed and on Feb. 21 the Town, in conjunction with the Federal Government, held an official ribbon cutting ceremony on the site to celebrate.

Residents and Webster Court property owners were joined by Town staff, members of council and engineers, and planners involved in the project to celebrate the completion of the work at a news conference held at the Kentville Rec Centre. The group then walked to the site for a ribbon cutting ceremony and some photos.

Gerald Keddy, Member of Parliament for South Shore–St. Margaret’s and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade, accompanied by Kings North MLA Jim Morton, and Kentville Mayor Dave Corkum participated in the ceremony.

The renewal project included the installation of new asphalt, new concrete curbs and sidewalks, as well as the addition of LED ornamental street lights, handrails and stamped concrete medians. The street was also widened to accommodate more parking.

The Town received funding for the project from the Federal Government’s Gas Tax Fund.

“Our Government’s top priority is the economy,” Keddy said on behalf of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities Minister Denis Lebel. “Investing in local infrastructure creates local jobs and economic growth, and we are proud to deliver permanent annual infrastructure funding for municipalities through Canada’s Gas Tax Fund.”

The Government of Canada contributed \$240,000 toward the project through the Gas Tax Fund.

“We have been extremely happy with the support we have received from the federal government for this development project,” said Mayor Corkum. “The joint effort of all involved in this project,



**(Above):** The new streetscape on Webster Court.  
**(Below):** MLA Jim Morton, Mayor Dave Corkum and MP Gerald Keddy cut the ribbon.



including the outstanding work completed by the individual property owners on that street, has helped transform Webster Court from one of our oldest looking streets into one of the nicest streets in Kentville.”

The Mayor also recognized Wayne Gibbons, former director of planning and development for the Town, who he credited with conceiving the original conceptual design for the space and who was in attendance for the ceremony.