

KENTVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INFORMATION PACKAGE

(IN CONJUNCTION WITH A PRESENTATION TO TOWN OF KENTVILLE COUNCIL – MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017.)

BACKGROUND –

• The Kentville Historical Society is comprised of a small group of people, mostly citizens of the Town of Kentville, who see the need for an organization to focus on the history of Kentville and its environs. A number of communities in the Annapolis Valley have some form of historical or museum society. Those communities include Annapolis Royal, Berwick, Canning, Hantsport, Kings County, Middleton, Windsor, and Wolfville.

• ***Kentville, however, does not have its own historical society. We believe that this is an oversight which needs to be addressed. To that end:***

• The name “Kentville Historical Society” has been registered with the Nova Scotia Joint Stock Registry. On August 30, 2017, KHS was granted status as an independent non-profit organization.

THE ORGANIZATION –

• KHS began meeting informally in February 2017. Regular monthly meetings have been taking place since April. During this time the name and official status were secured, complete with a Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and clearly stated Objectives. (Note Appendices A, B, and C)

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- Administrative details such as opening a bank account have been completed. An application to the CRA to secure charitable organization status is being filed. Efforts to secure a permanent meeting place are ongoing. Our first membership drive and fundraising endeavor will begin in November.
- There are currently 12 members of the KHS. Individual backgrounds are varied. They include a journalist, bookkeeper, housewife, historian, retired Department of Justice officer, two business persons, and four retired educators. The common thread among the group is ***a desire to raise awareness of Kentville's past and how it contributed to making us who we are today.***
- Kentville Historical Society will operate using a standard set of bylaws as suggested by the Joint Stock Registry. The society will hold its first annual meeting once the membership drive has been completed. At that time the official nomination and election of KHS officers will take place. Until then, KHS is operating with an interim five member Board of Directors. The directors are: Louis Comeau, Ian Cox, John MacDonald, Brian Pulsifer, and Lynn Pulsifer. The Board of Directors will meet a minimum of four times per year.
- Although not yet officially "launched", KHS is generating some interest. We have fielded a number of inquiries regarding membership, donations of artifacts, and numerous suggestions for projects to take on.

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- Some suggestions received to date are: story boards for downtown, models of buildings, period model railroad, period murals, museum, recreation complex with space for same, education sessions for children and adults, recorded interviews with elder citizens, hall of fame and sports hall of fame, each with an annual induction ceremony, ghost tours, cultural / heritage reenactment events displaying types of dance, food, work or entertainment.

- We have also drawn criticism for “going too slow”, being naïve, “not building on momentum”; as “dreamers, not doers”, and “a total waste of time when there are much more important things needing attention”.

- We acknowledge that there will be skeptics. There always are. There were, for example, plenty of skeptics around when Centre Stage Theater began a few decades ago. But what a success they’ve become!

SUSTAINABILITY –

- The financial viability of any non-profit organization is tantamount to its success. Whether it be minor sports, a community theater group, or a religious entity, “staying afloat” is an ongoing concern. The Board of Directors know that remaining sustainable will be a challenge. It will be hard work and will require much time and energy. The Kentville Historical Society has been examining some possibilities.

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- These include:
 - a. Fundraising - running the gamut from ticket raffles to major events such as annual dinner auctions or induction ceremonies. We have been in contact with local fundraisers regarding possibilities. KHS will also look into the feasibility of working with local service clubs on projects.
 - b. Federal, provincial, and municipal grant programs, as well as corporate assistance initiatives
 - c. Donations and bequests (Attaining charitable status is key.)
 - d. Membership fees
 - e. Fees for services rendered

OUTCOMES-

- In the end, we hope the following will be achieved:
 - a. Awareness of Kentville's history will be raised, both within the community and elsewhere. That awareness will create renewed interest in Kentville. Going forward, citizens and others may be more willing to get involved in their community.
 - b. To develop the skills of citizen volunteers in identifying, cataloguing, preserving, and displaying historical items.
 - c. To develop the abilities needed to assist in answering inquiries about local history.
 - d. An organization that will identify and properly recognize local events and citizens, both past and present, who have made or are making significant contributions to the town.

- e. To provide a better sense of place by working to educate each other.
 - f. A good working relationship between citizens and the Town of Kentville, its Mayor, Council, and staff.
- We believe this is about more than just a single society seeking your recognition and help. By “tapping into the skills” of citizens you can create the opportunity to build a cadre of volunteers who may prove invaluable in future endeavors that the town decides to take on. A group of citizens who can step forward at such times and assist council and staff with important projects would be a priceless asset for any community.

CONCLUSION –

- What is it we are seeking from Council? Two things:
 1. Your recognition of Kentville Historical Society as an entity within the town having a reasonable chance of success.
 2. Your ongoing support, where possible, within the means of the town and its financial constraints.
- Thus, with your support, we hope to be successful. We believe that with our success, the Town of Kentville will reap the benefits.

APPENDICES:**APPENDIX A: MISSION STATEMENT**

The Kentville Historical Society's mission is to encourage, strengthen, and promote the appreciation and knowledge of the historical and cultural heritage of the town of Kentville, Nova Scotia, and its environs.

APPENDIX B: VISION STATEMENT

The Kentville Historical Society will strive to be a leader in the preservation of our shared local history. As an integral part of the community and in the spirit of cooperation, the Society will endeavor to work with other historical organizations and the community at large in order to advance local historical awareness.

APPENDIX C: OBJECTIVES

1. To stimulate interest in Kentville's local history.
2. To catalogue, preserve, and display as much of that history as possible.
3. To provide assistance with inquiries regarding local history.
4. To formally recognize local historical figures and events, as well as individuals who have contributed significantly to the awareness and preservation of our history.
5. To encourage awareness locally through educational projects.
6. To work with the Town of Kentville, its Mayor, and councillors to raise the awareness and importance of our shared history.