



Kentville

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

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Introduction: Welcome to Kentville!

Kentville is located one hour west of Halifax, and 42 KM's east of 14 Wing Greenwood in the centre of the beautiful Annapolis Valley. Most notably known perhaps as a recreational destination and the home of the Apple Blossom Festival, one of Atlantic Canada's largest and longest running Festivals.

Kentville's recreation facilities lineup includes a full sized baseball diamond, 3 softball fields, a little league field, 6 soccer fields, an outdoor pool complex, an arena, the Valley Indoor Sport and event Centre, squash court, a three court tennis facility, curling club, outdoor basketball courts and 2 maintained playgrounds. Kentville is the future site of a large skate park development and a large scale playground project slated to be installed in the north end this year.



Left to right: Kentville Centennial Arena, Kentville Memorial Park, Kentville Centennial Pool.

Kentville prides itself in providing outstanding destinations for the “outdoor enthusiast”. Kentville has a plethora of trails and green spaces including hiking trails (both groomed and natural) and a protected wetland habitat right downtown. Mountain biking opportunities are plenty in Kentville, and numerous mountain biking events occur each season including the Kentville Mountain Bike Festival, Provincial point races, downhill races and 4 cross events. In 2018 Kentville will host a Canada Cup National Cycling event in the Gorge drawing people from across Canada to compete professionally.



Left to right: 2nd Annual Lifecycle, Kentville Miners Marsh, Kentville Mountain Bike Festival 2013

Kentville is home to numerous award winning professional service providers including lawyers, doctors, investment firms and banks. In fact Kentville is home to more professionals per capita than any other place in the Atlantic Provinces. Kentville houses the Valley Regional Hospital and

the Kentville Business Park which continues to develop and has lands available for continued development including parcels with Highway 101 frontage. Kentville also houses The Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre, one of the largest agricultural research facilities in Nova Scotia. The site currently employs over 200 people and sits on 473 acres (1.91 km²) of land at the east end of the town.

The town of Kentville is served by its own municipal police force, the Kentville Police Service, which is made up of up four patrol platoons that provide 24/7 policing. The Police Department maintains a response time of less than three minutes.

Fire services in the town are provided by the Kentville Volunteer Fire Department. The department has a paid staff including a full-time Chief and up to 70 volunteers. The Fire Department operates with 9 pieces of modern fire apparatus and provides specialized services including Hazardous Materials response, high angle rescue, cold water rescue, medical first response & vehicle extrication. Emergency medical services are provided by Emergency Health Services which operates a paramedic base in Kentville with a total of 4 ambulances.



Left to right: Kentville Volunteer Fire Department, Kentville Police Service, Kentville Research Station

Kentville has 8 restaurants, cafes, pubs and coffee shops in a one block radius in the downtown. On Wednesdays, the offering expands significantly as the Kentville Farmers Market sets up in Centre Square downtown from 10-2 rain or shine. Kentville has become known for its “café culture” and at any given time during a business day, downtown cafes and pubs are packed with people engaging in business as much as they are filled with people who are there for leisure.

Visitors to Kentville especially appreciate the availability of organic, local, fair trade, vegan, gluten free and other specialty products in Kentville’s eateries. Opening in Sept 2017 is a new retail Tea Shop & Panini Café which promises to bring something to Kentville that doesn’t exist anywhere else in the Annapolis Valley currently.



Left to right: The Kings Arms Pub by Lew Murphy’s, Paddy’s Brewpub, Kentville Farmers Market in Centre Square

Schools: From pre-school to Post Secondary

For young children, Kentville is home to a number of high quality licensed day-care facilities and also boasts the Wee-Folk Kindergarten School which has been in operation for over 35 years. Kentville's P-8 School, Kings County Academy, was re-built in 2011 and is LEED Certified, located adjacent to the town's major recreation amenities, and offers both English and French Immersion streams for every grade. KCA offers a strong music and band program including concert and jazz bands and a hand bell program. The sport and recreation programs at KCA benefit from the close proximity and use of the Town's premier recreation facilities.



Left: Little Pumpkins Inc. Day Care. Right: Kings County Academy P-8 School

Post-secondary options are available in Kentville, and close to Kentville as well. Kentville is home to the Nova Scotia Community College Kingstec Campus. This new and beautiful campus offers specialty programs not offered anywhere else including a 2 year Electrical Technician course, business training, agricultural and horticultural degree programs and tourism certificates.

The students at NSCC work closely with the Town and often partner on community and tourism projects and initiatives. The campus itself is 3 minutes from Downtown, and was recently renovated and upgraded to include a new library and expansive vineyard that supports some of the newly offered agricultural programs.

Just a few kilometers East of Kentville is one of the top undergrad Universities in Canada located in the beautiful and historic neighboring Town of Wolfville. Acadia University offers a myriad of programs and is also home to the Rural Innovation Centre and Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre.



Left to right: NSCC Students, Acadia University Campus, Innovation Bootcamp at the Rural Innovation Centre.

Health and Wellness: Valley Regional Hospital

Kentville is home to a major Regional Hospital (Valley Regional) serving both Kings and Annapolis County as well as providing specialty services to people in other areas of Western NS. Valley Regional has an MRI machine and houses specialists in Cardiology, Respiriology, Surgical (Vascular, General, Orthopedic, and Urology) Internal Medicine, Obstetrics, Pediatrics and Psychiatry. Valley Regional also has a fully operational Emergency Care Centre as well as an Intensive Care Unit. A newly built addiction centre is located just next door to the Valley Regional.



The Valley Regional Hospital is home to the following programs:

also

- Stroke Program
- Asthma Care Centre
- Chronic Pain Clinic
- Hearing and Speech Centre
- Organ and Tissue Donation
- Diabetes Centre
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Palliative Care
- Addiction and Mental Health Services
- Occupational Therapy

Valley Regional Hospital is beginning an expansion in the fall of 2017 that will eventually house a new 12 bed dialysis unit.

Located just down the street from the Hospital, two Professional Centres (Valley Professional Centre & Centennial Professional Centre) house the majority of the Physicians and Surgeons in the area.

Game Changers: What's happening in Kentville right now?

- Kentville is poised and on the cusp of an economic upswing. Start-ups have increased, and established businesses are moving in from outside areas to complement Kentville's long standing anchor tenants. **In 2016, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business named Kentville the #1 Place in Atlantic Canada to start up and do business, and Kentville placed 6th overall in all of Canada.**
- KBC is rolling out phase 3 of a façade improvement program for properties located in the downtown. The Façade program has already begun to visually impact the downtown significantly.



Above: before, and after new façade installations, partially funded by KBC.

- Kentville has continued to see steady growth both in population and in development of land. Kentville has land available to meet the needs of any potential development whether it is residential, commercial, or industrial, located downtown, in the business park, or within residential areas.

The Kentville Business Park

- The Kentville Business Park is one of the Valley's most active business centers. The Park covers approximately 200 acres of land, and currently underway is the installation of a new road and major infrastructure systems to allow for an expansion accommodating a major development.
- The Kentville Business Park houses over 45 different businesses and is widely considered the economic core for businesses of all sizes and types in Kentville and the surrounding valley.
- The Kentville Business Park is home to both large manufacturers and smaller service oriented businesses. Current land available in the Park for sale includes parcels with Highway 101 frontage which will provide high visibility and profile once developed.
- Business Park lands located in Kentville boast a special industrial tax rate equal to the commercial rate in Kings County. Lands in The Business Park can be subdivided to suit any size or need.

Outreach and Volunteer Opportunities

People in Kentville are known for their community spirit and willingness to lend a hand when it's needed. There are a number of organizations in Town that provide help to others, and likewise, opportunities to volunteers who want to get involved. The Kings Volunteer Resource Centre facilitates volunteer connections for the area. Some (not even close to all) of the programs and organizations running on volunteer power include:

- Open Arms / Inn from the Cold (providing food and emergency shelter to those in need)
- The Portal (Ending Youth Homelessness in the Annapolis Valley)
- The Salvation Army
- Kentville Farmers Market and Community Garden Society
- Kings County Family resource centre
- Kings Historical Society
- Chrysalis House (A transition home for abused women and children)
- Fundy Interchurch Food Bank
- Fidelis House Society (accommodation for families and patients from out of town at the VRH)
- Rotary Club of Kentville
- Masonic Lodge
- Kentville Lions Club
- Valley Community Learning Association (Supports adult learners through numerous programs)



Left to right: Rotary clean-up day, Hike for Hospice fundraising group, Open Arms volunteers and staff.

Town Departments: Parks and Recreation

Service Description:

The Department of Parks and Recreation strives to facilitate the physical and mental wellbeing of all segments of the population who find themselves in Kentville. The Department does this by offering inclusive and community driven recreational opportunities to all individuals regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, economic status or disability.

Who we serve:

The department of Parks and Recreation serves first and foremost the citizens of Kentville and those people visiting Kentville who wish to participate in recreational activities of any kind. Because Kentville is the “hub” centrally located in the Valley, Kentville Recreation is largely a regional service provider. Participants in Kentville programming and users of Kentville’s Recreational Facilities come from all over Kings County and beyond.

A focus is placed on Sport Tourism and drawing people to Kentville who look for opportunities to travel for sport or recreation. Those people are targeted through marketing coordinated by the Community Development Department, but ultimately while recreation users are here, they are served by the recreation department through facility and green space use.

How we serve:

The Department of Parks and Recreation achieves its goals through community engagement, policy development, programming, facility and park maintenance and planning.

Kentville Parks and Recreation takes a high amount of pride in providing top quality facilities for hosting sporting activities, recreational events and festivals. Kentville hosts a large number of tournaments for soccer, baseball, and softball, as well as swim meets, provincial championship figure skating and hockey. As such, the Parks and Recreation Department services these participants and their families by providing high level maintenance and care of facilities to ensure repeat business.

The Parks and Recreation Department is also most notably responsible for the coordination of the Pumpkin People Festival in October, Harvest Festival, Street Fest and other special community events. Parks and Recreation also provides support for the activities of the Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival, which brings around 75,000 people to Kentville in the Spring.

The Nova Scotia Tourism Agency conducted visitor exit surveys in 2013, and what they found was that 1/3 of visitors to Nova Scotia had visited to participate in some sort of outdoor experience. Kentville has made it a priority over the last year to better promote the opportunities for outdoor activity that already exist here, and to place a significant effort on increasing those opportunities for folks travelling to visit, especially mountain bikers and cyclists. Kentville was featured in Canadian Cycling Magazine as one of the top 10 Gems for cyclists to visit in Canada because of the quality of its trails.

Kentville Recreation also serves visitors and citizens by providing exceptional green spaces and opportunities for people to spend time in nature. Miners Marsh in the heart of downtown is a protected wetland which is home to thousands of species and includes almost 2 kilometers of walking trail, viewing stands, boardwalks and interpretive signage. The site won a Conservation Service Award from Ducks Unlimited Canada shortly after its opening in 2009.



Left to right: Mountain Biking the Gorge, making Pumpkin People at Harvest Fest, Apple Blossom Kid's Parade.

Town Departments: Engineering and Public Works

Service Description:

The main functions of the Engineering and Works Department include engineering, public works, water treatment and distribution, and sewer collection. Engineering Services facilitates and manages the Capital and Operating Budgets for the Towns Transportation Services, Roads Transport Program, Environmental Health, Sanitary Sewer and Water Utility. Road programs include; Town streets and parking lots, sidewalks, storm sewer, street cleaning, snow & ice removal of streets and parking lots, street lighting, traffic services and signs.

Who we serve:

The Engineering and Works Department serves mainly residential and commercial property owners within the Town of Kentville. However, the water utility, which operates under the Kentville Water Commission, services a number of residents outside of the Town limits as well. This is the result of the Stead Agreement (October 1988) which created the amalgamation of the Stead Water Utility (previously maintained by the Municipality of the County of Kings) with the Kentville Water Commission. This agreement represents one of the best examples of shared services with the Municipality of the County of Kings. Approximately 20% of Kentville Water Commission customers reside within the Municipality of the County of Kings.

How we serve:

Transportation

All main routes outside of Town borders are maintained by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. As these routes are heavily travelled, both commercially and by the general public, they maintain high funding and level of service priority. As our main routes, we too prioritize their maintenance. In the 2014/15 fiscal year Kentville invested approximately \$500,000 for capital work on the road network.

Almost all of Kentville's major routes are either completely accessible with sidewalks or have future plans for completion within a 5 year capital plan. The downtown core is completely serviced with sidewalks. Kentville's sidewalk and road networks, which include several pedestrian activated crosswalks with overhead lighting, are linked to the Town's many trails and recreation facilities providing active transportation and exercise opportunities at all levels.

Beyond summer maintenance and capital work, Kentville also places a high priority on the snow and ice removal on road and sidewalk networks during the winter season. Snow removal takes place as necessary to allow the business community to open their shops and for citizens to make their way to work on time. Kentville's sidewalks are routinely cleaned to allow for pedestrian traffic and active transportation. The department is often complimented on snow and ice removal services.

Water

Kentville's citizens have central water services provided by the Kentville Water Commission. Kentville's water is drawn from an underground aquifer located in the West End of Kentville which is protected under a source water protection plan and Town By-laws. For fire protection Kentville has 4 above ground reservoirs (water tanks) throughout the town and fire hydrants as required. Downtown core properties have excellent fire flow and pressure. River Street has a recently renewed 200 mm diameter water main with an approximate pressure of 110 psi. The Town has three certified water operators that monitor and test water each day, both manually, through instrumentation, and computer monitoring to provide safe and clean drinking water for water customers. Kentville's water rates remain some of the lowest in the Province of Nova Scotia. This gives water customers confidence in the management of the utility and the ability to budget for future planning. At the Atlantic Canada Water and Wastewater Conference in 2014, Kentville placed 4th in Atlantic Canada in the for fun best tap water blind taste test.

Sanitary Sewer System

Kentville's sanitary sewer system consists of collection and pumping only. All sewage treatment takes place in the Village of New Minas, one of our partners under the Kings Regional Sewer System. The system is maintained by seven certified operators that also conduct video inspections of the system to assist with the planning of future system upgrades. Sanitary sewer services on River Street, also recently upgraded, flow by both gravity and pressure sewers eastward to the RG5 Sewage Lift Station near the Cornwallis River Bridge which was upgraded last year.

Storm Sewer System

Kentville's storm sewer system mainly consists of gravity sewers of various sizes with associated curbs, catch basins, manholes, etc. with the Cornwallis River being the end receiving water. As Kentville has a number of public green and open spaces there are also a number of open ditches and swales to allow for temporary storm water flow and storage. Because of a recent flood that affected some downtown properties, a study was commissioned in 2008 to determine a means of flood mitigation for the area. Following the report recommendations, a considerable amount of infrastructure was placed along the Cornwallis River west of the bridge to minimize the potential flooding of a predicted 1 in 100 year event. Infrastructure near River Street includes berms, large gravity sewers, special outfalls designed to prevent insurgence of water from the Cornwallis River, and pumps to discharge storm water when required. These areas are monitored annually. Further studies and general planning is ongoing for areas east of the Cornwallis River Bridge which has included a joint effort with surrounding municipalities to develop a Municipal Climate Change Action Plan.

Street Lighting

Kentville's street light infrastructure currently consists of a variety of high pressure sodium (HPS) and LED lights. Nova Scotia Power maintains the majority of the streetlights and is in the process of replacing HPS lights with new and more efficient LED lighting. The Town operates and maintains a number of ornamental LED lights in the downtown core, which includes River Street.

The Town considers the walkability of the downtown and streets in general a high priority and always looks toward continuous improvement in this area.



Clockwise from top left: Snow removal after storm, street lighting, street cleaning equipment, paving.

Town Departments: Planning & Development

Service Description:

The Province gives municipalities the power to make statements of policy with respect to a broad range of activities, including development, land use, public lands, transportation, municipal services, and many other matters related to the physical, social and economic development of the community in the form of a policy document known as the Municipal Planning Strategy or MPS. The Kentville Municipal Planning Strategy is a statement of Council's policies for growth and development of the Town. The Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) consists of policies, text, and maps. Land use (zoning) and subdivision by-laws provide the regulations required to implement the policies of a municipal planning strategy. The Land Use By-law (LUB) establishes zones, permitted uses for each zone, and standards for development such as property setback requirements, lot area and frontage requirements, landscaping requirements, sign and fencing requirements, etc.

Who we serve:

The Planning Department works with elected officials and the residents of the Kentville community to lead the planning process with the goal of creating a livable and vibrant community. The Department helps civic leaders, businesses, developers, and citizens envision new possibilities and create a broad vision for Kentville. This vision is delivered through a Municipal Planning Strategy and Zoning Bylaw.

How we serve:

The enforcement of the LUB is primarily done through development permits. For example, whenever a building changes use, for example from a jewelry store to a restaurant, a development permit is required to ensure the Municipal Bylaw is being met. Development permits are administered in concert with Building permits & Inspections to ensure buildings are being constructed in a safe manner. Accessory structures such as garages, signs and pools also require permits.

The Planning Department administers the Subdivision By-law which sets out requirements for subdividing land. A subdivision is the division of any area of land into two or more parcels, and can include a re-subdivision and/or a consolidation of two or more parcels. The Subdivision Bylaw also establishes policies for new road design and construction; municipal services and parkland.

Arm's Length Partners: Kentville Business Community

Service Description:

The Kentville Development Corporation Limited (KDCL) is a proactive private sector based business development organization committed to support, promote and grow the Kentville business community thereby helping to insure a prosperous, sustainable future for all citizens.

Who we serve:

The Corporation represents, supports, and advocates for businesses and entrepreneurs in the community as their principal constituents, with a focus on downtown development and revitalization.

How we serve:

The Kentville Development Corporation was incorporated in 1980 and works closely with the Town Council and staff and the greater Kentville community. The officers and directors are drawn from established businesses and property owners in the town.

The Corporation is active in five general areas covering Business Development; Marketing and Communications; Infrastructure and Investment; Business Representation and Advocacy and; People and Community.

The Corporation has a comprehensive strategic plan with proactive strategies and action plans for business and community development. The Corporation implements its strategic plan programs with the support and assistance of an involved board of Directors, sub committees, and a supportive and engaged network of community businesses.

Current projects of the corporation include a Downtown Façade Improvement Funding Program, delivery of an annual Multi-cultural Festival that has grown to be the largest of it's kind in Nova Scotia, and delivery of a variety of downtown special events and promotions that support business retention, attraction and over-all growth.



Arm's Length Partners: Valley Regional Enterprise Network

Service Description:

It is the mission of the Valley REN to guide and navigate regional economic development while providing support to businesses, operating as a connector among economic development partners, supporting business growth and retention, and providing leadership on economic priorities.

Who we serve:

The Valley Regional Enterprise Network (Valley REN) was incorporated in March 2014 under the Municipal Government Act. The partnership comprises the Glooscap First Nation; Municipality of the County of Kings; Municipality of the District of West Hants; and the Towns of Berwick, Kentville, Middleton, Windsor and Wolfville. It is led by a volunteer Board of Directors, drawn mostly from the private sector and bringing to the table a wealth of experience in business and economic leadership.

The Valley REN serves the eastern part of the Annapolis Valley – West Hants region of Nova Scotia.

How we serve:

- Develop, implement and monitor a regional economic development strategy that is reflective of provincial and regional economic development priorities
- Cultivate close working relationships with the business community to support the development and attraction of new businesses and to retain and expand existing businesses
- Inform partners and stakeholders about local business-climate conditions as well as regional challenges and opportunities

ValleyREN



REGIONAL
ENTERPRISE
NETWORK