

## Lieutenant Governor Community Spirit Award Entry Form

Thank you for taking the time to tell your community's stories and what makes it so special.

- Please fill out the following information and then continue to complete your nomination by adding extra pages to this word document so that it will arrive in one single attachment.
- Please save your file by community name.
- All entries should be in Microsoft Word format and, if appropriate, in video format (avi or mpg only) as a second attachment.
- **All completed entry forms and submissions must be emailed to [submissions@communityspiritaward.ca](mailto:submissions@communityspiritaward.ca) by midnight, January 31, 2010.**

Community Name: **Kentville**

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Names of Groups within the community who have joined together to put forward this nomination:

1. **Kentville Lions Club**
2. **Kentville Volunteer Fire Department**
3. **CentreStage Theatre Society**
4. **Kentville Rotary Club**
5. **Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival**
6. **Environmental Advisory Committee, Town of Kentville**
7. **Valley District Soccer Association**

By submitting your nomination you are agreeing to allow the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award to post your stories on the Award's website and to share these stories online with the Award's media partners.

## **Introduction:**

Kentville has many ways of raising spirit our community; it's just finding the one that best fits the individuals that we're targeting that decides how effectively it works. The difference is the people, the individuals that either come together in Kentville. If you can make all of your events high profile events, you've accomplished the mission. The Town of Kentville demonstrates community spirit in numerous ways. There are many organizations and events that bring youth, adults and seniors together. The more people involved the more spirit there is at these events. One common thread that these organizations have is volunteers.

Individuals contribute in important ways to the life of their community by being members of or attending meetings of voluntary associations, where such activities as participating in decision making, acquiring and giving information, and expressing preferences through voting, take place. These and similar activities might appear to be less direct, less active than volunteering one's time to such organizations, but they are essential ingredients in building and supporting one's community.

Kentville thrives because of the work of many volunteers and organizations that give back to the community. The organizations that are described in this document contribute to the environment, culture, and safety of the Town of Kentville and it's citizens. All of these organizations play an integral role, and by applying for this award they are forming an important partnership for the benefit of the Town of Kentville.

## **A Brief History of Kentville:**

Kentville, located only 103kms from Halifax, is today the most populous and increasingly growing town in all of the Annapolis Valley.

The recorded history of the Town of Kentville is one that dates back to the time of the first European settlers, the horse drawn carriage and the CP railway. This area of Nova Scotia, along the famous Bay of Fundy, was initially settled by the Mi'Kmaq Indians who were the first settlers in Canada, centuries before the Europeans found the land and claimed it as their own. The Mi'Kmaq referred to this area as Penook which meant "fording place," because of its location at the bend in the Cornwallis River, a natural crossing point between Horton and Cornwallis townships.



The first European settlers were French Colonists, called Acadians and they settled here around the beginning of the 17th century. The Acadian French cultivated the rich land, and subsequently developed the area into a prosperous agricultural hub.

Life in this area was not always comfortable for the Acadians, as they were subjected to numerous hardships. Their lands were the object of a fierce battle, as Britain and France each tried to take control of North America, in all four of the French and Indian Wars. The land was maintained as neutral territory during much of this time.

The Acadians were French-speaking peoples, but lived in British territory and refused to swear allegiance to Britain or France. The British found this intolerable and in the year 1755, thousands of Acadians from all over Nova Scotia were expelled from their lands. They were dispersed among the British colonies to the south, from Massachusetts to Georgia, and overseas from England to France. Later, after the expulsion of the Acadians, between 1760 and 1800, the lands were won over by the British and soon 13 townships were established in the north western section of the province. These lands were allocated to those New Englanders known as the Loyalists, and they colonized them during the American Revolution, and well into the 1800's.

The Loyalists, as their name suggests, were Americans who were loyal to the British crown. Therefore, they would not fight in the American Revolution for freedom from British rule. Many of these Americans fled north to Nova Scotia, to the free land and new life that awaited them. Many others came later, fleeing persecution from the victorious revolutionaries.

At the end of the 18th century, Kentville became the Shire Town of Kings County and, being at the junction of seven roads, grew into a commercial centre, serving agricultural villages throughout the Annapolis Valley. The town was named "Kentville" in 1826 as an honour to Queen Elizabeth's grandfather, Prince Albert, the Duke of Kent, who had visited the area in 1794. When the Windsor to Annapolis railway (later Dominion Atlantic) established its headquarters here in 1868, and began shipping Annapolis Valley apples to British markets, the community began to thrive. Although the British fruit market collapsed with WW, and trucking of freight replaced rail transport, Kentville survived, and remains today as the area's financial centre.

### **Kentville Lions Club:**

The group was formed in 1949. They have been working tirelessly for the past 60 years to help raise millions of dollars for many groups within the Town of Kentville, and the Annapolis Valley.

Some of the projects that the Kentville Lions Club has raised money for over the years are Fidelis House, The Red Door, and the Fundy InterChurch Food Bank. They have helped to raise money for the Salvation Army during their Christmas Appeal. The Kentville Lions Club can be reached online at:

<http://lionwap.org/eclub/sites/kentvillens/index.php>

### **Kentville Volunteer Fire Department:**

The KVFD was established in 1888. The KVFD provides services to the Town of Kentville, Municipality of the County of Kings, and Mutual Aid to neighbouring fire departments.

Some members of the Kentville Fire Department are involved with specialty services with Wolfville Fire Dept., Canning Fire Dept., and New Minas Fire Dept. These services consist of Hazardous Materials Team, High Angle Rope Rescue, and a Cold Water Rescue Team.

The Kentville Volunteer Fire Department responds to an average over 350 calls per year. If you are ever in the Town of Kentville, please stop by and meet our friendly staff, explore our state-of-the-art equipment, and take a tour of the facility (which includes a museum). The fire department website is: [www.kentvillefire.ca](http://www.kentvillefire.ca)



### **CentreStage Theatre Society:**

The idea of having a quality, year-round community theatre was the dream of many volunteers. The first location for the theatre was in Centre Square, Kentville. Since its inception, *CentreStage* has provided the Valley with not only good theatre but also with an outlet for the creative talents of its citizens. As a result, the theatre has garnered a large and dedicated following among the members of the theatre-going public. This has in turn inspired and energized those charged with the task of “running” the theatre to greater efforts to improve upon this wonderful gift. It was for this reason that those in a leadership role applied for and were granted status as a Society as defined under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia. By doing so, the Theatre looked to expanding the involvement of the theatre-going public in the actual running of the theatre. It also gave the theatre the opportunity to add an educational element to its mandate; consequently, workshop for adults and children have become part of the fabric of the theatre.

The recent move from the Centre Square location in Kentville to the River Street location in Kentville was not accomplished without incurring great expense. Thankfully, “sweat equity” helped to keep the cost from soaring to unmanageable levels and the donations from the Town of Kentville, the Kentville Rotary Club, the Government of Nova Scotia, numerous patrons, and generous repayable loans from some Board members have allowed us to meet our obligations thus far. Those who have visited the new site have been favorably impressed and feel that the move has added greatly to the theatre-going experience. To aid in our fund-raising efforts, the Society applied for and was granted

status as a not-for-profit organization by the Government of Canada. This, of course, allows us to issue tax receipts for any donations given to the theatre that meet the Revenue Canada guidelines.

*CentreStage* produces eight different plays a year, each running for six consecutive weekends on Friday and Saturday evenings. Each show opens with a preview performance on a Thursday where all seats are pay as you can. During the run of each show, provision has been made for a matinee performance which generally takes place on the third-to-the-last weekend of the show. The plays are a mix of comedies, mystery thrillers, musicals and warmhearted dramas. When one play is in production, the one following it is in rehearsal. The Society also offers theatre camps for children which usually results in a production that is presented to the general public.

Involvement with *CentreStage* is strictly on a volunteer basis and is done for the love of theatre. There are no paid employees, which makes it truly amazing that *CentreStage Theatre* is now in its 26th year of existence and has produced as of September 2009, 204 plays/musicals, involving a total of over 300 different actors/ actresses/ singers/ technicians in the Valley.

### **Kentville Rotary Club:**

We exercise a strong involvement with international programs such as Polio Plus. It is matched by our equally strong and perhaps more visible commitment locally, particularly with our service to those in our community living with identified disabilities. The Rotary club's community development programs address many of today's critical issues - hunger, clean water, the environment and literacy to name a few. We organize and direct efforts that significantly focus on young people. These include educational bursaries, leadership training workshops, student exchanges and the promotion of ethical standards in the workplace. Many of these efforts are achieved through the mentor ship of young people and others who are encouraged to become and remain productive members in our neighbourhoods. Kings County residents have always supported and cooperated with the Rotary Club of Kentville. This invigorating relationship allows each of our members, on behalf of our community, to experience the rewards of Rotary service. We are grateful. Above all, we achieve these things through being conscientious of the proven ideals of Rotary International, remaining supportive of each other, our families, our community, always concluding the best and greatly enjoying the journey. One example of the way that the Kentville Rotary Club has helped the Town of Kentville is by partnering with Health Promotion and Protection to build a section of walking trails, specifically the Ducks Unlimited Trail. The Kentville Rotary Club website is: <http://www.clubrunner.ca/CPrG/Home/homeF.asp?cid=383>



## **Festivals & Events:**

There are numerous festivals and events held within the Town of Kentville, these are a few highlights.

### **Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival**

In 1933, the first official Apple Blossom Festival was celebrated with Reg Caldwell as President. Other committee members included Mayor G. W. Lyons, H. O. Bishop, C. C. Eidt, G. R. Palmeter, R. W. Harris, M. A. Girvan, Dr. J. P. McGrath, T. P. Stent, G. L. Calkin and R. D. L. Bligh, all of Kentville. The committee had convinced the provincial government of a blossom Festival's value as a tourist attraction, and the government provided some financial assistance.

Original objectives of the Festival were to make the Valley's apple industry better known throughout North America and Europe; to publicize the scenic beauty of the area and the historic background of Longfellow's Land of Evangeline; and to provide an opportunity to foster and develop local talent through participation in Festival events.

Little has changed from the successful format of the inaugural event. There was a contest involving selection of a blossom queen from among princesses representing several apple-growing communities. The queen was chosen by a panel of judges who based their decision on character, poise and personality of the young ladies. Mary Armour, of Middleton, was Queen Annapolisa I. Her coronation took place at the Dominion Experimental Station in Kentville, and on hand to cover the event was the Associated Screen News of Montreal, making newsreels to be shown in motion picture theatres throughout Canada and the United States.

Two years later, the Festival was incorporated by the provincial legislature and is to this day the only Festival that holds this status in the province. There are many events that bring people together during the Festival, such as the Grand Street Parade, and the Children's Parade, as well as the Fireworks, and the Scotian Gold Family Fun Day. Each year thousands of people from all over the Maritime Provinces attend Apple Blossom Festival events. The Apple Blossom Festival website is: [www.appleblossom.com](http://www.appleblossom.com)



Lindsay Pearl, Queen Annapolisa LXXVII



Children's Parade

## Harvest Festival

It's harvest time again in the Annapolis Valley and there's no better place to celebrate than in the town of Kentville! Restaurants prepare incredible dishes using fresh, local ingredients; shop windows come to life with fall decorations and Pumpkin People; and the spectacular autumn leaves transform the town into a brilliant maze of colours. Kentville's annual Harvest Festival, which for more than 20 years has celebrated the harvest season, is held at the beginning of each October. The Festival welcomes the world famous Pumpkin People, as well as thousands of visitors who make the town a destination point during their autumn tour of the province. Kentville's mascot Spike the Pumpkin Person also makes an appearance. In addition to the Harvest Festival, October also brings the world-renowned Pumpkin People to the Town of Kentville. Streets, sidewalks, shop windows, lawns and door steps come alive with the presence of these mysterious beings. Constructed from cornstalks, straw and pumpkins, these folkloric figures are assembled. There is an adventure waiting around every corner for all who come and take part in the Kentville Harvest and Pumpkin People Festivals!



Spike the Pumpkin Person



Kentville Harvest Festival

## **Environmental Advisory Committee:**

The Town of Kentville kicked-off a public education campaign to clear the air of needless traffic pollution with the launch of an anti-idling campaign. A screening of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" was part of the launch, hosted by the mayor of Kentville at NSCC's Kingstec Campus.

Ron Zima of The Children's Clean Air Network was a guest speaker. "The Town of Kentville is showing real public leadership on this issue. The Children's Clean Air Network believes that public education and leading by example is the key to success. To my knowledge, Kentville will be the first community in Nova Scotia to take this to the public this way. We applaud them," Zima says. "In effect, they've thrown down the gauntlet and said, 'let's stop our engines.' The public will follow us."

The Town of Kentville is the first community in the Atlantic Provinces to have passed an anti-idling bylaw. The Idling Control Bylaw, was created for the purpose of protecting the health and well-being of citizens by limiting their exposure to emissions from vehicle exhaust and for curtailing greenhouse gas emissions that affect the atmosphere. The bylaw states that people can idle their vehicle engines for a maximum of three minutes. To view the complete bylaw, including the full list of exemptions, visit [www.town.kentville.ns.ca](http://www.town.kentville.ns.ca).



## **Valley District Soccer Association:**

The **Valley Sport and Events Centre (VSEC)** opened on February 1, 2005 in response to the growing popularity of soccer and the need for a large, indoor, open space sport and event facility located in the Annapolis Valley.

Based in Kentville, Nova Scotia and conveniently accessible from Highway 101 by Exit 13 or 14 (see [Directions](#)), it is the only regional facility to offer indoor turf with a "real grass" consistency. The playing surface **FIELDturf** measures 120' X 220' and is complimented by four changing rooms and a second floor viewing area for soccer fans to cheer on their favorite teams.

This ambitious project, a Valley District Soccer Association initiative, was six years in the making with the District's soccer players providing a significant investment into this state of the art facility. Our funding partners included Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Province of Nova Scotia, Department of Health Promotion, the Town of Kentville, the Municipality of the County of Kings, and Soccer Nova Scotia. The building is not just an indoor soccer stadium, with it's 28,000 plus square feet of open space the structure is ideally suited for multiple sports and events and available for rental.

The business community has whole heartedly supported the project with in excess of forty-five Annapolis Valley businesses providing sponsorship funds to complete the project and purchase all the necessary equipment. Their brands (logos) have been added to this web site and we would ask you to support them the next time you require a service or product.

The Valley Sport and Events Centre gives the Town of Kentville a recreational space that can be used all year round. It is the home to the Valley District Soccer Association, which allows the Valley Senior Soccer League, as well, many youth to hold games there throughout the year. You can find them online at: <http://www.valleyindoorsoccer.com/>



## **Conclusion**

Volunteers are the true champions for the Town of Kentville. Volunteer efforts enhance the overall well-being of our society. Just as people depend upon each other for help, everything in nature is interconnected. This is truly apparent by everything that all of these committees and organizations do for our community.

Kentville is a great place to live because of the people and organizations that are helping each other, and by the spirit and all of the volunteerism. Proper motivation, training, and a sense of belongingness and teamwork are important means to sustaining a spirit of volunteerism.

All of these community groups motivate their volunteers, and that is why they are so prosperous, they are all active and provide important contributions to the community. The Apple Blossom Festival, Pumpkin Festival and CentreStage Theatre offer important cultural contributions through their plays, concerts, parades, and family events. The Apple Blossom Festival also recognizes the history and traditions of the Valley, as it goes into the 78<sup>th</sup> year. There are groups that provide exercise opportunities for youth and seniors, such as the Valley District Soccer Association with the Valley Sport & Events Centre, and the Kentville Rotary Club, by helping to fundraise for the walking trails.

Kentville residents, give, volunteer and participate. They engage in these behaviours to connect with individuals, and groups in town. They support other citizens by providing their time, and skills. They donate money to organizations and causes to ensure that projects are undertaken and goals are met. They participate in town events in order to be connected to the things that matter in their own lives and their family life. Kentville residents are broadly involved in these activities that add to the quality of the life of individuals and to the social capital of their community. These actions, ultimately, make the Kentville a better, richer place in which to live. It is for all of the reasons outlined in this document that Kentville is worthy of receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award.