

Community Name: Woodville, Kings County

Key Contact Person: Jack van Roestel

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

1. Woodville Community Centre (WCC)
2. Waterville-Woodville District Volunteer Fire Department
3. Annapolis Valley Mountain Bike Association (AVMBA)
4. Western Kings Community Health Board
5. Municipality of the County of Kings
6. Woodville Baptist Church



Attached to this submission are selected letters of support that articulate Woodville strengths, spirit and energy.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit our community for this prestigious Award. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Best Regards,

Jack van Roestel (WCC)

Woodville, Kings County-Early History and Current Status of a Vibrant Community:

“Woodville occupies its place in the fertile Annapolis Valley, nestling into the North Mountain and providing a home for about 200 people. A landscape of orchards, pastures, cultivated fields and well-kept homes may be what one first notices, but Woodville is also a vibrant active community of citizens who have discovered how to support each other, have fun, who know how to work together.” (this is a direct quote from Jim Morton, MLA Kings North, in his Letter of Support for Lieutenant Governor’s Community Spirit Award submission).

In 1864, when the public school system was introduced to Nova Scotia, the law required that school sections be given names. A group of citizens met at the Kinsman store and decided to

give the community the name Woodville in recognition of Samuel Wood, who bought land in the area in 1812.

A post office was established in 1871 in the store which was located on the corner where Boates U-Pick is presently located. A new store, included a post office, was built on the northwest corner of Bligh Road in 1915. Woodville was wired for electricity in 1936 (taken from Hazel Foote's book "The Homes of Woodville" 1997)

The big brick building that is now the Woodville Community Centre was built in 1943. The structure is situated on the east side of Bligh Road and was built to replace a school that was destroyed by fire in February of 1942. This new school was large for the time; three classrooms, two cloakrooms, a library and a lab upstairs. Downstairs there was a kitchen, an auditorium, and two washrooms.

Grade Primary through Grade 10 attended. In 1952 Central Kings opened in Cambridge. Grades 7-12 were bused there. In September 1961, the Woodville school organization expanded to include the word "community" in its name. It was still focused primarily on raising money to support the school but also the local hospitals in Berwick and Kentville. In May of 1967, the group changed the name to the Woodville Community Club. During this time, the group sponsored a Girl Guide and Brownie group. The Woodville School Section No. 26 closed in June of 1971. The community group purchased the building from the Municipality of Kings in January 1972 for \$1, and an annual fundraising strategy was needed to maintain the building and the activities it supported.

The idea of a chicken BBQ came about. The first BBQ was held on Apple Blossom Sunday in 1972 on the property of Keith and Charlotte Boates. This has continued to be the main fundraiser for the community and is well supported by community members. At present 3400 sides of chicken are cooked on pits in the Boates' yard and the potato salad is made on site in Charlotte's kitchen with the help of many volunteers.



The WCC became more active with card parties, suppers, 4-H, clubs and dances. The period from 1975-78 saw many changes at our hall. The two front classrooms were made into a large upstairs area and the other classroom became a kitchen. The name again changed a last time in 1986, to the Woodville Community Centre (WCC). The building has seen more renovations over the years. In 2000, the fire escape entrance on the north side of the building was extended and a new entrance, stairway and elevator were installed. This made the building accessible friendly for wheelchair users and seniors. The bricks and plaques in the new lobby are a reflection of the donation support to this project from the community.

In the fall of 2009, a generous donation of exercise equipment from a community member gave us a new idea; the vision of creating a fully functioning gym to encourage fitness and well-being for people reluctant or unable to use commercial alternatives. This space has proven to be very popular in Woodville and surrounding communities with over 200 members from youth to seniors. The gym project, opened in November 2009, includes the provision of a keyless entry system for security and ease of access, showers, and warm-up area.



Unique Strengths:

The unique strengths of Woodville that have really developed strong community spirit, are its size, long-term involvement of its current community leaders and a dedicated cadre of volunteers, the wide range of recreational and social activities supported, and its communication with residents. Woodville, at around 200 people and 80 households, is just small enough that neighbours know each other on a first name basis; and can pull together for the annual Apple Blossom Festival Chicken BBQ fundraiser, Christmas Community Potluck Supper which attended by about 125 residents and guests; or to host social events like our Saturday morning coffee parties (weekly from Jan. – March), and the annual Garden Party to celebrate the High School Graduates (July).

Woodville is just big enough to be able to pull off its 40th annual Apple Blossom Festival Chicken BBQ (May 29, 2011) where 4000 – ½ piece chicken meals will be prepared and served in a lovely orchard setting. Besides the chicken this event has its residents prepare all the potato salad, coleslaw, and build (maintain) its own 100 picnic tables. This BBQ uses locally produced honey, cider, vinegar and yes.... chicken. This major event is only possible because of over 100 volunteers from all community families. Woodville is also just big enough to maintain a very functional 10,000 sq. ft. community centre; a satellite volunteer fire station (of the Waterville – Woodville District brigade); North Mountain Hiking Trails; Youth Swimming lessons; a community use fitness gym; and exercise programs. Other annual programs sponsored by WCC include a Christmas Craft Fair and Luncheon (a fundraiser and social which attracts 100 – 150 people); a week long children’s day camp in August (20 – 35 youth for crafts, fitness and fun); Easter Egg Hunt (involves 30 – 50 young children and their parents); Pumpkin Carving Party (in late October with 20 – 35 children and parents taking part); and youth and adult tennis lessons. In addition, Variety Shows are held 6-8 times yearly in conjunction with the Baptist Church featuring an evening of bluegrass music & other entertainment; and a one-day Youth Wilderness Survival Course is given every few years (in cooperation with RCMP staff and Valley Search And Rescue staff involving 15 – 20 youth on the North Mountain Trails). Finally, other educational courses are organized as the opportunity arises (e.g. First Aid, food handling course for public events, and Internet security for seniors). Some of the main programs are discussed in more details in the section below.



Woodville Youth Swimming Lessons
(120 Participants in 2010)



Pumpkin Carving Party
(An Annual Tradition in Woodville)

Another main strength Woodville has is its hard working and long-term leadership that we currently benefit from. The Woodville hall was purchased for \$1 in 1972 and this same year was also its first annual Chicken BBQ fundraiser. Several of its initial organizers Ron Rafuse, Charlotte Boates, George Foote, Alice vanHattem and others are still active BBQ “crew chiefs” now, and have been heavily involved for all 40 BBQ’s (a remarkable feat in modern volunteerism). Our WCC chair George Foote, has actively presided and lead us since 1986 (25

years in this volunteer position). Many of our current WCC executive or committee chairs have been involved for the past 10-15 years, so Woodville really benefits from dedicated long-term leadership and continuity. Our activities and achievements reflect a strong and dedicated volunteer foundation. When help is needed, the volunteers are there for construction and maintenance help, for fundraising, for hosting events, and for organizing and supporting activities. Many of our volunteers offer their professional or special skills to further community projects (for example computer technology or website skills, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, First Aid, writing and editing funding proposals, and events coordination).

Communication with residents is strength of the WCC and essential to foster our high rate of volunteer commitment. Our two main communication outlets are the monthly newsletter (see attached) and the website at www.woodville-kingscounty.ca. Communication with residents is also a part of several other programs including the Christmas Pot Luck and winter coffee parties. With all communication vehicles a special effort is made to welcome and encourage new residents to join in the activities and functions of their choice.

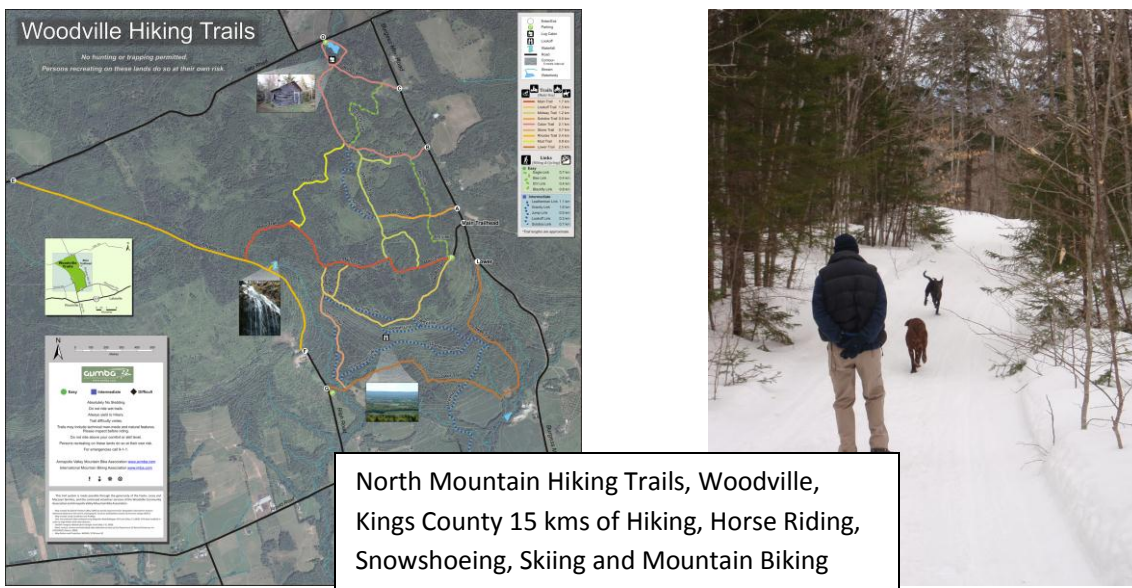


The strengths of Woodville are reflected in the attached 2010 financial summaries. It is amazing that a small community of about 200 residents was able to raise and spend about \$100,000 on its overall programs in 2010, with a major focus on recreation and social programs.

Creating an Enduring Community; Programs and Citizen Participation

Woodville offers many programs for a community its size. One of its most popular would be our public use fitness gym in the WCC building. The keyless entry system allows members access from 5:30 am to 9:00 pm on a daily basis. This fitness gym features 2 new treadmills, a rowing machine, a ten-station circuit of flex equipment, an upright and recumbent bike, two weight stations, free weights and barbells, and two elliptical machines. This fitness gym has an affordable membership of \$50 for individuals, \$75 for couples, and \$100 for families. The community gym is particularly popular with the over 50 crowd (and especially seniors) who want a close-to-home and unthreatening workout environment. It's gratifying to see seniors come in groups of 3 -4 and workout, laugh and converse for an hour improving both their physical and mental wellness. The fitness gym is often used by young mothers and working couples in the evening.

The community North Mountain Hiking Trails feature 15 km of either "double track" hiking, horse riding, skiing, snowmobiling or ATV use or "single track" snowshoeing or mountain biking trails. These trails have been maintained by the community since 2004, and are all on private land where we have a signed 10-year cooperative agreement with landowners. The trails are used by individuals, various Kings County hiking-snowshoeing-horse riding groups, and also is the main biking trail system for the Annapolis Valley Mountain Bike Association (see attached AVMBBA Letter) which have held two provincial competitions at this site.



The WCC has organized Red Cross certified swimming lessons for youth aged 3-18 years for the last 23 years. Last year we had over 120 youth participate in the swimming lessons. We hired two qualified instructors, mostly through funding support from both the County of Kings and the Village of Cornwallis Square. The cost per child for a two-week session of 10 lessons is an

affordable \$40. These lessons are held in an outdoor private pool in our community where the WCC cost shares on electricity and pool chemical expenses. The WCC purchased and installed an electric heater for this pool a few years ago to maintain a July water temperature of 80° F conducive for children learning to swim.

During the fall-winter months the WCC organizes various 10-week exercise sessions. Currently we are featuring twice weekly Zumba classes with qualified instructor, Suzanne Fevens (see her attached letter) and Yoga on Tuesday nights with Karen Roberts. These sessions are particularly appealing to women and participation has been excellent; usually 20-25 people attend each session.

In November 2008, the WCC cost shared the erection of a granite “Woodville Monument of Honour” at the WCC with the support of the Federal Democracy 250. This Monument of Honour, containing the names of the men and women of the community who served in conflicts from World War I to the current mission in Afghanistan, was dedicated at a public ceremony Saturday, November 8, 2008. In all, there are more than 80 names inscribed on the monument, from World War I veterans to three young Woodville men who have served in Afghanistan. Woodville resident and honorary chaplain of Canadian Legion Branch No. 69 out of Berwick, Christina Bigelow stated at the monument dedication: “We remember the fallen, and those who died in the service of their country, but we don’t always recognize the veterans that are still with us, it is important we honour the living as well and the sacrifices they made, and it’s just as important that we do it now while they’re still here to be part of it.” Each year, the Monument of Honour serves as the focus for our annual November Remembrance Service.





Summary of other Woodville Community Assets

- Double tennis courts (paved, fenced and built in 1987)
- New playground equipment (purchased in 2007 for \$25,000)
- Outdoor community skating rink (shallow pond, widened and maintained in 2010-2011)
- Community kitchen to support functions and private receptions
- Plans in 2011-2012 for an emergency comfort station (need to purchase diesel generator, fuel tanks and upgrade electrical entrance \$ 15,000 investment)

Lasting Partnerships:

Partnerships are important for any community, but probably more so to a smaller, rural community such as Woodville. Financially the Province of Nova Scotia through Health Promotion and Protection, the County of Kings and the Western Kings Community Health Board have been big contributors to our different programs yearly. In terms of moral and people support the Woodville Baptist Church, Waterville-Woodville Fire Brigade, Annapolis Valley Mountain Bike Association and others from time to time, have helped us make things happen. We are very grateful for the generosity of all these groups and our committed volunteer residents who seem to get caught up in the spirit of Woodville and provide their volunteer services year after year.

Community Pride

This whole Community Spirit Award submission speaks of community pride. This recent WCC newsletter article illustrates Woodville's ability to embrace and nurture its residents.

Woodville Community Spirit and the Christmas Potluck

"Just wanted to encourage you to let Woodville's community spirit embrace and entertain you in 2011. Our Woodville Community Christmas Potluck on Dec.12th was very special this year. It

not only got me in the festive mood, but reminded me about how great a community Woodville is. This year, I was able to share this Potluck experience with my son and some long-term friends that I asked to come along (city folk....from Coldbrook). My friends commented on how unique this community spirit is in Woodville and the awesomeness of our fitness gym in these current faster paced times when people usually don't know their neighbours or take time to volunteer on community projects. From my standpoint, the Dec.12th Woodville Christmas Pot Luck was so neat because....

- 125 people took the time to gather & enjoy some festive fellowship
- we had people there from 93 years young (Earl Balsor) to 3 weeks old (Rowan VH-Conant)
- the food/cider as always was plentiful and delicious
- George Foote our WCC Chair of 25 years gave his annual report on recreation, social and building/trails renovation activities and was quite proud to let us know we had our highest yearly spending ever on community programs.
- we had Terry Day the Woodville version of Vinyl Café's Stuart McLean, giving us a splendid reading of 'Twas the Night before Christmas'
- there was some lovely caroling, and Santa was in fine form with the kids
- it was a treat to talk with many fellow residents that I may only see a few times a year at this gathering, our Apple Blossom BBQ, trail work or wherever.

For those of you newer to Woodville (you know that up to 10 year residents are still in this newcomer category, where this is a community that started in the 1850's and didn't have electricity provided until 1936)..... I encourage you to let this spirit embrace you. Don't be shy about attending winter coffee parties, August corn boil, future Christmas Potlucks, using the community hiking trails, our WCC fitness gym, and offering your time at the BBQ or whatever project interests you. Say in tune with Woodville activities by visiting the website (<http://www.woodville-kingscounty.ca>), and also through this newsletter or talking with WCC program members. **Enjoy the wonderful spirit of Woodville!"**

What will the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award do for Woodville?

The Community Spirit Award would formally be a chance to celebrate our great community spirit and accomplishments. This award would recognize Woodville as a great place to live and raise a family. The award would recognize this community's long-term leaders and volunteer base who have consistently been part of our 40 annual Chicken BBQ fundraiser (nets \$10,000 – 12,000 annually for programs) and who have also been the big drivers in many other WCC activities and have nurtured "the wonderful spirit of Woodville".

Thanks for considering this submission!!!!





Coffee Parties
(held weekly in Woodville homes Jan – Apr)



Annual July Community Garden Party
(recognize Woodville High School Graduates)



Woodville Community Corn Boil
(held each year in August)



Woodville Community Corn Boil
(fun and food for all ages)



Woodville Day Camp
(held first week in August)



Woodville Chicken BBQ (40th Annual being held on
May 29, 2011. Serving 4000 ½ chicken dinners)

WOODVILLE
Community Centre
The Centre of your Community