



Village of Kingston
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING November 5, 2020

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting (attached)
4. Honourable Leo Glavine, Minister of Health and Wellness
5. Kings County Mayor Peter Muttart
6. Kings County Councillor Martha Armstrong
7. Financial Statements – Auditor Update
8. RCMP Report - Sgt. Ryan Kelly
9. Volunteer of the Year Presentation
10. Election Information - 2 Commissioner Positions
 - Candidate Lauren Avery
 - Candidate Michael Bishop
 - Candidate Neil Larder
11. Clerk/Treasurer Report
12. Departmental Reports
13. Questions from the Floor
14. Adjournment

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**VILLAGE OF KINGSTON
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
KINGSTON FIRE HALL
THURSDAY MAY 30, 2019**

COMMISSION:

John Pierce – Vice Chair
Muriel West
Wayne Fowler
Paul Parsons

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer
Janice Hatfield – Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Honourable Leo Glavine - Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage/MLA Kings West
Lawrence Lake - Morse Brewster Lake, Appointed Auditors for the Village of Kingston
Martha Armstrong – County Councillor, Municipality of the County of Kings – District 4
Staff Sgt. Ryan Kelly – Kingston RCMP Detachment

CALL TO ORDER

Due to the passing of Chair Don Holmesdale, Vice Chair Pierce called the meeting to order at 7pm, introduced Village Commissioners, staff and guests and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Pierce asked for a review of the minutes of the May 30th, 2018 Annual General Meeting.

ON MOTION OF DAVID ACKER AND HILTON LANGILLE THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 30TH, 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Vice Chair Pierce asked for any business arising from the minutes of May 30th, 2018. No business arising from the minutes.

KINGS COUNTY UPDATE

County Councillor Martha Armstrong provided the following update:

- County Council passed the 2019/20 municipal budget on April 19th with no tax increases.
- County moving into the new municipal building in Coldbrook; there will be an open house in September.

- As part of Kingston's water study the County has budgeted money to drill test wells in north Kingston and other parts of Kingston
- Trying to get a traffic count completed by the Department of Transportation at the intersection of Main St and Maple St; hopefully it will be done in the next few months.

Questions from the Floor

Resident Hilton Langille asked if possible traffic lights at the intersection of Main Street and Maple Street would negatively affect the entrance/exit into Tim Hortons. Councillor Armstrong stated the traffic count study may not even warrant a full set of traffic lights and that the rapid flash lighted crosswalks might be the most effective alternative.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Municipal Auditor Lawrence Lake of Morse Brewster Lake presented the draft financial statements for the 2018/19 fiscal year. Auditor stated the independent auditor's report has more information due to changes this year in the Canadian auditing standards. He reported it was a clean audit opinion and the Village is in good shape financially. On a consolidated basis, the Village had a \$352,000 surplus due to gas tax received for its capital projects, higher receivables, and higher HST offset. Kingston's long term debt is now paid off. The Commission transferred \$450,000 in accumulated surplus into Reserve Funds. The net financial assets increased due to purchase of CIBC building, sewer and sidewalk upgrades, equipment and land improvements (fencing for 2 parks). The net financial assets at the end of the year were 1.9 million.

Questions from the Floor for Auditor

Audience member asked if the gas tax was an annual thing or a one time allotment. Auditor stated it depends on the projects, the Village applies for the funding and then receives it and the Village has to kick in their share but there is a maximum of how much they can apply for.

Resident Dave Acker asked if the Village is managing its finances well and if it was in good shape financially. Auditor stated yes.

HONOURABLE LEO GLAVINE – PROVINCIAL UPDATE

Minister Glavine, Communities, Culture and Heritage, provided an update on one of the projects the province is working on with the Village:

- The Commission agreed that the time had come to see an improvement to the Kingston library. Libraries have taken on an important role of offering a wide array of programs for pre-school aged children to seniors. He stated the Kingston Library lacks space at the moment but since the Village has purchased the CIBC building for its offices the library now has room to expand. The Village applied for a \$30,000 grant to purchase furnishings and other library requirements. Minister Glavine stated he is negotiating for stronger support with the provincial and federal governments. The province can partner with the

federal government to get money from the 'Small Communities' Fund' for a revitalization of the library.

- Minister Glavine stated roads are always a concern and explained that the roads in the Village are a provincial responsibility. The subdivision roads in Kingston that were paved before 1995 are known as J-Class roads and are cost-shared 50/50 between the County of Kings and the Province. The County decides which ones are going to be resurfaced each year. There is no list yet for this year's road resurfacing in Kings County.

Questions from the Floor

Resident David Acker asked if the province is responsible for ditches and culverts in subdivisions. Minister Glavine replied yes and to contact the Department of Transportation (DTIR) with any concerns.

Resident asked if there is a provincial plan to replace retiring doctors. Minister Glavine acknowledged the doctor shortage and explained there have been 10 doctor retirements in the area in an 18 month period. He provided the following insight:

- The concept of collaborative practices is more attractive to doctors and nurse practitioners.
- Doctors are taking considerably less patients and working fewer hours.
- Five years ago they started to increase the number of students at Dalhousie University to deal with the needs.
- The medical student ratio has changed from 50% specialists and 50% family medicine to only 30% family medicine.
- Financial incentives were offered to family practice students but the issue is you can't tell a doctor where to practice. The new doctors don't want to work in rural areas so the government has to find other ways to bring them to the rural areas.

Audience member asked if the government realizes that a good quality health care in a community draws people to the community. MLA Leo Glavine stated 'absolutely' and that the government is trying to get approval for doctors trained in the Caribbean to bring them here directly. They are also working on recruitment from the UK.

Audience member asked about a higher salary scale for new physicians. MLA Glavine stated the government is working on a number of other ways including a new model of fees for service.

Audience member asked if there is the ability to have an evening clinic at the new medical centre in Kingston similar to Berwick. MLA stated an evening clinic is difficult now since many doctors don't want to work evenings, particularly if they are new parents. It might be possible if there was one more doctor added. There is a lot of room at the new medical centre in Kingston for more doctors and the government is offering various financial incentives. They are also trying to bring in nurses to help the doctors and are expecting another nurse practitioner soon at the Kingston Medical Centre.

- There will also be a new collaborative care building addition to Soldiers Memorial Hospital in Middleton for blood work etc. which will hopefully attract more doctors.
- MLA Leo Glavine stated he would be available after the meeting if anyone has any other questions or concerns.

Chair Pierce reiterated that the roads, culverts and ditches are the responsibility of the Department of Transportation, even regarding flooding issues.

RCMP REPORT

Chair Pierce introduced Staff Sgt. Ryan Kelly who joined the Kingston detachment in January. Staff Sgt. presented the 2018/19 Kings District RCMP annual review which included the following:

- **Calls for Service** - Kings County had 14,185 calls (1,437 in Kingston) such as 911 calls, property crimes, crimes against persons etc.

Priorities include:

- **Safer Roads** – 431 Check Stops Conducted, 47 Roadside Suspensions issued, 69 Alcohol Impaired Driving Charges Laid, 1 Drug Impaired Driving Charge Laid and 1456 Traffic Enforcement Charges Laid
- **Crime Prevention and Reduction** - Human trafficking presentations, Comstat (Computer Statistics) - Priority Offenders, Hot Spots, Crime Trends, Predictions, Offender Management, Curfew Checks, Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Investigator, Victim Services
- **Enhancing Connections with First Nations** - Developing educational programs and opportunities to engage and interact with the First Nations communities – the goal is to reduce crime and victimization; Initiatives for Youth & Elders, Career Presentations and active promotion of RCMP recruitment
- **Cyber Crime** – Deliver cyber safety presentations throughout Kings District schools, youth participation in provincial cybercrime committee, investigated several cybercrime incidents, assisted Kings District members with significant investigations requiring dedicated/specialized resources
- **Valley Integrated Street Crime Enforcement Unit** - An integrated unit with one Kentville Police Services officer and two Kings District RCMP officers.
 - * Interruption of organized crime initiative
 - * 35 charges under the Controlled Substances and Drugs Act
 - * 25 charges under the Criminal Code
 - * 30 persons charged
 - * 36 firearms seized (32 long guns 4 handguns)
 - * \$40,000 crime related money seized
 - * Significant drug seizures (total street value in excess of one million dollars)
- **Safer Youth** - Youth Intervention & Diversion Model (Hybrid Hub) continues; Internet safety and cyber bullying presentations to schools and community groups within Kings District, Youth diverted from judicial process, Human Trafficking information
- **Community Policing Officer** – Liaise with local committees and groups, Coordinates community events, Media liaison for Kings District, PSA Community Presentations, Kings Senior Safety Program, Kings District Victim Services

- **Domestic Violence /Child Abuse /Sexual Assault** – Reviews and investigates high risk or complex domestic violence/sexual violence and child abuse investigations, Liaises with Chrysalis House, Annapolis Valley Victim Services, Child and Family Services, and Kings County Crown Attorneys
- **School Safety Resource Officers** – Updates SAFE Plans for schools, Participates in school lockdown drills, Presentations to students on drug awareness & prevention; alcohol & binge drinking, cyber bullying, internet safety, threat/harassment, distracted driving and human trafficking. Hybrid Hub (participate in meetings – police restorative justice, schools plus school staff) Behavioral and disciplinary intervention
- Providing reports on crime statistics to Village
- Will be bringing back bike patrols this summer in Kingston as well as doing ATV patrols.

Questions from the Floor

Audience member asked if there was an increase in marijuana use in youth since the legalization. Sgt. Kelly responded there has not been much difference.

Chair Pierce asked if there was still an active Citizens on Patrol. Sgt. Kelly responded yes.

MLA Leo Glavine asked if the staffing compliment was up to strength at the detachment. Sgt. Kelly responded yes.

DR. HILL – SAND BARRENS PRESENTATION

Dr. Hill spoke of the importance of sand barrens, a globally rare ecosystem that is present in Kingston and surrounding areas. He reported there are rare plants in the Kingston area such as a rare Shadbush, Golden Heather, Crowberry, Bearberry and wild blueberries. He stated he would like to see the sand barrens managed since they support rare and uncommon collections of plants and animals. The plants help stabilize the sand, recharge the aquifer and help the base flow for the Annapolis River and give clean water for wells. He stated he would like to see the barrens preserved and promoted and for recreation he suggested it could become a tourist draw for things like trail running and marathon running.

Audience member suggested ATVs could be stopped from ruining the ecosystem.

Vice Chair Pierce thanked Dr. Hill for the presentation and for giving the residents a new perspective on this rare ecosystem.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Commissioner West announced there were four nominations for Volunteer of the Year submitted this year including:

- * Carl Nichols, nominated by the Kingston Area Seniors Association
- * Jen Vaino, nominated by Pine Ridge Middle School
- * Sharon Hatt, nominated by the Upper Room Food Bank
- * Carl Howard, nominated by Cindy Howard from Kingston/Greenwood Minor Ball

Commissioner West thanked all nominated volunteers for their efforts and announced that the committee, comprised of past volunteer of the year winners, chose Carl Nichols as the Village's Volunteer of the Year for 2018. She read the nomination resume with all of Carl's volunteer commitments over the years and presented him with a plaque. Carl Nichols thanked the Village for the award and the committee for selecting him.

COMMISSION NOMINATIONS

Chair informed the audience there were two vacancies on the Village Commission, and that two nominations were received and accepted from Michael Bishop and Brad Beardsley. Chair stated Mike Bishop will be accepting the remaining one year of the late Don Holmesdale's 3 year term and Brad Beardsley will accept a 3 year term.

Chair stated Commissioner/Chair Don Holmesdale passed away in March and explained that after his working career Don spent most of his time giving back to his community. His quiet and dedicated leadership was a valuable asset to many different organizations. He will be greatly missed by Village staff and commissioners. Chair Pierce offered condolences and presented Don's wife Linda with a Village photo.

Chair Pierce thanked outgoing Commissioner Paul Parsons for his 5 years of service with the Village as well as his knowledge and expertise and presented him with a Village photo. Commissioner Parsons stated he became a commissioner to get a better perspective and is leaving with the confidence that the Village Commission and employees are dedicated to the residents' best interest.

Chair also recognized Village staff for their many years of service and dedication.

CLERK / TREASURER REPORT

Several capital projects were completed this past year including:

- Replacement of a lift station on Maple St - \$123,000 fully funded through gas tax
- Replacement of 5 Village entrance signs
- A new Village website was created
- Replacement of one public works truck - \$38,800
- Main Street Sidewalk Renewal - \$58,000 – two-thirds gas tax
- Expansion of public Wi-Fi service and cameras
- All Village buildings converted to LED lighting – \$14,000 with rebate of \$3,000 from Efficiency NS
- Replaced one more piece of fitness equipment on the Stronach Park Fitness Trail, with only one piece left to replace
- Fencing replaced and repaired – added a few more gates
- Replaced snow blower attachment on MT6 sidewalk snow removal equipment
- Purchased the CIBC bank building at 655 Main St to move Village Office into in order to expand the Kingston Library. Looking for funding from the province.
- Kingston Central Water – Village provided a cost shared amount of \$50,000 to the County for water test drilling as a step to eventually get water to the Village
- Leaf/Brush Bins provided to residents spring and fall

2018/19 Fiscal Summary

Clerk stated there was a \$90,000 surplus.

2019/20 Operating Budget Highlights

- No changes to residential, commercial or sewer tax rates again this year. The rate is comparable for residential properties in Kings County.

2019/20 Capital Budget Initiatives

Clerk reported that, for the first time in 20 years, Kingston is currently debt free.

- KN14 Sewer Force Main Project - Installing 2km of sewer force main along rail bed to allow more development and provide service to all of east Kingston and relieve strain on Main St lift station - \$400,000
- Office and Library renovation – budgeted \$325,000 – including funding from province
- Expansion of public Wi-Fi network
- Replace aging infrastructure
- New signage on Hwy 101
- New digital LED event sign for downtown, cost shared with Kingston Lions, Kingston Legion and Kingston Fire Department
- Drilling of test wells by County for possible central water system for Kingston - \$100,000 - \$50,000 from Village \$50,000 from the County

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Muriel Craig asked if there were any plans for a new sidewalk in East Kingston and why the County will no longer be contributing funds to the Visitor Information Centre (VIC). Clerk stated the next priority for a sidewalk will be on the south side of Balser Drive but the Village is waiting for more information from the Department of Transportation on cost and whether or not it will require a storm sewer. Clerk stated the County does not feel that VICs should be funded anymore; they feel it is becoming an antiquated form of tourism with technology taking over. Clerk stated the Village will continue to fund the VIC. Chairman Pierce stated the commission is asking the County to reconsider this year's funding for the VIC since they were informed after the Village's budget was finalized. The commission will continue to look closely at the cost of supporting the VIC particularly with dwindling numbers each year.

Carl Nichols asked which side of Balser Drive the sidewalk would go on and if easements will be required. Clerk stated, if it is built, it will be on the south side with the streetlights and will only affect Department of Transportation right-of-ways.

Gordon Stewart asked if there were any plans to clean out the ditches in Ravenwood Subdivision, which seem to look worse since there is no longer a leaf pickup by Valley Waste. Clerk explained the areas chosen for beautification and maintenance are only on land owned by the Village. Commissioner West stated the Village is providing yard waste/leaf bins to assist residents in keeping their property tidy. Clerk recommended

calling Valley Waste or the County of Kings' Dangerous and Unsightly Premises department to report unsightly leaves left out in yards for extended periods of time.

David Acker asked Clerk if he anticipated any expenses that will significantly impact the Village's financial position. Clerk stated no but over the next decade there are always environmental concerns with regards to our Sewer Treatment Plant.

Resident commented that people cannot take their dogs to the Ravenwood ball field area during baseball season and asked if there were any plans to create a dog park. Clerk stated the dog park has been on the capital list but stated there has not been much demand. It is an expensive endeavor to create a dog park and it would have to be considered by the Commission during capital budget time. The Village would also need to hear from residents to know if there is enough of a demand.

Chair Pierce stated there are copies of the budget available at the Village Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – See Full Reports

Chair asked the audience if there were any questions from the audience regarding the four committee reports and also pointed out that any questions can be brought to the office throughout the year.

There were no questions regarding committee reports from the audience.

Chair Pierce reminded the audience that this year is the 60th Annual Steer BBQ and that it will be a 4 day event and will be bigger and better than ever. Chair Pierce thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Questions from the Floor

Resident asked if the test wells are taking in the capacity for the whole village, if the County or Village knew the status of the aquifer and there if was a long term strategy for production of water consumption. Chair Pierce provided background that the Village wanted to be able to own and manage its own water system, but realized it was too costly to undertake. Therefore, it was all handed over to the County to pursue. The County owns Greenwood's water system and they want access to another source of water as a backup for their system. Commissioner Fowler stated they have met with engineers at the County who will complete these tests. He also stated this will take years but the County is looking into well drilling sites that will be satisfactory to the size of the Village.

Scott Peckford asked if the Village had any plans to expand its boundaries to the north side of Hwy 101. Chair stated the County had no interest in the Village expanding. Councillor Armstrong stated part of the problem is the land is agricultural which would not be allowed to be developed. Clerk stated another hurdle would be that two thirds of residents, in both the expanded area and the Village, would have to agree to the expansion.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss,

ON MOTION OF DAVE ACKER THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:05PM.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

CLERK/TREASURER



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Wastewater Report 2019/20

Sewer Treatment Plant Maintenance

As reported last year for AGM, the tender to replace the effluent clarifier brackets did not attract any bidders. Staff, with the help of Loomer's Pumping Service, pumped clarifier down to a workable level while replacing brackets that hold baffle plate in place. Maintenance is always ongoing with a mechanism that is moving 24/7, 365 days a year and is 27 years old. Staff have indicated to commission that replacement or significant makeover should be considered in the **distant future**.

Annual reports to the provincial Department of Environment Compliance and Monitoring Division for the Sewer Treatment plant were submitted. Quarterly averages for the year were well within compliance for the effluent leaving the plant. Quarterly reports were also submitted by the treatment plant manager to the Federal Division of Environment and Climate Change Canada for review.

Daily chores at the treatment plant are ongoing and include washing down clarifier, cleaning out pumps and cleaning the UV bulbs and UV channel. Samples of the effluent are also taken once a month and sent to Accredited Lab for analysis.

There were 1840 cubic meters of sludge hauled from the treatment plant's sludge digester during the fiscal year. Sludge is hauled away to a licensed facility, Loomer's Pumping Service.

Staff also attend annual seminars and attend courses to maintain CEU's (continuing education units) to maintain proper level of certification to operate treatment plant and maintain sewer collection system.

Sewer Collection System

Capital project to install 2km of 6 inch force main sewer pipe from East Kingston lift station (KN-14) under the rail bed to 760 Main St connecting into sewer easement manhole was put out to tender and awarded to Mid Valley Construction. The capital project also included diverting the sewer flow on Kingswood Lane to the gravity line that runs to KN-14. This was to help take the hydraulic load off KN-3, one of the older stations installed in 1972. New pumps were also installed in KN-14 with a slight increase in horsepower to accommodate the 2 km pumping distance of the newly installed force main sewer pipe.

Sept 7th tropical storm caused widespread power outages in Kingston/Greenwood area. All 13 lift stations outside of the treatment plant lost power. As a result, there was rain water infiltration and illegal sump pump hook ups into the sewer system. Sewage had to be trucked from some of the higher flow lift stations to avoid back ups into homes

not protected with back water valves. Portable multi voltage generator may have to be considered in the future.

Directional drilled sewer lateral technology is being used more often by Public Works staff to avoid tearing up infrastructure such as paved roads, sidewalks and curbing. This trenchless technology saves expensive reinstatement of infrastructure that usually remains patched for a long time. New lateral for resident on Old Brook Rd was directionally drilled by Public Works staff and sub contractor to avoid digging up road and next door neighbour's landscape. The sewer lateral in this case was directionally drilled with grade into manhole in street 200 feet away with only a small cut in resident's driveway to make connection onto new sewer pipe. There will be more need for this type of technology in 20/21.

The Village has a total of 14 lift stations with 2 pumps in each station. Stations are high pressure washed and cleaned twice a year as a preventative maintenance measure to reduce grit and grease buildup that causes wear and tear on impellers and wear plates.

Pumps were pulled in certain lift stations periodically to remove rags jamming the impellers. Call outs were limited with staff only being called out 4 times over the course of the fiscal year.



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PUBLIC WORKS REPORT 2019 / 20

New Village Office Location

Jan 3rd 2020 Public Works staff moved desks, filing cabinets, meeting room table, chairs and computers from old office to newly renovated office at the former CIBC bank at 655 Main St.

New Year's Eve Celebrations

Public Works staff picked up wagon from Dempsey Corner Farms, decorated it with Christmas lights and used Kubota tractor to pull wagon for people attending celebrations. Special thanks to Dempsey Corner Farms for loan of wagon.

Snow & Ice Removal

Sidewalk snow and ice removal was carried out by Public Works staff with limited snow removal due to a winter without a lot of precipitation. Salting of sidewalks was steady due to cold temperatures with approximately 68 ton used. As reported in previous year's report, Public Works barn was modified by staff to receive 28 ton loads of salt at a time. Automatic garage door opener was also installed on Public Works barn door which helps operator get product down that much faster.

Snow removal and ice control in the downtown core area from Palmer Dr. to the United Baptist Church is contracted out every three years. Contractor was in the second year of contract and submitted price for snow and ice removal of the newly acquired Village Office property to be included in lump sum price for remainder of contract. Price was accepted by the Village Commission.

Ice Surfaces

Public Works staff installed frame work for outdoor arena on tennis courts. Plastic bladders were ordered by the Kingston Rec Department for each ice surface and filled by the local fire department. Maintenance duties for the ice are shared between Public Works staff and Rec Coordinator with flooding and snow clearing of the 2 ice surfaces. The duck pond at Stronach Park was also cleared of snow and maintained by staff for part of the winter months. Thank-you to Kingston & District Fire Department again for helping with the ice surfaces and periodic flooding of the duck pond.

Stronach Park Fitness Trail

Public Works staff installed fitness apparatus ordered by the Recreation Department. New Fitness Trail structure replaces old Tire Run. Wood chips/mulch was used in and around station for soft landings. This completes the replacement of wooden structures on the trail to painted metal structures, which should last much longer.

Rail Fencing

New sections of Wood Rail Fencing were installed in different sections of the Village including a new section behind Village steer with boulders to break up sections of fence. A 100 meter section of aging fence had to be replaced from Bridge St to the Visitor Information Centre. Sections of fence were also installed at Ravenwood ball fields to create border along edge of parking lot and playground.

Overall Maintenance

Overall maintenance included mowing and trimming of grass, fertilizing and applying of lime in the various parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and roadside grass areas running from Paragon golf course to Park Street. Along with planting of the flowers, shrub and flower beds were mulched and weeded. There was regular watering of the hanging baskets and planters throughout the village. Garbage cans and picnic tables are painted every season and distributed to the various parks and recreational areas. Painting of buildings, dugouts, bleachers and fences is ongoing along with sweeping of parking lots and sidewalks.

Other tasks carried out by Public works staff include installation of duck pond fountains, start up of Rock Fountain and upkeep of water supply for it throughout the season. There is also installation and storing away of foul ball nets at Ravenwood ball fields and installation of Christmas lights throughout the village. Water testing of different wells was also carried out by staff at the 6 different locations in the Village. Sidewalk and parking lot patching is ongoing annually along with line and decal painting on parking lots and asphalted ATV trail in places.

Rec Report 2019/20 Highlights:

March 12th, 2020 Kingston Recreation began to cancel programming due to COVID-19 and the government restrictions for group gatherings, social distancing, etc.

Kingston March Break Day Camp – CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 UNCERTAINTY

Kingston Older Adult Fitness – CANCELLED MARCH 2020 DUE TO COVID-19

October 6th 2020 Kingston Recreation was able to re-start the Older Adult Fitness program in collaboration with the Kingston Legion. The program complies with all provincial public health COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions. The class averages 18 participants each Tues & Thurs.

Kingston Adult Aerobics Class Fall 2020

Kingston Recreation is also starting a more intensive Adult Aerobics Class on Wednesdays from 10am – 11am at the Kingston Legion starting Wednesday, Nov 18th. This program will be a more intensive cardio workout and will require a higher level of mobility including jumping. The program will follow all Provincial Public Health COVID-19 guidelines.

Remaining Active during Covid-19

With regular programming cancelled, Kingston Recreation collaborated with Provincial Public Health and various Recreation Departments throughout the Annapolis Valley. They discussed using social media platforms to promote and disseminate ways that people could remain active at home. Kingston Recreation also promoted various programs and provided contact information for local mental health assistance programs, the Vulnerable Persons Registry, online and phone local grocery delivery services, youth mental health services, etc.

Kingston Tennis Court Outdoor Skating Rink

The outdoor rink at the tennis courts has been a successful initiative (weather permitting) and is heading into its 6th year. Tarps have been purchased for the upcoming season.

Summer Concerts at Centennial Park w/ Physical Distancing

While abiding by Provincial Public Health Restrictions for group gatherings and physical distancing, summer performances began in July. Performers included Chris Palmer & Sonlight, Tim Vallillee, Full Circle, Los Vegas, Left of Centre, Bob Deveau & the Hi-Lites and Sarah Pound. These outdoor live performances were very much appreciated by those who attended, particularly after being shut in for so long.

Adapted Covid-19 Kingston Summer Day Camp

As public health restrictions began to ease, the Province suddenly decided in late June to allow for Summer Day Camps, with several restrictions to adhere to. Kingston Recreation worked diligently to offer options for participating youth to have some activity and socializing opportunities while following health guidelines. The modified day camp included 4 counsellors and 16 participants in order to have two separate groups of 10. The camp was only for 6 weeks and the times were reduced to 9am – 3pm with no before or after care. Day camp staff took temperatures twice daily of everyone involved with the day camp. Staff cleaned and sanitized all equipment and facilities several times per day. The feedback from day camp staff reiterated the challenges and stress associated with attempting to provide physically active opportunities for youth while abiding by Provincial Public Health guidelines.

Kingston / Greenwood Minor Softball

The Village of Kingston assisted Kingston Minor Baseball in creating and formulating their own Volunteer Association. Kingston Minor Baseball was able to offer modified “on-field” training and practices for youth throughout the summer.

Summer 2020 Community Use of Open Spaces

Various groups booked park facilities including

- Over 30 Female Soccer
- Family Outdoor Soccer
- Over 30 Female Softball
- Youth Baseball Night

Community Use of the Recreation Building on Elm St.

Due to COVID-19 public health restrictions on local facilities and AVRCE facilities, local groups have been left with no place to meet for meetings, etc. The recreation building on Elm St. has proven to be an ideal location for a variety of groups that can remain under group gathering guidelines, etc. These groups include NS Community Services, Family & Children Division, NS Restorative Justice Dept., Annapolis Valley Speed Skating and Kingston Girl Guides, Brownies and Sparks.

Replacement Equipment Purchase

In co-operation with the Kings County Community Parks Development and Maintenance Grant, Kingston Recreation was able to purchase new replacement basketball poles, backboards and rims for the basketball courts on Elm St. Proper beach volleyball poles were also purchased. The Village's skilled Public Works Department was able to efficiently install all the new equipment this fall. Staff will be looking at upgrading additional equipment at other locations within the Village.

Kingston Steer BBQ & Village Fair

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 there was no Steer BBQ this year. Kingston Recreation is continuing to meet with both the Lions and the Legion on a semi-regular basis to discuss various aspects of how the Village BBQ can adapt, moving forward into the future.

Oakhurst Subdivision Greenspace – Ongoing

Continuing to work with Public Works staff to investigate options for greenspace development. First phase is to implement additional tree planting in order to create somewhat of a “buffer zone” to protect subdivision residents from any possible additional noise, etc.

Western Kings Active Kids Healthy Kids (WK AKHK)

This group of partners includes: Municipality of the County of Kings, Town of Berwick, West Kings High School, NS Department of Community Culture & Heritage as well as other partners. They distribute funds for **youth oriented physical activity initiatives** in the Western Kings County region. Kingston Recreation is now in the 3rd year of chairing this partnership. During the 2019/20 WK AKHK funding year, the Committee funded over 14 projects with over \$8,000 dollars for various youth physical activity initiatives. The recipients included Annapolis Valley Autism, 1st Kingston Scouts, Girl Guides, AVRCE O2 Program, Kingston School Helmet Purchase Program, Harmony 4H Outdoorsman, AVRL Zumbini, Kingston Credit Union Centre Skating Assistants Equipment, etc.

If any residents have ideas for, or would like to discuss, recreational opportunities or developments, please contact the Recreation Department at the Village Office at 902-765-2800 or by email at recreation@kingstonnovascotia.ca

**Village of Kingston
Annual General Meeting
May 2020**

Tourism Report for 2019/20

The Village of Kingston is responsible for the operations of the Kingston/Greenwood Visitor Information/Interpretive Centre (VIC) on Main St. The VIC was open from mid May to mid September 2019. The hours of operation were 10am – 5pm in May, June and September and 9am – 5pm in July & August.

Staff provided accurate information while promoting the Villages of Kingston and Greenwood, the County of Kings, the province and beyond. Financial support for the VIC is gratefully received annually from the Village of Greenwood, the County of Kings and the Federal and Provincial Governments to help maintain this service. The Village receives a 10 week federal summer student grant as well as a provincial grant to assist with staffing costs.

The Tourism Industry of Nova Scotia provided coordination for all the VICs in the areas of staff training, quality standards, and necessary reporting. This is to ensure that the VIC complies with the criteria set forth in the Quality Standards Program and is able to receive all of the tourism literature for our visitors.

Returning staff member Maggie Rio (provincial funding) offered a high quality of service to visitors and maintained a well organized visitor centre. The summer student (federal funding) position gives our youth the rewarding opportunity to meet and assist people from all over the world. The VIC provides many services for the traveling public including internet access, printing services, washrooms and a picnic area. Staff provide literature, maps and information on things to see and do in the local area, golfing, local hiking/bicycle trails, whale watching, camping/picnic sites, tide times, cemeteries, genealogy, museums, restaurants, shopping centers and accommodations.

The total number of visitors to the Kingston/Greenwood VIC for 2019 was 1663.

Season	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total # of Visitors	1663	2058	2147	2232

The number of visitors using VICs is declining each year across the province as people become more reliant on new technology and internet usage. Nova Scotia did however have an excellent tourism year in 2019 with 2.3 million non-resident visitors and estimated tourism revenues of \$2.64 billion. This was with the absence of the Maine-NS ferry and Hurricane Dorian, which contributed to a significant decline in visitation in September.

For the upcoming 2020 season, the Visitor Centre will be closed in order to accommodate the library while their renovation and expansion takes place. Tourism NS will make decisions about all other VIC locations as the COVID-19 public health situation evolves.

**Village of Kingston
Annual General Meeting
May 2020**

Apple Blossom Festival Report

Each year the Village of Kingston advertises for a Leadership Candidate and Child Attendant to participate in the Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival in May and other parades throughout the summer. If applications are received and a volunteer committee steps forward to take on the responsibilities, the Village provides a budget for Teas, float decorations and parade expenses. The Village received one application from Katelyn Charlton for Leadership Candidate and one application from Addison Beardsley for Child Attendant for the 2019 Apple Blossom Festival. They both represented Kingston very well and enjoyed their time at the various events and parades.

The Kingston Legion and Kingston Lions generously provided donations to help offset expenses such as booster fees paid to the Apple Blossom Festival.

The Kingston Apple Blossom volunteer committee held a Wardrobe Tea at the Kingston Fire Hall on Saturday, May 4th. The tables and building were decorated with all things apple blossom. This was an opportunity for candidates to be introduced to the community and deliver their speeches. It was also an opportunity to thank and say farewell to the outgoing 2018 Leadership Candidate Riley Rowan and her Child Attendant Maisie Ward. Riley Rowan thanked all those involved in helping her during her year and commented on how the experience has helped build her confidence level.

The sandwiches, coffee and tea were gratefully prepared by volunteers of the Kingston Fire Department Auxiliary. The sweets/squares were prepared by the Kingston Apple Blossom Committee. The committee gratefully accepted the services of Pine Ridge Middle School's Sisters of Science group who helped the committee with serving and cleanup. The cost to attend was \$5 and the total amount received at the door was \$285.00. This amount was given to the Sisters of Science for their services to help with their science trip.

To commemorate the 60th Annual Steer BBQ, the parade float was designed with a Steer BBQ theme rather than the annual Apple Blossom theme. The float was designed and built by the 4 member Kingston Apple Blossom Committee, their family members, the candidate's family, Kingston's public works staff and volunteer Yves Perreault. The design was a tiered cake done in a cow print pattern, carnival signs on the cake layers that read "Burger Bits", "Strawberry Shortcake" etc. and then '60th Annual Kingston Steer BBQ July 13th' on the bottom layer in red glitter. Kingsley the steer stood proudly on the top layer. The float was entered into many parades from Hantsport to Lawrencetown and won several awards.