

KINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Index Annual Report
April 1, 2015-March 31, 2016

May 2016



Page

1. Index
 2. Nominating Committee
 3. President – Kelly Bourassa
 4. Vice President – Maynard Stevens
Treasurer – Dave Ritcey
 5. Financial Summary
 6. Income Statement
 7. Operating Budget
 8. Secretary – Jean Gibson-Collins
Hospitality – Doris Illsley
 9. Board of Trustees – Dave Acker
Curator – Bria Stokesbury
 10. Curator continued
 10. Office Manager – Kate MacInnes Adams
 11. Community & Family History – Nelson Labor
 12. C&FH, Budget – Kate MacInnes Adams
 13. Facilities – Kate MacInnes Adams
 14. Gift Shop – Kate MacInnes Adams
Sponsorship – Kate MacInnes Adams
 15. Website – Kate MacInnes Adams
Program – E. Jean Gibson Collins
 16. Program report continued
 17. Fundraising – Kate MacInnes Adams
- 

NOMINATING COMMITTEE KHS
2015-2016 Officers

The Nominating Committee consisted of: Kelly Bourassa, Bria Stokesbury

President: Kelly Bourassa
Vice President: Maynard Stevens
Past President: Doug Crowell
Secretary: Jeannie Gibson-Collins
Treasurer: David Ritcey

Director: Peter Newbould
Director: Ed Coleman
Director: Gillian Poulter
Director: Carmen Legge
Director: Rick Gilbert

Board of Trustees:
Member: David Acker
Member: Scott Robinson
Member: Mandeep Panesar
Marc P Comeau
KHS Treasurer: Dave Ritcey
Ex- officio -KHS President

Committees/Departments

Exhibits Committee Chair: Bria Stokesbury
Textile Committee Chair: Bria Stokesbury
Community & Family History Department Chair: Nelson Labour
Education Department Chair: Vacant
Facilities Department Chair: Staff
Sponsorship Vacant
Newsletter Chair: Kate MacInnes Adams
Website Chair: vacant
Program – Monthly Meetings Chair: Jeannie Gibson-Collins
Hospitality-Refreshments Chair: Doris Illsley
Calling – Meetings and Events Chair: Kate MacInnes Adams
Development & Fundraising Chair: (Event Specific)
Retail Marketing – Gift Shop Chair: Kate MacInnes Adams
Membership & Volunteers Chair: Kate MacInnes Adams



President's Report
April 2015- March 2016

It has been two years since I assumed the role of President and it is now time to make way for someone new to take over. The KHS by-laws rightfully state that executive roles are for two years. This gives everyone the opportunity to participate in different roles with a yearlong break to re-charge and re-vitalize. The support of the Office Manager, Curator, board members and all the volunteers has made this a very rewarding two years for me personally. I am grateful for all your hard work and dedication.

The last year (2015) has seen a tremendous effort in getting some building maintenance done including new shingles at a considerable expense. Some work was done on easing our heating costs through insulation, sealing up air leaks, window repairs, and the like. The maintenance team of Harold and Carmen have been a great help. We sincerely thank them for their input and expertise in so many practical matters.

We got our new website up and running last year with the help of our volunteer, Isobel Hamilton. Isobel has a busy schedule but managed to get us operational. Our office manager is now maintaining and updating the website. We are also now actively seeking a person to assist us with standard and emergency tech support for the WordPress site.

Fund-raising has taken up more and more staff time with challenges arising from reduced support at various levels of government. We are working hard to restore this funding and are hopeful 2016 will see a return or improvement on past levels. Kate MacInnes-Adams and Bria Stokesbury did an amazing job in 2015 of planning out and executing a lot of activities. But now they have a plan to get us on track to increase fund-raising while not over taxing our volunteer helpers. They have taken a hard look at previous efforts with an eye to do less, perhaps bigger events but with more return thereby reducing the number of volunteer hours and planning efforts.

In 2015 I had the opportunity to work on an archaeological dig at Starr's Point at the Planter's Barracks site. This has coincided with the donation to the museum of a large number of artifacts from the area by the previous owners of the property. Tying these together brought in three volunteers who helped me with conservation work on them. This was cataloguing, cleaning, and photographing them along with making sure they are available online for public viewing and research. My hope is that this type of collaboration will happen more in the future.

Once again, to all the many volunteers who support our museum and to our incredibly generous donors and board of directors, your dedication is at times above and beyond and we thank you sincerely for everything you do. A special thank you goes out to the volunteers who make sure that we have coffee, juice, and snacks for each of our monthly meetings and special events. You are amazing!

Thanks to our curator, Bria Stokesbury, we have a great program planned for the coming year in exhibits and many other activities as planned by the staff. Some new and some old but all done with the usual careful planning and execution.

Your suggestions for museum activities such as fund-raising are always welcome. I look forward to another year of adventures with the Kings County Museum family.

Kelly Bourassa, President, Kings Historical Society

Vice-President's Report
VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015-2016

My second year as Vice-President of the Kings Historical Society is all too quickly winding down and I face the prospect of stepping forward and running once more for Society President. I am going to use this space to give thanks to outgoing KHS President Kelly Bourassa. I have known Kelly for only a few years but in that time Kelly has impressed me greatly. His knowledge and expertise have taken the museum in exciting directions, from our first documentary to other innovations, he gave us headlines with the opening of two time capsules from the old Kentville High Schools. I was amazed at his work with artifacts and the connections he made for the museum. Kelly, it has been an honour to work with you on the Board of Directors, I am confident that you will soon be back as society President, thank you my friend.

I will have big shoes to follow but I look forward to the challenges that await me should I become KHS President. We are heading towards Canada 150 and I think there will be some exciting events at the museum surrounding this milestone. There are always new displays and exciting events and we have a great staff with Bria and Kate, wonderful summer students each and every year and the best volunteers that any museum in Nova Scotia has.

Once again I have enjoyed my two years as society Vice-President and will do my best should I be elected as your society President, see you at the museum; please come in for a tour.

Respectfully submitted,
Maynard Stevens
Vice- President Kings Historical Society

Treasurer's Annual Report
as of March 31, 2015

- The **income statement** for the full fiscal year 2015/16 - period April 1st to Mar 31st, shows expenses exceeded revenues by approx. \$45k. Revenue was \$79.5k yet expenses totaled \$124.5k. There are two primary factors for reporting a loss. The new roof and the decline in the market value of the investment portfolio are the new main contributory items.
- The **balance sheet** demonstrates KHS has \$541.5k in assets and zero liabilities. When the fiscal year loss of \$45k is combined with retained earnings the total liabilities and equity balances at \$541.5k as of Mar 31st.
- The two most significant asset categories are capital assets and total investments. Capital assets (building, furniture, equipment, etc) is currently valued at \$231k and the investments are currently valued at \$280k, down approx. \$20k from last year at \$300k. The remaining assets are operating oriented and special funds.
- The 2016/17 operating budget is attached. Note it takes \$90k to operate the museum.

Respectfully submitted
David J Ritcey ,Treasurer

Income Statement 04/01/2015 to 03/31/2016

REVENUE

Donation Revenue

Individual	6,541.90
Sponsorship	6,379.40
Donations C&FH	0.00
Total Donations Revenue	12,921.30

Fundraising Revenue

Gift Shop	3,560.88
Gift Shop - C & FH - 80%	313.00
Total Gift Shop	3,873.88
Memberships	1,440.00
Penny Donation Campaign	0.00
Other	666.00
Special event: Montague	0.00
Rental Income - Other	550.00
Fundraising Revenue Total	6,529.88

Special Events

Remembering	1,658.00
Christmas Tea	878.35
Planter Certification	160.00
Woodman Concert	0.00
Garden Tour	750.00
Ghost Talk	698.30
Shakespeare Hidden Truth	1,217.00
Special Events Total Revenue	5,361.65

General Revenue

Bank Interest	0.06
Bank & Investment Interest - C & FH	116.71
Investment Interest	7,941.23
Increase (decrease) in MV of Invest	-6,001.76
Printing & Copying - C & FH	196.75
Research Fees - C & FH	275.00
Total Bank & Investment Interest	0.01
Misc. Sales - C & FH	35.55
Paypal sales	223.55
Kijiji Sales	507.60
General Total Revenue	3,294.70

Grant Revenue

CMAP	28,090.00
Planter Exhibit	1,000.00
Municipal	1,400.00
Tartan Foundation Donation	6,000.00
Summer Student Programme - Fed.	3,525.00
Summer Student Programme - Prov.	6,441.40
Town of Kenville	5,000.00
Total Service Revenue	51,456.40

TOTAL REVENUE

79,563.93

EXPENSE

Payroll Expenses

Wages	40,339.49
Wages - Summer Student Federal	3,816.90
Wages - Summer Student Provincial	8,398.21

EI Expense	1,383.90
CPP Expense	2,229.16
Workers Comp Expense CFH	0.00
Workers Compensation Expense	261.06
Total Payroll Expense	56,428.72
Total Payroll Expense	56,428.72

Facilities

Building-Maintenance & Repair	33,661.29
Custodial Services	5.00
Custodial Supplies	452.66
Grounds-Maintenance & Repair	937.98
Insurance	8,297.00
Property Taxes	2,718.21
Security-Valley Alarms	236.50
Electricity	2,964.16
Furnace Oil	6,265.79
Water & Sewer	361.08
Total Utilities	9,591.03
Total Facilities	55,899.67

Interpretation

Exhibition & Conservation Costs	455.25
SDI Expenses	202.07
Total Interpretation	657.32

Management Expenses

Accounting Services	2,754.13
Bank S/Charges	758.51
Exchange Rate Gain/Loss	-74.26
Cash Short/Over	-24.84
Equipment Rentals	1,993.83
Equipment Servicing	48.25
Memberships, Dues & Fees	425.00
Meetings	184.44
Office Supplies	1,145.26
Office Supplies C&FH	0.00
Postage - Regular	232.60
Postage - Gift Shop	169.72
Professional Fees	25.00
Telephone	1,612.89
Travel	42.64
Furniture & Equipment CFH	0.00
Total Management Expenses	9,293.17

Marketing Expenses

Advertising & Promotion	110.00
Fundraising - Sponsorship	53.75
Fundraising - Centre Stage	721.50
Fundraising - Garden Tour	23.10
Fundraising - Documentary	0.00
Supplies	0.00
Gift Shop Expenses	21.17
Gift Shop Purchases for Resale	933.02
Purchase for Resale - Kings Co Book	253.70
Total Marketing Expenses	2,116.24

Capital Expenses & Other Projects

SDI	276.88
Carpet	0.00
Life Insurance Premiums	0.00
Total Capital Expenses & Other Proj	276.88

TOTAL EXPENSE

124,672.00

NET INCOME

-45,108.07

**Kings Historical Society
Balance Sheet As at 03/31/2016**

ASSET

Current Assets

RBC - Museum Operating - 6684	6,956.66	
RBC - Education Fund	851.22	
RBC - Carpet Fund	0.00	
RBC - Charitable Giving Fund	2,000.00	
RBC - SDI Grant	3,200.19	
RBC - Municipal Grant	7,500.00	
RBC - Museum Operating - 1600	<u>9,810.56</u>	
RBC - Total		30,318.63
Cash Register Float	50.00	
Petty Cash	<u>269.01</u>	
Total Float & Petty Cash		319.01
Credit Card Sales	<u>35.20</u>	
Total Credit Cards Receivable		35.20
Investment-CIBC Wood Gundy 98031	258,844.84	
Investment-TD Trust Income 3115133	8,697.05	
Investment-TD fm Cap & Res-5290093	2,414.00	
Cap & Reserve owed to KHS Operating	7,034.71	
GIC	1,536.86	
GIC 5 Year	<u>1,242.49</u>	
Total Investments		279,769.95
Accounts Receivable	<u>200.00</u>	
Total Receivable		200.00
Total Current Assets		<u>310,642.79</u>

Capital Assets

Appliances & Accessories		1,299.71
Building & Property		163,198.24
Computer & Accessories		6,570.12
Electric & Electronics		8,338.94
Furniture & Equipment		25,080.28
Microfilm & Accessories		20,100.00
Artifacts		<u>6,100.00</u>
Total Capital Assets		<u>230,687.29</u>

TOTAL ASSET 541,330.08

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	<u>524.76</u>	
Total Accounts Payable		524.76
Workers Comp Payable	60.36	
Vacation Payable	<u>-52.11</u>	
Total Receiver General		8.25
HST Paid on Purchases	-3,602.30	
HST paid on purchases - C&FH	<u>0.00</u>	
HST Owng (Refund)		-3,602.30
Payable to C & FH		<u>1,312.70</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>-1,756.59</u>

TOTAL LIABILITY -1,756.59

EQUITY

Owners Equity

Retained Earnings		587,720.09
Current Earnings		<u>-44,633.42</u>
Total Owners Equity		<u>543,086.67</u>

TOTAL EQUITY 543,086.67

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY 541,330.08

Operating Budget 2016/2017

EXPENDITURES			CAPITAL REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		
	2016			2016	
Interpretation and Programming	Proposed		Revenues	Proposed	
Exhibition costs	700		Federal Gov't		
Programming costs			Provincial Gov't		
Other interpretation and programming			Municipal Gov't		
Subtotal	700		Other		
			Total	0	
Collection & Access to Information			Expenditures		
Cataloguing supplies and expenses	200		Site & facility improvements		
Preservation materials	200		Collection		
Research	250		Furniture		
Other collections & ATI expenses			Equipment		
Subtotal	650		Other	0	
			Total	0	
Marketing, Fundraising and Retail			Net Capital Revenue Less		
Advertising & Promotion	900		Expenditures	0	
Fundraising costs	3300				
Retail Operations:					
Purchases for resale	850				
Other retail expenses					
Other marketing, fundraising or retail					
Subtotal	5250				
			GENERAL REVENUES		
Facility			Earned		
Custodial Services	200		Admission Fees		
Custodial Supplies	650		Membership Dues	1100	
Grounds	400		Programming fees		
Insurance	3200		Gift shop/retail sales	6000	
Rent/lease			Rental revenue	4000	
Repairs & Maintenance	2300		Fee for service revenue		
Security	250		Interest earned	6000	
Taxes	3000		Transfer from reserves	10700	
Utilities	11000		Subtotal	27800	
Other	500				
Subtotal	21700		Donations & Fundraising		
			Donations from corporations	1000	
Administration/Management			Donations from individuals	4300	
Salaries and benefits:			Donations from foundations		
Full-time employees	43000		Sponsorships	6000	
Full-time project employees			Special events	7300	
Part-time Employees			Fundraising activities	4300	
Summer students	5300		Subtotal	23300	
Benefits	3200				
Volunteer Recognition			Public Funding		
Office expenses:			Federal grants	1000	
Bank charges	300		CMAP grants	28100	
Equipment charges	1900		Other NS grants	4200	
Equipment Services	1000		Municipal grants	5700	
Postage and delivery	300		HST rebate		
Supplies	1800		Subtotal	39000	
Telephone and internet	1500				
Other administrative expenses:					
Credit Card fees					
Memberships	300		GRAND TOTAL REVENUE	90300	
Professional fees	2300				
Training	250				
Travel	150				
Other	100				
Subtotal	62000				
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES	90300				

**Kings Historical Society – Secretary’s Report
April 2015 – March 2016**

The Secretary is responsible for preparing the Agenda and recording the Minutes for both the Board and Members meetings. Moving the Board meetings to 4:30 PM on the third Tuesday of each month meant that I was able to be present for most, thereby reducing the number of times a substitute was necessary. The monthly Agenda, along with a copy of the previous month’s Minutes, are emailed to all Board members before each meeting. When approved, all Agendas, Minutes, and appropriate reports are filed with the official records kept at the Museum. Thanks to the efficient staff and appropriately-directed inquiries, I did not have to handle any significant correspondence during the past year.

Thank you to those who took my place when I was unable to attend a meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



E. Jean Gibson Collins
Secretary

**Hospitality Committee
Annual Report 2015-2016**

We want to thank you for your support in working, baking and making sandwiches for our sales and lunches after our meetings, and for all of our special events. We could not do the projects we do without your help. We hope you will continue your support in the future it is greatly appreciated!

Submitted

Doris Illsley, Joanne Bezanson, Bernice Naylor and Helen Hansford



Board of Trustees 2015-2016

Your Board of Trustees has met via email to discuss the portfolio and investments on four separate occasions, as well as some informal gatherings.

Value of the account now stands at \$260,276.

The only major issue was one of bylaw changes, which, requested by the Society's board. The goal would be to allow access to the perpetual funds for repairs and/or operations of the Museum.

The major issue would be reconciling with past donors as the funds donated went specifically to "perpetual fund". This is still an ongoing process.

As always, I am more than happy to take any of your questions.

Board of Trustee Chairman,
David Acker



Kings Historical Society Annual Report - Curator April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

During this time frame 39 donations/collections were catalogued into the permanent collection. Work continues on adding the collection records to the provincial database so a thank you to Merrily Aubrey, Kelly Bourassa, and the Textile Committee for entering data. The textile committee met on a regular basis continuing to work on a number of projects. A special thanks to the committee; Ruth Butler, Barb Gerrits, Helen Seymour and Susan Cargill. Susan Cargill added her artistic ability to numerous programming projects for youth at the museum during the past year. Andrew Clinch assisted with the cataloguing of photographic collections. Merrily Aubrey continued to work on archival registration occasionally joined by her favourite archives aficionado Ken. Kelly Bourassa conducted conservation work on a variety of collection projects and continued with his blog on conservation work. Volunteer and Board Member Rick Gilbert helped with numbering the digital files created by Trevor Lloyd. Also thanks to Paul Illsley for sharing his photographic skills on numerous projects.

I cannot possibly name everyone that helps with/works on/ and contributes to all of the collection related projects and exhibits at the museum but a heartfelt thank you to those mentioned here and the other stoic souls who always answer my calls for assistance, although I will give a special shout-out to Cynthia Young for curating our Monopoly Exhibit. The exhibits committee curated (or worked with others to create) the following exhibits; “A Tale of Two Textiles”, “Our Buildings Your Legacy”, “80 Years of Monopoly”, and “A Brief History of Underwear.” Special holiday exhibits were also created by the dynamic MacInnes Girls, the Refreshment/Decorating Committee (lovely ladies all).

A record of monthly activities in terms of collection work, answering research/historical requests in person and via e-mail, interpretation work, school programming and tours, adult programming, promotional work, in-house committee work, fund-raising endeavours, speaking engagements, etc. are on file in the binder of the Kings Historical Society Board of Directors Minutes housed in the main office.

I continued to represent the Kings Historical Society as a voting member of the Association of Nova Scotian Museums, the South West Nova Scotia Curators’ Group, the Kings Hants Heritage Connection, the Council of Nova Scotia Archives, and as Valley Representative for the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

Our partnering on various fundraising, exhibits, and programming opportunities this past year continued along traditional lines (working with old friends like the Prescott House Museum and the Kings Hants Heritage Connection) but also included great new partnerships such as with CentreStage Theatre. We hope to expand on these links in upcoming years.

Finally, we had wonderful summer students in 2015 (Sarah, Kelsey and Halie) that always make our workload easier in the summer months as does our veteran interpreter Maynard Stevens who has a formal greeting and friendly tour for anyone who passes through our doors. Finally, special thanks to Office Manager Kate Adams whose positive energy continues to carry me along with her on our daily adventures.

Submitted by Bria Stokesbury, Curator.



Office Manager’s Annual Report 2015-2016

The title “office manager” leaves me accountable for an interesting and diverse set of administrative tasks, responsibilities and also allows time for creative work. There are the solitary responsibilities as well as those that I co-manage with your curator extraordinaire, Bria Stokesbury. In my second year as office manager, our curator/office manager lives grew in familiarity and understanding. I feel fortunate to be part of her team.

Throughout the year, all nature of data bases were updated (membership, sponsorship, donations, daily statistics etc), financials were dutifully entered and the launch of our new website allowed a new *public face* of the society to be created. When my own administrative tasks were completed, (and I have to admit sometimes even before they

were) I was delighted to work with Bria creating exhibits pieces on built heritage and the history of underwear. During the 2015 holiday season I was able to indulge my love of old toys with a mini exhibit entitled “Childhood Valley” and my sister Anna Osburn and I joyfully decorated the parlour with some of Anna’s Victorian Christmas ornament collection.

Our fundraising events in 2015 were an eclectic mix of conspiracy theories (screening of Shakespeare the Hidden Truth), garden and tea parties, evenings of wartime remembrance and stories of witchcraft in the Maritimes. We toasted our longest reigning monarch HRH Elizabeth II and welcomed Mr. Monopoly. We created “built heritage” house kits for our gift shop and also sold tickets on an 80th anniversary edition of Monopoly, which was won by a delighted 10 year old.

We welcomed a trio of summer students who entered data, created interpretive panels, recorded inventory and moved the museum through another busy season of greeting visitors (4000 folks passed through our doors in 2015).

We created the *Mighty Marigolds* gardening committee and planted flowers, vegetables and spring bulbs, harvesting peppers and tomatoes that we actually ate!

Of course all of this was made possible through the hard work and generous gifts of time by your team of amazing volunteers. I especially want to thank society member JoAnne Bezanson whose energies and talents seem to have no end, one of our newest volunteers Caro Robinson, who shares my love for textiles *and* genealogy (in my mind the perfect combination) and CentreStage Theatre (especially my sister, Beth Irvine) who partnered with us in two theatrical fundraising events in 2015.

In closing I would like to quote a piece from my dad’s president message in 1997

“ ...and so it is with museums. We preserve the pieces and the memories of both past and present for the now and future. These are the links that bond the past to the now and the yet to be.” Clinton MacInnes, President KHS

Respectfully and joyously submitted
Kate MacInnes Adams
Office Manager



Community and Family History
Annual Report
2015-2016

Another year has slipped by and the Community and Family History group continue to chug-a-long. As in past years, we help researchers who come to the archives to look for family connections, as well as answering e-mail requests. We receive many “Warm Fuzzies” from people we do research for. They contact us from all over the world.

One new volunteer, Nathan Spinney, comes from Kingston twice a week and is completing a genealogy database of the very large Darres-McCormick collection. A special thank-you to Nathan.

Our summer student this year, Kelsey Comeau, turned out to be a gem and was a great asset to the archives. Her ability to meet people, do research, and work on our data-base projects was outstanding. She caught up much of our backlog of scrap books and obit records.

On a sad note, we lost Eleanor Tree, one of our most dedicated volunteers. Eleanor did one of our largest projects a few years ago. She made a data base index of obituaries from 182 binders. This amounted to thousands of entries. She will be missed by us all.

Our archives continue to receive many contributions of books, scrapbooks, genealogies, etc. and we thank everyone who thought enough to donate them to us.

In summery, I would like to thank all the volunteers. We are a small group and we are always looking for additional help. Lastly thanks to Kate and Bria who “man” the archives when our volunteers are not available. It is an extra burden on their job and we appreciate the help.

Submitted by

Nelson Labor

Chair, Community and Family History



YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT
COMMUNITY & FAMILY HISTORY
1 APR 2015– 31 MARCH 2016

In July of 2015 The finances of the Community and Family History Dept. and the Kings Historical Society were merged allowing for more streamlined and efficient book keeping operations in the main office. No major expenditures by the department were recorded after this date. Many books published by Community and Family History which had previously been sold with an 80% commission pay out agreement with KHS were generously donated to the society. The balance of 11,394.39 in the C&FH TD operating account was merged with the society’s RBC operating account in July of 2015.

Respectfully submitted
Kate MacInnes Adams
Office Manager





**Facilities Committee
2015-2016**

By far the largest facilities project of 2015 was the new roof on our museum. During August and September our excellent facilities team of Harold Redden and Carmen Legge reviewed initial quotes for the re-roofing from three separate companies. Woodworth Roofers proposed the successful bid, in mid-September the company was hired, and the project began. The total cost of the new roof was \$32,654.26 including HST. A previous patching job (by Acadia Roofers) in June took another \$2942.75 from our coffers, bringing the grand total to \$35597.01. Our insurance paid an additional \$5079.75 for the June patching job, as it was weather related damage. The project was completed over a two-week period after which we felt secure in singing

“Let the wind blow high,
Let the wind blow low
Through the streets in my kilt I'll go”

So let the wind blow, the snow and rains come, we should be good for another 20 years.

Over the 2015-2016 season our intrepid facilities folks took on all manner of jobs from moving chalkboards to painting rails, assembling shelves to fashioning tomato and bean supports, and of course, there was the never-ending job of tweaking the security cameras. One day last summer one could have found the two of them in the main office drilling holes in horse chestnuts for a game of conkers after a morning of shrubbery trimming.

Our “Mighty Marigolds” (JoAnne Bezanson, Mack and Sheila Frail and me) looked after the gardens during the past summer. Transplants were generously donated by the Frails and tucked in freshly turned and amended soil. The “Marigolds” also took over the care of the town planter on the north west corner of the museum, planting tomatoes, peppers, beans and herbs as part of Kentville Community Garden Society’s edible planters project.

During the autumn Carmen and Harold (along with our president, Kelly Bourassa) boarded over the basement windows to aid in reducing heat loss. The gardens were dug over, our tiny little vegetable harvest eaten, bulbs planted, covered with brush and everyone put to bed.

Another successful year of caring and preserving this wonderful one hundred and twelve year old building complete!

.Submitted
Kate MacInnes Adams, Chair





**Gift Shop
2015-2016**

Our gift shop has a couple of new “faces”. A few new additions to the shelves during 2015-2016 year include:

Building for Justice, a beautifully illustrated volume featuring historic courthouses of the Maritimes. Our own courthouse is presented comprehensively in a two-page spread.

Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie, a double CD audio book set with Wolfville native Bob Connon reading Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s famous narrative poem.

Ink Sketch Prints and Seasonal Painting Note Cards of the Covenanter Church in Grand Pre.

Annapolis Valley Tartan products by our own Gordon Hansford.

As in the past years, our shelves were also sprinkled with dishes and other curios donated by society members. Thank you!

Gift shop sales were down during 2015-2016. This drop is attributed to lower Kijiji sales as well as no new publications produced during the season.



**Sponsorship
2015-2016**

During the 2014-2015 year, the society benefited from the support of fourteen participants in our sponsorship program. We now have three Platinum Sponsors (\$700. or more), four Gold Sponsors (\$500. to \$699), four Silver Sponsors (\$250. to \$499) and three Bronze Sponsors (\$100. to \$249.). The generosity of our sponsors brought \$6,000 into our operating budget this year. We now have sponsorship packages available for those interested in joining this program. We would be delighted to have your name on our sponsorship board! I would like to thank you for taking the time to consider this request. An investment in the past ensures the preservation of our history for future generations. If you have any questions at all regarding our sponsorship program, please feel free to contact me.

Submitted
Kate MacInnes Adams
Office Manager





Website Report 2015-2016

After working for a season with Isobel Hamilton your new WordPress theme website, www.kingscountymuseum.ca went live in 2015. Isobel Hamilton of Isobel Hamilton Web Design managed the transition to the new format. www.ihwebdesign.ca, a generous donation of time and expertise. She was assisted by our former webmaster, Trevor Lloyd. A huge thank you to Trevor for so capably and faithfully maintaining our old kings courthouse museum (okcm) website over the years. Isobel took us through the maze of available platforms, templates and plug ins with a calm confidence. Isobel had the ability to take our ideas and concepts to reality. We feel the new website is vibrant, informative and helpful and hope you do as well! Since launching in 2015 our website has welcomed 9,634 visitors to our site and enjoyed 67,532 visits from those guests. I currently maintain and update both the site and the content of the website. Trevor and I are currently re-creating the Leon Barron pages that were so popular on the old site and hope to have this completed by season's end. The Kings County Museum is currently looking for a volunteer to assist with standard and emergency tech support for the WordPress website. We need someone who is familiar with the WordPress content management system and able to assist us with site performance issues, fixing software bugs as well as website tweaks and occasionally adding functionality (plug ins). If you are interested in helping or know someone who might be, please contact me in the main office.

Submitted
Kate MacInnes Adams
Office Manager



Kings Historical Society Program Committee Report May 2015 – April 2016

May 2015 – Paul Illsley gave a wonderful, historical + nature tour of **The Mysterious Isle Haute**, illustrated with current and past aerial and land photographs, to an audience-packed room. Gone are the days when a few folks lived and farmed there, and when the public took excursions by boat to picnic and explore. Those who have only been able to view this unusual flat-topped island from shore, so beautiful in a sunset photo, went home with a new respect for its historical importance, its raw and sometimes dangerous shoreline beauty, and the dedication of those who tended the land and lighthouse during times of lengthy isolation.

June 2015 – The Society's **annual potluck** was held in the picnic area at the Kentville Research Station.

September 2015 – Dr. Julian Gwynn, Professor Emeritus of the University of Ottawa, talked about the research behind his latest book, *Comfort Me With Apples: Nova Scotia*

Fruit Growers' Association 1863-2013. He has documented the history, in words and old photos, of the important movers and shakers who got together and formed the Association, the efforts required to pool Valley growers and resources to enable efficient storage, packaging (barrels and boxes), and shipment by rail to other parts of Canada and beyond, and such eventual success that Berwick became known as the “Apple Capital of Nova Scotia”. Orchards age, times change, and the value of the industry has declined, but apples remain a very important part of our history.

October 2015 – David Mossman presented the story behind his book, ***Going Over***, the biography of Titus Mossman. From humble and austere beginnings in a family of 12, Titus went to sea at age 13. This turned out to be a basic survival training that served him well as he rose through the ranks of the 85th Canadian Infantry Battalion (Nova Scotia Highlanders) to become Company Sergeant Major. He dodged death in battles and returned home physically unscathed in 1919. His subsequent life as sea cook and family man was interspersed with period of nightmares and domestic violence. The book reminds us of the kinship among soldiers, their tremendous self-sacrifice, the costs and dubious glory of war, and the slow-burning after-effects on soldiers, their families, and succeeding generations.

November 2015 – The topic of the presentation by Lloyd Smith, well-known Town Crier, was **Broadcasting Then and Now**. It was a fascinating tour of the history of town criers, his own early life as a radio broadcaster (including photos of young broadcasters who were to become famous in their field), and his later passion as a Town Crier. Photos and memorabilia documented the costumes he has worn over the years, the various competitions he has attended, and the many awards he has garnered. He explained the significance of his current hand-made attire, medal and staff that he wears proudly to various events. To top it all, he made a proclamation to the Kings Historical Society.

December 2015 – The **Members Christmas Dinner** was held at Kings Arms Pub in Kentville. Members brought small gifts for others to pick by number, and there was much laughter when the gift opener was subsequently allowed to exchange with a previously opened and coveted gift – perhaps only to lose it again to someone else! It ended with a wonderful announcement: Curator Bria Stokesbury and Paul Illsley were engaged, to be married in February 2016.

April 2016 – During the **Members' Show and Tell**, we listened to personal histories associated with various kinds of precious old items, and tried to guess the function of some unusual objects. It was interesting, fun, provoked a lot of discussion, and is definitely a “repeat program”.

Note that some of our presentations have been recorded by Eastlink and are available on Podium TV

<<http://my.eastlink.ca/eastlinktv/Home/Programming/PodiumTV.aspx>



E. Jean Gibson Collins, Program Chair

Annual Report
Fundraising Events 2015 – 2016

We enjoyed a great start to our fundraising season screening the documentary film **Shakespeare the Hidden Truth**. (Organized by society member, Doug Crowell, thank you Doug!) Following this successful initial venture, we were very pleased to join with CentreStage Theatre in presenting two fundraising events. The first was our summer presentation of *Love in Bloom* on the grounds of the beautiful Prescott House and this was followed in the fall by *Remembering, through Music and Theater*. Our valued bank of volunteers provides the museum employees with a huge support network. From actors, musicians, storytellers, audiovisual technicians, to bakers, flower arrangers, and tea steepers our events are truly community efforts. In addition to our fundraising events, the society also raised monies through our **Kijiji Sales, Planter Certificates, Pot Luck Auction**, and our October supernatural themed event. This year we welcomed folklorist **Clary Croft** and spent an evening exploring witchcraft. The year wound up (or down) with our **Yuletide Tea** in December. Our total raised through these events was \$5361.65. None of this could have been realized without our wonderful group of dedicated volunteers who contribute so freely of their time and abilities and work so hard to maintain our strong, caring, museum community.

Submitted
Kate MacInnes Adams
Office Manager

