



Community Spirit Award Nomination

Annapolis Royal

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

1. Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens
2. Annapolis Heritage Society
3. Annapolis Region Community Arts Council
4. Clean Annapolis River Project
5. King's Theatre Society
6. RBC
7. Town of Annapolis Royal
8. HAL Consulting
9. Ride the Lobster Racing Society

History

In 1604 Sieur de Mons, Samuel Champlain, and their company of French explorers arrived on the shores of what is currently known as the Annapolis Basin. Upon entering the basin, Champlain remarked that this harbour was vast enough to anchor 1000 ships. He was so impressed that he immediately named the harbour Port Royal.

The de Mons expedition returned to Port Royal in the spring of 1605. With help from the Mi'kmaq community, the Port Royal habitation became the first permanent European settlement in Canada.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, the region's newly emerging Acadian population became a focus in the wars between Britain and France. The Town faced 13 attacks and changed hands between the French and English several times in the next century. In 1710 when Acadie fell to the British for the final time, Port Royal was renamed Annapolis Royal in honour of the reigning British monarch, Queen Anne.

Today, the Town of Annapolis Royal is a thriving centre for heritage, arts and culture hosting some 100,000 visitors a year. We have more than 135 registered heritage buildings, some dating back to the early 18th century. We are blessed with many natural attractions in the Town, including fresh and salt water marshes, the Annapolis River, and a stunning waterfront view. A number of built attractions also enhance the history of the area. These include Fort Anne National Historic Site, Historic Gardens, King's Theatre, a waterfront boardwalk, museums, and a tidal power generating station. Festivals and events are designed, for the most part, to incorporate the Town's rich heritage. The Town has a healthy business district, an active recreation program, and a keen visual and performing arts community. More than a shadow of a glorious past, Annapolis Royal is a real community with an engaged business community and a dynamic population.

Heritage

Various local attractions reflect the rich heritage of Annapolis Royal. Receiving its designation in 1917, Fort Anne is the oldest National Historic Site in Canada. The Fort's earthen ramparts are the best preserved example of Vauban style fortifications in North America. The museum at Fort Anne showcases Annapolis Royal's history as a garrison town and capital of Nova Scotia until 1749. Additionally, two historic buildings are maintained as museums by the Annapolis Heritage Society. This group and their sister organization the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal provide various programs related to local history. Ongoing activities take the heritage experience to a new level. These include the Candlelight Graveyard Tour, Historic Walking Tour, various historically based theatrical productions and vignettes, Tales from a Tiny Perfect Town Mystery Weekend and a popular walking tour brochure.

Annapolis Royal long ago recognized the value of its heritage and began to explore ways of protecting it. Using the Town as a model, provincial legislation was developed in the 1970s which would see protection of heritage buildings throughout the province. The Town works within this legislation to ensure that renovations and new developments adhere to standards for preserving heritage. The Town's Planning & Heritage Advisory Committee reviews applications for work involving heritage properties and administratively, the Town's guiding documents have a significant heritage component.

Annapolis Royal has been recognized on a national level for its commitment to heritage. In 1981, the Town received a Regional Award of Honour and a National Award of Honour for its contribution to the conservation of built heritage by the Heritage Canada Foundation. In 1998, the main core of the town was designated a National Historic District by the Historic Sites & Monuments Board of Canada. And, in 2006, the Town was awarded the highest award given to a Canadian municipality for conservation of built heritage, Heritage Canada Foundation's Prince of Wales Prize.

Arts and Culture

2005 saw the 400th anniversary of the permanent settlement of Port Royal, and the community celebrated "400 years of living and working together". A year full of special activities took place, including:

- a re-enactment of the French Landing in 1605
- The People's Story – interpretation of the relationship of the French and Mi'kmaq, as told from the First Nations perspective
- Musical Celebrations including performances by period troupe Musique 400, and an International Band Festival which saw the première of the Annapolis Royal Suite, a specially commissioned arrangement for 2005
- Costume animation – a group of volunteers created authentic period costumes for use in re-enactments and special events
- many appropriately themed community celebrations.

These celebrations were held throughout the region, in partnership with neighbouring municipalities.

That year, the Town was designated one of five Cultural Capitals of Canada, and was the "Must See Festival of the Year" by Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage.

In 2006, artist Geoff Butler was elected as Academician for the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. Previous Academicians include local artist Wayne Boucher. In 2007, ARCAC received the provincial Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award.

There are a number of activities in Annapolis Royal that take the heritage experience to a new level. These include the Candlelight Graveyard Tour which maintains its popularity after 12 years,

the Candlelight Acadian Tour at the Historic Gardens which was successful in its inaugural season, “Stroll through the Centuries” Historic Walking Tours, various theatrical productions and vignettes based on different events in our history and a popular walking tour brochure which provides a brief history of many of the older buildings. In 2005, two Town residents and the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal received a provincial award for “*Hometown Pride Event of the Year*” for the National Historic District Tour, the Candlelight Graveyard Tour and the Acadian Heritage Tour.

Environment

In 1998, Zero Waste 2005 was recognized under the United Nations’ 100 Global Best Practices Program. In 2001, the Town was a “Best Practices” winner in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ waste-free category for the program. In 2005, an independent evaluation confirmed that the Town had reached a diversion target of 60% of solid waste from landfill, the highest in the Province.

In 2000, the Town marsh was developed into a constructed wetland to serve as a tertiary sewage treatment facility. It was developed through a partnership between Ducks Unlimited, Michelin, King’s Mutual and the Town. The project has been highly successful so far as a recreational area and last year was “plugged in” to the sewage treatment system to serve its tertiary treatment capacity. In January 2005, the Town was awarded the Nova Scotia Bay of Fundy Business Partnership Award for the project.

In 2004 and 2005, the Town was designated a Green Streets Canada Community by the Tree Canada Foundation. The Town is also a member of FCM’s Partners for Climate Protection. In partnership with the Clean Annapolis River Project, it is working on a Green Plan for the entire Town with the aim of establishing benchmarks and ultimately reducing green house emissions through use of alternate energy and further reduction of solid waste. The plan, called “*Back to the Future*”, also deals with climate adaptation and mitigation, brownfield remediation, and water conservation.

All of the Town’s infrastructure and main systems are contained in a GIS system called CLICK. The system received industry recognition in 2003 as the winner of ESRI Canada President’s Award of Excellence.

In 2005, the Executive Director of Clean Annapolis River Project was awarded the Gold Canadian Environment Award for Restoration and Rehabilitation. In 2007, the Town was one of several partners (CARP, ARCAC, AHS, Garden, Mrs. Nicholson Inc., Department of Environment and Labour and others) in the first annual Celebration of Sustainable Living in Annapolis Royal, a week long festival during Environment Week.

Gardening

Complementing the heritage buildings of Annapolis Royal, are the many beautiful gardens. The jewel of the heritage gardens is the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, opened in 1981 and designed to reflect the various periods of local history through a gardening perspective. Highlights include a Victorian Garden and Governor’s Garden, Innovative Garden, Knot Garden and a Rose Collection which illustrates the development of roses through the ages. A special feature is a replica of a 1671 Acadian House, complete with thatched roof, and an Acadian garden. These historically themed gardens are linked by paths through other display areas featuring trees, ponds, grasses, perennials, arbours, and beautiful vistas. The Historic Gardens doubles as a haven for many forms of wildlife. Many bird varieties can be found and heard, and some rare species have been sighted. Dragonflies, bees and butterflies all place their mark in our Gardens.

The Historic Gardens has become a major attraction and a great resource for garden enthusiasts, with living examples of garden design and materials appropriate to various eras in local history.

Homeowners, businesses and organizations take immense pride in their properties and there are many special private gardens surrounding these heritage buildings. This adds another dimension to a heritage community. In 2007, to recognize the community's efforts in heritage gardening, the Town of Annapolis Royal launched a heritage garden contest to promote the town's beautification and encourage age-appropriate gardens for Annapolis Royal's wide range of heritage buildings.

Annapolis Royal has a long-standing tradition of heritage preservation, environmental stewardship and community participation. Add to this the centuries of private gardening and, more recently, the development of the glorious and unique Historic Gardens, and one can easily see why Annapolis Royal is truly a Community in Bloom, winning top honours nationally and the designation as the Most Liveable Small Town in the World. This community, its heritage gardens and the Historic Gardens combine to make Annapolis Royal a wonderful resource for heritage gardening enthusiasts.

King's Theatre

Two of the earliest and best-known European social events in Canadian history took place at Port Royal in 1606; the Order of Good Cheer (L'Ordre de Bon Temps) and Marc Lescarbot's Theatre of Neptune.

Today, King's Theatre is the cultural hub of the Annapolis Valley. The Theatre presents a mix of local and professional theatre; international, Canadian and regional touring groups, international and Canadian dance as well as mainstream movies and foreign films. In 2006, King's Theatre offered 55 live performances, 28 Hollywood films, 14 International films and 15 special events (e.g. dance and theatre workshops for youth). During the summer months, the Theatre presents an art gallery, highlighting work by diverse artists in various disciplines.

Although situated in Annapolis Royal, King's Theatre serves as a regional venue, drawing provincial audiences throughout Annapolis, Kings, Dibe and Queens Counties as well as Halifax. Approximately two-thirds of the Theatre's patronage is from outside of the Town of Annapolis Royal. Given the rural nature of the region, there are few opportunities for local residents to engage culturally diverse theatre and performances. King's Theatre fills this important niche. Additionally, the Theatre's summer program is an important attraction for seasonal international visitors to the community.

Kings theatre continually strives to broaden its reach through developing a wider range of activities. Non-typical workshops such as Women's wellness events and community spelling bees aim to draw a larger crowd which will then return for other cultural events.

In 2006, King's Theatre broke new ground by partnering with the Annapolis Region Community Arts Council to offer the highly successful Mocean Dance Residency. This partnership allowed each organization to step beyond typical boundaries, resulting in positive outreach, community involvement and energy. Other established partners include Nova Scotia Mass Choir, Gilbert & Sullivan and Symphony Nova Scotia.

Community Awards

Regional Award of Honour - The Heritage Canada Foundation, 1981

National Award of Honour - The Heritage Canada Foundation, 1981

Federation of Canadian Municipalities - Sustainable Community Awards, 2001

The International Awards for Liveable Communities, 2004

Green Streets Canada Community, 2004-2005 and 2005 - 2006

Nova Scotia Festival & Events Council - 2005 Event of the Year Award Cultural Capital of Canada, 2005

Business Partnership Award, 2005

Four Blooms in National Communities in Bloom, 2005 (special mention for cultural heritage conservation)

Winner of National Communities in Bloom, 2006 (recognition for innovative heritage museums)

Prince of Wales Prize, July 31, 2006

Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award, Nova Scotia Arts and Culture Partnership Council, 2007

Mayflower Community Cooperation Award, Office of Health Promotion and Protection, 2007

SELF GENERATED COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

2007	Community Events	Participants	Discrete Events
January	Pool Tournament		1
February	Murder Mystery Dinner		1
	Life Drawing by Artsplace		1
	Nova Scotia Breast Screening Program Mobile Van,	75	
			1
	Heritage Day weekend Driver wise workshop		1
	Easter Egg Hunt; sponsored by local merchants.	200	1
	o Pancake breakfast at fire hall		1
	o kids' craft at ARCAC		1
	o book reading at the library		1
	o scrapbook at the Flower Girl		1
	o Annapolis skippers		1
	o wood craft at ACE		1
	o make chocolate treats at St. Luke Church		1
o bike rodeo at the farmer's market		1	
o gardening lecture by Mary Ritchie		1	

	o Victorian Easter at O'Dell Museum		1
	o Tai Chi at St. Luke's Church		1
	o Free movie at Kings Theatre		1
March	Rug Hooking; ARCAC		1
	Welsh Day; Town		1
	o A cry from the Town Crier		1
	o Community Memories Presentation		1
	Job Fair; Job Search Centre at the Fire Hall		1
	Jewellery Making Workshop: ARCAC		1
	Painting in the Styles of the Old Masters: ARCAC		1
	Unveiling of the Prince of Wales Prize, reception to follow		1
	Nova Scotia Rope Skipping Competition		1
April	Girls Healthy Living Week; skateboarding workshop		1
	A Food Workshop for Women		1
	Historic Gardens Benefit Dinner and Auction		1
	Lasagna Supper at St. George, St. Andrews church		1
May	Open House: Health Centre		1
	Of Birds and Bees – A Spring Celebration		1
	Spring Social by ADBoT		1
	Victoria Day weekend		1
	First Farmer's Market	250	1
	Victorian Cream Tea		1
	Kings Theatre Treasure Sale		1
June	Environment Week		1
	Opening of the Ultraviolet Tertiary Treatment Facility		1
	ADBoT Annual Golf Tournament		1
	Community Appreciation Days	60	1
	Kings Short; Film Festival		1
	Skateboarding Day	12	1
	You should Sea Us Now		1
	Musique 400 goes to Annapolis, Maryland for Kinships and Windships weekend	11	1

July	Canada Day	150	1
	NS Tattoo Bus Trip	55	1
	Community Garden Tour		1
	Environmental Law and Policy Workshop		1
	Tall Ship Bus Trip		1
	Big Night Fundraiser; Kings Theatre		1
	Mad Hatter's Tea Party		1
	Harry Potter Weekend	150	1
	Artifacts and Interiors		1
	Premium Auction		1
	Mi'kmaq Day at Port Royal		1
	Memorial Service: Ending of the Korean War		1
	Remembering Natal Days		1
August	Natal Days		1
	Rally in the Valley		1
	Historic Gardens Photo Contest		1
	Country and Bluegrass Concert		1
	Thistles and Fleurs de lys		1
	Flower Show and Tea/Dessert		1
	Paint the Town		1
	Paint the Park		1
Kings Theatre's Children's Workshop		1	
September	FAPS Fundraiser; Pulled Pork dinner		1
	Remembering the Arts and Artists		1
	Boardwalk Opening		1
	The Metal Cowboy	85	1
	Hooked Rug Display; Rug Hooking Workshop		1
	Meet the Designer's Luncheon		1
	Concert in the Garden's: Queen Anne		1
	Terry Fox Run	35	1
	Mocean Dance; ARCAC		1
	Arts Festival: 25 years		1
Award winning author at Annapolis Royal Library	25	1	
October	Remembering the Arts and Artist		1
	Tales from a Tiny Town; Murder Mystery		1
	Harvest Pantry Sale at Fire Hall		1

	Off leash dog walk	7	1
	Open Mic Night	35	1
	Variety Show; Health Auxiliary		1
	Halloween at Town Hall		1
	Annapolis Royal Twinning Committee goes to Royan, France	5	1
November	Beaujolais Nouveau		1
	Christmas Bazaar and Tea		1
	Christmas Bingo: Legion		1
	Community Celebrations		1
	Victorian Christmas		1
	Remembrance Day Service		1
December	Farmers' & Traders' Christmas Market		1
	Silver Bells New Years Eve Gala		1
	Christmas Promotion		1
	o Walking Parade		1
	o Tree Lighting		1
	o Carolers		1
	o Bonfire		1
	o Family Craft Days		1
	o Wagon Rides		1
	o Midnight Madness		1
	o Scavenger Hunts		1
	o Dance Lessons		1
	o Free Movies: by Lion's Club		1
	o LED Light Exchange		1
Totals		1155	106

CITIZEN SPONSORED PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS AND SENIORS

Recreation Programs for Seniors	Volunteers	Participants
1) senior bus trips	1	90
2) senior aerobics	1	15
3). senior gym activity program	2	12
4). support for regional senior games	10	60
5) indoor walking	1	20
6) table tennis	1	15
7) Walk-the-Town Challenge	0	100
8) Nordic Walking	1	12
9) planning for future - senior pool programs	n/a	n/a
10) " - senior card-playing program	n/a	n/a

Totals	17	324
Recreation Programs for Youth		
1) floorhockey	3	40
2) afterschool general activity program	0	70
3) hip-hop dance	0	25
4) indoor soccer	2	15
5) outdoor soccer	15	150
6) youth tennis camp	0	15
7) gymnastics camp	0	40
8) climbing wall program	n/a	n/a
9) boxing	1	10
10) karate	2	25
11) support for Young Company (youth theatre)	5	20
12) beach volleyball	1	15
13) ultimate frisbee	2	20
14) skateboarding clinics	2	15
15) active kids program	0	10
16) paint the park	2	30
17) youth badminton	1	20
18) more as opportunity presents		
Totals	36	520

VOTER TURNOUT

Year	Election	Electoral List	Voters	Voter Turnout
2004	General election	405	275	68%

VOLUNTEER AGENCIES

Category	Not for profit group	Membership	Volunteers	Participants
Heritage	Annapolis Heritage Society	200	95	
	Historical Association of Annapolis Royal	60		
Arts & Culture	Annapolis Region Community Arts Council (ARCAC)	300	125	
	King's Theatre Society	150	35	
	King's Theatre Film Society	40		100
	Instant Theatre	45		
	Musique 400	30		
	A Royal Consort Bands	28	50	
	Annapolis Royal Wharf Society	50		
	Annapolis Royal Boat Haul-up Association	8		
	Farmers' and Traders' Market Association	35		
			95	7

Social	Royal Canadian Legion Port Royal Branch # 21	306	153	
	Lion's Club	19	19	
	Masonic Lodge	14	12	
	Food Bank	30	30	
	Twinning Committee	20		
	Ladies of Good Cheer	2	2	
Recreation	Tennis Club	12	6	20
	Friends of the Annapolis Pool Society	10		
	Soccer Association	150	18	150
	Blades, Bikes and Boards Association	25		
	Club 400, the Order of Active Living	77		
Gardening	Champlain Garden Club	40		
	Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens Society	350	100	
Business	Annapolis District Board of Trade	76	10	
	Annapolis Region Tourism Council			
Health	Annapolis Community Health Centre Auxiliary	25	25	
	Annapolis West Health Foundation Board	30		
Environment	Clean Annapolis River Project	18	37.5	
	Field Naturalists Society	75		
Totals		2,320	724.5	270