

CELEBRATE KINGS: *Pride in our people, places & products*

Riding the road to success

From Wolfville to Cornwallis Park, internationally recognized Kings Transit has been traveling Kings County roads since 1981 providing rides and opportunity to thousands of Valley residents.

Throughout Canada, the local transit is recognized for its outstanding accomplishments. From 1995 through last year, Kings Transit increased ridership by 50 per cent, and revenue by 70 per cent. General Manager Andy Patterson credits excellent staff and board members. "Everyone has been behind it 100 per cent!"

Though perhaps the smallest transit operation in

Canada, in 1999 Kings Transit was selected by Metro Magazine (a transit publication) as one of the best small transits in all of North America, including Mexico.

Kings Transit Chairman Gary Pearl recently presented to the Canadian Urban Transit Association, which represents Canadian transit authorities looking to improve operations. "The highlight of the presentation was the cooperation we have between four municipalities," says Pearl. "It's unbelievable!"

The success of Kings Transit proves what towns and municipalities banding together for a common purpose can accomplish. The towns of Wolfville, Kentville, and Berwick, and the Municipality of the County of Kings work together to fund and provide board governance for the transit. "They work together to give Kings County residents a better quality of life,"

says Patterson.

In 2002, Annapolis County requested the expansion of Kings Transit into that area. The contracted service now means a 110-kilometre route expansion to Cornwallis Park.

"We must be doing something right because the ridership increases steadily - five per cent this year alone!" says Patterson. "We move from 1,200 to 1,700 people a day. It's like taking 600 to 700 cars daily off the road."

By practicing what he preaches - taking the bus - Patterson keeps in touch with both riders and drivers. "You get a different view riding the bus as opposed to driving a car," he says. "It's like a community unto itself."

For Patterson, the best part of Kings Transit is the opportunities it provides residents, such as the option of further education and training, or a chance to seek employment. He adds, "And it's rewarding to see seniors have a better quality of life because they can get out and see what's going on. It's definitely a business by and involving the people of Kings County."



Kings Transit Manager Andy Patterson, stands by local busing.



**Kings Community Economic
Development Agency**

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