

# CELEBRATE KINGS: *Pride in our people, places and products*

## **“Kings” treasures await discovery at the Kings County Museum**

Put your thinking cap on and consider what all of the following have in common - New England Planters, the Valley's Apple Blossom Festival, cosmetology, and needlework...

The answer? Each is a featured exhibit at the Kings County Museum. Located in the old courthouse on Cornwallis Street in Kentville, every display room in the museum has something exceptional to share with visitors.

“It’s a unique feeling to work here,” says Bria Stokesbury, curator. “There’s always something interesting going on like a new exhibit or artifact, or something challenging to work with!”

Owned and operated by the non-profit Kings

Historical Society, the museum first opened to the public in May 1981. Twenty-six years later, the museum has had in excess of 162 displays during its lifetime.

This summer, there is much to be explored. Currently at the museum is the Parks Canada National Commemorative Exhibit of the New England Planters, which commemorates those settlers who came to Nova Scotia between 1760 and 1768.

“With this exhibit, you can get an overview of the settlers, read about them, watch a film, or even search the archives,” says Bria. A great number of Kings County residents are descendants of these early colonists.

down memory lane, discover the history of cosmetology, and needlework from private Kings County collections.

“With displays like these, we try to have something appealing to everyone - adults and children alike,” says Bria. Entrance to the exhibits is free.

Upstairs in the museum, a visit to the original Kings County courtroom can be an educational and historical experience. For schools and their students, it provides them an opportunity to host “mock trials” in a true courtroom setting. And for curious eyes, hidden wildlife figures await discovery in the woodwork of each wall.

Returning to the main floor, a historic parlor provides a look into the past with its antique furnishings and artifacts. Continuing downstairs to the basement, large archives filled with historical data and stories are accessible for a very small fee.

“We’re known for our genealogical archives, especially if you want to try to research your Kings County family history. But we also have some history on families from other counties.”

The archives are also a great source for community history. If the information sought is not available there, museum staff will help in the search by recommending other sources.

Throughout the summer, the museum is open weekdays and Saturdays 9 a.m.–4 p.m. By visiting [www.okcm.ca](http://www.okcm.ca), more is available on the museum and other Kings Historical Society programs and events.

“Our museum is really a hidden treasure for so many people,” says Bria. “Along with our exhibits, we can help people discover their families’ pasts. And you’re never too old to discover your history!”

*Story and photo by Marlene Huntley*



*Bria Stokesbury shows some items on display in the Apple Blossom Festival exhibit.*



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