



## A New Library in Kentville

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Why do we need a new public library in Kentville?

Kentville's Library building is outdated, too small to meet the growing population demands and is in need of major repairs. Presently, the Library does not meet the minimum basic requirements, for size or technological needs, set by the *Standards for Nova Scotia Regional Libraries 2001* and has serious structural and potential environmental defects. In its present state, it cannot meet the needs of the Kentville population now or in the future.

Who pays for a new library?

The Annapolis Valley Regional Library covers the cost of all library staff and materials such as books, computers, DVD, etc. The money for this comes from the province and the eleven local municipalities, which make up the regional library. However, it is up to each municipality or town to provide a building to house their local Library. That means us! The Friends of the Kentville Library are spearheading this fundraising effort.

Why don't we renovate the current library building?

Renovations on the present site would not solve the problem of inadequate space, nor would the operation standards set forth by the Provincial Guidelines be met. In 2005, the Library Sub-Committee of the Kentville Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee determined that "monies spent to repair the present building would be better spent on a new building."

### Why don't we locate the new library in the proposed new school?

Combining the public library with an elementary school presents many challenges and provides no savings in cost. Studies have shown that use of public libraries located in schools is greatly reduced and that the combination does not successfully meet the requirements for service of the two distinct institutions, each with its differing roles and goals. Some important considerations are as follows:

1. Schools tend to be built away from heavy traffic, the exact place best suited for a public library.
2. Schools follow a specific curriculum and their library materials are aimed at supporting that curriculum. Public libraries must meet the demands of every segment of society and problems can easily arise regarding the suitability of certain items being housed in a combined facility.
3. Conflict can easily develop between the two governing bodies over issues such as signage and hours of operation, with the school usually prevailing.
4. Public libraries offer unfiltered access to the Internet. This is very different from what schools provide and could be a potential source of conflict.
5. Schools tend to be very protective of their students and do not welcome non-student visitors during school hours, greatly restricting the use of the library and its public meeting spaces during those times.

### Why do we need public libraries when we have the Internet?

Contrary to what some people think, library usage is growing with the ever-increasing Internet age. More books are being published than ever before—and people are reading! The value and importance of information in our world is increasing, thus magnifying the need for accurate, reliable information, which librarians can provide. Everything printed is not available on the Internet and some of what is on the Internet is not factual.

Libraries bridge the digital divide by providing Internet and computer access to those who do not otherwise have this access and help people use the often-bewildering array of information in print and electronic formats.

Today's libraries are far more than simply the storage of books. They are multipurpose gathering places—providing all citizens with the resources and technologies to compete in the world today, as well as being relaxing cultural centers at the hub of the community.

### How will the new library help the economic development of Kings County?

A new library will enhance the streetscape and attract new businesses, investment, visitors and shoppers to the town core and will thus encourage community development. It will provide resources for the development of small business and for individuals to improve career-related skills, literacy and technological skills. A new library will engage Kentville and Kings County residents in the life of the area and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow and contribute to the community's economic prosperity and will be an important determining factor for those considering moving to the area.

### How much will the new library cost and how will it be funded?

The projected cost of the new library is \$2.4 million. It will be funded through government grants, corporate and private donations, and fundraising. Once built it will be handed over to the Town of Kentville to operate and maintain and to the Annapolis Valley Regional Library to supply staff and materials.

### Where will the new library be located?

The new library will be located in the Kentville town core. A suitable site will be determined in consultation with the town and the architect. A public announcement will follow.

### How big will the new library be?

The new library will be approximate 6,000–8,000 sq ft. (The present library is 2,175 sq. ft.)

### What is the timeline for the building of the new library?

The formation of the Friends of the Kentville Public Library Society in early 2006 set the timeline in motion for this project.

- In 2006 mission and vision statements, bylaws, registration as a non-profit society and charitable status were achieved. A Business Plan was created and presentations to local governments were made, which resulted in start-up monies from the Town and County, and an in-kind grant from Kings Community Economic Development Agency.
- In fall of 2007 an architect was chosen and a public awareness Book Sale was held.
- 2008 will see the creation of plans for the library building, site selection and the beginning of fundraising efforts.
- Once adequate funds are raised, construction will begin. (To be announced.)

### Who is designing the new library?

To be announced soon.

### What will the new library offer?

In addition to providing books, periodicals and multimedia, the new library will offer an easily accessible inviting place where people will want to gather and spend time in enjoyable, fun and constructive ways. It will be bright and cheerful with an abundance of natural light. Comfortable chairs in “living room” settings will invite relaxed browsing. There will be inviting areas dedicated to children and teens. The number of computer/Internet stations will be increased to meet the need and adequate space will be provided for multimedia materials, such as videos, DVDs, and speaking books. The new library will be surrounded by a park-like green space, which will connect with local trails. It will provide a showcase for local art, offer space for a café, and include meeting rooms for community groups and public gatherings.

### Will the new library be energy efficient?

Yes, the goal is to build, where practical, a building using LEED design and construction principles (as encouraged by the Canada Green Building Council), which will be a landmark building both in form and function. By using the LEED design and construction principles this library will have minimum upkeep and low utility costs.

### How can I become involved in the new library project?

The Friends of the Kentville Public Library Society is spearheading the effort to build the new library in Kentville and we need volunteers to help in a variety of ways. We need you to:

- Become a member,
- Join a planning committee,
- Be a regular or one-time volunteer,
- Contribute time or services,
- Donate funds
- Help in other ways behind the scenes

Everyone can support the project by supporting the many fundraising events in the days ahead.

For more info contact Frances Schagen (Chair) [frances@cleartoyou.com](mailto:frances@cleartoyou.com) or Ginny Evans (Co-Chair) [evanscg@eastlink.ca](mailto:evanscg@eastlink.ca) (902) 678-4411

### Is my contribution tax deductible?

Yes. The Friends of the Kentville Public Library Society is a registered non-profit society with charitable status. Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued.