



Draft Media Release

Hantsport Signs Protocol for Regional Cooperation

The Town of Hantsport has joined the County of Kings and the Towns of Berwick, Kentville and Wolfville in the Kings Partnership Steering Committee (KPSC), but signing on to the Protocol for Regional Cooperation that outlines the terms for joint activities between the participating municipalities. Representatives of the five municipal units met recently to discuss a number of regional issues, and signed the Protocol, following approval of Hantsport's membership by each of the participating municipal Councils earlier this year.

The Protocol for Regional Cooperation includes principals, communication practises and a formal process for resolving complaints among the local communities involved. It is often referred to in other jurisdictions as a model of municipal cooperation. For the four Kings County units who first signed on to the Protocol in 2004, and established the Kings Partnership Steering Committee, it has provided a mechanism to review such shared services as solid waste, emergency management, fire service, joint recreation, economic development and cost sharing. Some issues have taken longer to resolve than others, and some are on-going, but most participants agree that the KPSC provides a valuable and consistent forum for such discussions. Municipalities are represented on KPSC by their Mayor or Warden, two other Coucillors, and their CAO. In addition, the Protocol formalizes a Kings CAO's Committee that coordinates regional cooperation at the staff level.

Hantsport Mayor Wayne Folker is pleased to become a regular participant on joint meetings with his western neighbours: "Our Town has a long history of cooperation with municipalities in both Kings and Hants Counties, and this formal link to Kings County seemed to be a logical extension of this history. We share in Fire, Recreation, Emergency Management and a number of other services with the four municipalities in Kings County, and we appreciate the opportunity to sign the Protocol and work together more consistently". The Chair of KPSC, Councillor Janet Newton from Kings County was also enthusiastic about the addition of Hantsport: " I think this confirms the value of the Partnership and Protocol Agreement for the rest of us, and brings Hantsport's comments and suggestions for regional cooperation to the table in a formal way."

For More Information:

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