The story of the inhabitants of the Minas Basin shores over the past four centuries as told in our local museums.

Prepared in 2011 by: Kings Hants Heritage Connection and Kings Regional Development Agency

Museums of Kings Counties

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Avon River Heritage Society and Museum
Newport, 902-757-1718
info@avonriver.ca www.avonriver.ca
Exit 5, Hwy 101, follow Route 14 to Mantua, then follow the Avondale Rd. to Newport Landing.
The museum complex of the Avon River Heritage Society is dedicated to the Maritime Heritage of the Avon River area and to the “Planters” (the New England settlers of Newport Township). The museum also features a gift shop and a tea room.
Hours of operation: June 15-September, Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm
Closed on Monday’s

Court House Hill
(not a museum, but a great “day tripper”)
The sleepy little community of Gore, Hants County, is located approximately 20 minutes from Highway 102, Exit 8 in Elmsdale. Courthouse Hill is worth a visit, especially if beautiful country sides appeal to your road tripping nature.

East Hants Historical Society and Museum
6971, Rte. 215, Lower Selma, Maitland 902-758-2570
hantshistorical@gmail.com
East Hants Historical Society
Upon entering this little church museum you are automatically taken back to the time of our ancestors. Guides are at your service to answer questions and give you a tour through time. In 1981 the church was leased to the East Hants Historical Society and turned into a museum. For more information see: Hours of operation: July and August 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

Fort Edward
National Historic Site of Canada
902-798-4706
info@pc.gc.ca
Take Exit 6 from Hwy 101 on to Water St., take first left on to King St., take first left again on to Fort Edward St.
Built in 1750, ostensibly by Major Charles Lawrence, this is Canada’s oldest remaining military structure and the last surviving blockhouse in Nova Scotia. Fort Edward was one of the main assembly points in the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755.
Hours of operation: Blockhouse with guide service: July and August
Grounds open year-round

Lawrence House Museum
8660 Highway 215, Maitland
902-261-2628
pegldr@gov.ns.ca
Built by shipbuilder William D. Lawrence, the house is one of the many fine homes built while Maitland was a shipbuilding center. To commemorate the launch of W.D. Lawrence’s “Great Ship,” a major Launch Day Festival is held in Maitland each year with a parade, historical skits, and the launching of a model of the huge vessel.
Hours of operation: June 1st – October 15th, Monday to Saturday: 10 am – 5 pm
Sunday: 1 – 5 pm

Shand House Museum
389 Avon Street, Windsor
902-798-8213
dauphiar@gov.ns.ca
Built in 1890-91, this stylish Victorian home shows examples of woodwork and furnishings by the Windsor Furniture Company, outdoor plumbing, central heating and electric lighting.
Hours of operation: Open June 1st - September 15th, Monday to Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm Sunday 1 – 5 pm

Shubenacdie Tin Smith Shop Museum
2854 Main Street, Shubenacadie
902- 758-2013
tinshopmuseum@hotmail.com
 Dating back to the early 1890s, the building was used as a milk can fabrication facility and hardware store until 2000. It was then opened as museum. The museum features:
- A hardware store - with all its colorful 1920s clutter.
- Tinsmith Shop - with all the original equipment intact from the 1890s.
- Craft shop and gift store, staffed and stocked by local Nova Scotian artists.
Additional exhibits - veterans memorial, clothing, household goods, farm tools.
Hours of operation: May – September,
Monday to Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm

Unilace Estate Museum Park
758 # 1 Highway, Mt. Uniacke
902- 866-0032 www.museum.gov.ns.ca/
Built circa 1815, the home of Richard John Uniacke, Attorney General of Nova Scotia, 1797 and 1830. A fine example of colonial architecture, this is a rare example of a house built in this era and never modernized. Visitors are invited to explore the 2300 acre estate using six newly developed hiking trails.
(biking boots are recommended)
Hours of operation: June 1st – October 15th, Monday to Saturday, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm Sunday, 11 am – 5:30 pm

West Hants Historical Society
281 King St., Windsor
902-798-4706
whhs@ns.aliantzinc.ca
2854 Main Street, Shubenacadie
Visit Exit 6 from Hwy 101 on to Water St., take first left on to King St., take first left again on to Fort Edward St.
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