COMMUNITY PARTNER DESCRIPTION:

European settlers arrived in Kingsburg in 1753. At that time, the British offered land grants to German-speaking settlers. Initially, there were 25 families in the area. For generations, it was a thriving self-sufficient fishing community before economic and social change decimated local industry. The local school house closed in 1957. Children were then moved to Riverport school, which closed in 1958. Today, Kingsburg is a post-industrial retirement/vacation community. Kingsburg Community Association was founded in 2015. Its goals are to maintain and promote the Kingsburg area with a view to enhancing the health, safety, and general well-being of its residents. It is a social hub, with an active website, www.kingsburg.info, and has been instrumental in local water-testing, beach clean-ups, and environmental assessments. From an initial membership of 64 (2015), it has grown to 189 members (2020).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The KCA has a local history committee, and the present project stems from our determination to produce a detailed social and economic history of the Kingsburg area. Our project is twofold:

1) To produce a material history of 10 objects, e.g. an early settler barn, a shoreline fish-shack, a handmade ladder. To display these on our webpage.

2) To study, with a view to preserving, the historical structures and farming methods of the Kingsburg area

In phase one, we will select 10 evocative objects from the history of the settlement. We want them to reflect as many aspects of settler life as possible, including the domestic sphere. We will survey the objects, provide a history of their socio-economic function, and build an object-oriented history of Kingsburg as a settler community. We will produce a webpage telling the object's history. We plan to begin with object #1: a traditional Kingsburg barn. Originally, there were 25 barns, each with a fish shack on the shoreline. These were the heart of the settler economy. The early settlers built three-bay barns with regional variants. Some of have been destroyed, but many are preserved, and our intention is to raise awareness of their cultural and historical value. Our goal is to produce a site map for each of the original barns, then choose a number of extant barns and get them modeled for our website. We want to document and display the rich heritage of the area. Our goal is to identify and write up all 10 objects by December 2021.

PROJECTED BENEFITS:
Our goal is to build community identity and preserve local historical structures. We want to study the history of the area in order to understand regional development trends. We want to better understand the policies and pressures that have shaped our community. The idea is to produce a history of the settlement and its early agricultural methods.