

Kings Landing set to open for 45th season

June 7, 2019

Kings Landing will kick off its 45th season on Saturday, June 8. This year, the living history museum will offer both the exhibit and costumed village experience with some exciting updates.

Guests can look forward to interacting with more costumed characters as the Jones, Joslin and Hagerman houses will be part of the Village once more. The Joslin Farm will also be home to live farm animals, which are always a guest favourite.

“It feels like we’ve found a balance between offering the costumed village experience people know and love, and the exhibit experience that gives context to the Village,” says Brenda Orr, Kings Landing’s Interim Chief Executive Officer. “The exhibit experience also allows us to show rarely seen artefacts from our large collection and work with partners, both of which are important as a museum.”

Also in the Village, guests can lend a hand to the farmers, help whip up a gingerbread, check out the wares at the Grant Store and watch the blacksmith in action. An exciting new weekend event is the Entertainment Weekend during which a travelling thespian group will perform for guests. There will also be three seasonal culinary weekends that will include a garden party at the King’s Head Inn, and annual favourites like the Confederation Picnic, the Loyalist Wedding, the Coronation Celebration and the Agricultural Fair.

The exhibit experience includes the Agricultural Hall, the Summer Stage, the Ross Gallery, the Gordon Gallery, the Pit House, the Kid Zone and the new Heritage Gallery. This new gallery will celebrate Kings Landing’s history by showcasing the stories of some of the families associated with the historic buildings in the Village. The Heritage Gallery will also offer the popular dress-up area where guests can don 19th-century costumes.

Visitors can also enjoy the Wolastokuk exhibit in the Agricultural Hall, the stunning pressed glass exhibit in the MacBeath Gallery and the lumbering exhibit in the Ross Gallery. The Gordon Gallery will pay tribute to Hewlett Marr, a former Kings Landing blacksmith and the last Black Loyalist descendant to live in Lower Queensbury, New Brunswick.

Kings Landing will partner once again with the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design (NBCCD) to offer the Hoyt House Residency Program. This program allows students to use the Hoyt House as a studio for the summer and facilitate public workshops at the Summer Stage.

The Paint the Past: Plein Air Festival is back by popular demand. This 3-day festival will take place from June 28-30 during which artists paint outdoors at Kings Landing to create beautiful paintings. The completed artwork will be on display and available for purchase in MacBeath Hall after the event until early September.

The Visiting Cousins and Family Kin summer camp programs are filling up and promise to be lots of fun again this year. During this week-long, overnight camp, children ages 9-15 dress in period costume and get in on as many activities as possible, including feeding the pigs, preparing meals, learning handiwork skills, and apprenticing at the Print Shop.

Kings Landing is pleased to offer two dining options again this season: The King's Head Inn Restaurant located in the heart of the Village and the Axe & Plough Café located in the Welcome Centre. Guests can also check out the Kings Landing Collection at The Peddler's Market for one-of-a-kind handmade items by artisans on site and a variety of other souvenirs of New Brunswick and Kings Landing.

Other new and exciting things to look for this season include the Village Feast events and Kings Landing's participation in the Garrison Night Market in downtown Fredericton on Thursday nights in June and July.

There's so much to see and do this season at Kings Landing, so you'll want to visit often to take full advantage. For more information, visit kingslanding.nb.ca or follow them on Facebook and Instagram @KingsLandingNB. There is truly something for everyone.

Kings Landing is open daily from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. until Thanksgiving Monday, and is located at Exit 253 along the Trans-Canada Highway (Route 2), just 20 minutes west of Fredericton.

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Horses graze in a field behind the Grant Store on the east side of the Village. (Kings Landing Corporation)