

# Kingwell

- Population in 1940: 243
- In 1884 census, Kingwell, then known as Mussel Harbour Arm had 148 people with Boutcher, Hann, Miller
- (Pop, 1966, 108)
- Fishing -lobstering-herring settlement on the west side of Placentia Bay on Long Island
- 33 miles from Argentia
- Coast boat "Home" carrying passengers, freight, and mail
- 1 sawmill
- 1 radio (based on annual \$2.00 fee paid)
- Post office with no telegram or money order
- The earliest census (1857) Mussel Harbour Arm is not listed, but Mussel Harbour is with a population of 40.
- In the census of 1901, Mussel Harbour is listed with a population of 181
- In 1901, there was a school, 35 horses, 24 barns and outhouses and 46 boats.
- In 1911, the population was 175
- A resettled fishing community on the west side of Long Island qv, Placentia Bay. Fishing grounds just outside of the harbour in Placentia Bay's central channel were good, with only small boats needed to prosecute the inshore cod and herring fishery
- Known as Kingwell only since 1921, the community was recorded in the census as Mussel (or Muscle) Harbour Arm in 1884. Probably enumerated in previous years with Mussel Harbour (Port Royal qv) to the south, Mussel Harbour Arm had 148 people of the Boutcher, Hann, Miller and other families in 1884, with the surnames Barry and Hayes also becoming common over the next two decades.
- Although 1901 Census indicated that the communities Church of England people had claimed the north side of the arm while the Roman Catholics claimed the south, by 1921 there were no Catholics remaining in the community, which now comprised 155 Church of England people, 10 Methodists, and 52 Salvation Army followers.
- Sometime between 1911 and 1921, the name had been changed from Mussel Harbour Arm to Kingwell in honour of Reverend John Kingwell. Clev Rodway, born in 1912, remembers his uncle Charles Rodway working towards having the name changed and some of the problems he encountered.
- In 1935, the population was 243 with one church, and one school with two rooms and two teachers.
- While it was the convenience of a lucrative inshore fishery that first attracted settlers to Kingwell, the third and fourth generations had to travel farther to find fish. Larger boats were required and the introduction of cod traps transformed the local fishery from a one-person affair into a cooperative effort.
- Herring, which had originally been packed in barrels by the fishermen themselves or by "shore men" (who received a quarter of the boat owners catch in return for his help), was thereafter

packed on a larger scale by local merchants such as Freeman Wareham in Spencer's Cove and Alberto Wareham in Harbour Buffett.

- Lobster was also canned, a maritime packer's lobster factory employing nearly 50 residents by 1944. By this time Kingwell also had a co-operative society of the kind encouraged in many Placentia Bay communities by the Commission of Government.
- From a peak of 243 in 1935, the population had dropped to 108 by 1966. Under the centralization program instituted after Confederation, the remaining residents moved to Arnolds Cove, Clareville, Little Harbour East and other areas.

C.F Ingram (n.d.), F.W. Rowe (1964), Census (1845-1966), DA (Dec. 1974; Oct. 1976; Dec. 1977), Lovell's Newfoundland Directory (1871), Kingwell: Snaps and memories of the dear old times, 1991