

# Hammonds Plains Historical Society

www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

## News from the Past – From Halifax Mail-Star (May 1959) –

### 'Young People Plan Big Stage Show'

Members of the Hammonds Plains Baptist Youth People's Union (BYPU) have announced a variety show to be held on Wednesday May 20, 1959 at 8 o'clock, in the community hall. All proceeds of the event will be used to assist community young people to attend summer youth camps in the Maritimes.

Featured in the show will be George Longard, of Bayside. Mr. Longard will be accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Doug Graves on electric guitars. All three are close relatives to Mrs. Terry B. Tingley and are coming at their own expense to assist the young people in raising money for this worthy project.

Also on the program will be popular songs by Judy Kynock as well as other local talent. The audience will have the opportunity of participating in pie-eating contest and a balloon-blowing contest and will also witness a fashion show by the men of the community. Rev. Terry B. Tingley will be Master of Ceremony. Fourteen of the Baptist Youth Group will "act" in a five minute skit.



### Upcoming General Meetings:

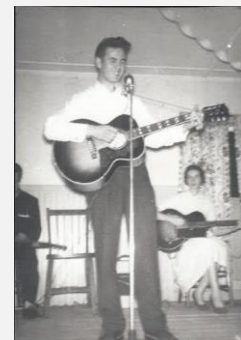
**March 30** - A presentation on the history of **Schools** in the Hammonds Plains area.

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**May 25** - Annual General meeting - Presentation to be announced.

### Pictures from the 1959 Variety Show



Terry Tingley Introducing George Longard



## WILLIAM GARVIE HAVERSTOCK

During the past 200 years, Hammonds Plains has been home to many well-known residents. Our newsletter this month looks at W. G. Haverstock (known as Garvie), a prominent citizen of the early 1900's.

'Garvie' was a lifelong resident of Hammonds Plains, born on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1871, son of Henry Haverstock and Sarah Ann Smith.

He was married to Ethel Eisenhauer in 1902. Their residence still stands on the Hammonds Plains Road.

He was a well-known business man throughout the greater Halifax area for his activity in the lumbering trade. His business **W. G. Haverstock & Sons**, was very prominent in Hammonds Plains as a producer of lumber, wooden boxes and barrels during the early 1900's. He operated a saw mill at Schmidt Lake, along with a cooper shop and box factory located alongside the Hammonds Plains Road.

He was active in community activities and was well known in social circles in the city of Halifax. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Hammonds Plains and held membership in Royal Sussex Lodge.

He and Ethel had 7 children: Earl, Sarah, Henry, Everett, Alfred, Albert and Eileen.

Garvie died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage on 19 April 1939 in Hammonds Plains. His funeral was widely attended, held at his residence on April 21st. After a short service, the funeral procession proceeded for burial at the St. Nicholas' Anglican Cemetery in Hammonds Plains. Pictured below is his grave site.



**William Garvie Haverstock – 1871-1939**

## Look us up on Facebook:



The Hammonds Plains Historical Society has recently created a new Facebook site. We will be posting upcoming events, old community pictures and information pertaining to the society. Be a friend to us and connect through facebook to learn about and see what others are saying about our past.

(This Article was written by the HPHS on the request of Ben Jessome's Office. We consider it the best summary of the history of Hammonds Plains that currently exists.)

## **Hammonds Plains – A Traditional Lumbering Community: A History Part 2**

The 1800's also saw the establishment of schools, churches, inns, blacksmith shops, a Temperance Hall and small general stores within the community, with the population in both Upper and Lower Hammonds Plains showing consistent growth. The 1861 census listed 770 individuals living in the area.

The road continued to improve during the 1800's, going from a horse trail to one where wagons could drive over. In 1831, a road running from Sackville was added to join on to the Hammonds Plains Road. This became known as the Lucasville Road. Farming and forestry became the chief industries of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and transportation evolved with larger and more dependable wagons. Some of the larger mills moved from water power to use of turbines in the late 1800's. Significant during this century was the creation of community schools and churches in the area.

Hammonds Plains was a thriving independent community by the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The community saw on a daily basis, wagons of barrels and boxes heading to market in Halifax. Phones came to the community in 1902, with the community creating its own phone company, the Hammonds Plains Phone Company, originally consisting of three phones. A new community hall was built in 1912 in Lower Hammonds Plains. Cars were introduced to the community just before the First World War, with the first residents owning cars by the early 1920's. Power lines were put through the community in 1932, bringing electricity to the area. The era of oil lamps for light had come to an end. The first half of the century saw the wooden box business become an economic driver within the community, which complemented the traditional barrel making business. The community was tightly knit during this time with many community events, such as suppers, box socials, the Labour Day picnic and turkey shoots attended by many.



Load of Barrels on the way to Halifax – 1930's

The Second World War saw the community act as a training ground for Canadian soldiers. There were two military communication stations established in the community and soldiers could be seen marching along the road. Recreation and sport has always had a big role in the community. Hunting and fishing was very

popular since the beginning days, and skating was an activity enjoyed by many on the lakes and on one of the community rinks. Baseball was a common summer sport, with the community having its own organized team during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

After the Second World War, the forestry industry started to decline, with a decreasing demand for wooden products, as new technologies and decreasing fish stocks became the new reality. Mills and Cooper Shops gradually closed with only a handful left by the 1970's. During the time, many of the young folks in the community used the improved methods of transportation to seek employment in Halifax.

A major change to the community came in 1957, when the Hammonds Plains road was widened and paved. This opened up the road to greater traffic and new sub-divisions soon started to become the face of the community, the first being Uplands Park in 1962. Fire Departments were created in both Upper and Lower Hammonds Plains. In 1967, the Hammonds Plains Consolidated School was opened, taking in all the students of the Hammonds Plains area, thus closing the outdated Hammonds Plains and Upper Hammonds Plains Schools.



The Upper Hammonds Plains School from 1940's

The community became a much different community during the 1960 -70's. Businesses such as a golf course, race car track, camp ground, excavation companies, food places, and gas stations slowly replaced the traditional mill related commercial buildings.

The late 20<sup>th</sup> century brought tremendous growth to the community with the establishment of new subdivisions, such as Highland Park, Kingswood, Glen Arbor, Blue Mountain, White Hills, Maplewood and Waterstone. The growth has brought with it increased traffic, new business establishments, a world class golf course and a community baseball field.

Recent years have seen continued growth with the creation of further sub-divisions at Voyager Lakes, Kingswood West and North and Perry Ponds. The highway is now dotted with traffic lights at many of the intersections, with several adjacent strip malls along the side of the road. It will have a bike route in place by 2016.