

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

News from the Past – From Halifax Mail-Star (March 1954) – Education Week 1954

Education Week was observed at the Hammonds Plains School when members of the school board, parents and friends visited the three classrooms to observe the children at work and see the projects and displays on exhibition. A special Education week contest, was sponsored by the Admiral Provo Wallis of the I.O. D. E. Judges were Mrs. Charles Harris, Mrs. Clifford Haverstock, and Mrs. Edwin Haverstock. In the primary room, Mrs. Harris complimented the young contestants on the excellency of their scrap books, containing examples of their day to day work.

In the Intermediate department, Mrs. Clifford Haverstock gave a talk on making scrap books, emphasizing the value derived from such projects. Mrs. Edwin Haverstock, a former teacher in this community, outlined to the advanced students the elements of good essay writing and told the pupils their work in the essay contest was most commendable. Judges said they felt that the projects showed much preparation and genuine effort on the part of pupils and teachers.

Following the dismissal of classes, the teachers, Mrs. J. Publicover, Mrs. Donald Haverstock and Miss Barrett were hostesses at afternoon tea, at which the grade 9 girls assisted in the serving. During the tea hour there was an informal discussion of topics relative to school activities.

Rev. J. Griffiths called on each classroom, and spoke to the pupils on advantage of education in later life, encouraging them to do their best in all school work.



Upcoming General Meetings:

May 25th Annual General Meeting – at Cornerstone Wesleyan Church – 7pm.

Presentation: The Political Past in Hammonds Plains – Ben Jessome (MLA) presenter

Election of new **Board of Directors** will take place at this time. If interested in being on BOD, contact us at:
haverstockdave@gmail.com



Join us on Facebook to check out and make comments on some of the old pictures of the community that we have in our collection.



Hammonds Plains School - 1940

Greater Hammonds Plains Lucasville Cenotaph Project

Becoming a HPHS Member:

You can become a member of the Hammonds Plains Historical Society by filling out a registration form and e-mailing it to Dave Haverstock

(haverstockdave@gmail.com) or mailing to 1541 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia B4B 1P6. **Annual fee is \$10.**

Registration forms are available during one of our general meetings or by copying from our web site.



The Greater Hammonds Plains Memorial Committee continues its work toward creating a cenotaph in the Hammonds Plains community. They are currently working with HRM for site selection options.

A fund raising plan has been launched. Donations are currently being accepted.

Next steps for the committee during this spring include selection of location for the cenotaph, design of the monument and fund raising.

For donation information and an overview of the project, you can check out the Greater Hammonds Plains Memorial Committee on facebook.



The Primary class from 1954



Hammonds Plains School as it looked in 1954

'Uncle Sid'

Sidney S. Eisenhauer – 1875 – 1962



One of the most colorful and well known residents of the Hammonds Plains community during the 20th century was Sidney Samuel Eisenhauer, or 'Uncle Sid', as everyone in the community knew him by.

Born in Hammonds Plains in 1875 to Samuel and Sarah Eisenhauer, Sid was a lifelong resident of the community. He was brought up in the community and like many other men of his time in Hammonds Plains, transitioned into the lumber trade.

Sid married Effie Melvin in 1899 and together they had six children (Gladys, Lena, Vera, Blanche, Melvin and Roy).

At age 30, in 1905 he purchased the mill located on Mason's Pond (**on the Hammonds Plains Road next to where Hammonds Plains Pharmacy is located to-day**) from Nathaniel Melvin. The mill that Sid bought became known as the "little old mill at the curve on the road" (**see picture on next page**). The mill at the time of purchase was run by an overshot waterwheel, later advancing to a bucket type wheel and then to a center vent wheel, all depended on the water in the pond next to it. Finally, as electricity came to the community, a turbine was put in to power the mill, when water conditions were not high enough to run the mill. Along with producing lumber, the mill also made all the pieces that were used to assembly the wooden boxes made in the accompanying box factory. For many years, 'Uncle Sid's Mill' provided wooden cases for a soft drink factory in Halifax.

Sid operated the mill until he retired in the late 1950's, when he was over 80 years of age. By the time he retired, the province had changed the Hammonds Plains Road so that the road ran behind the mill next to the mill pond (**as it is situated to-day**). The mill stood until 1967, when it was burnt down by the Fire Department in a controlled burn.

Religion was part of his family's life and Sid was a lifelong member of St. Nicholas Church in Hammonds Plains. He was known for taking a keen interest in all projects for the good of the community.

Sid was famous for calling out greetings with his great booming voice, as fellow residents passed by his mill, either walking or on a horse drawn wagon. His voice easily was heard through the community near his home and mill. Dorothy Bezanson Evans, author of Hammonds Plains – The First 100 Years tells the story that "... every time a wagon passed his mill, Uncle Sid popped out and called "Hi, Where're you goin'?" ... and he asked the driver questions until he had every bit of news the driver knew, so that when the next team came along and was hailed, Uncle Sid has a little bit more to tell. He just had to hear all the news and he just had to tell it. All by himself he was the village newspaper.

But never once in all my years have I heard him say a malicious word about anyone, not even the government agent who seriously deserved it; and if you had troubles he offered to share them.”

Also known for his enjoyment in trading things, Sid delighted in getting the better of someone in a trade. Folks often relayed that ‘old fellow was a tough negotiator”.

Dorothy Bezansen Evans remembers her encounters with ‘Uncle Sid’, as a child growing up near his mill. “Uncle Sid was an awful trial to us when we were children. He just knew when we eluded Mother and were sneaking off for that forbidden swim, and he always stopped us. “Where are you going? Does your mother know? ... and my sister and me always went back to ask permission which we knew in advance would be refused. He scorned the stories of eels to chase us off the mill dam, deep and dangerous with the wheel turning; and he scorned too, the tale of ear-wigs to keep us out of the sawdust up under the bridge, those down by the brook by the rush of water when the gates in the dam were opened. He didn’t say ‘you shouldn’t’. He just bellowed and we ran”



Sid was one of the first in the community to install a phone at his house and often neighbors would visit him so they could use his phone. Proof of his kind, neighbouring nature is a story told by Dorothy Bezansen Evans of his actions during the 1945 Magazine Explosion on Magazine Hill. “In Halifax, the Civic Defense manned their posts, and many citizens remembering the Halifax Explosion got in their cars and left the city. In our village a few panicky ones left their homes and fled to the woods. Though alarmed, most people went to bed. Some thought they expected next day. Others just hoped their houses would be left standing and had little thought for anything else, and to the stream of cars with their frightened people, they simply turned their backs. But Uncle Sid’s house was a blaze of light from top to bottom. There were cars in his door yard, in his barn yard, in his mill yard. The kettle was boiling, spare blankets were found, people ate, rested and talked out their fears from the front yard verandah steps to the back porch. They had found a neighbor”

Sid passed away on March 13th, 1962 at the age of 87. His funeral was held at St. Nicholas Church with both the Anglican Priest and Baptist Minister presiding. He is buried at the Baptist Cemetery.