

# Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: [www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca)

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

## Hammonds Plains Historical Society Hosts First Open House – February 7<sup>th</sup>

The Society hosted its first ever **Open House** at the Hammonds Plains Community Center on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 175 folks took the opportunity to learn about some of the history of the community. There were a number of displays set up including one of old vintage pictures of the community, display boards depicting the community's past, an audio visual display about the Whiley Mill in Upper Hammonds Plains and a number of artifacts that were once in homes in Hammonds Plains.



Folks checking out the displays at the HPHS Open House



## Upcoming General Meetings:

**May 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** – at Cornerstone Wesleyan Church – 7pm.

**Presentation:** The Military History in Hammonds Plains

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

[haverstockdave@gmail.com](mailto:haverstockdave@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Presentation

The Hammonds Plains Historical Society will be making a presentation on the '[History of the Mills in Hammonds Plains](#)' at the Tantallon Library on April 21<sup>st</sup>. This is part of the Tantallon Library Lecture Series.



1968 view of Haverstock Brothers Mill between Big and Little Pockwock Lakes

## 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](mailto: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 Entrance to Thomson's Store (Located next to Baptist Cemetery) – 1950's**



**Eisenhauer White Rose Service Station (Located across from present day Glen Arbour)- 1956**

## News From the Past

**From Halifax Mail Star – October 27, 1947**

### Battle Series of Bush Fires

Members of the Hammonds Plains Voluntary Fire Department, under the direction of Fire Chief Maurice Eisenhauer, were called out on Saturday at noon to put out a fire between this section of the village and Pockwock, about three miles in the woods north east of the main highway. The first sign of fire was noticed at nine am and by noon all available men from this district joined by men from Upper Hammonds Plains and Pockwock had reached the scene of the fire, which was sweeping through old cuttings known as the

Glennings's Cuttings, which had been lumbered a few years ago, and was heading for timber owned by Moir's Limited. While the volunteers were pumping water on from swamps and ponds, two other fires broke out nearby, but in the opposite direction in which the main fire was heading. The firefighters reported these must have been deliberately set. Both fires were quickly extinguished before they made any headway. By 6 o'clock the main fire which was heading for Tomahawk Lake, a short distance from Sackville, was well under control, but a number of the men stayed all night and kept the pumps going until Sunday noon when all danger seemed to be over.



Sample of 1940's Fire Truck

## The Founding Fathers of Hammonds Plains:

The Founding Fathers is the name given to the settlers of the early 1820's who were prominent in the formation of the village of Hammonds Plains. We are profiling a Founding Father in this and future editions of our newsletter.

### Founding Father - Robert Thomson

Robert Thomson is known as one of the 'Chester' group who came to Hammonds Plains in 1811/12 to establish a village. He was born in 1786, the sixth son of Thomas and Martha Thomson of Chester. He came from an educated family, with his father being Justice of the Peace in Chester during the early 1880's. As early as 1808, Thomas was writing to authorities in Halifax asking for money to finish a riding road from Chester to Hammonds Plains.

Robert was raised in Chester and married Margaret Duncan around 1810. He came to Hammonds Plains with his new bride via horse back, along with the Melvin, Ellis and Webber families in 1811. He bought the original Lot 9 of the Hammonds Plains grant and settled there. Lot 9 is the area where Acadia First Nations lands are to-day and on the Bedford side of the Baptist Cemetery. Thomson was known for his letter writing. There are various letters in the Nova Scotia Archives penned by Thomson. For instance, in 1837, he wrote to the Lt. General of Nova Scotia outlining his concern for the African Canadian settlers of Upper Hammonds Plains and their state of poverty caused by the failure of the crops the previous year and asking for provincial financial assistance for them.

Thomson was very active in the community in establishing the infrastructure needed for a developing village. Among the titles he had during the 1800's in the community were Commissioner of Roads, school trustee for the new schools in the area, land assessor and was instrumental in the building of the Baptist Church in Lower Hammonds Plains, serving as its first clerk. He was a strong supporter of education and made sure his children were students in the newly created school in Upper Hammonds Plains during the 1820's.

Robert and Margaret had three sons (David, James and Samuel). Each of his sons were active in community affairs during the 1800's. He passed away in 1868 at age 82 and is buried in the H. P. Baptist Cemetery. The Thomson family line is still present in Hammonds Plains to-day. It was Robert who laid the foundations for the community involvement of the Thomson family. His son, Samuel was a Councilor for the area from 1892-99 and various members of the Thomson family became business leaders in the community through the lumber trade during the late 1800 - and early-mid 1900's.

# Sights of a Bygone Era



One of the last pictures taken in Kemptown near Wright's Mill (1955) (cooking on an outdoor stove -the stove was probably from the cook house of the mill). Note the Kemptown Bridge in the background.



Picture 1: Clifford Haverstock with one of the horses that Haverstock Brothers owned for their lumbering business (outside family barn) - 1920's



Picture 2: And you thought folks had reason to complain about the road to-day! A picture from early 1950's of the Hammonds Plains road during the spring thaw. Picture taken from where Lucasville Road joins Hammonds Plains Road looking towards Tantallon.