

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

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Hammonds Plains – Views From the Past



How Larry Uteck Blvd (Kearney Lake Road) and Hammonds Plains Intersection looked in 1955. Can you recognize it?



Upcoming General Meetings:

May 28th Annual General Meeting – at Cornerstone Wesleyan Church – 7pm.

Presentation: The History of the St. Nicholas Cemetery

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

haverstockdave@gmail.com

Upcoming Presentation

The Hammonds Plains Historical Society will be making a presentation on 'The Village of Hammonds Plains at the Time of Confederation in 1867' at the **Tantallon Library on April 26th (7pm)**. This is part of the Tantallon Library Lecture Series.

As Canada was entering confederation in 1867, the hamlet of Hammonds Plains by that time was a sustainable thriving village depended on the surrounding forests for its survival. Come and hear what life was like at the time and learn about the families who lived there at the time.

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.

NEWS FROM THE PAST – FROM HALIFAX MAIL-STAR – August 1, 1952

Hammonds Plains News:

At a recent meeting of the Hammonds Plains Mutual Telephone Company it was decided to sell out the line here to the Maritime Telephone Company. Work has already started to improve the service.

A successful pantry and hot dog sale was held by the ladies of the Ajax Sewing Circle at the home of the president, Miss Minnie Smith. Proceeds will be used for church purposes.

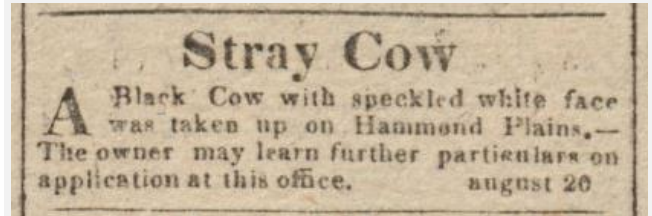
Girl Guides who attended the Girl Guide Camp from Hammonds Plains, at St. Margaret's Bay were Hazel Haverstock, Margaret Rose Romans, Eleanor Wright and Judith Kynock.

Mrs. R. D. McOnie was hostess to members of the Ajax Sewing Circle. The feature of the gathering was the presentation of a gift to Rev. and Mrs. J. Griffiths, who were recently married. Lunch was served and an enjoyable evening spent.

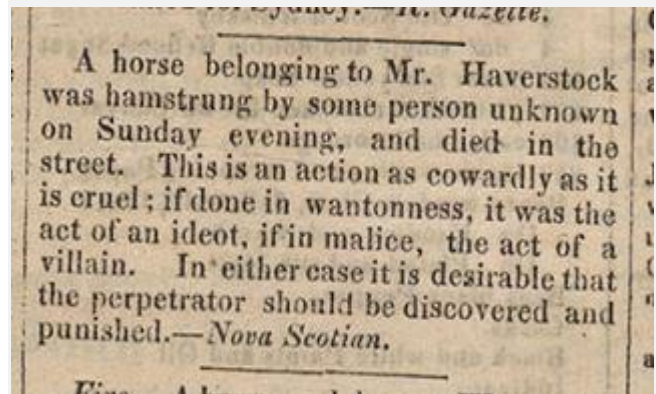
A community picnic will be held on Labor Day, September 1st, at the A. O. F. hall. There will be good supper, refreshments, all sorts of games and dancing. Earl Haverstock has been appointed chairperson. Proceeds will be in aid of the school building fund.

Wildlife News in Hammonds Plains – 1800's Style

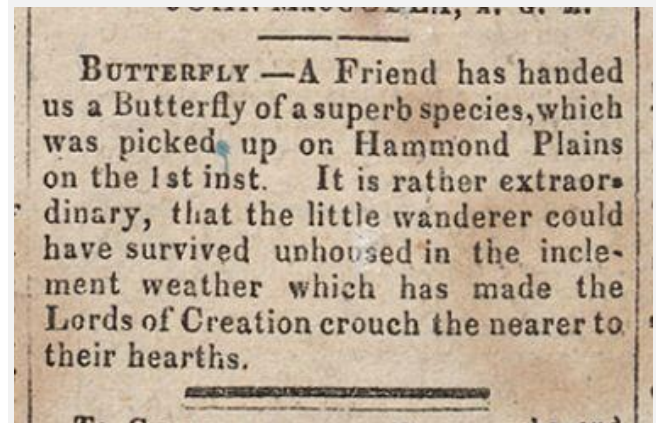
From the Acadian Recorder 1825



1829



1832



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. This is the 10th in the series of 11.

Founding Father - The Schmidt Family

One family that was very instrumental in helping to establish the village of Hammonds Plains during the 1800's was the Schmidt family. While original descendant Christian Schmidt lived in Hammonds Plains for only a short time, he laid the foundations for the Schmidt family later becoming a leader in the forest trade in the community.

Christian Schmidt born in 1752, was of German descent. He was recruited into the British military and served under the Union Jack in the American Revolution. He progressed to become a captain in the Royal Foreign Artillery and ended up being stationed in Halifax. No one knows for sure how it came to be that he ended up in the Hammonds Plains area, but we know that he worked on clearing the McCra lot in the very early days of the Hammonds Plains Land Grants. The McCra lot was a large 500 acre piece of land that was south of the Hammonds Plains grants (in the area of Uplands Park and Kingswood to-day). John McCra did not enlist settlers to live on his lots, which was one of the conditions for receiving the grants in the first place, so in 1803, the grant was taken back by the governor and awarded to Christian Schmidt. In 1805, he bought land near Papermill Lake to set up the area's first sawmill. He erected a saw mill and dam in 1805-06. However, only after a year establishing the mill he tried to sell it off, along with his lands associated with the McCra lot. However, when a search of the title of the McCra lots was done as he attempted to sell, it was revealed that the title had been previously granted to members of the McCra family (John's sons) and therefore the governor was ruled in error by taking the lands from John McCra, who did not legally own them. In a legal battle, Christian Schmidt lost his right to the McCra lot but was awarded lands in Lower Sackville as compensation. He eventually moved to Halifax where he passed away in 1828, but had acquired a nice fortune from the sale of all his lands to pass on to his family.

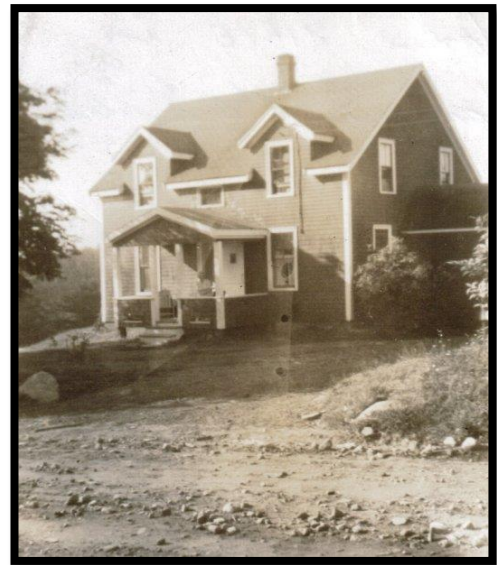
Christian married Elizabeth Pedley and they had 9 children (Frederick, James, Rosina, Margaretta, Mary, Elizabeth, Henry, Charles, William).

Significant to the history of Hammonds Plains was that son, **Charles** and his family moved back to Hammonds Plains. They bought a lot of land on Haverstock Hill after Charles had retired as a Barrister

at Law in the 1860's. Charles became very involved in the Anglican Church and because of his Lawyer credentials was able to perform marriages for the church, and in fact married several couples in the community.

Charles married twice, to Sarah Anne Fletcher and then to Sophia Hunt. He had 17 children, several of which spent much of their lives in Hammonds Plains. Sons Henry and Frederick were very involved in the community. Henry took over the Schmidt house after his parents died and established a mill operation near the area where Farmer Clem's is to-day. Historically significant is that the mill burned down in 1902 in a spectacular fire, although it was later rebuilt. Frederick operated a small store in the community (to-day at 1895 Hammonds Plains Road), which later got sold to Will Romans.

The Schmidt family was still active in the community as late as the 1920's. Their influence in religious life in the community along with their involvement in the timber trade were significant contributions during the latter 1800's. Schmidt's Lake, located in Voyager Lakes is named after the family, although it is unclear which individual it was named after.



Picture on Left - Picture of Henry Schmidt and family house (taken in 1924) at the time it was sold. **Picture 2** is of the same house taken in 1946. The House was completed renovated after it was purchased from the Schmidt family. This house still stands to-day at 1516 Hammonds Plains Road, although it has been renovated several times over the years.