

# Hammonds Plains Historical Society

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

## OUR SIGN

After two years of negotiations with HRM staff and councillors, we finally are able to announce that our community sign is going to become a reality.

Thanks to HRM staff, former Councillor Peter Lund and present Councilor Matt Whitman we have been given permission to rent a small lot of land on the Hammonds Plains Road, in front of Uplands Park to place our road sign.

The top part of the sign will have the following look:



The sign will also have a message board in which announcements pertaining to our society events will be showcased, along with other messages that will be of interest to the greater community.

Our sign is currently being designed and we are looking forward to having it standing tall and proud on the Hammonds Plains Road by spring.



## Upcoming General Meetings:

### January 27

**General Meeting - A**  
presentation on the society's  
Oral History project (at  
Wesleyan Cornerstone Church).

### March 24

**General Meeting - A**  
presentation on Upper  
Hammonds Plains.

## 2014 HPHS Calendar:



Our new **2014** calendar year is now ready for sale. The calendar provides a look into the community from bygone days. The calendar is \$10 each. They are available at the Hammonds Plains Pharmacy and Hammonds Plains Service Center.

## A Remembrance Poem:

(Taken from Stories of Acadia, Birch Bark Series – 1924)

### THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

The Regal Head in silence stands,  
And with him many men of honoured name  
In mourners' mien are bowed  
As when they revered one of note and fame.

For at this hour they bring to Nation's "Sacred Hall"  
All that is mortal of the dead unknown,  
Who on the battlefield of nations fell,  
And justly gained the honour that is shown.

When to him came his Country's call to Arms  
It found him ready, for her righteous cause,  
To fill the place of private in the ranks-  
Important place, though hedged by many laws.

There is no record read of time on field of blood,  
Or of the fight he made for all that we hold dear,  
Nor is it asked, this proof of soldier's worth;  
Enough is known, and thus they brought him here.

Here he shall rest with the illustrious dead-  
The honour which the Nation gladly pays  
To all his rank, who like him faced the foe,  
Gaining by blood the triumph of these days.

W.B. Bezanson

William Bezanson was born in Hammonds Plains in 1866, the son of Amos and Isabel Bezanson. He grew up in Hammonds Plains marrying Annie Ruth Thompson, the daughter of Samuel and Annie Thompson at the Hammonds Plains Baptist Church in 1894. Rev Bezanson was educated at Acadia University and the Newton Theological Institute (Massachusetts). He received a Bachelor of Divinity Degree and later a Doctorate in Divinity. As a pastor, he served the church during a period in which the Baptist community grew significantly in Nova Scotia. He was a key player in that growth. He served throughout the province of Nova Scotia in several communities.

Rev Bezanson was also an author who wrote on religion, history of the Acadians and tales of the Native people of Nova Scotia. His writings included poems, short stories and articles of general interest. His romantic tales of Nova Scotia were included in his four volume series **Stories of Acadia** commonly called the **Birch Bark Stories**.

He died in 1946 and is buried beside his wife Annie in the Hammonds Plains Baptist Cem



### Honoring our Veterans:

This November we honor the following individuals who fought for our country during **World War I**. All the listed folks were residents of either **Upper Hammonds Plains** or **Hammonds Plains**.

**McKerron Anderson**

**Rawleigh Allison**

**Walter Allison**

**Tom Bellfield**

**Bliss Brown**

**Harold Copp**

**Maurice Eisenhower**

**Thomas Goffigan**

**Charlie Harris**

**Christopher Haverstock**

**Walter Haverstock**

**Warren Haverstock**

**Parker Romans**

**Wallace Romans**

**Chester Smith**

**Richard Symonds**

**Charles Wilson**

(This the first of a series on the histories of the long standing churches in Hammonds Plains)

## St. Nicholas Anglican Church



The Anglican community in Hammonds Plains started as an off shoot of the Sackville St. John the Evangelist parish during the early 1800's. The growth of Hammonds Plains during the early 1820's and 1830's gave rise to the Anglican community within the Hammonds Plains area, building their own church in 1843 (which was a little church known as St. John).

Fire destroyed the original church in 1888, burning the church to the ground. It took 2 years for the congregation to rebuild the church. Services began in the new structure in 1890 and it was consecrated the church of St. Nicholas in 1891 by the Bishop of Maine during his visit to Nova Scotia between June 14 and 17 since the Bishop of Nova Scotia was ill at the time. This church that they built is the one which still stands today.

Reverend Arthur Tyers was appointed as Rector in 1919, and he would continue that role for the next 26 years. It was during the Rev. Tyers' term of office that St. Nicholas saw growth and began the keeping of detailed records. The Rev. Tyers' records shows that his first service at St. Nicholas was on March 30, 1919 at 3:00 p.m., and that there were 35 present with an offering of \$2.49. During the 1920/30's, the records show that the attendance was averaging 30 to 45 people. However, the weather played a part in attendance and it showed on days when there was heavy rain or snow and sometimes services had to be cancelled.

A Sewing Circle, was formed in 1925 to help with raising money for church repairs, helping with the Rector's stipend, and the cemetery upkeep. Sunday School was also an intricate part of the church. The enrollment for the Sunday School over the years fluctuated from lows of a handful to as high as fifty or more children. Many church suppers, teas, bake and craft sales were held by various church groups over the last century within the church, mostly in the church basement.

The physical structure of the little church on the road's edge has changed very little over its 125 year old history, though its surroundings have greatly changed. The picket fence which surrounded the church and graveyard for many years was replaced several times but was finally removed in the 1950s with the upgrading of the Hammonds Plains Road. A major addition to the church was the construction of a belfry (bell tower) in 1937. This was completed due to the donation of long-time members Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Schmidt. **(Please note the difference in the pictures of the church in this article– the one at the beginning is pre belfry and with picket fence while the one at the end has the belfry but no more picket fence).** Other significant changes to the church was the purchase of a new wood stove in 1940 (with chimney), the pouring of the basement floor in 1942 and the eventual purchase of the first furnace in 1949. The interior saw some changes in both 1955 and 1978 with various redecorations completed.

The one thing that did not seem to change very much during the 1900's were the names of those who attended St. Nicholas and held offices within its vestry or council. Several of the family names that have always seemed to appear in the records are: Eisenhower, Schmidt, Haverstock, Romans, Wright, Harris, Johnson and Langille.

During the late 1900's, the congregation grew to the stage that the warm, loving, little church on Hammonds Plains Road could not support the growth and it became self-evident that a new St Nicholas church building would be needed, sooner rather than later.

In 2004 a new site in Westwood Hills, in Upper Tantallon was finished as the new St. Nicholas ministry. In keeping with the church's heritage, some of the original furnishings were incorporated into the new building.

After several years sitting idle, the church is now home to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church who have used the building as their place of worship since 2011.

The original cemetery still stands in its long time location behind the church.

