

# Hammonds Plains Historical Society

www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

## Plans for the Coming Year

Welcome to our 2013-14 Newsletters. We publish 5 newsletters per year (released during each of our general meetings). The following is a quick capsule of the plans the society has for the coming year.

- General Meetings – Plans are in place to hold general meetings on the following dates:  
**September 23<sup>rd</sup>, November 25<sup>th</sup>, January 27<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup>  
May 26<sup>th</sup>**  
All meetings start at 7pm and each meeting will have a special presentation on some aspect of local history. Locations for the meetings are varied.
- Oral History Project – Our society will be continuing to interview longtime residents of the Hammonds Plains community during the coming year. The interviews look at memories of community life pre 1970.
- HPHS Calendars – Our society will be producing its second calendar for the 2014 calendar year. The calendar will include pictures of Hammonds Plains from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Calendars will be available for sale at the November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Hammonds Plains Road Sign – We have been working on getting a road sign along the Hammonds Plains Road for several years. It is our goal to see a sign erected this year. We have approval from HRM to place a sign in front of Uplands Park Ball field. The sign will advertise our society events, along with promoting upcoming community activities.



## Upcoming General Meetings:

### November 25

**General Meeting** – A look into the past - Food Stores of Hammonds Plains.

### January 27

**General Meeting** – A presentation on HPHS Oral History Project

## 2014 HPHS Calendar:



We will be producing our second calendar for the **2014** calendar year. Watch for it by the end of November and check out some of the old photos of the community. The calendar will be \$10 each. They will be available at selected locations within the community.

## 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.

## 2013-14 Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors for the 2013-14 year include:

- Dave Haverstock – President
- Brian Murray – Vice President
- Heather Kelly – Secretary
- Wayne Shellnut – Treasurer
- Cathy Munroe
- Pam Lovelace
- Jason Ranger
- Donna Haverstock

## Upcoming Presentations:

Our goal is to have a presentation on some aspect of local history during each of our general meetings. Hammonds Plains has an interesting history stretching over 200 years, which we would like to bring to life. If you can recommend a future presentation, please communicate this to us. We would love to hear from you.

## Old Photos of Hammonds Plains

If you have old photos of the community, we would love to be able to scan them into our resource file. Please let us know if you would be interested in sharing them with us. Originals will be given back to you. E-mail Cathy Munroe at [cmunroe@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:cmunroe@staff.ednet.ns.ca) if you can help us out.



### Did you know?? – Schools in the 1800's

That Hammonds Plains has had some form of school in the area since the 1820's. During some of the early years, school was not in operation due to the fact that a teacher could not be found.

The first evidence of a school in the Hammonds Plains area was that of a school near the head of Taylor Lake in Upper Hammonds Plains around 1819. This school included children from both Upper Hammonds Plains and Lower Hammonds Plains. Parents often paid to have their children attend.

During the 1830's, a school was established in Hammonds Plains proper. During the rest of the 1800's, the school was moved around to various locations within the community.

Free public education became compulsory in Nova Scotia in 1865. During the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, three schools were located in the area - **Upper Hammonds Plains** (original site), in the community of **Kemptown** (north of Upper Hammonds Plains, which existed as a community until the 1930's) and along the **Hammonds Plains Road** (present day area near the Glen Arbour entrance).

A new school (pictured above) was opened in Hammonds Plains in 1914 (at the entrance to Glen Arbour) in which all the children within the Hammonds Plains community boundaries attended.



## **Amos Melvin – One of the Influential Founding Fathers of Hammonds Plains**

Amos Melvin is considered one of the founding fathers of the community of Hammonds Plains. He was born on Oak Island in 1772. He grew up on Oak Island where his father owned about a third of the island. Amos's came from a well off family and was able to get an education, thus being literate, at an early age.

Amos married Dorothy Webber in 1796 and lived in the Chester area for about 10 years after that. In 1811, Amos brought acreage in the community of Hammonds Plains and moved his family there. Due to his financial situation, he was able to purchase additional property until by the 1820's his family owned a large tract in the middle of the village. By 1823, Amos owned nearly 1500 acres of land in the Hammonds Plains area. Amos and Dorothy had twelve children, eight daughters and four sons.

Amos Melvin was the driving force for creating the heart of the community of Hammonds Plains. He donated land for a burying ground (the present Baptist Cemetery) a place of worship (the present Baptist church) and a school. He was well known in the community as a successful businessman having a thriving farm and owning a mill on Big Indian Lake. He also donated 50 acres of land to the Hammonds Plains Chesapeake Black community, which is to-day located in Upper Hammonds Plains. Amos Melvin died in 1829 at the age of 57. Within 10 years of his death much of his land holdings in the community had been sold off, but the Baptist Cemetery (which was started around the time of his death) still stands to-day, in the original site, land donated by Melvin.

## The Changing Face of Education in Hammonds Plains

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**One Hundred Years Ago:** In **1913**, there were three public schools in the Hammonds Plains area, housing grades Primary – 11. There were approximately 100 children in the three schools. Everyone walked to school and each school had a stove which was lit before school to keep everyone warm in the winter. The schools were one or two room schools with many grades within each room.

**To-day:** To-day we have four public schools in the area, including:

- Hammonds Plains Consolidated Elementary
- Kingswood Wood Elementary
- Madeline Symonds Middle School
- Charles P. Allen High School – Opened 2013 in the Bedford end of Hammonds Plains Road

There are approximately 2350 Hammond Plains children (either living in Hammonds Plains or Upper Hammonds Plains) attending the four schools ... so we have gone from 100 students to 2350 during the past 100 years.

Above you see pictures of the old Hammonds Plains School which served the community from 1939 to 1967 and the Upper Hammonds Plains School which served the Upper Hammonds Community until 1967. This school was located in same building lot for about 150 years. Both of the above pictures were taken during the late 1940's.