

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

News From the Past – September 1947

From the Halifax Mail Star – September 23, 1947 (Editor's Note – The IODE was an active women's group in the community during the 20th century)

The First Meeting of the Provo Wallis Chapter of the IODE since June last took place at the Foresters Hall. Mrs. Charles Harris, the regent was in the chair.

The ways and means of raising money for the chapter and the awarding of prizes next year to the pupils of the Community School was discussed.

The members of the chapter turned in their filled nursery bags and finished pyjamas, which are to be sent to England.

A standing vote of thanks was tendered to Mrs. Kenneth Thomson for the use of her home during the winter months and early spring for meetings.

The Chapter will start a travelling basket though the community right away in order to raise funds for their immediate needs.

There will be a card social at the Foresters Hall on Saturday Night September 25th and the Chapter is very anxious to have a good attendance.

The next meeting of the Chapter will take place Wednesday evening October 13th at the Forester's Hall.

The Chapter members reported the food parcels were sent to England during July and August.



Upcoming General Meetings:

November 30

General Meeting – A look at Hammonds Plains during the Roaring 1920's.

February 6th – 1pm – 4pm

Open House – Drop in and learn about the area's history and enjoy a traditional dessert.

Have you read our road sign lately?



Located in front of Uplands Park

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.

2015-16 Board of Directors:

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

- Dave Haverstock – President
- Brian Murray – Vice President
- Cynthia Simpson - Secretary
- Wayne Shellnutt – Treasurer
- Cathy Munroe
- Gail Stronach
- Vernon Kynock
- Thomas Martin

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@hrsb.ca if you can help us out.



The H P Community Rink – 1940's (Note the Side Boards)



On way to Baptist Sunday School Picnic at Silver Sands in 1946. A local truck always provided transportation to this popular summer event.

Presentation Topics – 2015-16

November – Hammonds Plains During the Roaring 20's

February – Open House displaying our history

March – A look at Dorothy Bezanson Evans and her book – Hammonds Plains The First 100 Years

May – Military History of Hammonds Plains

October 22nd – Tantallon Library History of Hammonds Plains Road (Updated)

Memories of Hammonds Plains

This article was written by Shelly Casey for the Masthead News in 2005. It is interview with Olive Romans, who at the time was 94. Olive Romans was a lifelong resident of the community, one of the very few who lived to see the century mark. She was born on 1910, as Olive Thomson, daughter of Bernard and Mary Ellen Thomson. She was active in the community, participating in several community groups including the Missionary Society of the Baptist Church, IDOE and Sewing Circle. She married Charles Romans and they lived for many years in a house still standing at 1687 Hammonds Plains Road, next to the current day Alexandra's Pizza. She passed away on May 20, 2011 at age 100.



Olive Romans

"The small, engraved plaque on the door reads 'Charles B. Romans'.

A gracious lady opens the door of this fine, old house situated on the Hammonds Plains Road. Standing before me is Mrs. Olive Romans, a lady who has seen changes take place in Hammonds Plains for almost 94 years. One of 10 children was born only a few doors down from the house she presently lives in on August 4, 1910. Like seven of her siblings, she was brought into the world by a midwife.

When Mrs. Romans' father, Bernard Thomson and his brother Harold owned one of two stores in the community way back when, there wasn't any need to travel to Sackville or Bedford for groceries, since they could be delivered right to one's door.

If there wasn't money for supplies, it was put on "a bill". If there still wasn't money available when the bill came due, the debt was forgiven.

Neighbours didn't go without in Hammonds Plains – everyone helped each other.

The Thompson store carried a large variety of goods but it didn't supply meat, fish or bread. Fresh meat was delivered to a person's house once a week by a farmer in Sackville. Fish was delivered from St. Margaret's Bay.

Everyone baked his own bread and everyone grew his own vegetables. Olive continued helping to till her garden after her 80th birthday.

There was always something in the oven in the Thompson family home. On Saturdays, Mrs. Romans' mother, Vera would bake six pies and a long cake.

She made all the sheets by hand and scalded them on the stove to keep them white. Water came from a spring in the basement.

Mrs. Thomson survived the Halifax Explosion because a dispatcher forewarned the coming train on which she was a passenger, thus preventing the train from reaching its Halifax destination.

As a youngster, Olive and her siblings would skate all winter long.

There were huge swings across from the Anglican Church where they would go in the evenings until, finally the older ones would push them on the swings.

Children would rush home after school to finish their chores so they would have time to play ball or to play hide-and-seek behind the haystacks.

Back then it was still safe for children to walk all the way to Stillwater Lake for weenie roasts or to Bedford for clam digging.

In the early 1930's, the community watched as power poles were erected along the Hammonds Plains Road from Bedford. The families eagerly awaited the coming of electricity. Since many of them had relatives in Halifax, they knew the advantages of this utility. In 1932, the families received word that the power was to be turned on and each family gathered in their home, waiting for the switch to be thrown. What a difference it made in all lives! No longer would the boys of the Thompson household miss morning classes at the two-story school they shared with 30 some other children or to take turns washing the family clothes by hand.

Since the Hammonds Plains Road was paved in 1957, the traffic has steadily increased and the noise sometimes drowns out Olive's soft words.

Although the community has grown with homes, she feels there are less children than what there used to be. She understands that it is much more difficult to raise a family than it was when she had that role.

Crime was unheard of, so no one locked their doors or worried that their children might be taken.

She feels that one nice change that has taken place is the elimination of the six-day work weeks her father used to put in.

The long days would keep him away from his family and leave him too tired to be active with his children. It pleases her to see fathers taking their children to the grocery store and taking their babies for walks in their strollers.

Through all the changes Mrs. Romans has seen, she has kept her sweet smile, her sunny disposition, her favorite memories of visiting neighbours at Christmas, and shopping for gifts at the five and dime stores by horse and sleigh.