

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Hammonds Plains Heritage Day

The Society participated in the first ever **Hammonds Plains Heritage Day** on August 13th at the Hammonds Plains Community Center. Our booth hosted a kid's fish pond, along with a display of the history of the community. Approximately 400 attended the event, enjoying the food, music and booths.



Our booth at Hammonds Plains Heritage Day



Upcoming General Meetings:

November 26th -

Presentation – Memories of Hammonds Plains during WW2

January 30th – Presentation on First Nations Culture

Upcoming Presentation

The Hammonds Plains Historical Society will be making a presentation on the '[Founding Fathers of Hammonds Plains](#)' at the Tantallon Library on November 17th – 7pm. This is part of the Tantallon Library Lecture Series.

The 'Founding Fathers' were responsible for establishing Hammonds Plains as a community in the early 1800's, such as the founding of local churches. One of these churches was the Hammonds Plains Baptist Church, built in 1843.



Hammonds Plains Baptist Church – 1905

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.** Renewals don't need new forms.

Registration forms are available during one of our general meetings or by copying from our web site.

Hammonds Plains Historical Society Board of Directors – 2016-17

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

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 cathy_munroe@hotmail.com if you can help us out.

News From the Past

From the Daily Echo – June 29, 1916

Editor's Notes: The Daily Echo was a local newspaper in the Halifax area during the early 1900's

This is a letter to the editor from a resident of Upper Hammonds Plains that talks about the condition of the road at that time.

A Remonstrance From a Resident of the Plains

To the Editor of the Daily Echo:

Sir: O Hammonds Plains, What are going to become of you? You have shut yourself out from your government, and you were crying about roads, and you have sold your country and left yourselves opposed to the government. We have drove over the roads in other districts and have admired their roads. Do you think they done as you have done? No, absolutely, no. They were wise and they got in out of the wet. Now you are crying for at the money; but I hope when you hear the sound of the election trumpet you will not forget the lamb that has brought to the slaughter and the sheep to his shearer, for they opened not their mouth. How many of you have bought new wagons and how does it last. Only a few months and every three or four trips to town you must call to see the wheelwright, but nevertheless you are left in the hands of a sympathizing government and I hope they will not turn on you as you deserve. So friends, I am not prepared to enter into details as far as politics is concerned but I hope these remarks will be as bread thrown upon the waters and be seen for many days after. My sympathy is with you likewise.

A.Emmerson

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 continue profiling the Founding Fathers in this year's newsletters.

Founding Father - John Hays (1772-1823)

During the 1800's, the Hays Family were very prominent in the Hammonds Plains area, being leading community advocates and business leaders. Their family roots in Hammonds Plains derived from John Hays who moved to Hammonds Plains in the early 1800's. It is thought that John Hays was born in the USA in 1772, but was of Scottish descent. Evidence suggests that he came to Halifax as the result of wanting to stay loyal to the British Crown during the American War of Independence.

John married Phebe (last name unknown) in the 1790's. He was listed as a carpenter living in Halifax in 1801. He sold off his Halifax property in 1804 and moved to the Yankeetown area soon after. He is believed to have lived in a house where Highland Park is located to-day. In 1815, John was granted original H P lot 25, which was located on the Pockwock Road, near where the White Hills Long Term Care Center is located to-day. He obtained the lot as the result of the government getting the original lot back and re-granting it to the Hays Family.

John and Phebe had ten children (Peter, Jessop, George, John Wesley, James, Jacob, Moriah, Elizabeth, Sarah and Charlotte). John died in 1823, but not before he laid the seeds for the timber empire that his family were able to create in the Pockwock Lake area during the mid to late 1880's. Phebe passed away in 1852.

It was son, John Wesley and then grandsons, Jonathon and Norman who established a lucrative lumbering business in the area. John Wesley bought 500 acres to reestablish a mill at the foot of Pockwock Lake in 1838. He also owned a cooper shop on the shores of Bedford Basin, which used lumber from his mill to make barrels for the Halifax market. The business became quite profitable and by the 1880's modern up to date machinery was purchased to make the Hays mill one of the most modern outfits around, employing up to 50 folks. (By the 1860's the mill was run by sons, Jonathan and Norman).

During the mid 1800's, the Hays family were one of the wealthiest in Hammonds Plains and were most influential in the community. Norman became the first Municipal Councillor for Hammonds Plains, when Halifax County was incorporated in 1880. Both Jonathon and Norman sold their interests in the mill in the late 1880's and move out of the community, leaving the Hays legacy behind.

Sights of a Bygone Era



The remains of Wright's Mill in Kempton (Taken 1960's).



The widening of the Hammonds Plains Road (1955), preparing it to get paved in 1957. This picture was taken from top of hill near where Woodhaven Campground is located to-day.