

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Our New Strategic Plan (2020-25)

In November, our Board of Director's approved the new 5 Year Strategic Plan which will direct our focus until 2025. The following are the most significant initiatives which we work towards in this new plan:

- Continue to hold 5 general meetings & presentations per year.
- Review general meeting procedures.
- Review technology needs of the society.
- Explore how to better engage the youth of the community to better appreciate Hammonds Plains history.
- Explore development of a society podcast.
- Create a permanent historical plaque/monument within the community, highlighting a historical event/person.
- Write a new publication document on Hammonds Plains History.
- Increasing current membership level of 50 members.
- Edit and determine future utilization of Oral History videos.
- Explore fund raising needs and seek out money making opportunities.



Upcoming Presentations

March 30th (Hammonds Plains Community Center)
– **The Story of Kemptown – Our Forgotten Village**

May 25th – (Cornerstone Wesleyan Church) – 10th Anniversary Celebration –
Viewing of Film - **Our History**



One of the favorite things for the school children of the 1960's to do was to swing on the swings on the Hammonds Plains School Grounds. Above you see the swing sets in the background. This picture dates from 1961.

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 Winter Fun

When there was lots of forest land in Hammonds Plains, taking your ATV for a winter spin was lots of fun. The picture above is from the 1980's, showing Hammonds Plains residents about to enjoy a ride in the woods.

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.ca, if you can help us out.

News From the Past

Hammonds Plains News from Halifax Herald – March - 1962

Religious Pantomime Presented

Members of the Baptist Youth Fellowship presented the pantomime, "Me-on the Mission Field in the Baptist Church. Assisting in the presentation were Rev. Geald Steeves, Mrs. Morton Eisenhauer, and Mrs. Kendall Haverstock. The C. G. I. T. choir was in attendance, and following the service a closing devotional was led by Rev. Terry Tingley, director of the Maritime Youth fellowship for the young people in the church vestry.

Many interesting parents and friends including members of the local chapter, I. O. D. E., took advantage of Canadian Education week and spent an afternoon visiting class rooms of the Hammonds Plains School.

The March meeting of the Admiral Provo Wallis Chapter, I. O. D. E. was held at the home of Mrs. Frank Thomson, with the regent, Mrs. Lorne Haverstock presiding. Education secretary, Mrs. Earl Haverstock reported that for its Education week project, the chapter presented the Hammonds Plains School with a large map, a teachers science textbook; Union Jack for the new room and a set of visual cards for use in the primary room.

Money was voted for cleaning of the existing flags in the school, and also discussed was participation at the Sidney Stephen High School. Mrs. Bella Echoes Secretary, chose as her theme for Education Week the provision of books to native children in the Northwest Territories. Mrs. Charles Romans read an interesting article on the insidious infiltration of communist literature and ideas in our midst.

Hammonds Plains Leaders of the Past

Amos Thomas - 1851 - 1904

Amos Thomas was a lifelong resident of Hammonds Plains, being an influential leader in the community during the latter part of the 1800's, cumulating in his election as Hammonds Plains Councillor in 1888. He was born in Hammonds Plains to John and Mary Jane Thomas in 1851. His father, John was a leading citizen in Hammonds Plains during the mid-1800's, being a noted businessperson and barrister.

As a child, Amos attended the local Hammonds Plains School. He grew up in the area across the road from to-day's Alexandra's Pizza. It is not known what grade he achieved in the education system, but it is believed that he did not leave the village to obtain a higher level of education. At some point, in his late teens, he went to work in his father's business and learned the trade of barrel making. He applied his trade as a cooper in the family Cooper Shop, located across the road from the family home.

In 1878, Amos married Ophelia Haverstock, daughter of James and Mary Haverstock, who were Hammonds Plains Residents. It is thought that Amos and Mary lived in a house adjacent to the family Cooper Shop, with the possibility that they even built the house. Together they had 5 children (Keziah, Clark, Blake, Roy and Jessie). Sadly, Jessie passed away as an infant.

In 1888, Ophelia passed away and Amos was left with the 4 remaining children. He soon remarried, marrying Mary Thomson, daughter of Charles and Mary Thomson of Hammonds Plains.

During the 1880's, Amos became very involved in community affairs, first through the Baptist Church, which he was a member and then by way of his business dealings. It appears that he had strong views of what he thought Hammonds Plains should be as a community at this time, and as such decided to run against Norman Hayes for Hammonds Plains Councillor in 1886. Norman Hayes had been councilor since Halifax County was incorporated as a political unit in 1880.

From newspaper writings, it appears that the 1886 campaign was a controversial one with both Amos and Mr. Hayes trading allegations towards each other in the daily Halifax paper. Mr. Hayes won his re-election but two years later, 1888 he decided not to reoffer and Amos was elected or acclaimed as Councillor. He served as District 16 Councillor from 1889 to 1892. At the time, pressing issues in the community included wagons traveling too fast on the road, the condition of the road and the paying of taxes.

Amos passed away in 1904 at the age of 53. He is buried in the Hammonds Plains Baptist Cemetery.

Pictured to the right is Amos Thomas gravestone in the Hammonds Plains Baptist Cemetery.



Hammonds Plains of the 1960's in Pictures



Cutting Hay - the old way (1960's)



The last days of the Hammonds Plains Cooper Shop
Bub Rafuse making barrels at W. G. Haverstock Cooper
Shop - 1967



Baptist Church Sunday School Picnic - 1969



A favorite winter activity of the 60's - Snowmobiling