

# History of the HAMMONDS PLAINS PHONE COMPANY



# Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century



The Nova Scotia Phone Company had sole rights to operating telephone lines in Nova Scotia after buying territorial rights from Bell - 1888.



# Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century



The Nova Scotia Phone Company operated lines within the populated areas. Phone lines were not feasible in rural areas because not enough residents were willing to pay app. \$15 per year.



# Onset of Private Companies

In the 1890's a deal was struck that rural communities could create their own phone companies. The private companies were responsible for setting up the lines within their communities, but could hook into the NS Phone Company for long distance calls.



# Hammonds Plains Phone Company Formed- 1902

Phone Company was created in Hammonds Plains in 1902. Consisted of 3 Phones. Company had two lines connecting to the NS Telephone Company system at Mill Cove.

Phones probably looked liked this.



# Hammonds Plains Phone Company 1902 Contract

**Three Year Contract - The companies agree to receive, transmit and deliver the messages of the subscribers of their respective companies. The charge to and from Halifax being ten cents and beyond Halifax the tariff of the Nova Scotia Telephone Company in addition thereto.**

# Hammonds Plains Phone Company 1902 Contract

Neither parties are to compete with each other within the territory now occupied by them respectively nor shall they make connections with any telephone company or corporation operating in competition with the Nova Scotia Telephone Company or the Hammonds Plains Company. The Nova Scotia Company to have the first option of purchase of the Hammonds Plains Company. The Hammonds Plains Company shall not purchase or use any instruments or apparatus but the standard 'Bell' these to be purchased from the Nova Scotia Company.

# Hammonds Plains Phone Company 1902 By-Laws

## Officers for 1902.

### Directors;

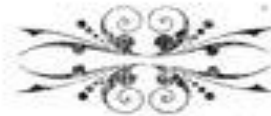
A. B. Havenstock, Managing Director.  
H. B. Benson, Secretary.  
Theraine Thompson, Treasurer.  
Lindsay Moeen.  
A. McD. Morton.

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### Auditors;

Frank Thompson.  
Fred Schmidt.

## BYE LAWS. HAMMOND'S PLAINS TELEPHONE COMPANY.



(AS ADOPTED APRIL 21st, 1902.)



# Hammonds Plains Phone Company 1902 Directors

A. H. Haverstock - Managing Director

H. B. Bezanson - Secretary

Termaine Thomson - Treasurer

Lindsay Moren

A. M. Morton

# Long Distance Phone Rates in 1903



The rates for long-distance messages shall be 40 cents per 100 miles, with a minimum charge of 25 cents for five minutes conversation, and shall be arranged in 5-cent increases as per the following table:—

Up to 50 miles .....	25 cents	[ up to 80 km]
51 to 66 miles .....	30 cents	[ 81 to 106 km]
67 to 83 miles .....	35 cents	[107 to 134 km]
84 to 100 miles .....	40 cents	[135 to 161 km]
101 to 112 miles .....	45 cents	[162 to 180 km]
113 to 125 miles .....	50 cents	[181 to 201 km]
126 to 138 miles .....	55 cents	[202 to 222 km]
139 to 150 miles .....	60 cents	[223 to 241 km]
151 to 162 miles .....	65 cents	[242 to 261 km]
163 to 175 miles .....	70 cents	[262 to 282 km]
176 to 188 miles .....	75 cents	[283 to 302 km]
189 to 200 miles .....	80 cents	[303 to 322 km]

# LIST OF TELEPHONE COMPANIES IN NOVA SCOTIA (1905)

With Approximate Number of Telephones Operated by Each

The Nova Scotia Telephone Company Ltd. -----	3,511
Eastern Telephone Company Ltd. -----	923
Valley Telephone Company Ltd. -----	700
Queen's County Telephone Company Ltd. -----	180
Central Telephone Company Ltd. -----	25
Yarmouth Amalgamated Telephone Company Ltd. -----	235
Westport and Digby Telephone Company Ltd. -----	15
Barrington Telephone Company -----	20
Yarmouth Telephone Company -----	12
Maitland Telephone Company -----	15
Cheverie Telephone Company Ltd. -----	15
Maitland and Noel Telephone Company -----	10
New Ross Telephone Company Ltd. -----	3
Bass River Telephone Company -----	5
Elmsdale, Gore and Rawdon Telephone Company -----	10
Economy and Five Islands Telephone Company -----	8
Parrsboro Shore Telephone Company -----	120
Conns Mills Telephone Company -----	12
Wallace Bay Telephone Company -----	18
Fox Harbour Telephone Company -----	15
Wentworth Telephone Company -----	10
<b>Hammonds Plains Telephone Company -----</b>	<b>3</b>
Antigonish and Sherbrooke Telephone Company Ltd. ----	60
Cumberland Telephone Company -----	50
Blandford Telephone Company -----	6

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6,181

# Maritime Tel & Tel Company

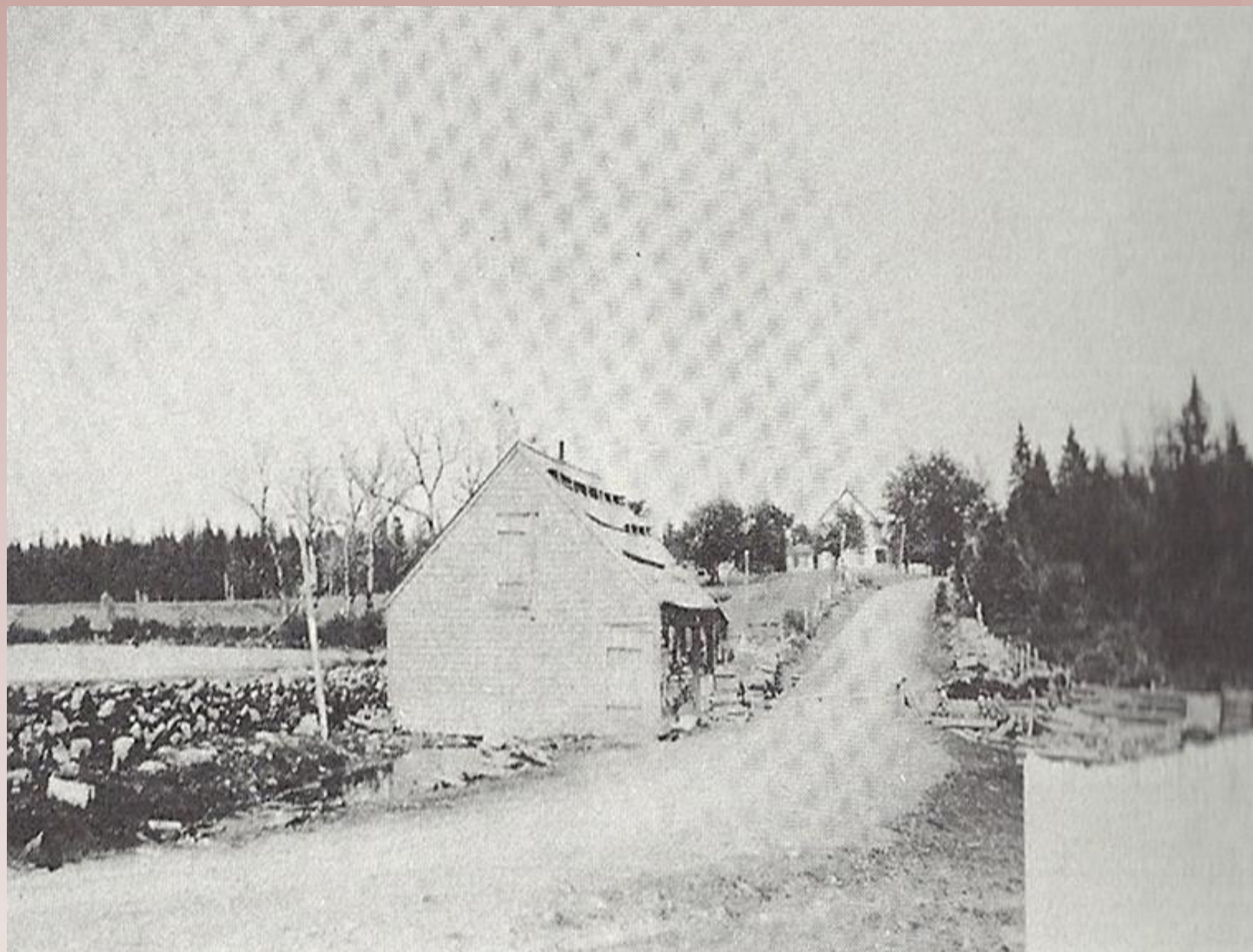
Bought out Nova Scotia Phone Company in 1911.



# Hammonds Plains Phone Company - 1912

Had Total gross operating revenue for 1912 reported as \$96.05.





# 1920's - Office in Bedford



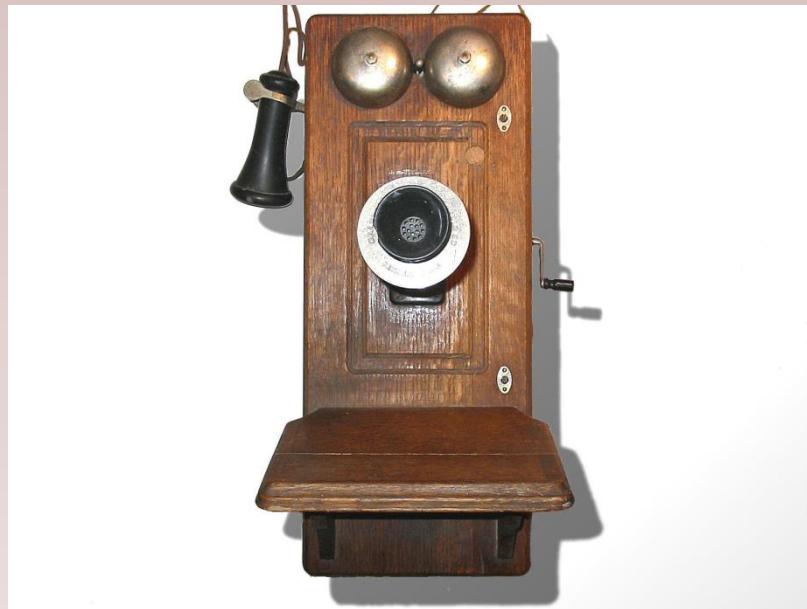
# 1930 - Phone List in Hammonds Plains

- Samuel Eisenhauer - 9-5
- Sydney Eisenhauer - 9-13
- Hedley Giles - 9-24
- A E Haverstock 9-3
- Garvie Haverstock 9-12
- Mrs. Henry Haverstock 9-22
- James MacEachren 9-21
- Charlie Moran - Pockwock - 9-11
- Harry Romans - 9-14
- William Romans 9-4
- Rev T. E. Stiles 9-2
- Bernard Thompson 9-23



# First Phones in Hammonds Plains

## Wall Phones



# Rotary Phones



Probably came into the community during the late 1920's or early 1930's.



# Secretary / Treasurer



**Hammonds Plains Phone Company had it's own Secretary and Accounts Person. The Accounts person would send out bills to the phone owners.**

# Operator

Anyone wanting to make a phone call within the community could do so by dialing number. If person wanted to contact someone outside the community they had to dial operator (Halifax) for long distance charges. The operator used a special switchboard with retractable plugs to connect the two telephones, and when the conversation was completed, the operator pulled the plug connection.

First Dial Connection in Nova Scotia was 1921. Not sure of when the dial connection came to Hammonds Plains.

# Operator



# Phones become Mainstream

Phones increased in the company during the 1930's. Most of the phones were owned by business owners and some of the wealthier home owners.



# Party Lines Become the Norm



# 1945 - 22 Phones in existence in HP





# 1947



**Maritime Tel & Tel buys out Hammonds Plains  
Phone Company**



# 1960's

Introduction of 7 digit number -  
1961

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Elimination of Party lines

M T & T takes over all  
remaining Phone Exchanges -  
1966

# The Bell System Telephone Story

year. The story of the telephone is the story of change, of the continued search for new methods and materials to transmit the human voice. This progress has given America the finest telecommunications service in the world. It has been achieved largely by Bell System planning and the coordination of its parts—Bell Laboratories, its research and development unit; Western Electric, its manufacturing and supply unit; and the operation and service of the communications equipment by your local Bell Telephone Company. Here is what the telephone has looked like over the years. . . .



**1876 LIQUID TELEPHONE**

"Mr. Watson, come here; I want you!" It was the night of March 10. These first historic words, uttered by Alexander Graham Bell when he spilled some sulfuric acid he had been using in his tests, climaxed two years of extensive experimentation.



**1876 BELL'S CENTENNIAL MODEL**

Progressing rapidly, Bell demonstrated his invention at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. A typical reaction was that of Emperor Dom Pedro of Brazil: "My God! It talks!" One judge called Bell's invention "the most wonderful thing in America."



**1877 FIRST COMMERCIAL TELEPHONE**

The camera-like opening served as both transmitter and receiver, making mouth-to-ear shifts necessary. Developed by Bell in 1876, it went into service in 1877 when a banker leased two instruments and a line to connect his Boston office and his home in Somerville.



**1878 BUTTERSTAMP**

Bell's first set with a combined receiver-transmitter that could be held in the hand, looked like a butterstamp—hence its name. Designed in 1877, it was in service when the world's first switchboard opened in New Haven in 1878. The pushbutton signalled the operator.



**1878 WALL SET**

Switching the same instrument from mouth to ear proved confusing for some people, so a second wooden transmitter-receiver was added. Either could be used for talking or listening. Turning the crank generated power to signal the operator.



**1880 BLAKE**

United States population was now 50 million, and the improved voice clarity of the Blake carbon transmitter greatly aided the fledgling telephone service. It was invented by Francis Blake, Jr., based on work by Thomas Edison. Here, it is used in a primitive desk set.



**1882 MAGNETO WALL SET**

This handsome, oak-encased instrument, the first telephone built for the Bell System by Western Electric, used Bell's hand receiver and Blake's transmitter. It was the standard for many years, and one of the first to place the crank more conveniently on the side.



**1886 LONG DISTANCE TRANSMITTER**

In the year that the Statue of Liberty was dedicated in New York harbor, the search for improved long distance transmission took a major step forward with this model, whose platinum diaphragm improved clarity. The instrument shown was actually used by Bell.



**1892 DESK SET**

More compact and decorative are the features of this Gay Nineties souvenir. The carbon transmitter is less unwieldy, the receiver, called a "watch case," much smaller, and the ornate base reflects the era's taste. 1892 also saw New York-to-Chicago service begin.



**1897 DESK SET**

America was on the verge of its great transformation from a rural to an urban nation, and the telephone was beginning to take the shape that would be familiar during that change. This early desk set, made of cast brass, was a refinement of previous models.



**1900 COMMON BATTERY**

Improving telephone service is a constant goal. The earliest sets were voice-powered. Next came the wet battery, which occasionally leaked on the rug; then the dry battery. This model, a major advance, received its power from the telephone exchange, hence its name.



**1907 MAGNETO WALL SET**

Here is an improved version of the set with a built-in generator to provide current for signalling the operator; almost exactly similar telephones were in general use from the late '30s through the 1930s. Note enclosed receiver terminals, an improvement of 1907.



**1913 WALL SET**

The wall telephone was becoming more compact. Instruments like this, forerunners of today's home intercom systems, were in general use. They were advertised by Western Electric as the "greatest little step-savers that ever helped a housewife."



**1919 DIAL TELEPHONE**

Coast-to-coast phone service had begun in 1915, and the United States had topped 100 million in population. Dial service was coming in strongly. Invented in 1892, it was many years before the complex equipment had been sufficiently developed for use in larger cities.



**1928 DESK SET**

The Roaring Twenties gave America a new look in telephones, when the combined receiver-transmitter idea, developed by Innes since 1878, was sufficiently improved for general service. A streamlined version of European sets, it was nicknamed "the French phone."



**1937 "300" TYPE DESK SET**

A major innovation that offered added convenience to telephone subscribers placed the bell in the base, previously housed in a separate box. The "300" served throughout World War II while the energies of most telephone people were devoted to defense work.



**1938 TELEPHONE KEY SET**

The "300" also offered added convenience for business users. It incorporated within the set one "hold" button and five others for calling, signaling or access to other extensions. Early models had metal housings, but plastic was substituted in the early '40s.



**1949 "500" TYPE DESK SET**

After catching up with the immense backlog of work caused by the war, the Bell System brought out this new model with improved talking and hearing qualities and an adjustable volume control for the bell. Rugged and functional, it is constantly being improved.



**1954 "500" TYPE COLOR DESK SET**

The Korean War was over, and the Bell System expanded its "500" line to include color, making the telephone a decorative household item. Although some color telephones were available earlier, they had not gained widespread popularity.



**1956 WALL TELEPHONE**

The telephone returns to the wall in this companion piece to the "500" desk set. The wall set is most often used in businesses and homes where counter and desk space is at a premium. It is popular in such home areas as basements and kitchens.



**1958 SPEAKERPHONE SET**

Hands-free telephoning arrived with the introduction of the Speakerphone, which also permits conference calls between groups at different locations. Above is the "AA" model, introduced in 1974, which has improved sound qualities and an omnidirectional microphone.



**1958 CALL DIRECTOR TELEPHONE**

Keeping pace with the increasingly complex communications needs of its business customers, the Bell System introduced this set designed to handle several incoming, outgoing, and inter-office calls simultaneously. It is available in both 18 and 30-button models.



**1959 PRINCESS TELEPHONE**

The desk set received a smart, new look. Compactness, attractive styling and illuminated dial (it lights up when you lift the handset or you can keep it on as a night light) contribute to the all-round usefulness of the Princess set. It also comes with a Touch-Tone dial.



**1964 TOUCH-TONE TELEPHONE**

As America neared the 200 million mark in population, the Bell System heralded a new era in telephoning services, with push-button calling. Combined with electronic central offices, Touch-Tone service will expand the uses of the telephone many-fold.



**1968 TRIMLINE TELEPHONE**

The 12-button Touch-Tone Trimline set combines the handset and "dial" in one lightweight, attractive unit. Although only ten buttons are needed for today's telephone needs, the two "extra" buttons prepare these sets for future communications services.



**1969 PICTUREPHONE SET**

Men walked on the moon and a new model of telephone that made it possible to see the person to whom you're talking was market-tested. The Mod II set has a feature for individual or group viewing. Major use is for visual communications between different cities.



**1973 TOUCH-A-MATIC TELEPHONE**

The Touch-A-Matic set is the first telephone with a solid state memory. At the touch of a single button, it can automatically dial any of 31 pre-recorded numbers. It is one of many communications advances that derive from the invention of the transistor by Bell Labs.



**1974 DESIGN LINE TELEPHONE**

To continue to meet its customers' widening preferences, the Bell System introduced a series of ten antique and modern phones created to fit any decor. Above, the Celebrity (left) and the Candlestick. \* Other sets use rich woods, leathers and fabrics.



**1975 COM KEY 416 TELEPHONE**

This is the primary unit of a compact office communications system with many new features not found in a conventional system. Solid state circuitry in the telephone units enable the system to operate without extra switching cabinets.



**1976 TRANSACTION TELEPHONE**

As the telephone marks its 100th birthday, the Bell System offers a phone to make shopping more convenient. The Transaction telephone links with a bank's or credit bureau's computer to verify balances or transfer funds. It can also perform inventory control jobs.