



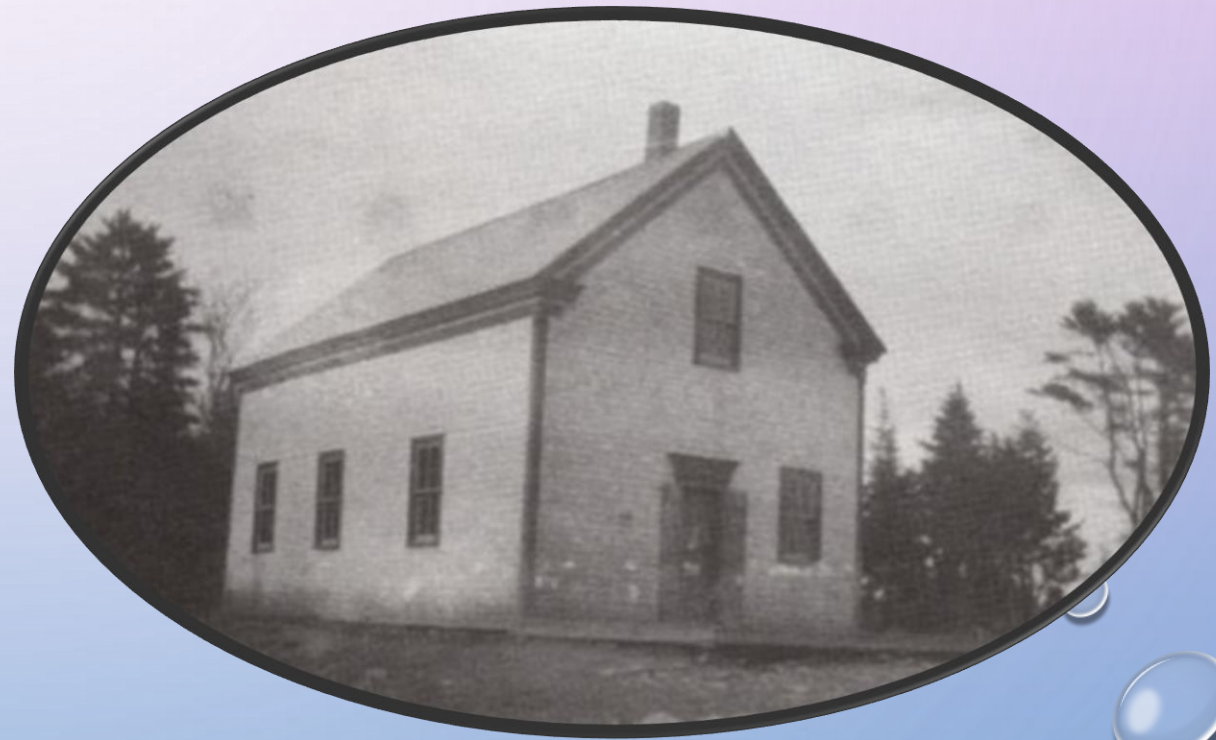
HAMMONDS PLAINS COMMUNITY CENTER

A LOOK BACK



IT STARTED WITH A NEED FOR A NEW SCHOOL IN HAMMONDS PLAINS

- A SCHOOL AND MEETING HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1859 AT ENTRANCE TO GLEN ARBOUR.
- BY THE 1920'S, THE SCHOOL WAS STARTING TO BECOME A BUILDING WITH STRUCTURAL ISSUES.
- IN THE 1930'S, THE COMMUNITY MADE MOVES TO BUILD A NEW SCHOOL.



A NEW SCHOOL

- DURING THE LATE 1930'S, RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY RAISED FUNDS TO BUILD THE NEW SCHOOL (APPROXIMATELY \$3000)
- THE LAND THAT WAS CHOSEN FOR THE SCHOOL WAS DONATED TO THE COMMUNITY BY SID EISENHAUER.
- SCHOOL WAS BUILT IN 1939.



FACTS ABOUT THE NEW SCHOOL

- OPENED AS A TWO ROOM SCHOOL ON OCTOBER 10, 1939. 50 STUDENTS REGISTRATED.
- COST – \$2500 – \$3000.
- NO BASEMENT – ONLY A LOW CEMENT WALL CEILING FOR A FOUNDATION.
- HAD TWO OUTHOUSES. NO RUNNING WATER.
- BUCKET WITH DIPPER AND BASIN IN SCHOOL FOR WASHING HANDS. STUDENTS WOULD GET NEW BUCKET OF WATER EACH DAY FROM NEARBY SPRING.
- SCHOOL HEATED BY WOODSTOVE. WOOD KEPT IN SHED BEHIND THE SCHOOL.



ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOL

- SCHOOL TRUSTEES ADMINISTRATED THE SCHOOL. TRUSTEES WERE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY. EARL HAVERSTOCK, CLIFF HAVERSTOCK AND WILL SMITH ORIGINAL TRUSTEES. TRUSTEES HIRED PRINCIPAL AND TEACHERS.
- A RESIDENT WAS APPOINTED CARETAKER FOR THE SCHOOL. LIT WOOD STOVES IN MORNING.
- COMMUNITY RAISED MONEY TO OPERATE THE SCHOOL.
- THERE WAS A SMALL POLL TAX USED TO PAY FOR SCHOOL OPERATIONS.



1940'S

- IMPROVEMENTS WERE MADE TO THE BUILDING DURING 1940'S.
- THE BUILDING WAS RAISED WITH A WALL OF CONCRETE BLOCKS PLACED BENEATH THE BUILDING.
- TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW HEIGHT OF THE BUILDING TWO NEW SERIES OF STEPS WERE PUT IN LEADING TO THE FRONT DOOR.
- INDOOR CHEMICAL TOILETS AND A WOOD FURNACE WERE INSTALLED.
- THE LABOUR DAY PICNIC WAS BORN, AS MAIN FUND RAISER FOR OPERATION OF SCHOOL.



1950'S – OVERCROWDING AND NEW ADDITION

- AFTER WW2, THE SCHOOL POPULATION INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, LEADING TO AN OVERCROWDED SCHOOL.
- BY 1952, CLASSES HAD TO BE HELD ACROSS THE ROAD AT COMMUNITY HALL.
- COMMUNITY DECIDED TO DOUBLE SIZE OF SCHOOL, RAISED FUNDS THROUGH NUMEROUS FUND RAISERS.
- IN 1955, ADDITION WAS ADDED TO EXISTING SCHOOL, INCLUDING TWO NEW CLASSROOMS (MAKING A TOTAL OF 4), FOUR MODERN FLUSH TOILETS, AN OIL FURNACE AND SINK.



SCHOOL TAKEN OVER BY PROVINCE IN 1957

- CONTROL OF BUILDING WAS TRANSFERRED OVER FROM THE COMMUNITY TO THE PROVINCE.



1960'S – CONSOLIDATION OF LOWER & UPPER HAMMONDS PLAINS SCHOOLS

- IN 1963, A DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DECISION WAS MADE TO CONSOLIDATE THE 2 SCHOOLS IN HAMMONDS PLAINS INTO ONE.
- IN 1968, HAMMONDS PLAINS CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL WAS OPENED
- THE OLD SCHOOL WAS DECLARED SURPLUS



NEW COMMUNITY HALL

- IN 1968, THE OLD SCHOOL WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY WHO WANTED TO USE THE BUILDING AS A COMMUNITY HALL TO REPLACE THE OLD COMMUNITY HALL, WHICH WAS LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET.
- THE COMMUNITY WAS AWARDED THE BUILDING WITH THE CONDITION THAT THE OUTSTANDING MORTGAGE ON THE BUILDING BE PAID OFF.
- IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE BUILDING WOULD BEST BE SERVED IF IT WAS ALIGNED WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT (LOCATED ACROSS THE HIGHWAY).
- IN 1969, THE OLD SCHOOL WAS CONVEYED TO THE FIRE COMMISSIONERS, WHO PLANNED TO OPERATE THE OLD SCHOOL AS A COMMUNITY HALL.



HAMMONDS PLAINS FIREMEN'S HALL

- BUILDING WAS RENOVATED TO ACCOMMODATE A COMMUNITY HALL.
- CLASSROOMS WERE REMOVED TO CREATE AN OPEN AREA, A KITCHEN WAS INSTALLED WITHIN ONE OF THE FORMER CLASSROOM, A STAGE WAS PUT IN AND BAR SERVICE ROOM WAS SET UP.
- A WOMEN'S AUXILIARY GROUP WAS SET UP TO SUPPORT THE RUNNING OF THE COMMUNITY HALL.



1996 – INCORPORATION OF HRM

- IN 1996, UPON THE INCORPORATION OF THE HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY ALL SERVICE COMMISSIONS WERE DISSOLVED AND VESTED TO THE MUNICIPALITY, AND AS SUCH THE HAMMONDS PLAINS FIRE COMMISSIONAIRES, BEING A SERVICE COMMISSION, WAS DISSOLVED.
- HRM DECIDED TO TRANSFER ALL PREVIOUS ASSETS OF THE FORMER FIRE COMMISSION TO A NEWLY FORMED SOCIETY SO THUS ON FEBRUARY 29, 1996, THE HAMMONDS PLAINS FIRE SERVICES SOCIETY WAS FORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING THE ASSETS OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONAIRES.
- BUILDING STILL OWNED BY HRM. NAME CHANGE TO HAMMONDS PLAINS FIRE HALL.



TRANSITION TO A NON PROFIT OPERATION

- THE SOCIETY VOLUNTARILY DISSOLVED IN 2002.
- IN 2003, RURAL FIRE AREA RATES WERE DISCONTINUED AND THE DELIVERY OF MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICES CONSOLIDATED UNDER HRM FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES. CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGETS FOR FIRE STATIONS AND FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT WERE INCORPORATED UNDER THE GENERAL TAX RATE. HRM OPERATED THE FIRE STATION BUT THE HALL CONTINUED TO OPERATE INFORMALLY UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF LOCAL VOLUNTEERS.



HAMMONDS PLAINS COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION

- IN 2009, THE HAMMONDS PLAINS FIRE HALL AND COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED AS A NON-PROFIT SOCIETY.
- THE SOCIETY PLANNED TO OPERATE THE PREMISES SUSTAINED BY BAR PROCEEDS, RENTALS, AND FUNDRAISING.
- THE SOCIETY PUT FORTH A LONG TERM RECAPITALIZATION PLAN WITH CAPITAL INVESTMENT TO ADDRESS SAFETY CONCERNS AND OPERATING INEFFICIENCIES.
- MONEY WAS OBTAINED THROUGH GOVERNMENT GRANTS.
- IN 2014, HRM FINALLY TRANSFERRED THE PROPERTY OVER TO THE ASSOCIATION. BY THEN THE FIRE HALL PART OF THE NAME HAD BEEN DROPPED.



A REFRESH & RENOVATIONS

- OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE INTERIOR WAS GIVEN A REFRESH, INCLUDING PAINTING AND NEW CHAIRS. NEW STEPS LEADING TO THE EXTERIOR DOORS, AND AN ACCESSIBLE RAMP LEADING TO THE BACK DOOR WERE INSTALLED. UPGRADED SEPTIC SYSTEM WAS PUT IN. PLANTED BOXES ALSO INSTALLED IN FRONT OF BUILDING, ALONG WITH COMMUNITY SIGNS.
- THE COMMUNITY CENTER WAS REBRANDED WITH A NEW LOGO PACKAGE.
- A MEETING ROOM COMPLETED WITH NEW KITCHEN FACILITIES WAS COMPLETED IN 2016.

