

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Impact of COVID-19 – January 2021 Update

The current COVID-19 situation here in Nova Scotia still hasn't improved enough for us to make definite plans moving forward. Our January general meeting as you should be aware was cancelled several months ago.

At our recent January Board of Directors meeting, it was decided to cancel our general meeting for March, as well. The vaccine program will not have advanced fast enough to allow us to get together in March.

At the present time, it appears that conditions will improve gradually as a vaccine is rolled out. We are hoping to once again hold general meetings in later 2021, but at what point still remains a question mark. We will keep you informed as 2021 moves along.



During the 1800's and early 1900's, many of the residents of Hammonds Plains had barns associated with their properties. One such barn was located at the entrance of where Bloom Flowers is to-day. Here is what it looked like in 1955.



Website Refresh

The above pictures shows our new refreshed home web site page.

Our website has a number of improvements, including an easier navigation of the site. The homepage will have up to date announcements on it, along with a form where direct feedback can be given or questions can be asked. The links at the top of the home page include About Us, History of Hammonds Plains, Resources and Membership.

The resource section includes past newsletters, presentations and our new Echoes of the Past Series.

Check it out at

hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

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.

One of Our Last Lumber Operations



At one time lumber operations, whether it be mills, cooper shops or box shops, dominated the landscape of Hammonds Plains. Today they are mostly gone. One of the last traditional mill operations in Hammonds Plains was Haverstock Brothers & Son, which was located behind where Farmer Clem's is located today. The above picture shows the Haverstock Brothers operation from the 1980's.

The hollow across from Voyager Lakes had a lumber operation of various forms for almost 100 years, dating back to Schmidt's Mill of the late 1800's.

If you look carefully enough as you drive by Farmer Clem's you can still see the remains of the sawdust piles near the cell tower at the rear of the property.

News From the Past

From Halifax Herald October 26th 1952

Hammonds Plains News

Laymen's Sunday will be observed in St. Nicholas Church. On Oct. 28 at 11am. There will also be holy communion.

Service at the Baptist Church will be at 7pm and Sunday School at 11am.

On Tuesday the Baptist Sewing Circle will meet at the home of Misses Edna and Ellen Haverstock.

On Wednesday the Girl guides will hold their meeting at the Forrester's Hall.

Friday afternoon – The Mission Band will meet at the Baptist Church.

Friday evening the Firemen's Club will meet at the Community Hall for a social evening.

Miss Isabel Haverstock has returned to Cape Breton after spending a few days here to attend the Home Economics Convention in Halifax. She was accompanied back by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Haverstock.

Clifford Haverstock is a patient at V. G. Hospital where he will undergo an operation. All wish him a speedy recovery.

The Halifax County Baptist District Meeting held at Seabright was represented from here by Mrs. R. Smith, misses Edna and Beatrice Haverstock and Rev. J. Griffiths.

The sale of plain and fancy sewing held in the City Market by the Ajex Sewing Circle was an outstanding success, the sum of \$36 being raised.

Mrs. R. D. McOnie has returned from Sackville where she spent a few days visiting friends and relatives of Mrs. Boyd Maxwell.

John Publicover and his brother Fred of Hubbards, have returned after a successful hunting trip to Cape Breton.

The Road to Contention

No landmark, person or issue has taken up more air space with Hammonds Plains residents over the years, than discussion about the Hammonds Plains Road. Talk of the road has definitely been one of the most contentious issues that has faced the community since its origin. Here's a look back at the history of the road to understand this discord.

The original road was built as part of the agreement with the first land grants issued in 1786. The first road connected the Hammonds Plains grants to the Paper Mill Lake region in Bedford. In the early 1800's, the British Governor of the Province conveyed plans for the Hammonds Plains Road to be part of a new Halifax to Annapolis Royal connector road. This road was to follow the already established road from Bedford to the Hammonds Plains land grants and then to Wright's Lake via the road through the newly settled African Canadian community (Upper Hammonds Plains) and beyond to New Ross (and eventually Annapolis Royal). The cancellation of the road project beyond the Hammonds Plains area in 1832 led to an angry resentment from the residents along the road, resulting in the road becoming a major focus point in the developing village.

Throughout the 1800's and early 1900's, the residents lobbied for funds to upgrade the road but had little success in improving the road beyond a narrow path. The road most often contained huge ruts and was just about impassable for the wagons and carriages of the time during the soft season. An all too common sight along the road in the spring were wagons, whose wheels were either stuck or broken, waiting for assistance. The numerous mill owners of the time in particular, led vocal retorts to the condition of the road and most often, their reactions were heard loudly throughout the village.

After the advent of motor vehicles, efforts were made to widen and provide a smoother surface to the road. Despite some cosmetic upgrades, cars still often got stuck in the muddy spring season. This led to many cases of less than Christian language being heard along the road. The winter presented its own unique challenges often leading to delayed travel times. Up until 1947, the community was actually responsible for clearing the snow from the road. After 1947 the Provincial Department of Highways took that task over.

After WW2, the road once again became front and center in public dialogue as residents demanded that their little gravelled road needed upgrading in order to safely move an increasing number of vehicles in the community. Finally, in the early 1950's the provincial government announced funding for a total rebuild of the Hammonds Plains Road, highlighted by the use of what residents termed 'magic stone' – pavement. The project took 4 years to complete.

Since paving the road, the talk of the community in relation to the road has transitioned to traffic volume and safety. Subsequently, this has led to residents sporadically organizing both formally and informally to get action on these issues during the last 50 years.

Here we are in 2020, and while the Hammonds Plains road has been enhanced over the years, far-reaching traffic issues still exists leading one to wonder whether the road will ever have a historical period of harmony.

Winter Scenes from the Past



Above: Drive way after a winter storm - 1950's (Home of Parker and Sadie Romans)

Going for sleigh ride – 1930's (Warren and Hilda Haverstock)

Below: Community members opening the Hammonds Plains Road after a snow storm– 1940's

Tobogganing on one of the Hammonds Plains Hills – 1950's

