

Hammonds Plains Historical Society Newsletter

www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca
T O S H A

WE ARE NOW IN OUR THIRD YEAR

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The Hammonds Plains Historical Society is entering it's third year in their existence.

The Society has five general meetings per year, in which presentations are made about aspects of the history of the

Hammonds Plains area.

Our meetings typically take place the last Monday of the month (September, November, January, March, May).



B E C O M E A M E M B E R ?

You can become a member of the Hammonds Plains Historical Society by filling in a registration form and returning it to Dave

Haverstock at 1541
Hammonds Plains
Road, Hammonds
Plains, N.S. B4B 1P6

The society has an eight member Board of Director's, which meets every month to plan and discuss the following:

- General Meetings
- Oral History Project
- Fundraising initiatives
- Creation of HPHS road sign
- Researching historical items of interest.

Registration Forms available at general meetings or visiting our web site.

Annual Fee \$10

WHO DO YOU KNOW?



How about 5 Grades in the same room! Here is Grade 6-11 class at Hammonds Plains School from 1943-44.

THE HAMMONDS PLAINS PHONE COMPANY

Do you know that Hammonds Plains had it's very own phone company from 1902 to 1947?

Some interesting facts:

- The Hammonds Plains Phone Company was created in 1902. There were 3 phones in the community the first few years.
- In the early years, one had to pay app. \$15-25 per year to own a phone.
- In the first year of operation, the HP phone company had total gross operating revenue of \$96.05.
- Wall phones were used until the 1920's, when the rotary phone came into existence.
- The Hammonds Plains Phone Company had it's own secretary, living in the company, who looked after all the accounts.
- Calls that were made outside the company were considered long distance and folks had to call operator in Halifax to get long distance charges applied.
- Maritime Tel & Tel bought out the Hammonds Plains Phone Company in 1947.

A HAMMONDS PLAINS STORY
DECEMBER 12, 1931
THE HEADLINE OF THE HALIFAX
DAILY STAR READ “BADLY BEATEN
GAME WARDEN DIED IN HOSPITAL
TODAY.”



A. Harrison Eisenhower
1885 - 1931

On November 29, 1931, provincial Game Warden A. Harrison Eisenhower of **Hammonds Plains** and Herbert L. Fenerty were checking on a complaint of Sunday hunting in the Kearney Lake area of Halifax County, Nova Scotia. They located two men who resisted when the officers attempted to confiscate their guns. When the Officers attempted to place them under arrest, two other men sprang from the bushes and attacked them. Both men were beaten, but Eisenhower's injuries were more serious than Fenerty's.

After being beaten with the butt end of a rifle, both men were momentarily rendered unconscious. It was at this time that the four made good their escape. With serious head wounds, Eisenhower was helped by Fenerty, (Fenerty had a fractured rib along with other injuries), to their vehicle and drove to the Victoria General Hospital in Halifax. Fenerty was treated and released but Eisenhower, was admitted. The Nova Scotia Police were informed and an investigation started. Eisenhower died on December 12, 1931. On Saturday, following the death of Eisenhower, murder charges were laid against 3 people. The deceased was survived by his wife and five children.

In honor of his duty to the province, the Department of Lands and Forests in 1985 instituted an award called the 'Arthur H. Eisenhower Award' that is given annually to a member of the Conservation Enforcement Officers Association of Nova Scotia who contributes the most to conservation enforcement.

In 1997, he had his name engraved on the Peace Officers Memorial Monument in Ottawa, outside the Parliament Buildings to honor him as a fallen peace officer.

In 2009 the Department of Natural Resources erected individual monuments at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park to honor the memory of the three officers who have been lost in the line of duty, since the department's inception.

In 2010, Arthur Harrison Eisenhower was one of the original names on the provincial Fallen Peace Officers Memorial, which was erected on Grand Parade in Halifax.

NEWS FROM THE PAST - FROM 1945 - A COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

Hammonds Plains, with a box-making industry which today nets an estimated \$100,000 annually, is fast becoming one of the most prosperous and modernly developed communities of its size in Nova Scotia. Spread out over a large area and located about 14 miles from Halifax, off the Bedford Highway, this community of some 600 residents has 18 wood-working mills and is studded with large fine homes, many of which are new and of modern design, having been constructed in recent years with the expansion of the rural lumber centre.

Domestic Industry

Initiative of the residents of Hammonds Plains in establishing a domestic industry which has gained a Maritime-wide market is also reflected in the continuous development and improvement of the community in which they live. Last month a \$4000 school, of tile construction was opened in Upper Hammonds Plains for the colored children in that district. Only five years ago a modern two-room bungalow school costing \$3,000 was erected in Lower Hammonds Plains.

With more than 130 attending school in the district, the old school-houses, one dating back over 70 years, were found inadequate and overcrowded. Much of the money which built the two new buildings was raised by the residents themselves through social functions. Roy D. McOnie has been secretary of the school trustees for the past 16 years.

While some residents are engaged in farming, mainly to the extent of providing agriculture products for their own use, lumbering is the principal occupation in Hammonds Plains. Last year the 18 mills in the community turned out 35,000 barrels; some 62,000 fish boxes, which went to Halifax and Lunenburg markets; some 45,000 potato barrels, many shipped to Prince Edward Island; some 10,000 casks and 6,000 drums. In peacetime, thousands of wooden cases are manufactured for the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission. Among the larger mill operators are the Moran Brothers, R. D. Haverstock and Sons and Haverstock Brothers.

Community Hall

Centre of the many social gatherings and indoor recreational activities is the two-storey Community Hall, which stands in the middle of the village. More than 40 years old, the hall is under the supervision of the local I.O.D.E. chapter. The community also has its own telephone system known as the Hammonds Plains Telephone Company, the shareholders being the citizens. In operation for several years, the service provides telephone service to 22 houses in the district. Need for extension of this service or possible

Telegraph and Telephone Company is being voiced by the citizens.

The one "crime-need" for the community as the citizens describe it, is transportation service. Some years ago a bus line provided a service between Hammonds Plains and Halifax, but today there is no transportation service whatsoever. Unless they are car owners, citizens have to walk to the Bedford Highway, some five miles distant, to connect with the city suburban bus service.

Delivered Daily

Mail is delivered daily to the community by rural mail driver E. Blake Thomas.

Indicative of the community spirit of Hammonds Plains citizens was the recent purchase of considerable fire fighting equipment for the protection of their homes and woodland property. Proceeds from a mass picnic held on Labor Day of last year provided the community with a portable wajax pump and necessary accessories needed for fire fighting. Purchase of further equipment, including a second pump, is the object of a present drive for funds.

Besides the organizations of the three churches in Hammonds Plains, the Prevost Wallace Chapter, I. O. D. E. and the Ajax Sewing Circle have been very active in community affairs and war work. The Ajax group work in close co-operation with the Jervis Bay Sewing Club in Halifax. Many clothing contributions have gone from this group to aid the bombed British children and generous money donations have been made to the Red Cross, Queen's Canadian Fund, Chinese, Russian and Greek relief funds.

Members of the War Service Club include: Miss Winnie Smith, president, Mrs. R. D. McOnie, Mrs. George Stone, Mrs. James Smith, Mrs. Simeon Smith, Miss Effie Smith, Mrs. Russell Smith, and Mrs. Orpha Smith.