

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Impact of COVID-19

Like every organization in Nova Scotia, our Historical Society has been deeply impacted by the world events of the past few weeks. Our March General Meeting had to be cancelled and it would appear that all upcoming activities for the immediate future will be impacted as well. Therefore, one can assume that it will not be business as usual for some time moving forward.

When it is safe and practical for our Board of Directors to meet again, we will come up with a plan to move forward. At this time, it is unlikely that our May General Meeting will be able to move ahead as our yearly AGM. We will be providing you with updates on this as we draw closer to that date.

We certainly are in historical times. However, we can draw upon history to provide us with some answers as to how all this will end. Our community has suffered through past periods of infectious diseases attacking the general population, such as in the 1800's when Diphtheria and Tuberculosis took many of our youth from us, and during the 1918 Spanish Flu. We were able to come out the other side of each and move forward, and we will do the same with Covid-19.

It is the intent to maintain our newsletters during this time and this is why we are publishing this newsletter .

Stay safe and healthy everyone and may each of you endure the challenges of the coming weeks in the best possible way.

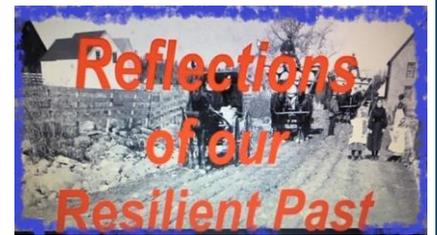


Upcoming General Meetings:

Next Meeting (Currently scheduled for May 25th) –

10th Anniversary Special

Reflections of a Resilient Village – We will be marking our 10th anniversary with the unveiling of our new film, 'Reflections of our Resilient Village'



The film explores the history of Hammonds Plains through the eyes of our oral history participants.

All paid up members will receive a society keepsake at the meeting.

We also planning an extended social time, with some festival snacks available.

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.

Changes in General Meeting Routines:

As part of our discussions around our new 5 year strategic plan, we have decided to make some changes to our general meetings.

First of all, we no longer will be asking for approval for the previous meetings minutes, during our General Meetings. The minutes will still be written and kept on file by the Board of Directors and made public, but no longer need to be approved by members. The minutes will be sent via e-mail to members when reminders for upcoming meetings are sent out. If anyone sees an error in the minutes, just e-mail back your correction and we will fix up in our official records. A few copies of the previous meetings minutes will be also available at our table at the entrance for anyone who doesn't have e-mail and would like to read the minutes.

Secondly, we have created a Suggestion Binder that will be available at all our meetings for folks to provide feedback to us. No need to sign your name. We especially are really looking for ideas for future presentation topics.

The purpose of these changes is to reduce the amount of time spent on administrative items during our meetings.

Hammonds Plains in the News – A Tragic Accident

From the Halifax Herald – June 10, 1924

Teamster Victim of Fatal Accident

From injuries which he received when he fell beneath the wheels of the truck he was driving, Clarke R. Thomas, 43, a teamster in the employ of Robert McLeod, residing at 128 Windsor Street, died in the Victoria General Hospital at 2pm yesterday, two hours after the accident occurred without recovering consciousness.

The fatality occurred at the foot of the Uniacke Street hill at noon yesterday. With a heavy truck load of oats, Mr. Thomas has successfully negotiated the descent and climbed down from the truck to clear the drag from one of the wheels. In an effort to regain his seat on the truck, he grasped one of the bags of oats, which was dislodged and he fell beneath the feet of the horses. Started by the accident, the team sprang forward, one of the horses kicking the unfortunate man in the face and pinning him beneath the wheels of the heavy which passed over his chest.

In an unconscious condition, he was picked up and removed to the residence of Dr. Hawkins from where after brief examination, he was taken to the Victoria General Hospital.

Mr. Thomas who was a native of Hammonds Plains, has been a resident of this city and was well known here. He is survived by his wife one son. The funeral will take place in Hammonds Plains and he will be buried at the Hammonds Plains Cemetery.



A picture of what the truck (wagon) may have looked like

Hammonds Plains Leaders of the Past

Jennie (Robinson) Eisenhower-Harris (1887-1976)

Persevering over adversity, Jennie (Robinson) Eisenhower-Harris became a leading female figure in Hammonds Plains during the mid-1900's. This is her story.

Jennie was born March 3, 1887 in Lower Sackville (the eldest of three children) of parents, Joseph and Alice Robinson. Attending public school in Lower Sackville, she was able to achieve grade 10 and then obtained a Provincial Teacher's Minimum Professional Qualification Certificate, through a written test, at the age of 17. She started teaching in 1904 in Halifax County, with her first job paying fifty-five dollars for the school year. The next year, she signed a contract to teach in Kemptown (Hammonds Plains), with a substantial raise. Jennie's teaching career was quite short but it was long enough for her to meet Harrison Eisenhower, the son of well-known Hammonds Plains residents, Samuel and Sarah Eisenhower. Harrison was involved with the family business, which included a farm and mill (and box shop). Later he took on the part time role as area Forest Ranger and Fire Warden for the Provincial Forestry Department.

She and Harrison fell in love and were married in 1915 and Jennie became a resident of Hammonds Plains. Jennie and Harrison became the parents of 6 children, Joseph (died as an infant), Florence, Douglas, Eric, Alice and Helen. They lived in the family home (which still stands at 1814 Hammonds Plains Road) with Harrison's aging parents, Samuel and Sarah.

Jennie and Harrison took a great interest in the community and became active in Church and other community events. Jennie was a very quiet individual but as her life in Hammonds Plains unfolded, her leadership and devotion to the community deepened and evolved.

However, tragedy struck on Sunday Nov. 29, 1931, Harrison was injured as the result of carrying out his duty as Forest Ranger when he was attacked by poachers, whom he was investigating. Harrison's injuries were serious and on Dec. 12, 1931 at the age of 44 he passed away as the result of general septicaemia from an eye wound and a compound fracture of the nose.

Jennie's life had been turned upside down as a result, having been left with five children, the large family home, an aging father-in-law, the farm and part ownership of the mill and box shop.

This was a tremendous responsibility for Jennie. Fortunately, she had a small government cheque to help with expenses and she was able to use that to hire help. One of the hired help, Charlie

Harris developed a relationship with Jennie, which eventually developed into marriage, in Dec. 1934. Through the adversity, Jennie was able to raise her family, and keep the family farm and business up and running.

As a testament to her tremendous inner strength, she also found time to earn money and become a leader in community affairs. She became Secretary- Treasurer of the Hammonds Plains Phone Company, holding the job of sending out bills and receiving funds for the monthly local rates. She did this job out of her own home. Religion was also a big part of her family life and she became a devoted member of St. Nicholas Anglican Church, attending and supporting all Church activities, serving for many years as President of the Sewing Circle.

However, the organization she was best known for was the I O D E. In Nov. 1934 the Admiral Provo Wallis Chapter I O D E was organized in Hammonds Plains. Jennie was involved from the start and served as Regent (head) for many years. The ladies of the I O D E were involved in organizing activities, suppers, teas, card parties, basket socials and other money making events to support charities. During World War 2, they were active supporting the men and women from the community who served their country. Jennie is mentioned numerous times in the Halifax Herald Community News section during the 1940's and 50's in her role as I O D E Regent.

During the 1930's to 1950's, she was able to keep the family business going through hired help, support from Charlie, her children and Harrison's relatives. By the 1960's, Jennie's health had deteriorated and gradually she had to have increased support to maintain daily functions. When she was no longer able to be looked after in the family home she entered a Nursing Home in Truro. On November 4, 1976 at the age of 89 she passed away. She is buried in Saint John's Anglican Church Cemetery in Lower Sackville. Charlie continued to live in the family home after Jennie's death. He passed away in the Camp Hill Veteran's Hospital in 1989 at the age of 99.



Jennie (second from left) receiving her 25 Year I O D E Pin