

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Impact of COVID-19 - Update

Like most other organizations in Nova Scotia, our Historical Society is still trying to gauge how to move forward in these unprecedented times. We have had to cancel our two spring general meetings, including our AGM that we normally have in May. Since our By-Laws state we must have a AGM each year, we will have to deal with this issue in future discussions.

Our Board of Directors have been unable to meet since early March, and as such, we presently do not have plan of action as to where we go next. We are hoping that we will be able to meet as a Board before the fall and at that time we can plan a path forward.

Hopefully by the fall, we will have a better sense of health guidelines centering around gatherings. At that time, we can determine what we have to do to meet these guidelines, so we can once again get together and offer presentations.

It is most disappointing that we have not been able to celebrate our 10th anniversary as an organization in the matter that we have planned. However, we are still hoping to have some form of celebration before 2020 leaves us.

We plan to be offer you details of our new year (Year 11), including topics of presentations once we are able to plan things. We look forward to getting back to offering our services in the coming months.



Our Oral History Project

In 2012, The Hammonds Plains Historical Society designed a project where-by interviews would be conducted with folks who grew up in Hammonds Plains, to record what Hammonds Plains was like from the 1920's – 60's.

The purpose of the project was to record the way of life in Hammonds Plains during this era, so we would have records of such memories forever.

After receiving a provincial grant for a camera and computer, we spent the next 6 years filming one on one interviews. During this time, we were able to complete 38 interviews.

During the past year, we have been working on editing each of the videos to add titles, topic headings, deleting dead space and adding background music.

The editing of the videos is almost complete. We now plan to use the videos to share some of the rich history of the community. Stay tuned to learn more about the videos in the future.

Did you know that Hammonds Plains in the 1950's was once considered the site for the Halifax Airport?

This is just one of the topics covered in the videos.

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.

A Favourite May Family Outing

For many years, before The Halifax Water Commission took over Pockwock Lake, families of Hammonds Plains residents flocked to Pockwock Lake during the Victoria Day Weekend, to enjoy boating and picnics with their families. Fishing for trout was particularly a favorite activity on this weekend.



View of Head of Pockwock Lake (1940's). The small row boats were often kept in the water at the head of the lake.



Hammonds Plains fishing gathering at Pockwock Lake (1920's).

Hammonds Plains in the News – H P Girls Pay Tribute to Mothers

From the Halifax Mail-Star – June 8, 1959

The C. G. I. T. closing banquet was held recently in the vestry of the First Baptist Church. The banquet was attended by the members, and their mothers, Reverend and Mrs. Terry Tingley and special speaker, Miss Nina Gower, principal of the public school here. The ladies of the First Baptist Church served.

Betty Jane Thomson proposed the toast to the Queen, after which all present sang, 'God Save the Queen'.

May Smith led the gathering in silent prayer in appreciation of the Church. The pastor of the Church, Rev. T. B. Tingley, responded. Fay Smith proposed the toast to the mothers, and this toast was responded to by Mrs. M. Eisenhauer.

Jo-Anne Eisenhauer, president of the C. G. I. T., extended a welcome to all, and secretary Marjorie Eisenhauer, read a report of the year's activities before Faye Smith lead a sing song around the table. Following Miss Glower's talk, the members recited their purpose, sang their Hymn and all joined hands for the 'taps'.

At a recent meeting of the First Baptist Church, the following officers were elected to serve the Church.

Deacon for Life: Carl Haverstock; (Harvey Smith, deacon to retire in 1961 and Charles Romans, deacon to retire in 1962); Edwin Haverstock, treasurer, and Mrs. Chester Spence, financial secretary.

Miss Della Moren, who recently retired as financial secretary of the church after more than 20 years in that position, was honored with a presentation for her faithfulness by members of the church.

Delegates appointed to represent the church at the Central Baptist Association to be held at Berwick, on June 15-17 were Miss Beatrice Haverstock and Miss Edna Haverstock.

The home nursing course, sponsored by the Home and School Association, held a final meeting at the home of Mrs. Earl Haverstock, under the direction of Mrs. Jack Hankey, RN.

The sale of home cooked food, fancy work and plain sewing held in the vestry of the Baptist Church under the auspices of the sewing circle was an outstanding success. The sum of \$116 being realized for church purposes.

The annual supper and sale to be held by the members of St. Nicholas Sewing Circle will be held June 13 at the Hammonds Plains Community Hall

Dr. Angus Morton – The Man of Medicine

Editor's Note: Dr. Morton was the doctor that residents in the first half of the 1900's turned to in times of medical need. He had his office in Bedford but was made many house calls to Hammonds Plains and was very respected by Hammonds Plains residents. The following article appeared in the Halifax Chronicle-Herald in 1975, referring to a speech he made in 1907. This article seems very timely in this time of a public health emergency.

It was in the year of 1907 that Dr. Angus Morton was elected president of what was then known as the Halifax and Nova Scotia branch, British Medical Association. His residence at the time was in the village of Bedford and he entertained the branch at the Old Bellview Hotel where he made his presidential speech.

Dr. Morton practice covered a very large area, from Birch Cove to Mount Uniacke (including Hammonds Plains). This was all done by horse power, not motor power, as he labored during the horse and buggy days. He could have entertained the branch with many an interesting experience pertaining to a country practice, but this he did not do. The many accidents from the lumber mills in his territory made him very skillful in minor surgery. He could have talked on that subject. He could also have entertained them with historic events pertaining to Bedford, as this village is rich in historical interest. How Champlain in his writings over four hundred years ago described the basin and river, which is now as Sackville River, and even the little island known now as 'The Island'. He might have told them that it was Charles Fenerty of Sackville who was the second person in the world to have out a patent for making paper out of wood. The history of the old Manor House would have been of great interest. However, the real subject of his discourse was 'Some of the mistakes we are apt to make'.

He wondered if the present-day theories (1907) would be proven erroneous or questionable within the near or distant future. He recalled that Tartar-emetica had been used in the past for nearly every condition, and how seldom it was used to-day. He said "We go to extremes and often do harm to some new idea or new therapeutic agent by devoting all our attention to it, and forgetting everything else".

He continued his remarks by warning the physicians against too much dependence on laboratory findings, instead of becoming more familiar with bedside symptoms. He then spoke on Expiriam. One should not be too hasty in adopting new methods. Perhaps he was thinking of the time that cupping-cups were so highly recommended for pneumonia. I recall one case where he tried out this treatment only to resort in desperation to his own treatment but it was too late. As a rule,

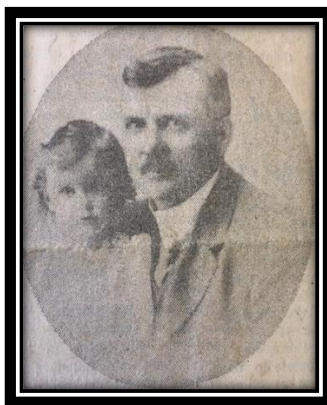
he was most successful in cases of pneumonia. Then the idea came of very cold fresh air. His success was due not so much to these methods but 'good nursing'.

He spoke at great length on tuberculosis, "I think it is shameful that we have no system of vital statistics in the province (1907). I believe that we have more tuberculosis in Nova Scotia, particularly those of bone and joint, than almost any province of the same population in the world. During the year thousands of dollars have been spent in Halifax, and thousands and thousands of dollars through the province of Nova Scotia, to put down the epidemic of smallpox in which there was scarcely a death, but little had been spent on prevention of tuberculosis. I am glad to see that an anti-tuberculosis league is about to be formed in Nova Scotia". I might say that Dr. Morton lived long enough to see his hope for some of these changes accomplished.

He spoke of preventive medicine, and urged the physicians to put less faith in drugs, and to try to teach the patients rules of hygiene. More information for the public should be available regarding sanitary and hygienic conditions. He quoted Dr. Burrell, who said "Keep hammering the tenets of preventive medicine into them on every possible occasion, and finally we shall reach the golden age, when disease shall be the exception and our efforts shall be largely spent in regulating the living conditions of the healthy and vigorous". Dr. Morton might have continued and suggested compulsory examinations monthly or quarterly for every person; then the early symptoms of cancer might be detected.

In those early days, Dr. Morton often found it most difficult to get his patients to the hospital, so the surgeon was brought to the patient, whenever the case was too difficult for himself. His many experiences of 'kitchen-surgery' would fill a volume. Twice in his life he successfully delivered triplets. Although such a busy person, he usually found time to be in his pew on Sunday and gave liberally to the Lord's work.

Br. Morton came to Bedford in 1898, moved to Halifax where he died in 1944. So his ministry covered many years and he was indeed beloved by his people, and respected by all who knew him.



Dr. Morton with his daughter, Jane