

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Impact of COVID-19 – September Update

We had hoped that by now, we would be back to a pre-covid world. However, this is not to be. With this in mind, we were able to hold a recent meeting of our Board of Directors to discuss moving forward plans.

The following decisions were made at the meeting:

- To cancel our general meetings until 2021. This decision was made due to the vast safety precautions that would be needed to hold a meeting and the anticipated lack of attendance if such a meeting was held.
- To not have an AGM for the 2019-20 year. This means there will not be an election of Directors for this year. All of the current Board of Directors have agreed to continue their roles until the next planned AGM in May 2021.
- To waive memberships for one year. Anyone who paid their membership fees for 2019-20 will have their membership extended until September 2021.
- To produce an 2019-20 Annual Report. (While it will not be voted on by the membership at the AGM, it will be made public to the membership), See Page 4 of this newsletter for the report.
- To produce an annual 2019-20 Financial Statement (This has been sent in the Provincial Registry of Joint Stocks).
- To continue our newsletters, to be sent out via e-mail every two months until further notice.
- To evaluate our moving forward plans again in November, to make decisions for the first half of 2021.



There is a new magazine being distributed to the residents of the Hammonds Plains Area, called **Neighbours of Hammonds Plains**.

The Hammonds Plains Historical Society will be supplying local historical content to upcoming editions of the magazine.

The articles will be short stories discussing various aspects of the history of the area, written in a narrative style.

Our first article entitled **How Hammonds Plains Got Its Name** appeared in the August edition of the magazine. We are including the article on page 3 of this newsletter, in case you haven't seen it.

Look for more historical articles in the coming editions.

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.

The Hammonds Plains Road during Times Gone By



Children playing on the H P road with their wagon – 1950`s



H P Residents shoving the H P road after a winter storm – 1960`s

Hammonds Plains in the News from the Past

From the Halifax Mail-Star – March 25, 1958

At a special meeting held in the Baptist Church it was decided to hold the quarterly business meeting on Wednesday April 8th.

A nominating committee to prepare a new slate of officers is composed of Edwin Haverstock, Charles Romans and Mrs. Lorne Haverstock. The service schedule for Sunday morning March 30, has been changed to 7pm because of the fact this service will be followed by a baptismal service with Dr. Cherry, Th.D., Professor of Theology at Acadia University, is from Louisville, Kentucky.

A service is to be held on Good Friday at 3pm with the Lord`s Supper followed by devotional.

A service celebrating the church`s 115th anniversary, due in May, will be discussed at the quarterly meeting.

At Saint Nicholas Church, Rev. K. Tufts officiated at the christening of several Hammonds Plains children, including Paul Eisenhower, Howard Eisenhower, Wayne Pickrem, David Haverstock, Barry Haverstock and Nancy Haverstock.

Easter service in Saint Nicholas Church will be held at 9am. Good Friday service will be held at 9:30am.

The Home and School Association reports the sum of \$70 was realized at the card social held in the Community Hall. Proceeds will be used for the children taking part in the Musical Festival.

The regular meeting of the Admiral Provo Wallis Chapter, I. O. D. E., which was held at the home of Mrs. Mae Eisenhower and Mrs. Owen Eisenhower, has been postponed to Monday, March 31.

How Hammonds Plains Got its Name?

Ever wondered how and when Hammonds Plains got its name? Well, the name dates back to 1786 when original land grants were issued in the area by the British Government. At the time, many existing residents of the developing garrison town of Halifax were frustrated that land grants were being given to the many immigrants entering the province while they were being left out, despite having helped to establish the colony through their own hardships and sacrifices. A number of these folks applied to the governor for their own grants and were finally successful.

In August 1786, one of these grants, an 8000+ acre land grant between Birch Cove and St. Margaret's Bay was awarded to 43 Halifax business folks. The new grantees named their new lands, **Hammond Plains**, after Sir Andrew Snape Hamond, who had earlier been a popular Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia and had personal connections with many of the new grantees. The name has stuck until the present day, although no official document ever existed approving naming rights to the grant.

It is unknown why a second 'm' was added to the name of the grant, even though Andrew Hamond only had one 'm' in his name. The 's' in Hammonds was added for similarly unknown reasons during the early 1800's. A greater mystery exists as to why the grantees would name their new grant '**Plains**', when in fact the lands are actually a series of hills. No reasonable explanation has ever been found for this naming oddity. Many wonder why the community is not called Hammonds Hills, but since we can't travel back to 1786, we will probably never know the answer.



Hammonds Plains is named after Sir Andrew Snape Hamond, pictured above.

Hammonds Plains Historical Society - Annual Report 2019 - 20

The Historical Society enjoyed a rather interesting year, one marked with both successes and challenges. Once again, our goal was to host five general meetings, and hold monthly Board meetings. However, the Coronavirus pandemic forced us to discontinue everything at the middle of March, just prior to our fourth General Meeting. For the year, three general meetings were held. Average attendance continues at 40+ people. Our general meetings were held at the Cornerstone Wesleyan Church and the Hammonds Plains Community Center. We thank Pastor Denn Gupatil for the use of their church. All monthly Board meetings were held at the Community Center. We look forward to collaboration with the Community Center staff again when activities resume.

Despite the pandemic, we hosted three successful general meetings and a community presentation at the Scott Manor House in Bedford. On August 27, 2019 we participated in a display at Scott Manor. Other local historical societies participated during that week. Each society chose one afternoon to hold their display. We presented our posters and showed one of the taped interviews from our Oral History project. We received positive feedback from the Scott Manor staff and the many guests who dropped by. We would consider participating again. Kevin McGrath from the "Masthead News" attended. He took a picture and wrote an article about our society, which was published in their next issue.

Dave prepares and prints all our newsletters for the general meetings. They include topics to be discussed, vintage photos, as well as a feature on the "Hammonds Plains Leaders of the Past".

The Board of Directors has worked diligently on the Strategic Plan 2020-2025. It is now complete with goals and objectives. The Oral History project is also complete. All interviews have been edited.

Our membership drive this year is successful with a total of forty (40) paid members. Meetings have been well attended.

The first of our three presentations was held on September 30 at the Community Center. We welcomed local historian and author, Leo Deveau. His presentation was entitled "Early Settlers on Nova Scotian Shores: A History Refresh." The information was based on his latest book, *400 Years in 365 Days: A Day by Day Calendar of Nova Scotia History*. Mr. Deveau traced Nova Scotian history from early contact through immigration at Pier 21. His books are available on the internet and at Chapters. Lively discussion followed. Mr. Deveau was thanked and presented with an honorarium of \$50.

The presentation on November 25, at the Cornerstone Church, was entitled "What's in a Name? A Hammonds Plains Perspective." Using visuals, Dave detailed name origins of many lakes, hills, and tracts of land. He noted that three landmarks are named for local residents: Madeline Symonds Middle School; Phil Eisenhower Memorial Field; and La Pierre Field in Kingswood, named for Greg La Pierre who contributed greatly to the game of baseball in the area.

At our January 27 General Meeting, we were back at the Cornerstone Church to enjoy "Hammonds Plains and the 1960's – a Decade of Hope and New Beginnings." Dave initially gave an overview of the decade worldwide, then nationally, provincially, and locally. Nancy Boland introduced Bruce Smith, Cathy Monroe, and Gail Stronach, who recalled their own experiences growing up in Hammonds Plains during this transitional decade.

Our goal was to have a presentation on Kemptown in March and to celebrate our 10th anniversary at the May meeting which was also to be our Annual General Meeting. Souvenirs were ordered and a cake was planned. This has all been deferred until the pandemic is over.

Our website and facebook continue to be updated and are current. Members are encouraged to visit, and we still appreciate copies of vintage photos. Our Suggestion Binder is available at every general meeting.

The Hammonds Plains Historical Society thanks all who have supported our activities this year, and we look forward to continued activities and projects as soon as the pandemic is resolved.