



HAMMONDS PLAINS OF THE 1950'S

**A LOOK AT THE DECADE OF
CHANGE & TRANSITION**

NOVEMBER 26, 2018

WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE 1950'S – CANADA & BEYOND

- Marked by clashes between **communism** and **capitalism** – cold war, beginning of space race, Korean War
- Post war prosperity takes hold in North America as baby boomers start to influence life (as children). Tremendous increase in births (average children per women in 1950's – 3.7)
- The birth of the 'teenager' is a trademark of the 1950's. Youth fashion dominates the fashion industry. Toward the mid 1950's, youth start to see themselves different from their parents and want to create their own fashions. The 'Greasers' highlight this social statement, with tight trousers, leather jackets and greasy hair.
- Society becomes increasingly reliant on cars and this allow folks to move to the suburbs.
- Short hair is in.
- The transistor is perfected with tremendous commercial success – ie. Small portable radios.
- The rise of Television. In Canada, 'Hockey Night in Canada' and 'Wayne & Shuster Show' become immensely popular
- A vaccine is produced for polio.
- The emergence of Rock and Roll music – music was targeted to the teenage market for the first time.
- Shopping became part of the family lifestyle.
- Civil rights movement takes shape. The Black professional athlete becomes mainstream.
- Pop culture is defined by people like Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, James Dean, Doris Day, Humphrey Bogart, Bill Haley, Chuck Berry & Buddy Holly.



WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE 1950'S – NOVA SCOTIA

- Nova Scotia continues to suffer from post war economic stagnation as the Federal Government Policy of developing strong industrialized economies in Quebec and Ontario takes hold in the early 1950's. Post war prosperity is slow to come to Nova Scotia.
- Traditional industries continue a steady post war decline – ie. steel making, coal mining, forestry, fishing, farming. This leads to many Nova Scotians moving to central Canada for jobs.
- Social service programs are introduced for health, education labor union protection and pensions. There is a move from the philosophy that hard work & being thrifty conquers scarcity to the philosophy that the government should provide for the unfortunate.
- Urban renewal takes hold in Halifax. The controversial 'slum clearance' principle is born.
- Nova Scotians see advances in electricity, indoor plumbing, refrigerators, televisions, road building, the family car and the mass consumer culture takes hold.
- Two of the most popular premiers in Nova Scotian history govern the province. Angus L. MacDonald (Liberal) premier from 1945-54 and Robert Stanfield 1956-67 (PC's). Henry Hicks (Liberal) governs from 1954-56 (after the death of MacDonald, leading to the 1956 general election.
- Hank Snow records "I'm Movin' On" in 1950 and becomes an international star.
- Bi Hi Highway from Halifax to Fall River, Angus L. MacDonald Bridge and Canso Causeway all open.

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- **A one road village with most of the homes along the main road, either Hammonds Plains Road, Yankeetown Road or Pockwock Road.**
- **Life was still very simple within the community. Children provide their own entertainment, mostly associated with outdoor life. Work and household chores are the prominent adult activity.**
- **Hammonds Plains Road is upgraded (1955-56) and paved in 1957-58.**
- **Population grows are the 'baby boomer' effect from the post WW2 takes hold. School population balloons.**
- **Main industry still the forestry trade, as the 1950's start out with many businesses operating, relating to the forestry trade. By the end of the decade, the industry has declined to the level that many of the businesses that were operating in 1950 had closed out.**
- **Many of the residents make the transition to working outside the village. Cars become a family norm in the community.**
- **The youth are staying in school longer and as such more of the youth attend high school outside of Hammonds Plains.**
- **Hammonds Plains homes get introduce to the TV set. Television becomes a mainstream family entertainment tool by the end of the decade.**
- **The Forrester's Community Hall is the center of community social life with dances, movies, card games, concerts, community suppers forming the basis of social life in the community.**
- **Community groups such as IODE, sewing circles (St. Nicholas, H P Baptist & Yankeetown Baptist), various church groups, and Home & School Association support social interaction and fund raising within the community.**
- **Hammonds Plains feels the effects of the cold war with Department of National Defence building communication transmitting and receiving towers in the community to provide warning in case of a nuclear attack.**

PHOTOS FROM THE 1950'S



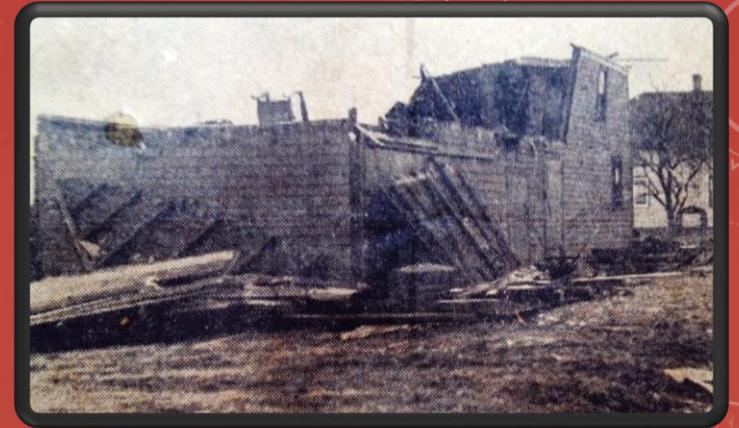
THE UPGRADING OF THE ROAD



ROAD ISSUES – EARLY 1950'S



THE MILLS OF HAMMONDS PLAINS – 1950'S



COMMUNITY BUILDINGS – 1950'S



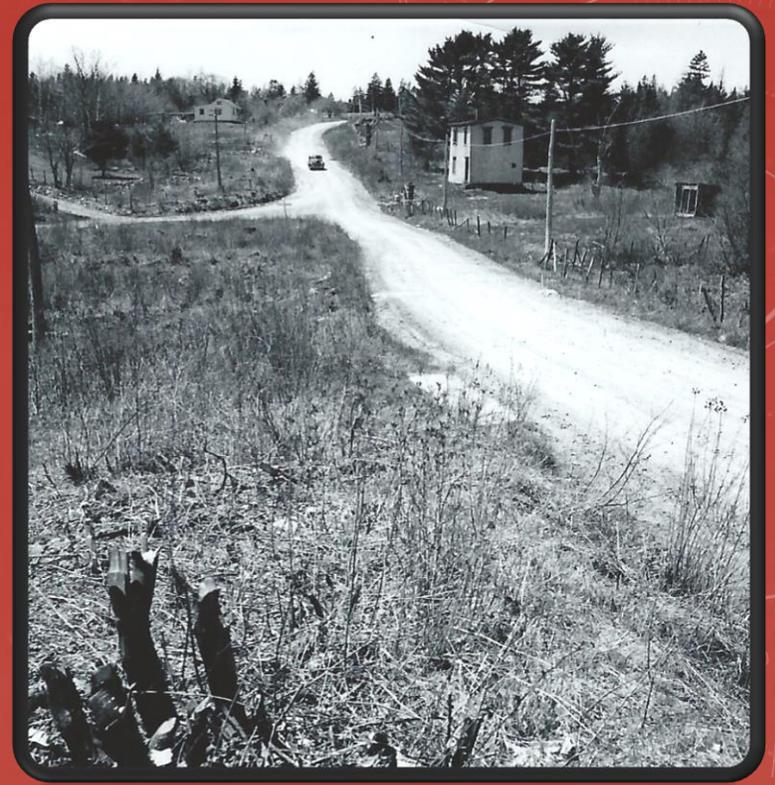
THE 1951 AIRPLANE CRASH



THE COMMUNITY HOCKEY RINK



VIEWS OF HAMMONDS PLAINS – 1955



TRAGEDY STRIKES – JANUARY 26, 1955

On January 26th, 1955, 4 Hammond's Plains residents fall through the ice on Pockwock Lake as they were hauling supplies across the lake to a lumber camp. 2 of the men drown.



Two Men Drowned In Lake

Ice Gives Way Under Sleigh At Pockwock Lake; Two Others Rescued

Two men were drowned and two others were rescued by the fast thinking and quick action of the fifth member of the party when four men and a 200-pound sled laden with groceries plunged through the ice of Big Pockwock Lake near Hammond's Plains yesterday afternoon.

Dead are:

Perry John Romans, 18, of Hammond's Plains.

Carl Smith, 29, also of Hammond's Plains.

TWO RESCUED

SCHOOL PICTURES



THE OLD HAYES HOUSE – THE OLDEST HOUSE IN HAMMONDS PLAINS DURING 1950'S



A WINTER SCENE



A 1950'S ENJOYMENT



COMMON HAMMONDS PLAINS SUMMMER SCENE



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PRESENTED BY HAMMONDS PLAINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

