



Hammonds Plains Foresters Hall

1912-2007 – The Community
Gathering Spot of the 20th Century

Hammonds Plains Forrester Hall – 1930's



The Beginnings

- **The Temperance Society and Independent Order of Foresters had a chapter in Hammonds Plains during the early 20th Century.**
- **They used the second story of the School (at the entrance of Glen Arbour) for meetings (not sure what year meetings were first held).**
- **In 1910, one acre of land was purchased by the Forresters for \$40 so they could built their own building (located across the street from old school)**
- **New Forester Hall was built in 1912.**

Appearance

- **Two Story Building, built in a rectangle shape.**
- **First Floor was a large open room with a stage across the back end. A staircase was along the side toward the front leading to the second floor.**
- **Second Floor had meeting rooms with a kitchen.**

Heat and Lights

- **Original hall had a wood burning stove, which was used for heat.**
- **Lighting was from kerosene lamps**

Foresters Society

- **Formed as community groups, organized to provide benefits to the less fortunate in the community and supporting community projects**
- **The Foresters championed the creation of life insurance for the average citizen**

Foresters Society

- **Not sure when the Foresters Society were no longer active and stopped meeting in the hall.**

Temperance Society

- **Temperance Society was active in Hammonds Plains as early as 1850**
- **The local Temperance Society held weekly meetings in the hall in the early years. A 1917 report notes that the society had 56 members of good standing.**

Temperance Society

- In 1916, dues were 30 cents per quarter for brothers, 15 cents for sisters and children under 16.
- Meetings consisted of a business session followed by local entertainment (reading of poems and stories, performing short dialogues, singing, playing of the accordion, harmonica, violin, organ and harp.

Temperance Society

- It appears that different chapters of the Temperance Society were organized in Hammonds Plains over time and societies seemed to fold and then reorganize under different names.
- The Temperance Society moved to the Baptist Church during the 1930's and then came to an end during the early days of WW2.

The Community Hall

- After the Foresters became inactive, the community took over the hall and it became known throughout the community as the **Community Hall**
- The local I O D E maintained the hall for many years through the 1940's and 1950's.
- I O D E used the hall for their meetings and maintained the hall through fund raisers.

IODE – The Gun Story



The Community Hall – Fund Raising

- Afternoon teas
- Community Suppers
- Labour Day Picnic
- Dances
- Concerts
- Movies
- Basket Socials
- Card Socials / Bingo

Community Suppers

- **Held in the hall on the regular basis for many years – 1930's – 1970's**
- **Some hosted by Community. Others hosted by local churches**
- **Food donated by members of community. Prepared in upstairs kitchen. Tables set up on main floor.**
- **Very well attended.**

Labour Day Picnics

- **Used as a fund Raiser for hall, community school, and fire department.**
- **The picnic was held on both sides of the road (on the school property across the road).**
- **Meals were prepared in the hall and carried to a large dining tent(s) set up outside.**
- **Menu might include ham, cole cannon, hodge podge, potato salad, beans potato scallop, rolls and a dessert (pie, cookies, cake)**
- **Booths were set up for games of chance and other fair like attractions**

Labour Day Picnics

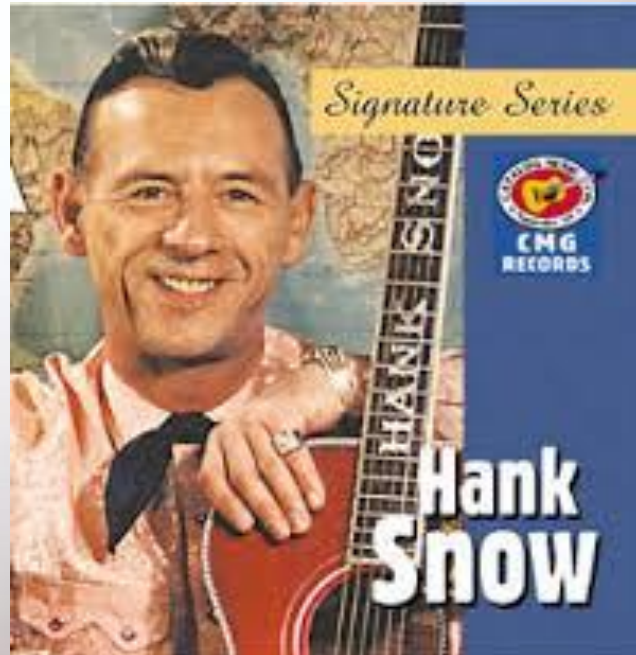
- Picnic ended with a public dance.
- Liquor was not allowed in the hall, so it was common sight to have the men of the community to duck outside for a sip with their friends behind the hall during the dances
- Local musicians supplied the music.

Labour Day Picnics – The Unwelcome Guest Story



Concerts

- **The hall was rented out to local performers.**
- **Hank Snow performed at the hall, in his younger days.**



George Longard Playing at the Hall from 1950's



Basket Socials

- **Ladies in the community would decorate a basket and include enough food for a lunch for two.**
- **Baskets would be auctioned off to the highest bidder.**
- **The lucky bidder and the owner of the basket would then have a picnic together, with the unwritten expectation that the man would take the lady home afterwards.**

Basket Social



Card Socials / Bingo

- **Card socials and Bingos were a regular fund raising event.**
- **45's was the most popular card game.**
- **Games of 45's were set up in tables of 4 (usually between 12-16 tables).**
- **Players paid a fee to play. Prizes were given out to the top two winners, along with a booby prize for the one with the least number of wins.**

Hall Uses

- Wedding Receptions / Showers
- Community Socials
- Community Groups (Red Cross, Uplands Park Ratepayers Ass.)
- Boy Scouts / Girl Guides
- Church Groups
- Home & School Association
- Card Socials by Community Groups (ie. Masonic Lodge)
- Plays
- Special Events (Celebration the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth 2, a tribute to the arm forces after WW2)
- Polling station for elections
- Quilting Parties

A Play at the Community Hall – 1930's



A Look Inside the Hall



Connection with the School

- In 1939, a new school was built across the road from the hall
- The hall hosted the school Christmas Concert since the school didn't have a room big enough to host a concert.
- The school would decorate the hall on the day of the concert.
- Most often it was standing room only.

Connection with the School

- Screens had to be installed on the front windows of the hall, as the glass kept being broken from the school yard baseball games



Connection with the School

- **By 1952, the school was getting over crowded with it's two rooms, so it was decided to have a third class taught in the hall.**
- **In 1953, a second class had to be added.**
- **In 1953, an extension was built on the west side consisting of a wider double staircase.**

A School Class – In front of Community Hall



The Hall in the 1950's with New Extension



Connection with the School

- **In 1955, an additional two rooms were added to the school and the hall was no longer used as a school.**
- **During this time, there became a desire to begin discussions as to the future of the hall.**

Transitions

- On September 6th, 1955, a public meeting was held to discuss the future of the hall.
- As the result of the meeting, a new community group was formed (**The Hammonds Plains Social Club**) to oversee the hall. The club became incorporated and developed a set of by-laws.
- During the late 1950's and 60's the Social Club spearheaded renovations to the hall. Steps were repaired, the roof was upgraded, kitchen cupboards built, a stove and sink was put in the upstairs kitchen and it was painted.

Transitions

- **In 1960, The Social Club voted to deed a parcel of their land (west side of the hall) to the Hammonds Plains Fire Association. The Fire Association used the land to erect a fire station.**

The End of an Era

- In 1967, the new Hammonds Plains School opened, meaning the former school was deemed surplus. The community bought the building for the purpose of using it as a community hall.
- The Community Hall was becoming obsolete and the Social Club began transitioning to use the school as the community center.

The End of an Era

- In 1969, the Social Club voted to turn the old hall over to the Fire Commissioners. It was agreed that the old hall would be rented out as a commercial building, while the new hall would be rented out for community events.
- The hall was used for a pool hall for a while, and also rented out for storage.
- During the early 1970's, the Fire Department decided it needed to expand their fire station and so offered up the hall building for sale.

The End of an Era

- **The hall was sold to Roy Eisenhower, who owned the business next door.**
- **In 1973, he had the hall moved to his property. The hall was used as part of his vehicle maintenance business.**
- **In the late 1970's the hall was moved again to another lot of land further west. It was then rented out to private operator's such as a Frenchy's Clothing Store.**

The Moving of the Hall



Moving of the Hall



The End of an Era

- **The hall went through a couple of owners and commercial enterprises during the 1980's & 90's.**
- **In the 1990's, the hall was purchased by Vernon Kynock and it was used for a variety of purposes.**
- **The hall was demolished in 2007, after a 85 year life span.**

The Last Years

As Part of HP Service Center



Change in Building for New Business

