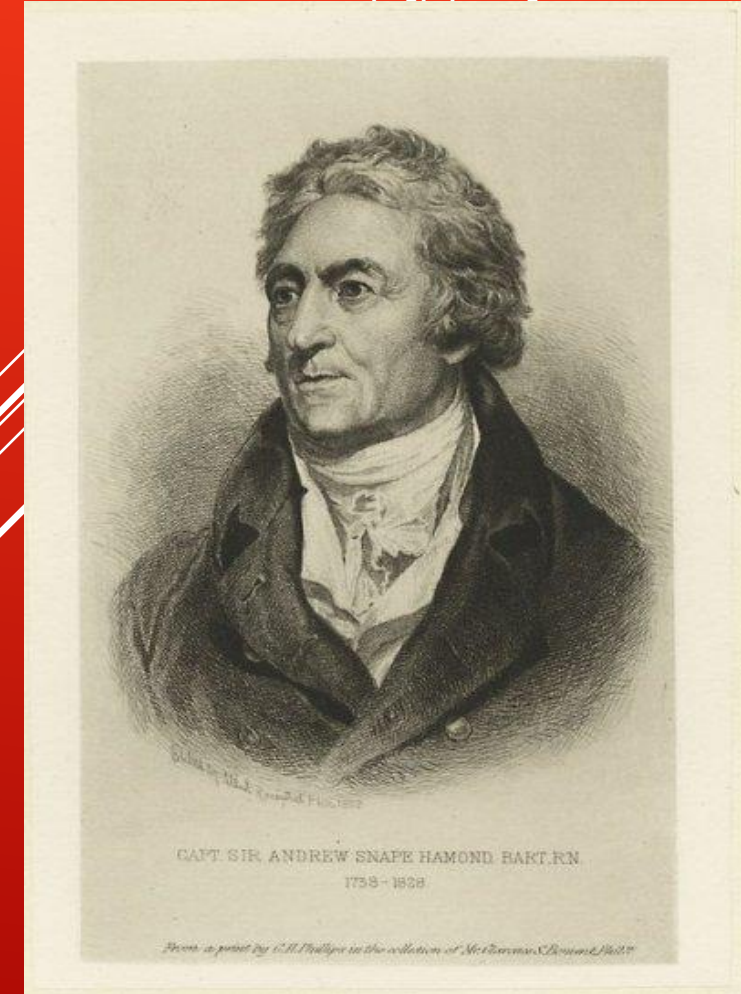


THE MILITARY CONNECTION TO HAMMONDS PLAINS

Presentation to Hammonds
Plains Historical Society –
May 30th

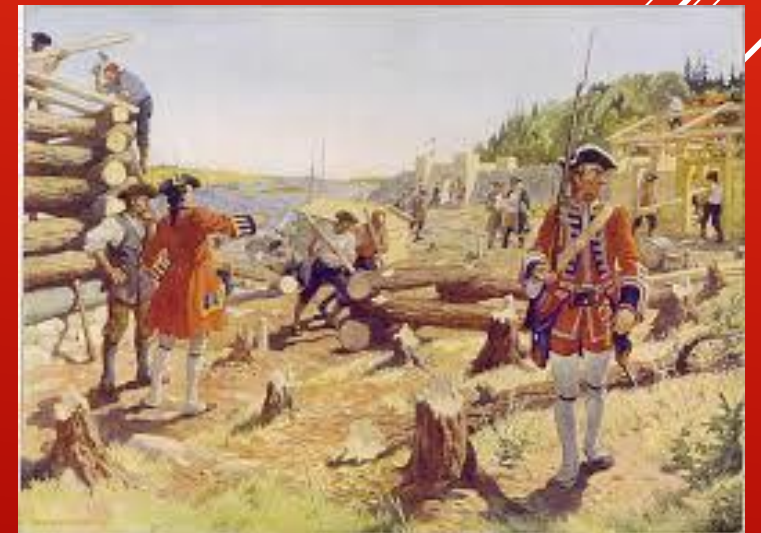


Military Roots go back to the Founding of Halifax

Halifax founded as Military base for English to counteract French presence

Halifax swamped with influx of new settlers – thus a need to create new English settlements – Lunenburg founded in 1753 consisting of French and German protestants

**FOUNDING OF HALIFAX
1749**



- ▶ In Lunenburg, due to hardships and misunderstandings with British Government, settlers soon became disgruntled and rebellion started. Military presence was established.
- ▶ In 1755, the British expelled the Acadians
- ▶ British were still at war with French and feared attacks from the French, Mi' Kmaq (allies of the French) or even new settlers.
- ▶ The British Government saw a need to make a plan to defend Halifax and Lunenburg (Halifax could help defend Lunenburg)
- ▶ Ship travel was unreliable, so discussions started to create a military road between the two.



MILITARY HISTORY – 1750'S

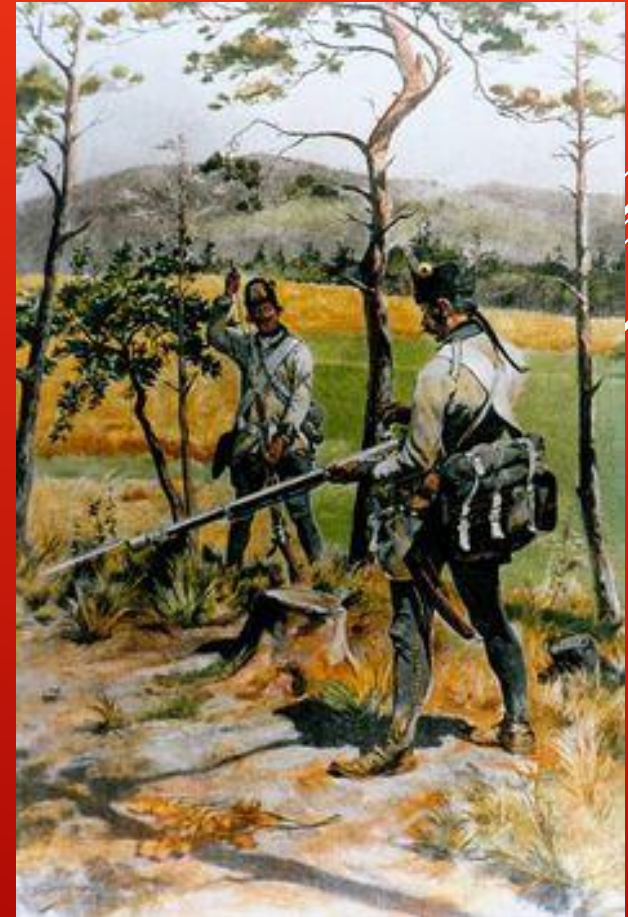
- ▶ **British Government saw a need for regular communication between Halifax and Lunenburg, with road being the preferred method.**
- ▶ **Plans were made to cut a road from Lunenburg to Halifax. A road was cut 10 feet wide from Lunenburg to the head of Bedford Basin. It is believed that this road went through the Hammonds Plains area.**
- ▶ **In 1780, a militia was ordered to travel to Fort Sackville to erect works of defense around Halifax. They were known to travel along this road.**

1760'S – 1770'S



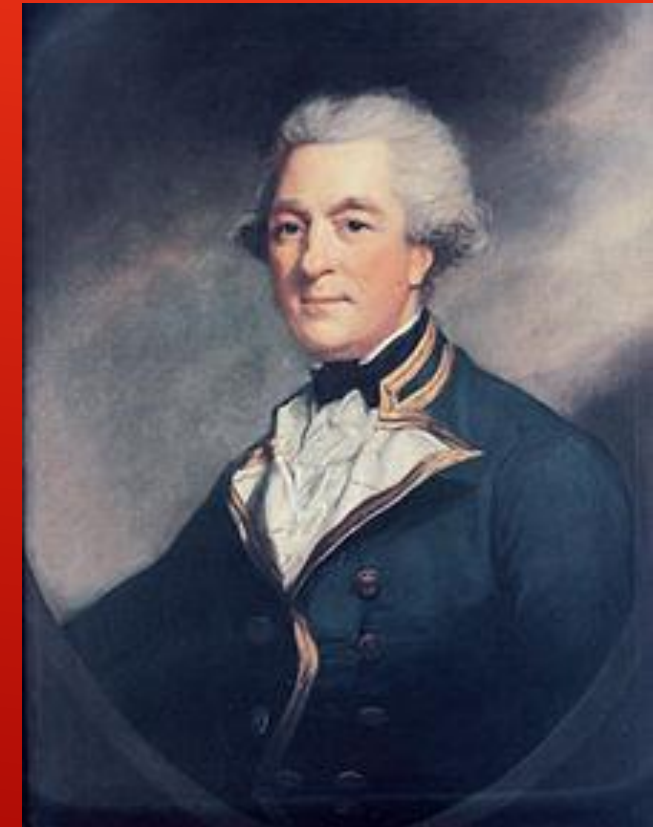
- ▶ 1786 – Hammonds Plains land grants issued.
- ▶ 1786 - American Revolution had just ended. It was a period of tension between the British in Nova Scotia and the rebels of the US.
- ▶ The tension led to a desire to connect the military bases of Halifax and Annapolis Royal via a military road.
- ▶ Proposed Road would go through the new land grants of Hammonds Plains. Grant owners offered to pay expenses for surveying the road through their lands.
- ▶ Road was not built (at this time)

FOUNDING OF HAMMONDS PLAINS 1786



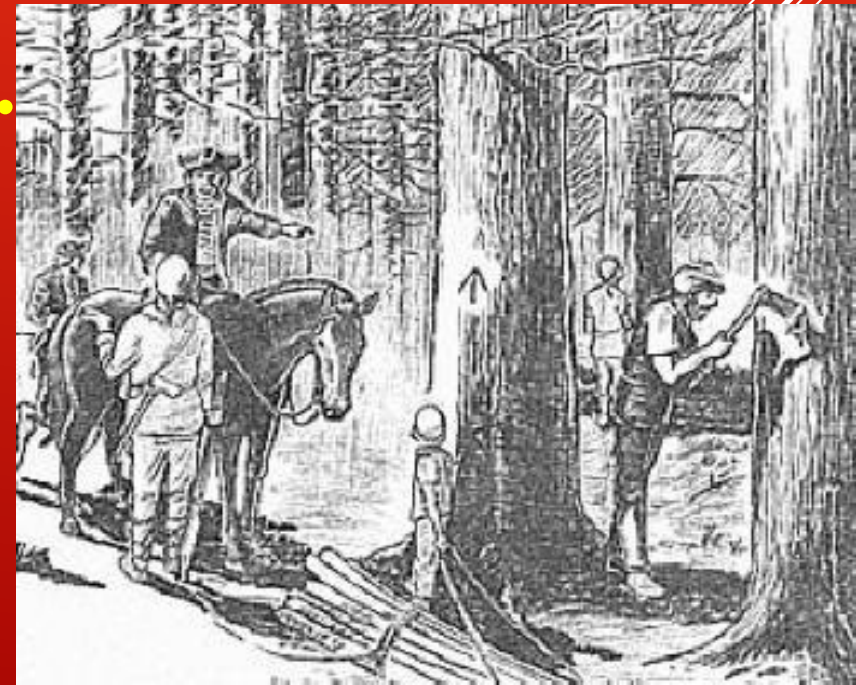
- ▶ **New Grants named after Sir Andrew Snape Hamond (Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia 1781-82)**
- ▶ **Hamond was a British Naval Officer (Prominent Military Figure)**

**FOUNDING OF HAMMONDS PLAINS
1786**



- ▶ The forests of Hammonds Plains provided masts for Ships, including military vessels.
- ▶ A large land area south of the original grants was reserved for the King (called the 'Kings Woods').

THE EARLY YEARS



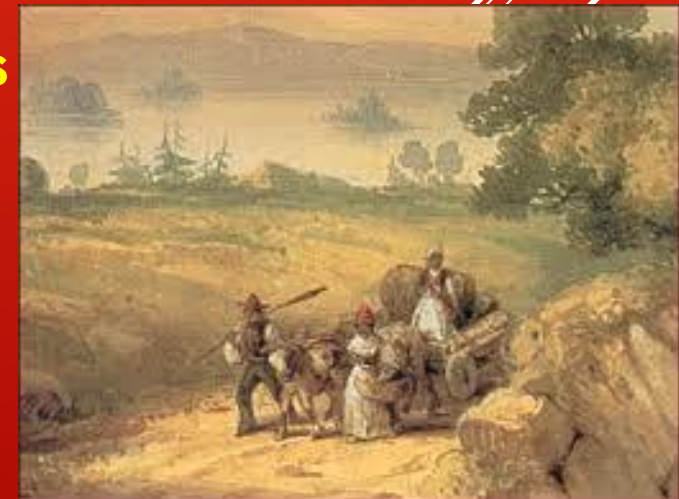
- ▶ In 1791, a way of meeting the expense of the ongoing war with France, England imposed a poll tax in their colonies. This provided the first recorded record of settlers in Hammonds Plains.

THE POLL TAX OF 1791



- ▶ The Napoleonic Wars caused concern for Britain and Halifax was upgraded as military base – increasing need for timber. Much of the timber came from Hammonds Plains area, thus providing the first push for mills in the area.
- ▶ The War of 1812 saw increased military presence in Halifax. After the war, disbanded soldiers and the Chesapeake Blacks who had fought for the British were granted land in the Hammonds Plains Area.
- ▶ Chesapeake Blacks granted land in 1816 (become Upper Hammonds Plains) / Disbanded Soldiers granted land in Wellington (named after Duke of Wellington) in 1822.
- ▶ Wellington grants never fully settled. Community becomes new community of Kemptown in early 1800's (named after Sir James Kempt – Lieutenant Governor 1820 – British Army Officer)

EARLY 1800'S





Hammonds Plains Area settled as a direct result of War

CONCLUSION



THE STORY OF THE 'CURLEW'

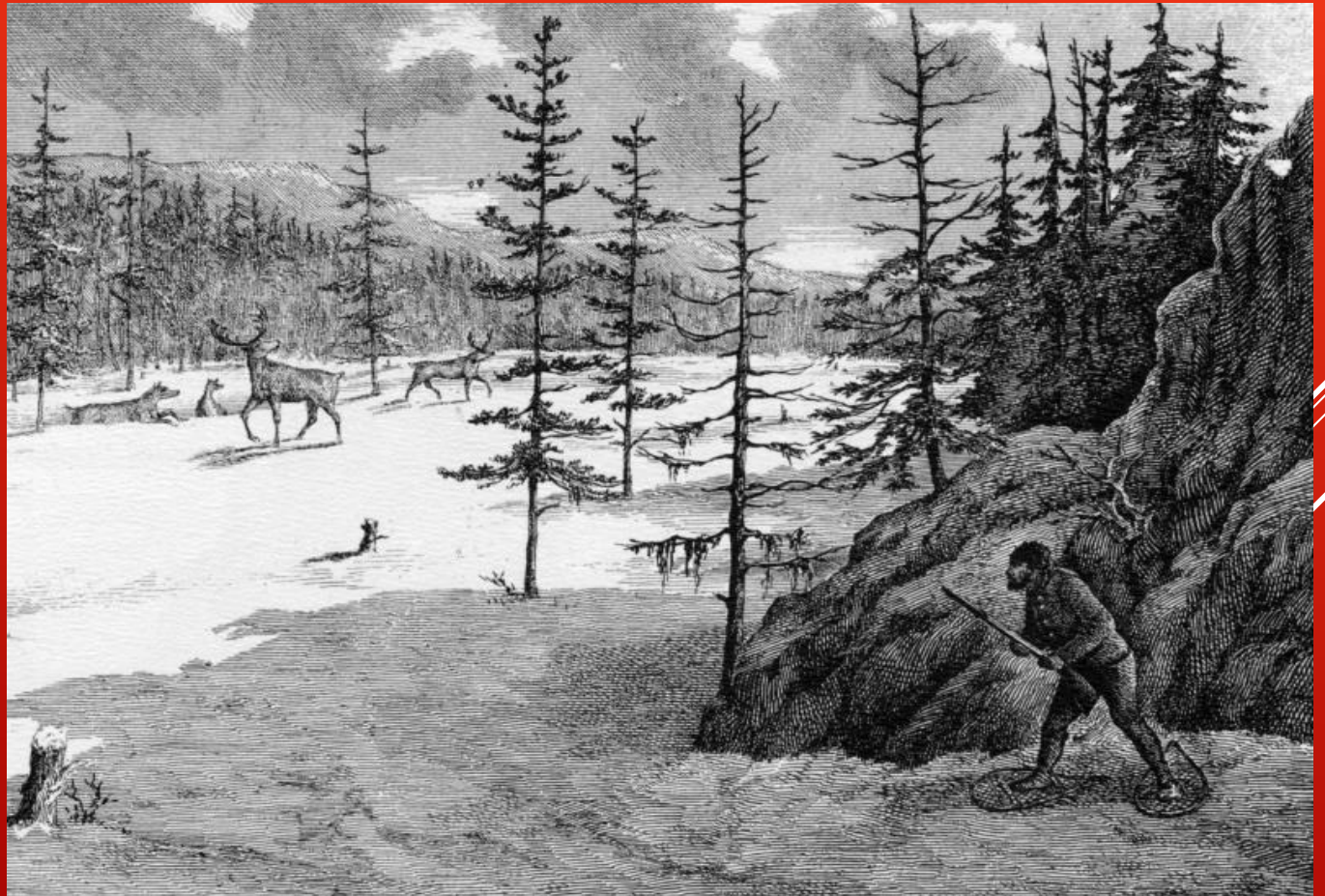
- ▶ The keel of the One Mast Sloop built in Hammonds Plains by Nathaniel Melvin and Bezanson brothers (1815-25?). Melvin was a shipbuilder from Chester, recently moved to Hammonds Plains.
- ▶ Used two large sleds to haul the ship to Bedford Basin using oxen.
- ▶ Used as shipping vessel, but was instrumental in capture of American Privateer off coast of Nova Scotia.

THE CURLEW STORY

There is evidence of military activity in Hammonds Plains area during the 1800's. May have been training facilities near Cox's Lake.

British Soldiers stationed at Citadel Hill often hired guides to take them hunting in the Hammonds Plains area.

1800'S



- ▶ Was basically business as usual in Hammonds Plains. Lumber business was healthy in supporting industry, related to war effort.
- ▶ Community supported Patriotic Fund, to raise funds for the war effort.
- ▶ Citizens joined the military

1914-18 WORLD WAR 1



Enlisting during World War

McKerron Anderson

Bliss Brown

Thomas Goffigan

Christopher Haverstock

Warren Haverstock

Richard Symonds

Walter Allison

Harold Copp

Charlie Harris

Walter Haverstock

Parker Romans

Charles Wilson

Tom Bellfield

Maurice Eisenhauer

Chester Smith

Wallace Romans

WW1 - JOINING THE FIGHT

- ▶ Born and raised in Lower Hammonds Plains
- ▶ Died in Arras, France in 1918 in combat at age 27.
- ▶ Name appears on Vimy Memorial

CHRISTOPHER HAVERSTOCK

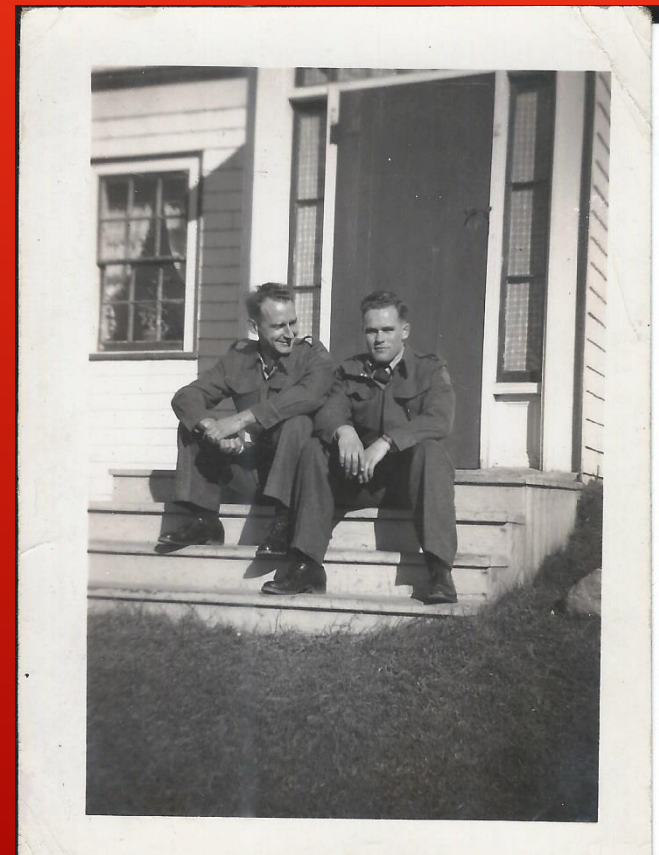




CHRISTOPHER HAVERSTOCK

- ▶ **Booming Economy in Hammonds Plains during the war, big demand for labour, mills going full out.**
- ▶ **Approximately 23 residents sign up to join the military**
- ▶ **Community was used as training ground by local military – training exercises, mock battles**
- ▶ **Several Dug outs built along road to support soldiers if they came under attack.**
- ▶ **Small military base built along Hammonds Plains Road (near intersection of Hammonds Plains Road and Kearney Lake Road)**
- ▶ **Residents and businesses lived with shortages - rubber, steel, tin, leather, types of food and gas**
- ▶ **Community Social Events organized to support the war effort**
- ▶ **IODE leads War Service Fund raising and supplies being sent to the front**
- ▶ **Halifax residents rush to Hammonds Plains area after Magazine Explosion**

WORLD WAR 2



Hammonds Plains Residents who joined the military during WW2

Hollis Collishaw

Morton Eisenhauer

Clyde Haverstock

Burton Melvin

Gerald Romans

Robert Romans

Irvin Smith

Roy Swindells

Douglas Eisenhauer

Raymond Eisenhauer

Donald Haverstock

Allan Romans

Granville Romans

Arthur Smith

Kenneth Smith

Arleigh Melvin

Evelyn Eisenhauer

Christopher Haverstock

Douglas Haverstock

Charles Romans

Jack Romans

Clarence Smith

Ivan Swindells

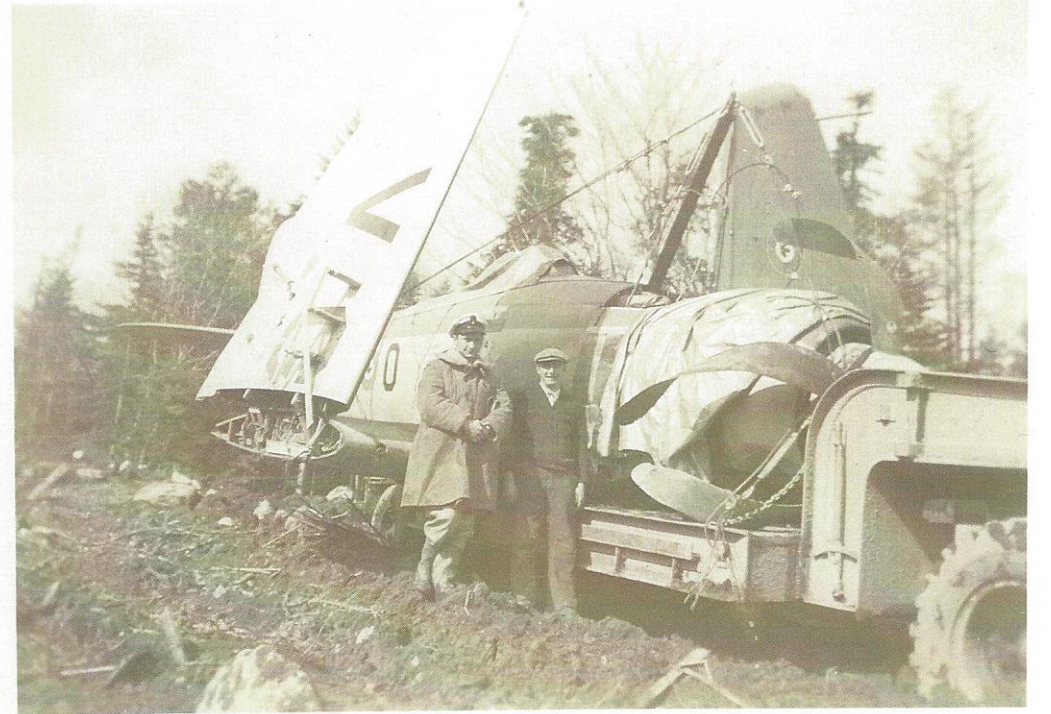
* Robert Deal – Kearney Lake Road – Died in action in Italy 1944 (Gravestone H P Baptist Cemetery)

WW2 – JOINING THE FIGHT

- **Military Plane crashed at Wright's Lake – March 1951**
- **Four military planes were on training exercises, circling Wright's Lake. One of the planes experienced engine trouble and crashed into the lake. One of the other planes circling the crash site, clipped a tree and crashed into the woods. Pilot who crashed into lake was rescued, but pilot who crashed into trees was killed.**



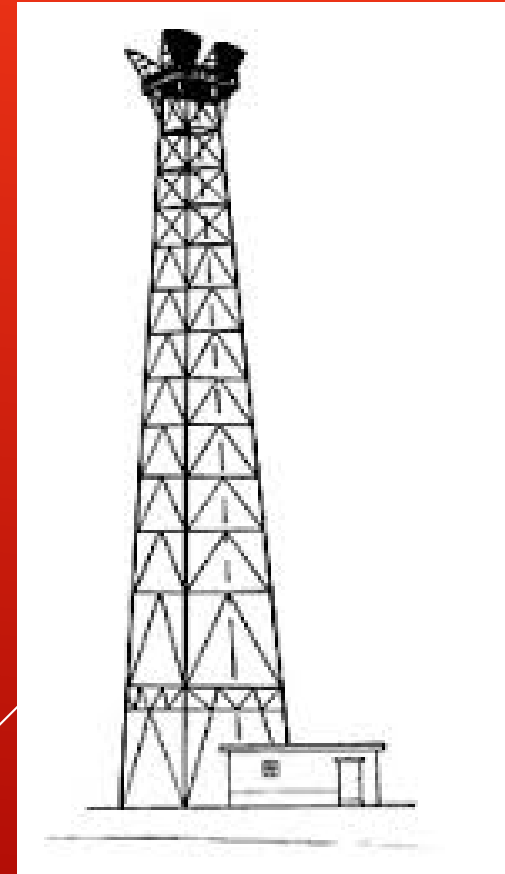
1951 PLANE CRASH



1951 PLANE CRASH

- ▶ **Air raid sirens in Community**
- ▶ **School kids practice evacuations**
- ▶ **Two Military Communication Bases are erected - Receiver site next to First Lake and transmitter site at Wallace Hill (Both with large antenna's. This was part of the microwave radio system that was situated on Citadel Hill. Served as warning system as part of the cold war. Operational starting 1953.**
- ▶ **Bases closed down when the Debert Warning System became operational in 1965.**

THE COLD WAR YEARS



- ▶ After the introduction of subdivisions into Hammonds Plains in the 1960's, an increasingly number of residents were permanent military personnel. Since that time, countless residents have served in the military, working out of Shearwater or CFB Halifax Windsor Park, Stadacona, Dockyard).
- ▶ Members of the community have been involved in recent world conflicts such as Afghanistan.

1960'S – 2000'S



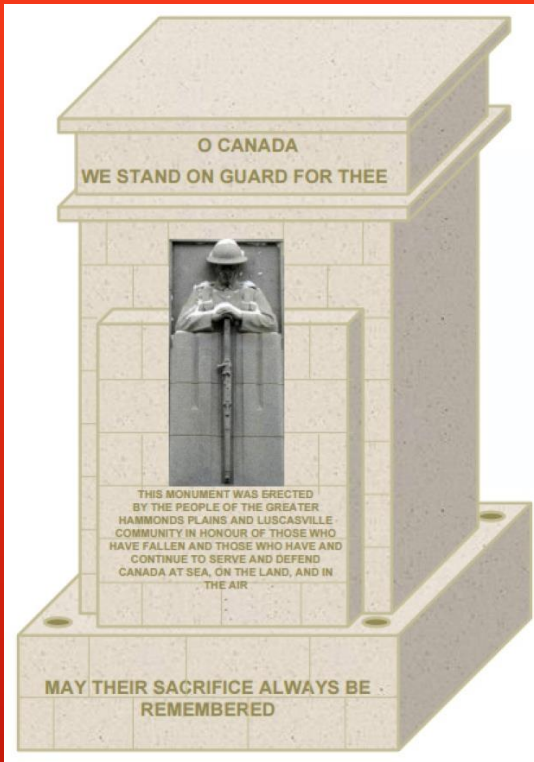
- ▶ In 2011, the first Remembrance Day Ceremony was organized in the community (at Phil Eisenhauer Field).
- ▶ Since 2011, there have been ceremonies each year, with increasing numbers.
- ▶ In 2014, the ceremony was moved to Uplands Park
- ▶ Last two years, approximately 2000 attended

HAMMONDS PLAINS REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY





REMEMBRANCE DAY – HAMMONDS PLAINS 2011-16



THE NEW CENOTAPH