

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Impact of COVID-19 – March 2021 Update

While there is encouraging news on the COVID-19 front, the Hammonds Plains Historical Society is still waiting to make plans on holding in person events. Our March (March 29th) general meeting has been cancelled due to public health concerns.

Our Board of Directors has not made an official decision yet in regards to our May meeting. This will be done at the April BOD meeting. We are still anticipating that we will be able to hold a general meeting safely at some point in 2021.

Our web page has been completely revamped. If you are looking for historical information on Hammonds Plains, this is a good resource to start with. New to the web page are a series of short articles about Hammonds Plains past life entitled 'Echoes of the Past', which the society has been writing for the local 'Neighbours of Hammonds Plains' magazine. These are met to peak interest in the events, places and people of Hammonds Plains of years gone by.

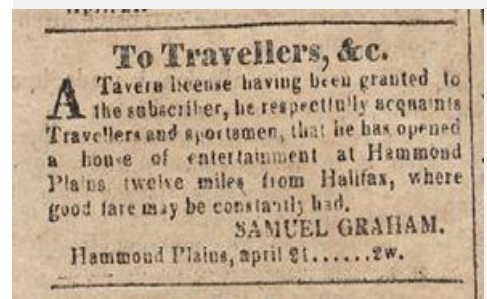
The Board of Directors continues to meet on a regular basis using a virtual format. We have been discussing strategies related to our updated Strategic Plan. We plan to share some news in terms of upcoming projects in the coming months.



Our First House of Entertainment?



The following ad appeared in the Acadian Recorder Newspaper on April 28, 1832. The ad is advertising the fact that Samuel Graham has just acquired a Tavern License to open a house of entertainment in Hammonds Plains. Samuel Graham owned property just below where Kingswood is today, so it is thought that the intended house was in that area. It is not known whether the license became a reality or not.



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 Lumber Camp

When saw mills dotted the landscape of Hammonds Plains during the late 1800's and early 1900's the lumber camp was an ingredient part of the mill business. It was a camp built in the woods near a cutting site where the mill lumberjacks would spend the winter cutting logs, piling them and transferring the logs by horse to a nearby lake for spring delivery to the mill. Most of the lumber camps had a cook and an adjacent building where horses were kept.



Shown above are two Lumber Camps that were located in the Pockwock Lake area. In the top picture, the cook is taking a break from his cooking responsibilities.

News From the Past

From Halifax Herald October 16th 1957

Hammonds Plains News

Mrs. Melvin Eisenhauer entertained 16 members of Saint Nicholas Sewing Circle on Thursday of last week, following the sewing hour a little surprise took place, it being Mrs. E. Rafuse's birthday they presented her with a small gift and a birthday cake.

Miss Mae Wright spent the weekend in New Glasgow where she attended the wedding of her cousin, Percy Wright to Miss Partner which took place there on Saturday.

Leaders of the CGIT held an initiation meeting on Friday evening in the vestry when four new members were initiated, the evening was then spend in games, songs and stunts after which refreshments were served. The regular meeting will be held on Friday October 18 at 7:30pm.

The regular monthly meeting of Admiral Provo Wallis Chapter IODE was held on Monday evening at the Community Hall with the Regent, Mrs. Earl Haverstock presiding. A highlight of this meeting was a visit to the Chapter by the Provincial President, Mrs. G. D. Anderson and Mrs. J. N. Seaman of Halifax and as well the members of W. S. Fielding Chapter of Sackville.

Mrs. Anderson spoke to the members in a most entertaining and informal way of the Order, referring to it as a "million dollar philanthropy." She pointed out that there are more than 950 primary chapters throughout Canada, and that the strength of the Order lies in the work that each small group contributes.

It was previously announced that the Chapter would hold a Halloween Supper in the Community Hall on Saturday November 2nd, but due to unforeseen circumstances, it has been decided to cancel these plans.

At the close of the evening delicious refreshments were served by a committee consisting of Miss Mae Wright, Mrs. Earl Haverstock, Mrs. Charles Romans and Mrs. Weldon Robbins.

From School to Community Hub



The Hammonds Plains
School as it looked in
1939

Today, the Hammonds Plains Community Center stands opposite the Hammonds Plains Fire Department as a multipurpose center ready to greet the community for any number of social, recreational or business functions, but, how many know the intriguing history of the center?

The building was originally built by residents in 1939 as the community school. It served the educational needs of the children of Hammonds Plains for 28 years until Hammonds Plains Consolidated School was built in 1967. The original school opened as a two classroom building with 51 students registered. The school didn't have electricity when it opened and had two external outhouses attached to it along with a wood shed. Not surprising, the students didn't seem as interested in having a bathroom break during the winter as much as they did during the spring and fall seasons.

The students of the 1940's often told stories of their baseball games in which the Hammonds Plains Road was part of the playing field. Interesting enough, the students didn't have to yell 'car' very often and as such, very games were interrupted by passing vehicles.

To keep up with the post WW2 growth in Hammonds Plains, the school added a full basement and two additional classrooms during the 1940's-50's. During this time the Labour Day Picnic became a celebrated event as the whole community devoted their time and resources to hold the annual fair each year complete with games of chance, a community supper and dance to fund the operation of the school. Folks came from far and wide to try those famous Hammonds Plains homemade pies! Seniors still talk about the year the Labour Day Picnic was held during a hurricane and what they had to do to secure everything.

With construction of Hammonds Plains Consolidated School, the old school was turned into a Community Hall, including a full kitchen and bar. The Hammonds Plains Fire Commissioners managed its operation. Monday nights became the social evening of the week with firefighting training. After the volunteer Fire Fighters met to train and the serious stuff was over, it was known that folks gathered to share a slightly inflated yarn or two.

During the past 30 years, conversion from a Fire Department asset to operation by a non-profit society has taken place. In recent years, the building has been repurposed as a community center with significant capital investment to address safety concerns and operating inefficiencies.

Today the Community Center offers a wide assortment of activities and with a proper baseball field located in the rear of the property, our 80 year old guardian angel no longer needs to protect the youth from oncoming cars as they chase after base balls.

The Sunday School Picnic

During the mid-1900's, one of the most anticipated events in the community each year was the Sunday School Picnic. It was organized by the First Baptist Church but anyone in the community could attend. Each year residents in the community would gather for a big picnic at a local park. On the day of the picnic, benches would be put in the back of one of the local mill delivery trucks and then would drive through the community picking up folks in front of their residence to transport them to the picnic. The truck was most often jammed pack by the time it picked up the last resident. At the Picnic families would play games, go swimming and enjoy a picnic together. Queensland Beach was a popular destination.



Picture of a local mill truck at Queensland Beach. Note that a ladder was used for folks to get up on the back of the truck.



A picnic style lunch was a big part of the day