

NOVEMBER 2022 / 2022-23 Edition 2

Hammonds Plains Historical Society Newsletter

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

What's Going on!

We have finally decided the time has come to try an in person general meeting once again. It has been almost 3 years since we last got together for a presentation in person. We are looking forward to this opportunity and interested to see if folks feel comfortable in attending in person again.

However, the meeting actually be a so-called hybrid meeting, with an online option, via Zoom, as well. The zoom link will be sent out to our contact list a few days before the event.

Our November general meeting on **November 28th (7pm)** will be held at the Cornerstone Wesleyan Church, located at 1215 Hammonds Plains Road. The presentation for the evening will be **Bonding with the Basin – The Historic Connections Between Hammonds Plains & Bedford**. The presentation will unlock the traditional bonds between the two neighbouring villages.

To encourage attendance at our November meeting we are offering door prizes, which will be certificates to a couple of Hammonds Plains restaurants.

We do encourage folks who will be attending in person to consider wearing a mask and maintain social distancing, as recommended by Public Health. We appreciated everyone's support in protecting the vulnerable, as we continue to navigate our way through COVID.

The presentation for our January 30th meeting will be 'Elbow Grease and Road Side Gigs - A Generational Look at the Evolution of Commence in Hammonds Plains'.

Memberships are now being accepted for the 2022-23. See page 2 for details.

On our Facebook page, we have started sharing photos from our collection of old Hammonds Plains. See page 2 for details.



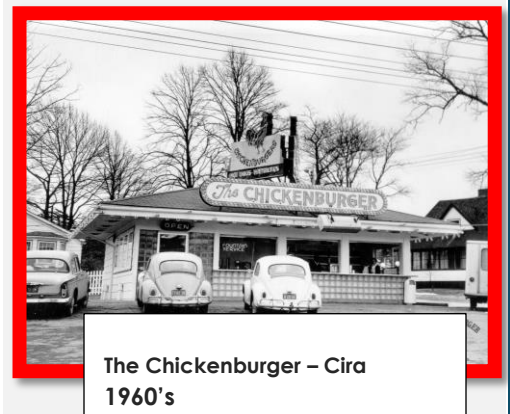
November 28th – 7pm

Bonding with the Basin – The Historic Connections Between Hammonds Plains & Bedford



Join us on November 28th for **Bonding with the Basin – The Historic Connections Between Hammonds Plains & Bedford**. The presentation for the evening will be **Bonding with the Basin – The Historic Connections Between Hammonds Plains & Bedford**. The presentation will unlock the traditional bonds between the two neighbouring villages and present some surprising influences that you probably are not aware of.

For many residents of Hammonds Plains in the mid 1900's their first exposure to fast foods, was a trip to the CHICKENBURGER.



The Chickenburger – Circa 1960's

Our New Weekly Snapshots Series on Facebook



How to Become 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 haverstockdave@gmail.com or mailing to 1541 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia B4B 1P6. Annual fee is \$10.

If you have been a member in the past, no need to fill out a new registration form. Registration forms are available by copying from our web site for new members only.

An e-transfer can be sent to the above e-mail address as payment for membership fees.

Donations will also be graciously accepted.

On our Facebook page, we have started posting weekly pictures of some of the past photos of Hammonds Plains life that we have in our collection. One new photo will be posted each weekend, with an accompanying short description of the picture. We encourage folks to view the photos, click on the like button if you enjoy the picture and make a comment if the photos invokes memories, connections or if you have family history related to the photo. Please check it out.

The following is a sample of one of our postings.

For much of the 1900's, swimming at Schmidt Lake was a popular summer spot for the residents of Hammonds Plains. Here is a photo circa 1920's of Hammonds Plains residents swimming at Schmidt's Lake. As you can see the swimming styles are much different than today. Shown are sisters Bernice, Beatrice and Myrthe Haverstock along with Elsie McEachern.



This photo shows the former Forrester's Community Hall being moved from it's site at the east side of the Fire Station to the west side of the Station, after the building had been decommissioned as a community hall. This photo was taken in 1973 after the hall was purchased by Hammonds Plains businessman, Roy Eisenhauer. On the day this photo was taken, Eisenhauer was having the hall moved to his property, located just on the other side of the fire station.



- This article appeared in The Daily News, October 31, 1994. It is interview done with Dorothy Bezanson Evans after she wrote her book 'Hammonds Plains – The First 100 Years'. It is a fastening read of the immense contribution of Dorothy had in recording the history of Hammonds Plains.

History, she writes, is about hope and home – The Daily News

Having completed a 284 page history, Dorothy Bezanson Evans decided to go a further step. Now she traced the roots of her home village, Hammonds Plains.

“It’s been 30 years in the making,” Evans says. “I didn’t really intend to do this. I was looking for genealogy, trying to find where my grandfather went to school. I never did”.

What she found instead, rummaging through the Registry of Deeds, the Public Archives and court houses, was enough material to publish, at 82, a most ambitious book.

Hammonds Plains: The First 100 Years celebrates the village just outside Bedford in 152 pages and 90 photos.

It’s Evans ninth publication. Among them are extensive or partial genealogies of 30 Hammonds Plains families: Melvin, Burns, English, Gibson, Gillian, Gownds, Johnson, Kehoe, McQuade, Pace, Pulsifer, Schaffer, Wamboldt, Eisenhauer, Frizzell, Mason, Smith, Boutilier, Anderson, Taylor, Haverstock, Hays, Romans, Thomas, Langille, Thomson, Worrall, Schmidt and Wright.

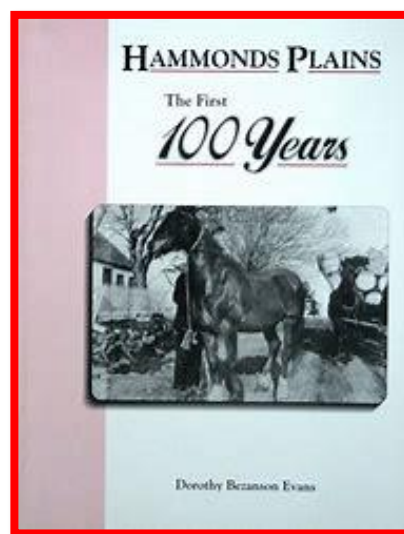
“There’s a lot of work in these, an awful lot of research,” says the retired Westmount Elementary Halifax school teacher. “But if you get hooked, you get into it. You find a little bit and then you want some more”

Too often history is written in a vainglorious style, as if our forefathers, purposeful and fearless marched forward to tackle destiny.

For Evans, history is a matter of hope and homes. ***Hammonds Plains: The First 100 Years*** is the story of people.

Sure, there are maps and government decrees. But the body of the work is remarkably accessible. What could be dismissed as daily chores are explained with careful insight. And community events are celebrated as the occasions they were.

“The box social was another means of (groups) raising money,” Evans writes “Each young lady filled a box with lunch for two, then decorated the box to suit her fancy. It was auctioned off, and the highest bidder won the privilege of eating lunch with the young lady, and taking her home afterwards.”



Front Cover of Dorothy Bezanson Evans Book. It is now considered the bible of Hammonds Plains early history

Don’t think this is glossy, everything-is-wonderful approach to local history. The book’s longest chapters concerns the black community of Upper Hammonds Plains, which came north from the Baltimore area during

the War of 1812. Evans takes exception to a functionary of the time by writing:

“He overlooked the one thing which, in the long run, made all the difference, i. e. the color of their skin. A white man might walk the earth with ... a heart as foul as sin; strangers passing by without a second glance would not discern his vile nature from his appearance. But let a black man come along ...”

As well as a heroic effort, Evan's new book is a work of love. She was helped in her project by her husband, George, who died six years ago. It's dedicated to him, and a photo on the back cover shows the two of them standing beside the George Dauphinee home they shared for 38 years. It was the last photo of the couple ever taken.



Here is the photo of Dorothy and her husband, George that is referred to the above paragraph.

Still, when Evans finally had the research completed, she hesitated.

“I agonized over doing it. I had to cash a GIC to get it done. I thought and thought about it

in the middle of the night and then I thought: I really owe it to him to finish this after all the work he did”

Hammonds Plains: The First 100 Years is self-published, and on sale at Frog Hollow, The Book Room and Smith Books in metro, and Reader's Choice in New Midas. Or you can call up Dorothy's grandson in Hammonds Plains.

“My grandson David Evans, he went up and down Hammonds Plains on his bicycle, and sold quite a few copies. We gave him a commission on each one and he was trilled to death.”



The House where Dorothy grew up. It was located across the road from Mason's Pond, in the area where the mini strip mall containing Hammonds Plains PharmaChoice is located to-day.

The Hammonds Plains Historical Society has copies of Hammonds Plains: First 100 Years which can purchased for \$15. If interested you can e-mail hphsociety@gmail.com and we can make arrangements to get a copy to you or you can pick up at our November 28th general meeting.