

MARCH 2025 / 2024-25 Edition 4

HAMMONDS PLAINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

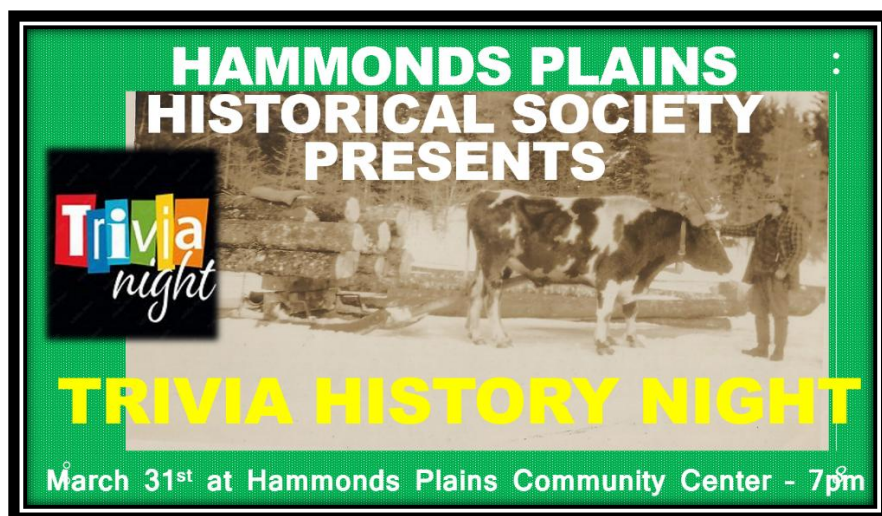
Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

2025 Society News

It's time again to have an evening of fun and trivia!

The Hammonds Plains Historical Society are pleased to announce it's second Hammonds Plains Historical Trivia Night. On Monday March 31st at 7pm, at the Hammonds Plains Community Center (2041 Hammonds Plains Road), the society will be playing trivia at it's March meeting. Come and test your knowledge of the history of the area. Guaranteed to be a fun way to learn about the community's rich and fascinating history! Three games will be played with prizes given for each game.



The Society has been busy producing a digital album entitled 'Hammonds Plains of the 1960's'. Come and see our final product at our May General Meeting.



OUR UPCOMING TRIVIA NIGHT



Join us on March 31st for a game of Hammonds Plains Trivia. 60 questions total will be asked (30 multiple choice and 30 fill in the blanks). Questions will span all levels of knowledge about the community, from well known facts to some rather obscure historical tidbits from the past.

Here's a sampling to test your skills:

In the 1950's Hammonds Plains was given serious consideration for what new major local facility?

- a. Site of new Airport**
- b. First Mall in Halifax region**
- c. New Halifax County Library**
- d. The First 2 Screen Movie Theatre in Halifax Area**

- Answer to the above question will be given at the start of the March 31st meeting.

Becoming a 2024-25 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.

Views of Our Past



In winter, the Hammonds Plains Road used to be a challenge to keep open after major snow storms. This photo from the 1950's, depicts what the road looked like after a big storm. Before 1947, residents of the community were responsible for keeping the road plowed. The white houses you see in the photo still are standing. The large darker house on top of the hill on the left is now gone but was situated where Woodhaven Camp Ground is today.

OUR MAY AGM MEETING – MAY 25TH

For our AGM at the May HPHS meeting, we are once again doing a photo sharing session. The session will be entitled 'Inviting Images – Part 2' and we will be having a discussion about some of our more interesting historical photos in our collection. Come and share memories of the past and learn about fascinating tidbits of our history.

The meeting will also serve as our AGM, with annual reports being presented.

The meeting will take place at the Cornerstone Wesleyan Church.

Here is one of the photos we will be sharing at the meeting:



This photo is of Pockwock Lake before being taken over by Halifax Water. Prior to the 1970's, it was a beacon for fishing, swimming and boating, along being an important lake for the forestry industry in the area.

An Old-Fashioned Phone Scram:

Did You Know that the community of Hammonds Plains once operated its own phone company? The Hammonds Plains Phone Company existed from 1903 – 1947.

This story from Eastern Chronicle, Friday, 7 October 1904, shows that in even in the early years of phones, scammers had already discovered ways to trick folks into giving up their possessions. An interesting read from those early years.

***Reprinted from Facebook Page – Stories and Photos of Nova Scotia**

Five of the Family Now Under Arrest

-----Halifax, N.S. Oct. 3 — For the past three months Halifax merchants have been victimized by two young girls, Hazel and Irene Gray, aged 18 and 16 respectively, whose home is at Prince's Lodge, by a very ruse. They would telephone into the city from Bedford or Rockingham to various stores using names of residents of repute in the vicinity and have goods sent out on the suburban train and dropped off by the on-train baggage master at Birch Cove or some other small unstaffed station. Residents of Bedford and vicinity have received bills which were repudiated and the merchants commenced to think something was wrong.

-----Today Mahon Bros. and G.M. Smith, leading dry goods stores, received orders for goods to be sent to Birch Cove station, the name of Mrs. Kerr and Mrs. Gorham being used. The firms had heard rumours of what had happened to other city firms and before sending the goods consulted the chief of police, who put Detective Power on the case and he in company with two other officers went out on the train, bogus parcels being sent along and put off at the station as directed.

-----The police then laid in wait and in a short time two girls came and took the parcels. The police then jumped out, but the girls ran screaming into the woods and were finally captured, but not without a desperate fight. The

prisoners were brought to the city and locked up. Both are handsome girls and come of most respectable families.

-----The arrest on Monday of the two young Gray girls on the charge of victimizing City merchants, caused a mild sensation yesterday, Oct. 6th, when it became known who the parties were. Several of the merchants who lost goods held another conference with the police yesterday and as a result warrants were issued and three more arrests were made. Those who were taken into custody yesterday were Alfred Gray aged 19, Daisy Gray aged 22 and Mabel Gray. This makes five members of the one family arrested for complicity in the affair.

-----In addition to the firms previously mentioned as having been victimized, several other business men called on the police yesterday and reported that they had lost goods. E. Wright, grocer on Campbell Road recently received a rush order by telephone for a case of baked beans, the person stating that a lady intended giving a bean supper to some friends. The goods were sent, but no money was paid. Maling & Co. on Barrington Street also sent out roast beef and beefsteak on a telephone order. J.J. O'Brien, hair dresser sent out two costly pairs of switches. They were taken to the party at Bedford by one of Mr. O'Brien's staff only to find that the person did not order them and in consequence they were not delivered. It is thought that a lot of the goods has been sent out of the City, to another relative of the family.

-----From information obtained by the police it is alleged that Alfred carried on operations with the aid of a boat on Bedford Basin, taking delivery of the goods from his sisters after they removed them from the station platform, and then taking them to a place of safety. All five persons were arraigned in Court yesterday afternoon and remanded until Friday morning for trial before Stipendary Fielding. The prisoners have been released on bail.



Common Hammonds Plains sights of the past that we no longer see!



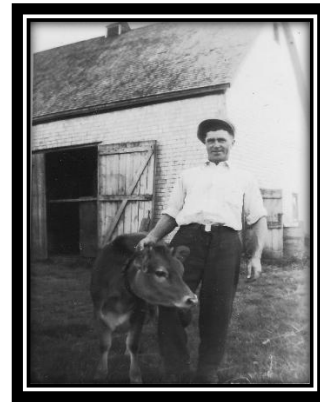
Log booms were once common on the Hammonds Plains Lakes. The logs were gathered in the winter/spring and transferred a sawmill before summer. Any lake that had a mill, also had log booms.



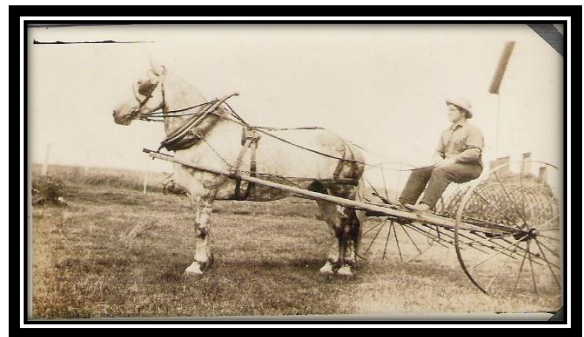
The Halifax County **Book Mobile** made regular stops in Hammonds Plains, at one time. Residents could visit the book mobile and sign out reading materials, to be kept until the next visit.



Each residence in Hammonds Plains once had **stand alone mail boxes**. These were all located on the right side of the Hammonds Plains Road, just like the one pictured in the center of the photo above.



There was a time when many residents had their own **barns**, in which farm animals were kept. Today only a few commercial barns are present in the community. No residential ones are left.



During the summer months, **hay making** was a very common sight in the community. The hay was used to feed the farm animals which populated the village.