

HAMMONDS PLAINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

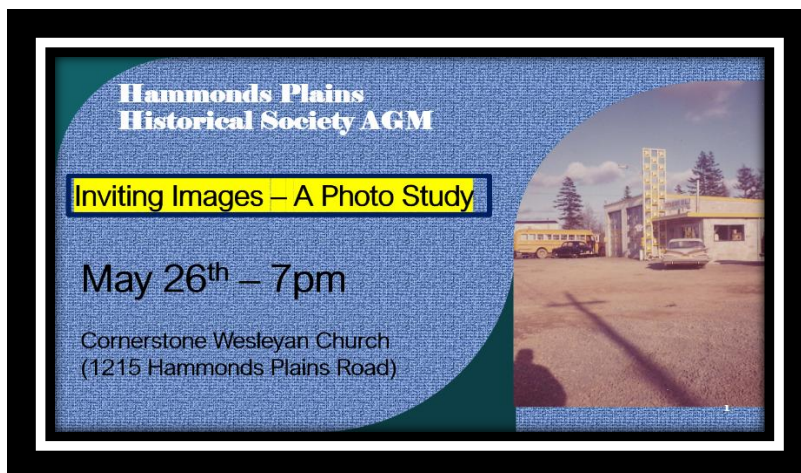
Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

2025 May Society News

OUR AGM

The Society will be hosting its AGM on Monday May 26th at 7pm, at the Cornerstone Wesleyan Church (1215 Hammonds Plains Road). The AGM is our yearly meeting in which we submit yearly reports and hold our Board of Directors elections.

Our presentation for May 26th is entitled 'Inviting Images – Part 2'. As we did at our AGM last year, will be hosting a photo study of some of our collection of historic Hammonds Plains photos. We will be including a discussion of what each photos shows, who is in the photo, when and where the photo was taken, and the historical significance of the images. Join us on May 26th for an engaging and interesting look at our past.



Our Annual Report for the past year is located on page 4 of this newsletter.



Our New Painting

Local artist, Jean MacKaracher-Watson recently painted a scene based on one of our historic photos and donated it to the society. The photo is a logging winter scene depicting Hammonds Plains resident Lawson Romans hauling a horse drawn sled of logs in the woods during the 1930's.



The following shows the painting of the scene:



We will be unveiling the painting at the May AGM

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



This photo was taken in the early 1900's in Yankeetown. It shows lifelong and well known Hammonds Plains residents Robert & Maude Frizzell, along with son William, outside Smith's Cooper Shop, which was located along the Yankeetown Road.

News From Our Past

Hammonds Plains News from Halifax Mail Star November 13, 1950

The extra line which is being added to the line from Hammonds Plains to Bedford is almost completed and those who have been waiting for a long time for telephones expect to have them installed in a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Eisenhower were guests of honor recently at a surprise party given them at the home of their son and daughter-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Eisenhower, Halifax on their 45th wedding anniversary. Many gifts and messages of congratulations. A chicken dinner was served. Present were their daughter, (Vivian), Mr. and Mrs. George Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harris and Mrs. Eisenhower's sister, Mrs. Lewis Romans, all of Hammonds Plains and Mr. and Mrs. Morgan of Armdale and Mr. and Mrs. Hartlen, Halifax.

William Romans marked his 87th birthday here. He had a number of callers during the day and received gifts, a birthday cake and messages of congratulations.

Admiral Provo Wallis Chapter I.O.D.E. are grateful to those who helped so generously to make their Halloween supper a success. The proceeds amounted to \$158. The wool blanket was won by Mrs. Douglas Eisenhower.

Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Haverstock and son, Ross and two daughters, Muriel and Audrey, visited friends at Dean's.

Nelson Haverstock accompanied by Douglas Grout and Lawrence Crowe visited friends in Canning.

The Baptist Sewing Circle was entertained at the home of Misses Myrtle and Beatrice Haverstock. Plans were discussed to hold a pre-Christmas supper and sale of plain sewing and fancy work at the A.O.F. Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 29. Lunch was served by the hostess.

Recent visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Romans were Miss M. Henderson, Dartmouth and Mrs. E. Tanner, Kingston, Nova Scotia.

Recent visitors at the home of Mrs. Martell Bezanson were Rev. H. L. Denton and Rev. A. J. Langley, Halifax.

Hammonds Plains Road – The Road that always needed more.

Editor notes: The Hammonds Plains has since its earliest days has been a lightning rod for discussion in the community. The following is an interesting editorial that appeared in the Halifax Mail Star in 1958, as the road was in the middle of been paved from Bedford to Upper Tantallon.

Hammonds Plains Road Needs Paving Now – An Editorial:

The Highways Department decision to delay several miles of the Hammonds Plains Road until an underpass has been built at French Village does not commend itself to the public. The only reason given for the delay is that it may some saving in expenditure.

At what cost will that saving be made? It cannot be measured in dollars; it may be measured in lives, because failure to complete the Hammonds Plains link between the city and the head of St. Margaret's Bay means delay in relieving dangerous congestion on one of the most travelled and sharply-twisting roads in the province.

Eventually, motor and truck traffic into and out of Halifax calls for a direct access route, probably through Spryfield and the barrens. That, to judge by the record is years in the making.

The province, apparently cognizant of this, decided several years ago to widen and pave the Hammonds Plains route between Bedford and French Village – a route only two miles longer through the tortuous highway through Armdale, and other built-up areas. But it went only part way on this project; unless access is limited, the improvement will be nullified.

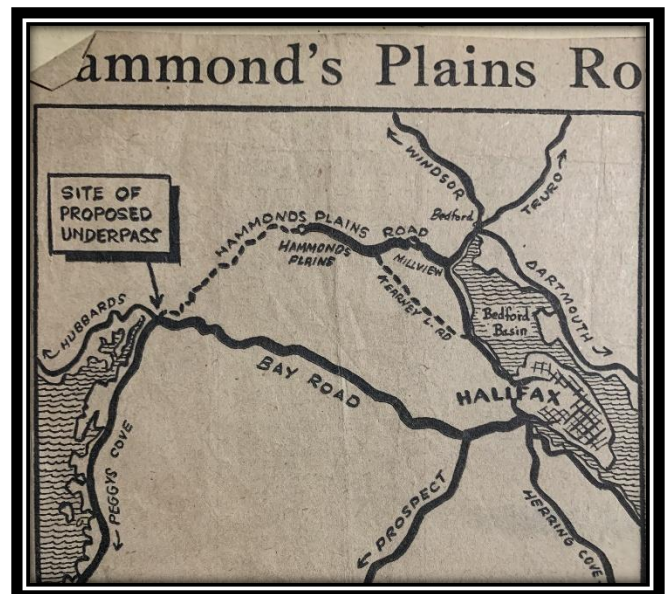
The Hammonds Plains Road has been widened and graded. It has been paved part way. Seven miles or so remain to be surfaced, but this work is being undertaken now. The province says it wishes to negotiate an agreement to eliminate the French Village railway crossing. Again, from experience, that may take years. At

best, a start cannot be made next winter with the completion date indefinite.

In the meantime, the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on the Hammonds Plains are virtually wasted so far as through traffic is concerned. More important, the road unprotected by bitumen, is being ground down and blown into the woods. Still more important, congestion on the present St. Margaret's Bay Road continues. Congestion means added and, in this instance unnecessary peril to life. It therefore is more than disappointing to the public to know that delay, excused on the grounds of an undetermined saving, has been decided upon.

Hence the Province is pressed to review the situation at once in order that the paving over the already prepared road be done this summer. One life saved, one autoist kept out of hospital means much more than the dollar saving.

And that saving in suffering would be very real. The St. Margaret's Bay Road accident record shows that plainly.



Editor's Note: The Underpass was finally completed in 1959, finalizing the upgrading of the Hammonds Plains Road. Until that time, the road was located adjacent to where the road is located today and one had to go up a hill and over tracks.

OUR ANNUAL REPORT – 2024-25

The 2024-25 year has been a productive one for the Hammonds Plains Historical Society. After several years affected by either COVID or the Hammonds Plains wildfires, the Society was able to return to consistent general meetings, along with the regular Board meetings, during the past year.

At last May's AGM we were able to confirm that all the Board members from the previous year were returned to the Board to either serve the second year of their term or were elected to serve a new two-year term. This has provided the consistency and experience to move society initiatives forward in an efficient manner.

Since our AGM last May, the Board of Directors has met 10 times, mixing in-person meetings with Zoom meetings. The focus during the past year was the planning for general meetings and working on the strategies related to our Strategic Plan.

We had 5 general meetings during the past year, with each having a presentation component to it. In September, we explored the story of the 'Original Hammonds Plains Land Grants'. The November meeting facilitated a joint presentation between our society and Halifax historian William Breckenridge on 'Unlocking the Links Between the Historic Halifax Community of Schmidville and Hammonds Plains'. Our January meeting was an online one in which we did a deep dive into Dorothy Bezanson-Evans short story 'Auntie Emm'. The March meeting was taken up with our second Hammonds Plains History Trivia Night and tonight's session called 'Inviting Images – Part 2' finalizes this year's meetings, in which we will explore some of our historic photos in detail, as we did last May. Attendance for our general meetings varied between 20-40 folks during the year.

We also did a special presentation for the Fort Sackville Manor House Foundation on 'The Historic Connections between Hammonds Plains and Bedford' in April.

Society memberships hit its highest level yet during the past year. As of April 30th, we had 80 paid members for the year.

Our finances remained in good order during the past year. As with the last few years, we were able to keep our

expenses to a minimum. As stated in our Annual Financial Report we have reserved funds in the \$4000+ range.

Our newsletters continued to be published, with editions being sent to members via e-mail at the time of the general meetings.

Our web page continued to be updated, providing pertinent resources to the general public. We added three more episodes to the web site of 'Hammonds Plains – A Journey Thru Time', which is a multi-piece video account of the history of the area. To this date, 9 episodes have been completed, taking the history of the community from it's beginning to the end of the 1930's. More episodes will be produced this coming summer.

Our Facebook page had an exciting year with the conclusion of our weekly photo series, after reaching one hundred photos, and the introduction of a new series called 'Did You Know?', in which we have posted an interesting historical fact about the area, each week. We continue to have excellent feedback on the weekly postings.

One of our members, Jean Watson produced a painting from one of our photos of a logging scene in the woods and donated it to the society. We will be unveiling the painting at our AGM for our membership to view.

As indicated earlier in this report, attention at our Board meetings was given to discussing the strategies relating to our Strategic Plan. This past year, the priority was on the creation of our newest published document, an album of the '1960's in Hammonds Plains'. The Board wishes to acknowledge the work that Nancy Boland put into designing the album and thanks her for the many hours of work that has gone into this initiative. Nancy took on the lead role in producing the album.

In summary, the past year has seen us make new connections, while continuing our mission of promoting the history of Hammonds Plains. Thanks to a dedicated Board of Directors, we are in a great position to continue growing our vision of gathering, preserving and sharing the rich history of Hammonds Plains in the coming year.