

Hammonds Plains Historical Society Newsletter

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

The Latest from the HPHS Board of Directors

Welcome to our 2025-26 year! We are entering our 16th year of society events. The HPHS Board of Directors have been doing some planning during the summer and the following highlights what we have been working on.

- A schedule of meetings has been planned for the upcoming 2025-26 year (See page 2 for schedule).
- Memberships are now open and being accepted for the 2025-26 year. As per previous years, the membership fee is \$10 for the coming year. (See page 2 for details).
- Our 'Did You Know?' fact series continues on our Facebook Page. An interesting fact relating to Hammonds Plains History is posted every week. We encourage reactions, if the fact is something that evokes memories of the past in the 'Plains'.
- 3 more podcasts on our web page in the 'A Journey Thru Time – A History of Hammonds Plains' series soon will be added. When these 3 episodes are complete, 12 episodes will be finished, taking the history of Hammonds Plains from it's beginnings until 1970. The final episodes will be published in the coming year.
- The focus this year for the BOD, as we complete our final year of our current Strategic Plan, is to plan a special event. The special event will be a **Picture Trivia Night** to be held at the Hammonds Plains Community Center in March.



**September 29th –
7pm**

The History of the Hammonds Plains First Baptist Church



The Hammonds Plains First Baptist Church rates as possibly the oldest building in Hammonds Plains. Since the 1840's, it has stood as a symbol of unity and fellowship in the community.

*On September 29th (7pm), at the Church we will be presenting '**The History of the First Baptist Church**'. Blair Haverstock, resident historian of the church and its cemetery, will walk everyone through the beginnings of the church, the changes throughout the years and some of the more intriguing stories involving the building.*

Ever wondered about the church along the Hammonds Plains Road, but never have been inside? Here's your chance to sit in the church and learn about its fascinating history.

Becoming a 2025-26 HPHS Member:

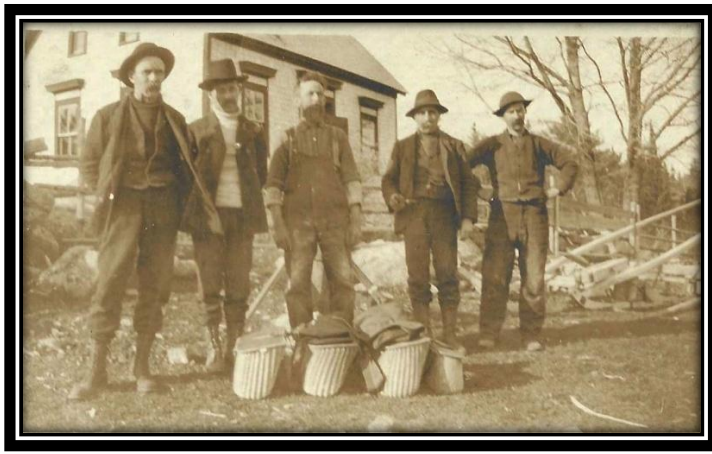
You can become a member of the Hammonds Plains Historical Society by filling out a registration form and e-mailing it to haverstockdave@gmail.com or mailing to 1541 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia B4B 1P6. Annual fee is \$10.

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.

New Additions to Our Photo Collection



This is rare photo taken in Kemptown during the 1920's. It shows members of the Little and Green families outside a home in Kemptown. The home shown would have been one of the last homes left occupied in the village of Kemptown, as the Little and Greene families were among the last to leave the village.

Our 2025-26 General Meeting & Presentation Schedule

September 29th (First Baptist Church) – The History of the Hammonds Plains First Baptist Church

November 24th (Wesleyan Church) – A Hammonds Plains Census Study. Exploring the Canada Census as it relates to Hammonds Plains.

January 26th (Wesleyan Church) - Hammonds Plains of the 1930's

March 30th (Hammonds Plains Community Center) - A Photo Trivia Night (Relating to places that Hammonds Plains residents of the past had special connections with).

May 25th (Wesleyan Church) – The historic Outdoor Rinks of Hammonds Plains

BOD of Director's Transition Plans

The Board of Directions have been discussing how best to sustain the long-term viability of the society. A big area of concern has been how to create more leadership opportunities in the executive roles of the Board. It is felt that having different voices especially in the roles of President and Vice President is a necessary prerequisite for sustainability to take place.

Consequently, we are reaching out to gage interest from folks who may be interested in taking such a role on. Our transition plan would allow co-positions to be established during the process.

Interest can be expressed by e-mailing current president at haverstockdave@gmail.com to discuss further.

The ABC Bazaar Story

During the last quarter of the 1900's, there was no bigger event in Hammonds Plains than the ABC Bazaar. It was a fund-raising event jointly held by the three main churches in Hammonds Plains at the time (Anglican, Baptist and Catholic).

Before the concept of having a joint effort, each of the churches had individual sales of baked goods, crafts, and sewing products to raise funds for Church expenditures. Then in 1975, Yvonne Haverstock, a member of the Catholic Church, approached the other two churches to discuss the possibility of a joint sales event. The concept was embraced leading to each church forming a committee, then holding organizational meetings and finally selecting the name of the event as the ABC Bazaar (the letters representing each of the Churches).

The first Bazaar was held on November 10th 1976, at the Hammonds Plains Fire Hall (now the Hammonds Plains Community Center). The Bazaar became a hugely popular event, not only for the community residents but for folks who came from kilometers around to buy from the wide variety of items that were sold, including baked goods, crafts, and knitting and sewing products. An afternoon tea was available for those who wanted to sit and chat.

The success of the first Bazaar led to successive Bazaars. It was soon evident the event was growing too big for the Fire Hall, so it was moved to the Baptist Church in the 1980's.

The Bazaar continued yearly until 1999, for a total of 23 years. The Bazaar certainly brought the community together and many new friendships were forged. Countless fond memories still exist of the fellowship and unity of the wonderful ABC Bazaar years.

(See Bazaar related Photos on page 4)

The Hammonds Plains First Baptist Church

Some interesting tidbits!

- The first Baptist pastor of the church was also the longest serving one. Rev. George Richardson conducted Baptist services in Hammonds Plains from 1821 to 1843. The current church was opened after he had left.
- The name First Baptist Church was formally recognized in 1821. The first building to conduct services was thought to be located within the current cemetery. The current building had it's first service in 1843.
- In 1883 the church building received its first major renovation. It was moved back 20 feet, enlarged with a new roof and had necessary repairs. In 1961, the church hall and downstairs kitchen area was added.
- The church membership spans the country, and at a single point in time, within the past few years, there was at least one church member in every province, plus one territory.



Paster Bernie Armstrong delivering a service at the church in 1970. Note the wooden panels that grace the walls of the church.

ABC Bazaar Photos ...



Crowd shown during the first Bazaar – 1976



Showing the Smurf Characters for sale at the 1988 Bazaar



Preparing for Bazaar – 1986

"... the day is an opportunity for fellowship. We see these folks in the community and sometimes go to each other's events, but the ABC Bazaar is the one time we work together"

Quote from Halifax Mail Star article – Nov. 10th 1988



Setting up for Bazaar - 1976