

Hammonds Plains Historical Society Newsletter

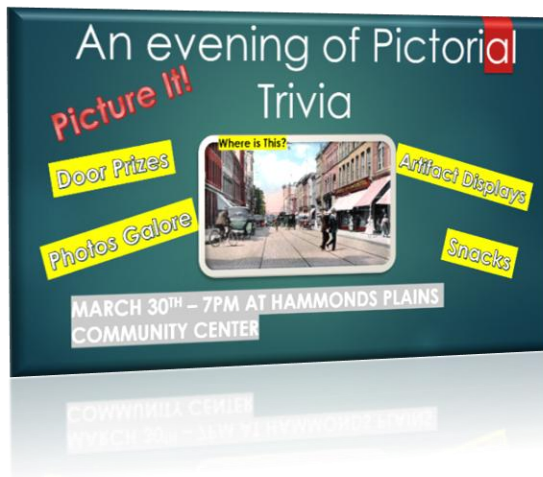
Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

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HPHS Board of Directors March Update

The Board of Directors has spent much of the winter planning for our first ever Picture Trivia Event.

- Everything is ready to go for our special **Picture Trivia Night**. It will take place at the Hammonds Plains Community Center, beginning at 7pm. The theme of the evening is entitled 'Picture It!'. Participants at the gathering will play a game of 'Picture It', in which they will view a series of 60 photos of local scenes (outside of Hammonds Plains) from the pre-1970's, of places that were meaningful to local residents (either through work, shopping experiences or purposes of entertainment). Participants will try to guess what the photos are of, while interacting with others. This will be done in a non-competitive social environment. A series of door prizes will be drawn for. As well, the society will be displaying some of their artifacts for all to view.



- **2025-26 Memberships:** 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).



Upcoming AGM at Cornerstone Wesleyan Church on May 25th

A Retrospective of the Hammonds Plains Outdoor Rinks

During most of the 1900's Hammonds Plains had an operational community outdoor rink, opened to skating and games of hockey. At our May AGM we will take a look at these rinks, outlining their history and influence on the community.



Shown is a photo from one of the Hammonds Plains rinks – Early 1950's

Becoming a 2025-26 HPHS Member:

You can become a new member of the Hammonds Plains Historical Society by filling out a registration form and e-mailing it to haverstockdave@gmail.com. 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 year, early March was a period of cold and snow. But when you compare it to 2015, one would take this year anytime.



This photo was taken in Hammonds Plains March 19, 2015

A Hammonds Plains Heritage Flash



The Legacy of Pockwock Lake

Pockwock Lake is a huge 11KM long lake with a dam-controlled river, running into a smaller lake called Little Pockwock Lake. In 1974, after many years of negotiations, the city of Halifax took over ownership of Pockwock Lake and the river for its water supply. Until that time, the lake had served as both a commercial and recreation hub for area residents.

During the 1800's, the Pockwock Lake area established itself as an important forestry base, with several mills being built along side of the lake. The Hays Brothers Mill at the foot of the lake had by 1880 become the largest mill in the Hammonds Plains area, employing close to 100 people.

The 1900's saw the lake become dotted with cottages, with fishing becoming a common pastime on its waters, especially on weekends.

A dam was created where the river ran out of the lake by the mill operators during the 1800's. The dam was upgraded several times and it served as the meeting point for swimmers and a spot for folks to put boats in the water.

Some Early Hammonds Plains News Articles to Ponder!

The early 1800's provided some intriguing articles in Nova Scotia newspapers pertaining to life in Hammonds Plains. Here are some from the Acadian Recorder, a provincial newspaper of the time, that will surely let you know that they were written during a different era. Some interesting language used in those days.

Acadian Recorder – April 2, 1814

VALUABLE LAND FOR SALE. Will be sold by Public Auction at the Exchange Coffee House, on Saturday the 14th of May next, a LOT of LAND at Hammond's Plains, thirteen miles from Halifax, containing 250 acres. This tract of land, from a number of spruces, firs, birch and other valuable timber thereon, has a run of water fit for a mill-stream, the foil being very good, and its vicinity to Bedford Basin, is an object worthy the attention of any person wishing a valuable Lot and excellent situation for a farm. For terms of sale and other particulars, apply to Daniel McCra.

Acadian Recorder – May 7, 1814

At his room on Monday 30th, at 12 o'clock (if not previously disposed at Private sale).

GEORGE HURSHMAN'S LOT, at Hammon Plain containing 200, ten of which are cleared – it adjoins the public road from Margaret's Bay to Andrews at the nine mill river; there is fine trouting in a brook that runs through the premises.

Acadian Recorder – October 1814

NOTICE. The subscriber cautions the public harbouring or thruthing any petition upon his account, without a written order, as he will not pay any debts otherwise contacted, after this day. GEORGE HAVERSTOCK Halifax Oct, 1, 1814

Acadian Recorder – July 27, 1816

LOST on Saturday 20th past, on the Hammond Plain road, between Maxner's and Mrs. Rose's, two notes of hand, signed by John Sinnett, and made payable to the subscriber for L11 10 each, in two months after date-One for L 6 40 signed by William Wise, and one signed by M. McNarry for L20; with an endorsement for L2. Whoever will return said notes to the subscriber will be awarded for their trouble. As payment is stopped they are no use to any person but the owner.

Editor's Note – L refers to English currency of the time – The pound.

Acadian Recorder – July 18, 1818

During the last 10 days, the woods have been partially on fire in other quarters of the environs of the Peninsula, and on Wednesday last the configuration assumed a serious appearance in the vicinity of Hammond Plains; the wind blowing strong from that direction, the heat was greatly felt in town, and large flakes of fire were picked up in the streets of Halifax.

News From the Past

(From Halifax Mail Star – April 1, 1951)

WILL SALVAGE NAVY AIRCRAFT

Salvage operations aimed at recovering a Naval Sea Fury which crashed into Wright's Lake at Hammonds Plains on Tuesday after the Naval Board of Inquiry concludes its sessions in the probe of Sub-Lieutenant John Morehouse's death in another crash in the vicinity.

Lt. Commander R. J. Wadman, who is sitting on the Board of Inquiry, with Commander S. Hook, president, and Lieut. James Fotheringham, will be directing the salvage operations.

Lieut. Douglas Peacocke, Calgary, who escaped death when his plane sank in the waters of Wright's lake is recovering in hospital. He suffered a slight fracture of the vertebrae.

Rescuers of Lieut. Peacock at Wright's Lake, it was revealed were Edwin Wright and his brother Harold. The former was booming logs down the lake. Harold Wright was working at their mill when the plane crashed and together the brothers took Peacocke to their camp, gave him hot drinks and made him comfortable with blankets while awaiting a rescue plane.



Editor's note regarding column on the left:

The Airplane Crash at Wright's Lake was a big news item in the community that happened in March 1951. The photo you see here is the actual plane that was salvaged from the lake and taken to Shearwater for investigation.

HPHS Board of Director's Transition Plan

The Board of Director's continue to seek ways to best sustain the long term viability of the society. The Board would like to create a wider range of leadership opportunities at the Board level, as a way to involve newer faces and fresher ideas. The roles of President and Vice president are especially of particular interest to have revolving roles. It is felt by involving different voices at the executive level of the Board, one can better ensure that sustainability has a chance to succeed.

Consequently, we are reaching out to interested folks who may be interested in joining our Board. There is room for all talents and time availability!

If there is interest in joining the Board or you would like to discuss things further, please reach out to our current president, Dave Haverstock at haverstockdave@gmail.com for further details.