

Hammonds Plains Historical Society Newsletter

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: [Hammonds Plains Historical Society](https://www.facebook.com/HammondsPlainsHistoricalSociety)

The Coming Year

- The Hammonds Plains Historical Society became a reality during the fall of 2009, when organizational meetings were held to form a society. Here we are in 2026, ready to enter our 17th year. We have accomplished so much during that time and we look forward to the coming year with the same level of enthusiasm and commitment that has been offered in the past.
- Our upcoming fall **general** meeting will take place on September 28^h at 7pm at the Cornerstone Wesleyan Church. Join us as we will explore the legacy of the Haverstock Family to the history of Hammonds Plains.
- During the coming year, the Board of Directors will be focusing on creating a new 5-year strategic plan for the society. The plan will create strategies and action steps that will drive society activities for the next few years. The aim is to have the plan completed and ready for implementation by May 2027. We welcome any feedback, including suggestions of what we could be including in our upcoming plan. A quick e-mail to hphsociety@gmail.com would do the trick.
- With the end of our 'Did You Know?' Weekly Facebook series, we are introducing a new weekly posting series on the weekend of September 26-27th. It will be entitled 'Quiz and Quotes', presenting a history question about Hammonds Plains, in which we encourage participation from our followers. A week later the answer will be provided, along with a new question for the next week. We are hoping for some engaging conversation, along the way.
- We are planning some changes to our general meetings this year. For instance, we no longer will be doing financial updates. Every effort will be made to just include the presentation for the evening, during the meeting, with just a few announcements and updates to go along.
- **2026-27 Memberships:** Memberships are accepted for the 2026-27 year. As per previous years, the membership fee is \$10 for the coming year. (See page 2 for details).



September 28th General Meeting

7pm at Cornerstone Wesleyan
Church

At our September Meeting the society will be presenting – 'The Haverstock Legacy – A Hammonds Plains Family Founded on Diligence and Determination'. It will explore the history of one of the most influential families in the history of Hammonds Plains and how the family's determined nature combined with their vision of community life, allowed them to substantially help forge the village of today



The Haverstock's – A Hammonds Plains Legacy

Come and learn about the contribution of the Haverstock Family to the history of the community.

Becoming a 2026-27 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.

Presentation Schedule for 2026-27

- September 28th – **The Haverstock Legacy – A Hammonds Plains Family Founded on Diligence and Determination.**
- November 16th – **A Hammonds Plains History Trivia Night – Come and test your knowledge of Hammonds Plains History.**
- March 8th – **An exploration of the 'Remembering Old Hammonds Plains' Facebook Site**
- May 31st – **Our Heritage Homes - A Study of the 100+ year old homes in the Hammonds Plains area.**

*** All meetings at Cornerstone Wesleyan Church.**

A Hammonds Plains Heritage Flash



THE YANKEETOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1897, a small Baptist church was built in the Yankeetown area of Hammonds Plains, to ensure Yankeetown residents didn't have to make the long walk and drive by horse to the Baptist church located in the center of Hammonds Plains. This church became noteworthy due to its small size. It was only 3.6m by 4.7m, holding a congregation of up to 15 people.

It would become known as one of the smallest churches in Nova Scotia. The church would also host Sunday School classes for the young Baptist youth in the community. For much of its existence, services were held twice monthly.

The church was moved at least once within the Yankeetown area during its existence and would remain active until the 1980's.

Our 2026-27 BOD:

- Dave Haverstock – President
- Cathy Munroe – Vice President
- Sandra MacLeod – Secretary
- Nancy Boland – Treasurer
- Gail Stronach
- Ann MacLean
- Ian Rouse
- Blair Haverstock

The Board of Director's Meet once a month to plan society activities.

Changes Throughout the Years:

The Journey to Pizza Heaven:

Today we drive by or order a pizza from Alexandra's Pizza without a second thought as to the history of the establishment.



Since the 1980's, the location at 1679 Hammonds Plains, has been a long-standing neighbourhood pizza shop. For most of those years, Mike and Leila Makhoul have owned and served pizza to the residents of Hammonds Plains and beyond.

However, before the pizza business came a calling, the building was a long-time residence.

It is believed the house was built during the later part of the 1800's by the Thomas family, who owned a large tract of land in the middle of Hammonds Plains during that time.

Amos and Mary Thomas were believed to be the first residents of the home. Their son, Blake took over ownership during the early 1900's. Blake was a well-known cooper in Hammonds Plains, applying his trade for many years. In 1945, tragedy struck the Thomas family, when Blake's son, Malcolm while on leave from the Canadian Military, was killed in a traffic accident. The Thomas Family would sell the house during the 1950's, after which was used for a rental for several decades.



Here is a photo (taken 1970's) of what the house once look like. This is the part of the house that has the Canada Flag on it's roof in the adjacent photo.

Hammonds Plains

Connections to the Halifax

Waterfront

Hammonds Plains has had historical connections to the Halifax Waterfront, from the days when the community was first established. The original land owners cut timber from their lands and sent them to the Halifax waterfront, to be used as lumber in building the city or to be transferred to England, for building materials. Once the forest industry became established in Hammonds Plains in the 1800's, thousands of wooden barrels and boxes would be sent to the fisheries along the waterfront to be used for packing fish to be sent to foreign destinations.



Here you see Hammonds Plains barrels being filled with dried fish at one of the fishery plants along the waterfront during the 1940's

One of the larger fisheries along the water front was A. M. Smith & Company. It was located where the Nova Scotia Museum of the Atlantic is located today.

The company originally was started by brothers, Nathaniel and Martin Smith, who were from the Yankeetown area of Hammonds Plains, before moving to Halifax in the late 1860's. They formed a cooperage along the waterfront, named N & M Smith Limited.

After Martin passed away in 1889, Nathaniel ran the company himself, keeping the N. & M. Smith trade name. A fire destroyed the business in the early 1900's, but by 1905 the business had been rebuilt. The original business of a cooperage expanded to the

export of salted fish and the import of fishery salt. N. & M. Smith underwent voluntary liquidation in about 1915. But, Martin Smith's widow and two sons Howard H. and Albert Martin ("Bert") were able to retain the premises. A.M. Smith Company Limited was formed in 1917, and in 1920 the company became incorporated and known as A.M. Smith and Company Limited.

Howard H. Smith died in the early 1920s and his interest in the company was acquired by his brother, Albert Martin Smith. Albert Martin's sons Albert Martin Smith, Jr. ("Ad") and Fletcher S. Smith entered the company business, the third generation of brothers to do so.

Under the management of Ad and Fletcher S. Smith, the company embraced three main departments – Export, Import, and Domestic. The Smiths were the largest exporters of dry and pickled salted fish products in the Maritime Provinces, benefiting from the science of the Atlantic Fisheries Experimental Station which adjoined the plant. Smiths specialized in pickled mackerel and herring, which was sold in national and international markets. During the time, A. M. Smith used barrels almost exclusively made in Hammonds Plains.

By 1970, A.M. Smith and Company was almost wholly dependent on Newfoundland for supplies such as salted cod. Subsequently, when the Federal Salt Fish Act (Bill C175) was passed. A.M. Smith and Company became redundant. The government refused to compensate redundant firms, and thus A.M. Smith and Company Limited were obliged to discontinue their waterfront business, and their property was sold on November 15, 1973. The end of the fish industry along the waterfront had come.



A. M. Smith as it looked in the 1950's, when it was a thriving business.