

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Impact of COVID-19 – May 2021 Update

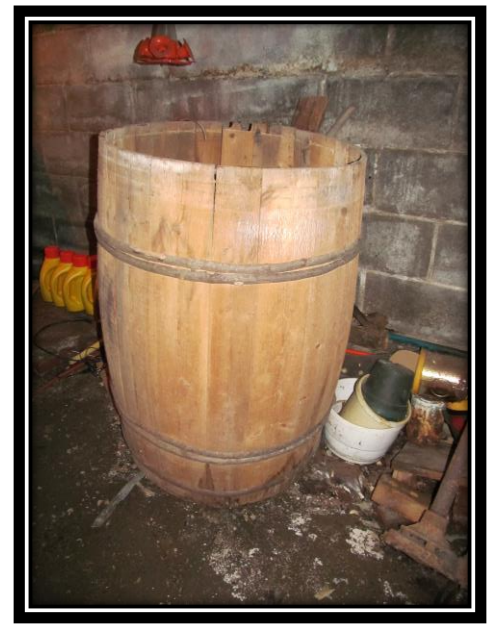
The recent outbreak of the third wave of COVID-19 in Nova Scotia and the associated imposed health restrictions has made it necessary to cancel our May (May 31st) general meeting. The May meeting is normally our AGM meeting and this marks the second year in a row that we have been unable to have a forum to present annual reports and conduct the election of Board of Directors.

We now have had to cancel our last 7 general meetings due to public health concerns. It will be a challenge to get the society up and running again but we aim to soon put things in place for us to move forward. Our current Board of Directors have agreed to meet during the summer and continue planning for resumption of normal activities for the fall. We are hoping to be able to hold our AGM during the fall months.

Until the fall, please check out our web page. Our web page (www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca) has many resources that you can refer to if you are looking for information of a historical nature related to Hammonds Plains.



The Hammonds Plains Fish Barrel



From the late 1800's until the 1960's, hundreds of thousands of fish barrels were made in Hammonds Plains. The barrels were produced in one of the many local cooper shops that once dotted the Hammonds Plains landscape.

Fish Barrels were used to store salt fish. Once filled, they were shipped all around the world as a food source. The barrels were known as 'wet' barrels because of the damp nature of their contents.

The barrels left Hammonds Plains to go to one of the many fish plants located along the coast of Nova Scotia.

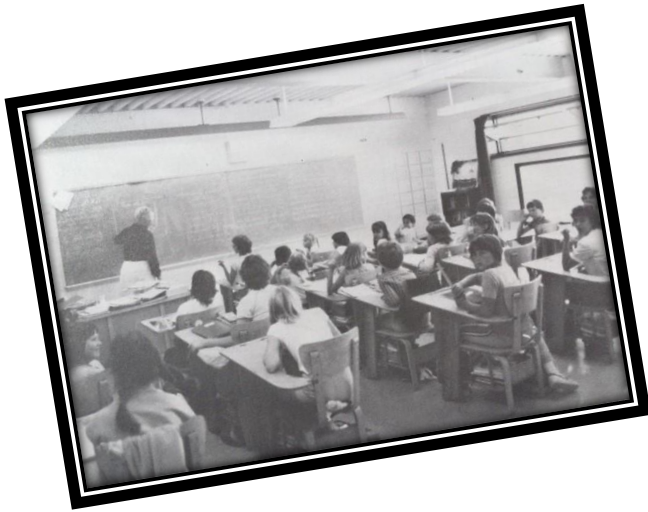
Above is pictured a fish barrel made at a Hammonds Plains cooper shop.

Becoming a HPHS Member:

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

Registration forms are available during one of our general meetings or by copying from our web site.

Hammonds Plains School Memories



1982-83 School Year at Hammonds Plains Consolidated. Top picture is of a Grade 6 class. Bottom picture is of the school playground. This was before the addition and new playground was added to the school.

News From the Past

From Halifax Mail Star March 3rd 1951

Hammonds Plains News

The mild weather has greatly hampered the work of the lumbermen in this district. There are thousands of logs cut and piled up waiting for snow to haul them out on onto the local lakes. This is the first winter season some of the oldest lumbermen remember that it is not safe to travel on the lakes. Horses and supplies had to be taken through the woods which meant an extra three to four hours getting to the lumber camps.

The advanced department of the school here is closed this week owing to the illness of the teacher, Mrs. Raymond Smith. All wish her a speedy recovery.

Mrs. George Smith entertained a few friends and relatives on her husband's birthday.

Mrs. Ruby Day, Halifax, was a recent visitor at the home of her sister, Miss Jennie Romans.

Friends are glad to see Mrs. Martell Bezanson home after two months in Hubbards.

Miss Ellen Boutilier, Bedford, spent the week end at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Boutilier.

St. Nicholas Sewing Circle met at the home of the president, twelve members present. Plans were discussed to hold a tea & sale in May. Refreshments were served by the hostesses for the evening, Mrs. Melvin Eisenhauer and Mrs. Edward Melvin.

(*Editor's Note* – It is interesting that this Hammonds Plains News article shows evidence contrary to common myths that the winters were always much colder in the past and that school was hardly ever cancelled in the days before school buses)

The following Article appeared in the Bedford-Sackville News on July 21, 1976. It was written by lifelong resident of Hammonds Plains, Lena Smith. Lena was noted in the community as a school teacher. Most residents of Hammonds Plains who grew up in the community during the mid-1900's had Lena as a teacher. She wrote this piece as the Pockwock Water System was coming on stream as the supplier of water for Halifax, ending the era that saw Pockwock Lake as a recreational mecca for local residents.

Memories of Pockwock

Bedford, half way between Halifax and Pockwock will be the first to receive water from Pockwock Lake. Besides Halifax, many areas of Bedford and Sackville will be supplied by this water. Before reaching Halifax it will be pumped into the reservoir in Bedford.

How co-incidental to go through Bedford first. For, many years ago lumber from Pockwock first came to Bedford Basin and was then floated in to Halifax to supply the demand for boards and framing material used by the early settlers.

When Edward Cornwallis came to Acadia in 1749 to found Halifax, it marked a new era of British Colony in the land. Previous to this, the place was only an outpost of New England. As the new Governor, he was instructed by the British authorities to resist the intrusions of the French on his domain.

Soon after his arrival at Chebucto (now Halifax) he presented a strong protest to the French, but found them unwilling to relinquish any of the land which they claimed was theirs. The disputed boundaries were for years the cause of much strife between these nations.

Finally, in the last battle for Louisbourg, under the French Commander Duc D' Anville, the French left Chebucto, never again to enter this spacious harbor without permission from the English.

In 1755, it came to a climax. An old wood cut of that period shows the British lion with his paws on Ohio, Virginia and Nova Scotia. In a very fighting mood, he is asserting his claim to these lands.

As Halifax grew. Its greatest requirement was lumber for buildings. The first came from Boston and was very expensive, for these sharp New Englanders were quick to take advantage of the situation. Governor Cornwallis then decided to build a mill.

In the vicinity of Halifax there were several good steams, which when harnessed, would drive wheels of mills the year round.

The site selected for one was on the east side of the harbor, where the river from Lake Micmac empties at Dartmouth Cove. The mill, however did not prove a success.

About half way on the old trail from Bedford to St. Margaret's Bay, a road branched off to Pockwock. Here the first mills were erected on Pockwock and Indian rivers.

The lumber, after reaching Bedford, was then floated from Bedford Basin to Halifax.

When hearing the water would be in the Bedford reservoir before reaching Halifax, my thoughts went back to the early history of Halifax.

Although Pockwock served the needs of Halifax in the early days, as late as the 1920's, it was unknown to many of the inhabitants. A few years ago, in conversation with our Ombudsman, Dr. Harry Smith, (my husband's cousin), he said: "When I used to spend my summer vacation with my aunt in Pockwock and came back and told my friends about fish I caught, Pockwock Lake was unknown to them. Now that there is so much publicity about Pockwock Lake for water, it is on the map."

When I was in grade five I learned the lakes of Nova Scotia by rote. When I was older I thought: "Now why wasn't Pockwock included among those lakes? It is larger than some of them"

Although Pockwock is now on the map, so much has taken from its beauty for the nature lover. Approaching the lake now, a large dam takes the center of the view, instead of the towering trees that overlook the lake.

Half way up the lake is beautiful Owl's Head. Here many a memorable picnic was held, and shimmering trout were often landed on shore. Off Moose Island, there was a wonderful shoal for fishing.

Moran Bros. had a lumber camp at Ponhook Cove. R. D. Haverstock & Sons and Henry Haverstock & Sons both had lumber camps at Moose Cove. Henry Haverstock & Sons also had a lumber camp at Sand Cove.

In and after the 1940's, many summer cottages dotted the shores. Many a quiet and peaceful weekend I spent with my husband and (often) friends at our summer cottage at Sand Cove. Many evenings the stars and moon looked down on the peaceful lake.

On the first glance out in the morning, often a trout would be seen jumping in the water. Sometimes it was caught before breakfast and eaten for lunch.

My husband, Raymond, not only cherishes the memory of the sports, but also the time spent in the lumber woods. It was a thrill, he says, to help haul brooms of logs down to the shore, where the Haverstock's and Moran's mills were situated.

In the small village of Pockwock only four or five families lived. They were fortunate in the 1920's to be among the first in the district to own cars. Before that, they had lovely horses and buggies. This transportation gave them the opportunity to take part in the community and church activities of Hammonds Plains. To them, Pockwock will always be home; it is their small world.



View of Pockwock Lake before the dam was put in.