

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

January 2022 Update

So we start 2022 the same way we began 2021... with plans being altered due to COVID.

In past years, January has had a general meeting and presentation. However, we are unable to schedule an in person meeting this January due to the current COVID situation. However, based on the success of our virtual presentation in November, we have decided to offer another online presentation to replace the in person meeting. This will take place on **Monday January 31st at 7pm.** The presentation will focus on Hammonds Plains of the 1970's with a talk entitled 'Hammonds Plains and the 1970's – A Decade of Growth & Reshaping'.

Tune in on January 31st to hear all about what was happening in Hammonds Plains during the 1970's, as the area transitions into the residential community it is today. The 1970's brought Highland Park & Timber Trails, Atlantic Speedway, the ABC bazaar, the Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and our first youth sports league, among other things to the forefront of community engagement. Relive the 1970's with all kinds of photos from the decade often referred to as 'The Me Decade'.

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We continue to post our podcast video's on our web site. The most recent addition is a retrospective of Pockwock Lake, which has endured a long history of sharing it's resources. Did you know that Pockwock Lake was once the go to recreational center for many folks in the Hammonds Plains area



Pockwock Lake wasn't always just a water supply reserve.

Our Podcasts

Our newest project has been creating a series of video podcasts on specific themes of Hammonds Plains history.

Here is a listing of the Podcasts done so far:

1. 1867 the Year Hammonds Plains Joins Canada
2. 1950's A Decade of Change and Transition
3. The Legacy of the Hammonds Plains Cooper
4. Tiny Pews, Huge Blessings The Story of Yankeetown Baptist Church
5. Tragedy in the Skies The 1951 Airplane Crash
6. From Hallways of Learning to Hallways of Leisure The Story of the HP Community Center
7. The Lake that Keeps on Sharing – The Story of Pockwock lake

The Podcasts are approximately 10-15 minutes long and contain a variety of photos that the history has in our collection. They can be found on our website (under resources).

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.

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 for membership fees.

Donations will also be graciously accepted.

Winter Scene from the Past



The Hammonds Plains Road in winter during the 1940's. The view is looking at the intersection of Hammonds Plains Road and Lucasville Road from the hill on the Bedford side of the intersection.

News From the Past

From Halifax Mail Star – April 2, 1960

Hammonds Plains News

The weekly meeting of Saint Nicholas sewing circle was held at the home of Mrs. Henry Haverstock. Following the sewing hour refreshments were served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. Donald Boutilier.

A group of young people of Saint Nicholas Church attended the Youth Christian Vocation Conference held on Sunday in All Saints Cathedral. Those who attended were Marjorie and Phillip Eisenhauer, Murray Dunbar, Garvie Haverstock and Fred Eisenhauer.

Mothering Sunday was observed and well attended on Sunday evening with the Rector Rev. Karl Tufts conducting the service. The Semnel Cake and flowers were presented to the Mothers by the children. Following the service a social hour was spent in the Church Hall where the cake was served with tea and sandwiches.

Mrs. Harvey Smith and Mrs. Morton Eisenhauer will be joint hostesses at the weekly meeting of the Baptist sewing circle held at the vestry of the church on Tuesday evening, April 5th. In the place of the usual sewing meeting the members will hold a clean-up party in order to clean the vestry.

An error speared in the recent news of the Home & School Association stating at Andrew Crook of the Mental Health Association would be guest speaker on April 13th. This should have been Miss Stella Anderson, primary supervisor of City Schools. An open invitation is extended to all parents of pre-school and primary grades to attend.

The card social held on Saturday evening in aid of the Community Hall Fund was a success. The final social will be held by this group on Saturday April 9th.

The quarterly business meeting of the First Baptist Church will be held on Wednesday April 7th in the Baptist Church. Miss Bertha Myers, a returned missionary, will be the guest speaker at the Women's Missionary Society on Thursday April 7th at the Baptist Church.

Remembering Thomson's Store



Thomson's Store as it appeared in the mid 1950's.

A well-known landmark of the mid 1900's in Hammonds Plains was Thomson's General Store. The store was located at present day 1785 Hammonds Plains Road (next to the Baptist Cemetery). The actual store structure still exists but it has been turned into residence (the house at 1785 Hammonds Plains Road). To-day's house was moved farther from the Hammonds Plains during the late 1950's.

The original store was owned and operated by Bernard and Hal Thomson, who were well known entrepreneur brothers in the community, also operating a mill and cooper shops. It is believed that the Thomson brothers opened the store in the late 1920's or early 1930's, with it being located adjacent to their home. The brothers later lived across the road from each other.

After the store was opened, it soon became known as a reliable source of goods that local families could go to purchase food and household supplies. Stories are told that the barter system was often used to purchase items at the store. As was the case with most general stores of the era, the store provided a wide range of products. The store even had an adjacent ice shed at the rear of the building, which was used to keep perishable food cool.

The store became a place where neighbours could go and socialize while picking up household supplies. There was even a small area inside the store with an empty table where residents could get a quick card game or chess match going. This was especially customary on Friday evenings.

The Thomson Brothers operated the store until their senior years, when it was taken over for a few years by Bernard's son, Kenneth. The store was sold to Irvin Smith in the late 1950's, who made a brief attempt to keep it open before closing the store and turning it into a residence. By that time, Kynock's Grocery Store had taken over the community grocery market.



Left – Front Door of Thomson's General Store.

Right – View of the store from the cemetery side of the store.

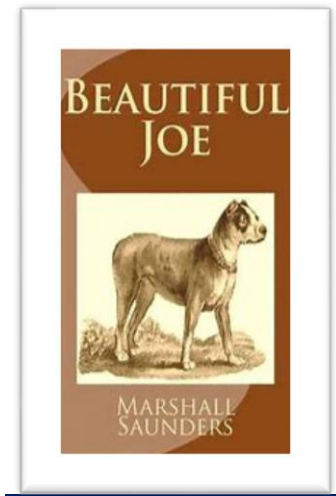


The Hammonds Plains Connection with Author Marshall Saunders



Left - Marshall Saunders in 1929

Right - Saunders most famous literary work.



The name Marshall Saunders may not ring with familiarity to most folk's to-day, but during the late 1800's and early 1900's, she was well known as a prolific Canadian author.

Saunders was born in Nova Scotia in 1861. After spending her childhood in Nova Scotia, at the age of 15 she went across the ocean to study in Scotland and France, after which she returned to Nova Scotia to study at Dalhousie and launch her career as a freelance writer.

Her second book, '*Beautiful Joe*' published in 1894 gave her lasting celebrity status. The book tells the story of a dog from Meaford, Ontario that had his ears and tail chopped off by an abusive owner as a puppy, but is rescued by a Meaford family whose lives he later saves. The book received worldwide attention and became the first Canadian book to sell over a million copies. By 1940, it had sold over 7 million copies.

Saunders would go on to write more than 20 other stories, which would become children's books or romance novels. Her advocacy for animal rights became her principal cause in life. She moved to Toronto in 1914, where she advanced her writing career. Marshall passed away in 1947, but not before receiving an appointment as Commander of the Order of the British Empire, which is a British order rewarding contributions to the arts and science.

And now the connection to Hammonds Plains

Saunders's father (Edmund Saunders) was a Baptist Minister within the Nova Scotia Baptist Community and he spent a couple of years as minister of the Hammonds Plains First Baptist Church in the late 1880's. During his time in Hammonds Plains, the Saunders family lived on the second story of the house that is located at 2095 Hammonds Plains Road (still standing to-day, next to Beacon Electric). It is believed that Marshall lived with her parents in Hammonds Plains while she was launching her career as a writer. Could it be that her stay in Hammonds Plains inspired some of her future writings?

(Editor's Note – Marshall Saunders time in Hammonds Plains was the focus of an article written by the Halifax Chronicle Herald in 1958.)