

SEPTEMBER 2022 / 2022-23 Edition 1

Hammonds Plains Historical Society Newsletter

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

What's Going on!

It's hard to believe that we are now going on 2 and a half years since we were first impacted by COVID. That's has meant there has been no in person meetings since January 2019... but we are still standing and anxious to move forward.

We have decided that once again our first meeting of the 2022-23 year on **September 26th** will once be a virtual one. The reason for this is based on the continued uncertainty of COVID, the lack of confidence that our membership are ready to entertain in person gatherings and the success we have had with our virtual meetings. The September 26th meeting will be highlighted by the Presentation – **KEMPTOWN - OUR FORGOTTEN VILLAGE.**

Our newly elected Board of Directors have been meeting during the summer and have been making plans for the coming year. We once again have reaffirmed our commitment to getting back to hosting in person presentations once again. As soon as COVID allows we will be back.

Memberships are now being accepted for the 2022-23. See page 2 for details.

We continue to produce our podcasts. We have provided a section on page 2 in this newsletter outlining current topics and how you can access them. Try one out to see what you think?



September 26th – 7pm

Kemtown – Our Forgotten Village



Join us on September 26th for **Kemtown – Our Forgotten Village.** This topic has been the one of the most requested over the years and we are pleased that we are finally able to put on such a presentation. Did you know the trail leading to Pockwock Falls was once the road to the village called Kemtown? This presentation will tell the story how Kemtown went from being an important forestry village in the 1800's to that of a ghost town in the 1900's. You can link to the presentation by visiting hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca or accessing link if you are on the distribution list e-mail

Photo of Little's Kemtown Home – 1920's



The Plains Chronicles Podcasts

How to Become 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 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.

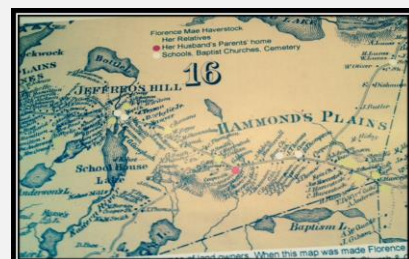


Happy Faces from members of the Hammonds Plains Volunteer Fire Department after accepting their trophy as part of the regional Firefighters competition – 1970's

The Society has a series of podcasts on our web site, which talk about specific aspects of Hammonds Plains history. They are 10-15 minutes in length. Each podcast has photos shown during the session which support the designated topic. Listed below are all 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 Lesiure The Story of the HP Community Center
7. The Lake that Keeps on Sharing The Pockwock Lake Story
8. 'Sawdust in the Air – Our Historic Connections to the Lumber Mill'
9. The Ultimate Tale of Grit; the Cheaspeake Blacks Story
10. 'Hank Snow is in the House – The Legend of the Forester's Community Hall'.
11. 'The Tale of the Little Mill Along the Road'
12. 'Horse Power – How the 4 Legged Slogger Shaped Hammonds Plains'
13. 'Ultimate Sacrifice – The Christopher Haverstock Story'.

To view the podcasts go to hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca and then go to the resource link.



News from the Past

(From Halifax Herald – May 11, 1951)

Hammonds Plains News

Mrs. Roy Swindells who spent the winter with her parents at Canard, returned during the week-end, had her furniture moved to Medford, Kings County where she and her family will take up residence. She was accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Nellie Carter.

Mr Swindells who has been serving with the Canadian Army for some time at Camp Borden is now on his way to Korea.

Church services on Sunday May 13th will be as follows: St. Nicholas Church, Rev. D. J. Davis at 8pm, United Baptist Church, Rev. J. Griffiths at 7pm, Bible Class and Sunday School at 11am.

St. Nicholas Sewing Circle will hold their annual tea and sale in the A. O. F. Hall on Saturday June 2nd. Supper will be served from 5pm to 8pm.

At a recent meeting of the Baptist Sewing Circle it was decided to discontinue the meetings for the summer months and reopen the first Tuesday of September.

Arbor Day was observed in the school here on Friday, after the classes were dismissed, the usual cleaning of the school and grounds took place by the pupils after which they enjoyed a half holiday.

An enjoyable surprise party was held at the home of Mrs. Lewis Romans on the 18th birthday of her son, Kenneth. Twenty two members of the family were present and he received many lovely gifts. The evening was spent playing games after which refreshments were served. Kenneth is taking his grade 12 at Queen Elizabeth High, Halifax.

Mr. and Mrs. Owen Eisenhauer and little daughter, Gail and the former's mother Mrs. Mae Eisenhauer spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hankey at their camp on Pockwock Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Haverstock accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Tupper Moran attended the Cap and Gown Service held in the Baptist Church at Wolfville.

2022-23 Board of Directors

The new Board of Directors for the 2022-23 year is now in place. They include:

Dave Haverstock – President

Cathy Munroe – Vice President

Sandra MacLeod – Secretary

Nancy Boland – Treasurer

Gail Stronach

Ann MacLean

Robert Restin

Ian Rouse



The small but stately St. James Catholic Church once was a prominent fixture on the Hammonds Plains landscape. It was located just behind the small catholic cemetery near Uplands Park. This photo taken in the 1950's shows the lovely picket fence that surrounded the church for many years. The church built in 1845 was replaced with a new church in 1982.

Next to the community of Hammonds Plains lies a future Urban Wilderness Park. Lands used by Hammonds Plains residents for recreation by earlier generations will now be protected for future generations to explore and enjoy. Here is a piece submitted by the Friends of BMBCL, explaining what's happening with the future park.

A LONG-STANDING FIGHT TO PROTECT BLUE MOUNTAIN BIRCH COVE LAKES

Every day, thousands of HRM residents are within a short drive or walk to one of Canada's most unique urban wilderness areas—Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes (BMBCL). Located on the edge of Kingswood, and other communities along the Hammonds Plains Road, the BMBCL wilderness stretches to Bayer's Lake Business Park, Kearney Lake area and Timberlea. The area that is already protected is larger than the Halifax Peninsula! BMBCL comprises native Acadian forests, wetlands, and interconnected lakes. Frequently described as a "mini" Kejimikujik, the area is home to a wide variety of flora, fauna and wildlife, including bobcats, black bears, coyotes and more than 150 species of birds.

Along with the ecological value of BMBCL, the wilderness area is also rich in cultural and local history. Mi'kmaw lived on the land for centuries. The early settlers and families of Hammonds Plains used the lakes and forest for hunting and fishing as well as recreation. We know that the lakes were a favourite place for people to build cabins and enjoy the wilderness. During WWII the lakes near Rockingham were a popular swimming location for residents because swimming was not allowed in the Bedford Basin.

The wilderness area was identified back in the 1970s as having "high conservation value" by the Metropolitan Area Planning Committee. Still, it was not until 2009, after significant studies, that the Provincial Crown land was officially declared "the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area" and give protection. In the 2006 Regional Plan, HRM made a strong commitment to create a Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Regional Municipal Park. That commitment was restated in the 2014 Regional Plan update. It requires more land acquisition to buffer and extend the provincial wilderness area.

Although HRM did not own all the land that would comprise the planned park, it was understood that land would be acquired from private landowners over time.

As the years progressed, development moved rapidly, creating significant pressure points around BMBCL Wilderness Area. Development has consistently outpaced preservation, despite the protection of more crown land 2015, City purchases in 2018 and 2019, and the Nature Trust acquisition (560 acres) near Cox Lake in 2020.

There was big news in 2021 when Halifax signed an agreement with Parks Canada to study BMBCL as a candidate for the new national urban park program! In August 2022, the federal Minister of Environment visited BMBCL along with Provincial Ministers and together they announced their continued support for creating a national urban park. Yet much work still needs to be done because if we learn from history, developments can easily outpace preservation.

The battle to protect the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes area has been underway for more than 50 years. Over the decades, organizations, community groups and thousands of citizens have voiced the need for careful planning and creation of a wilderness park. Today, Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes is one of the key community groups leading the charge. Established in 2018, Friends of Blue Mountain and Birch Cove Lakes is a grassroots non-profit with over 700 members. Dedicated to advocacy, stewardship, and education that supports and promotes the creation of the Blue Mountain- Birch Cove Lakes Regional Plan. Membership is free. Visit www.bluemountainfriends.ca to learn more.

