

Hammonds Plains Historical Society Newsletter

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

What's Going on! - Spring 2023 Update

Don't miss out on our upcoming March meeting. As with our last two meetings, the March meeting will be another hybrid meeting, with both in person and online options. The meeting will take place on **March 27th (7pm)** at the Cornerstone Wesleyan Church, located at 1215 Hammonds Plains Road and online via Zoom. We are looking forward to a good turnout.

We will have two historical presentations on the 27th. The first will be introducing a new layered historical map of the Hammonds Plains area, known as the Archival Hammonds Plains Fact Map. The map has been developed by Ian Rouse, one of our current Board members. A short description of the map is provided in the column on the right. The second presentation involves the showing of the 1950's Nova Scotia Film Bureau video entitled 'Shooks'. This film explores the forest industry in Nova Scotia circa 1950, and was partially shot in Hammonds Plains. It is an excellent representation of the mills and associated wooden product shops in Hammonds Plains during this era

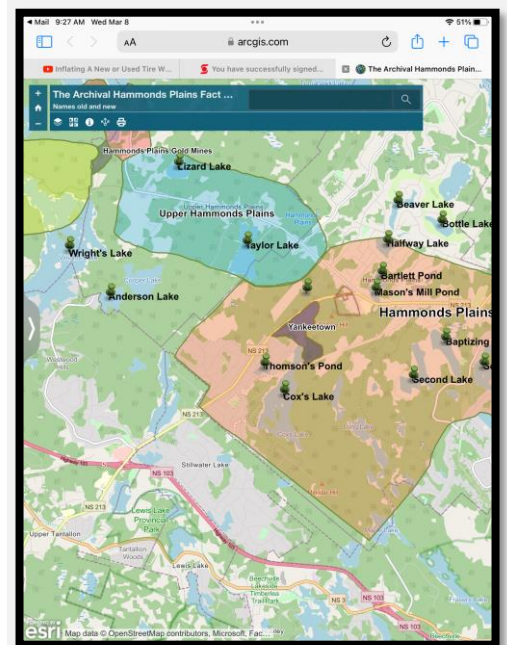
As with our last meeting, we encourage folks who will be attending in person to consider wearing a mask and maintain social distancing, as recommended by Public Health.

The latest podcast in our 'The Plains Chronicles Podcast Series' is now up on our web page. It is entitled 'No Nukes Please! – The Hammonds Plains Communication Towers'. It explores the history behind the 1950's-60's era military communication towers that were erected in Hammonds Plains during the cold war years. This is a fascinating part of our history that few in the community really know the story of.

Have you seen any of our weekly photos on our facebook page? If you haven't done so, please connect to our Facebook page and check out some of the pictures. Memories and comments are welcome.



The Archival Hammonds Plains Fact Map



At the March 27th general meeting, we will be introducing the Hammonds Plains Fact Map to participants. The map is built on layers which provides location and information of the following in the Hammonds Plains area:

- Historical Community Boundaries
- Lakes and Ponds
- Hills and Corners
- Mills
- Churches

The map can be accessed at:
<http://arcg.is/9WXry>

Our Heritage – The Ticket Drum

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.

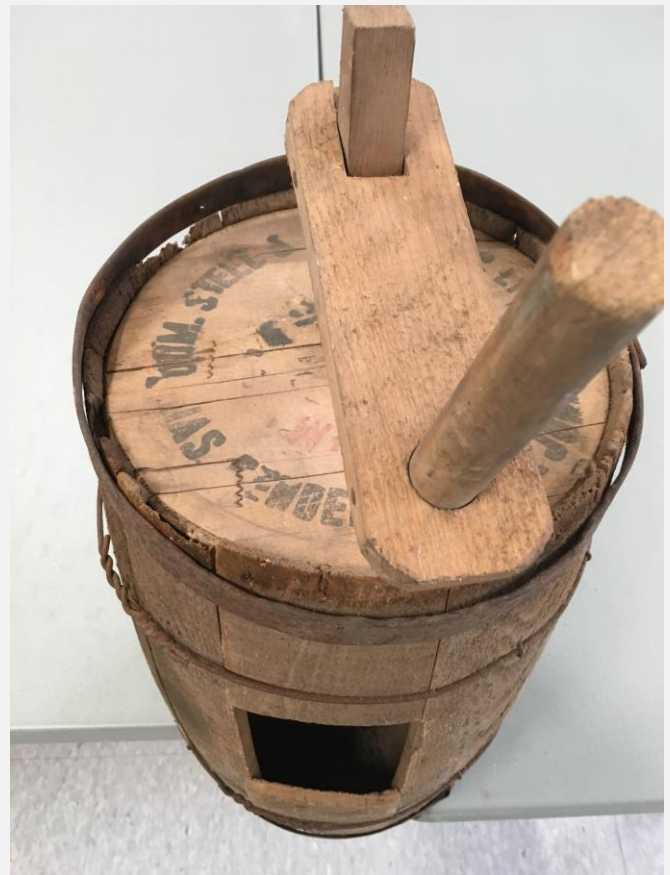


Did you know that the Hammonds Plains area once had two community halls that were used to host community events, long before the old schools were turned into community centers?

Here is a rare photo from the 1940's of the Upper Hammonds Plains Community Hall. The extension on the right side of the building was used as a kitchen. The main hall had a small stage. The hall acted a hub for social events in Upper Hammonds Plains. The hall was located on the right hand side of the road, near the top of the big hill on the Pockwock Road (the hill just pass the Emmanuel Baptist Church).

The Society recently participated in the filming of an upcoming episode of 'The Past & the Curious'. This is a TV Program aired on Eastlink Community TV, in which contributors present an antique and talk about the story behind it. Our episode will be aired in the fall.

We presented the 'Ticket Barrel' (shown here).



This ticket drum was donated by Blair Haverstock, having come from his parent's basement. It is a homemade barrel, gathered from one of the local cooper shops, made into a ticket drum that was used at the community hall during the Labour Day Picnic years, to hold tickets used to be drawn for prizes during the event. A truly fascinating artifact from our history!

Hammonds Plains Receives First Heritage Designation Site:

On February 7th HRM Regional Council voted to include the old church at 1608 Hammonds Plains Road in the Registry of Heritage Properties. This means that special funding becomes available for maintenance of the building and that it is protected from significant changes being made to the exterior of the building. The church will be recognized as a heritage site with a plaque being installed on the building to recognize that the building is an important asset to the community.

The church was built in 1890 after the original church on the same site was burned to the ground in 1888. The church has retained its original appearance since the time it was built, with the exception that a belfry (bell tower) was added in 1937. For over 100 years the church was home to the St. Nicholas Anglican congregation in Hammonds Plains. However, the congregation moved to a new larger church in Westwood Hills in 2004. The St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church has made the building their home since 2010. Ownership of the building was transferred from St. Nicholas to St. Gabriel in 2019.



A view of the church as it looked in the 1940's. Note that even back then, that the front door of the church opened up to the edge of the road. Since its inception it has been known as the 'little church on the side of the road'.

View of the old church from the rear. Check out the old gothic style windows.



The Big 1926 Celebration

Editor's Note: A big social event was held in Hammonds Plains in December 1926, with long time residents, Samuel and Sarah Eisenhauer celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. This was a rather rare event for the time, as the natural life span was only about 60 years in 1926. As the article mentions, what made the event really remarkable was that another long time Hammonds Plains couple, Nathaniel and Elizabeth Melvin who were married 57 years at the time and who had similar grand children, also attended the event. The big event was highlighted in the December 18th edition of the Halifax Chronicle.

Venerable Couples Will Celebrate at Hammonds Plains

Mr. and Mrs. Eisenhauer to observe 60th Wedding Day and Their Neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin, Nearly 57 Years Married, Will Take Part in Festivities – Young Ones See Both Their Grandfathers and Both Their Grandmothers Hale and Hearty at Combined Ages of 327 Years.

Hammonds Plains, Halifax County – A joyful reunion will be held here on Monday next, when the children, grand-children and other relatives and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Eisenhauer assemble at the home of the revered couple to congratulate them on their 60th wedding anniversary.

Samuel Eisenhauer, who was born April 3rd 84 years ago, and who is just four days older than his wife, whose birthday falls on April 7, married Sarah Boutilier at Mahone Bay on December 20th, 1866, sixty years ago next Monday. Mr. Eisenhauer spent his boyhood in Lunenburg County and on the sea. He served some years in the coasting trade between St. Margaret's Bay and Halifax and he recalls the days when there was no lighthouse all along the coast from Sambro to Green Island. "The last trip I made," he told the Morning Chronicle, "was in the winter of sixty years ago. It was in the little vessel Ocean Queen, and I well recollect, that when tried to sail up the Halifax Harbour, our boat was so heavily coated with ice that we could not lower her sails. In those days, there was no auxiliary engines, everything was done by hand and we none the worse for it. Aids to navigation were primitive compared with today. There were a few buoys marking some of the worst shoals, but there were no can buoys and, as for automatic and whistling buoys, they were never thought of then. I remember that I transported from Sambro Island in a little vessel the masons who had laid the foundation for the first fog-alarm there".

When in young manhood, Mr. Eisenhauer married and moved from Lunenburg County to Hammonds Plains, where he and his good wife have lived ever since, "We have had a peaceful, happy life together," said he "and, while I have had to work hard for practically all my days, I have never regretted it. I brought my father and mother with me from Lunenburg County, supported them and laid them to rest at Hammonds Plains. When I started at an early age, to earn a living for my self and my parents, I had nothing but my bare hands to do it with, but now by dint of industry and perseverance, I have earned a sustenance and my wife and I are happy in seeing our grand-children grow up around us."

Mr. and Mrs. Eisenhauer have six children living. They are Charles, St. Croix, Hants County; Ida, wife of A. B. Thomas, 205 Barrington Street, Halifax; Sidney, Hammonds Plains; Ethel, wife of Mr. G. Haverstock, Hammonds Plains; Sophie, wife of Edgar MacDonald, South Uniacke; and Harrison, of Hammonds Plains who is the 'baby' of the family, at the age of 40 years. There are 18 grand-children.

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin, who will join on Monday in the celebration of the sixtieth wedding day of their relatives and neighbors, the Eisenhauers, will be 57 years married next March. Mr. Melvin is the same age and Mr. and Mrs. Eisenhauer, 84, while Mrs. Melvin, who was Miss Elizabeth Davis, is 75 years old. They have two children, Elfita, wife of Charles Bezanson, Hammonds Plains; and Effie, wife of Sidney Eisenhauer (son of Samuel & Sarah).