

Hammonds Plains Historical Society Newsletter

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

What's Going on! - Summer 2023 Update

Our Board of Directors have been busy planning an evening of celebration as part of the AGM on **May 29th**. We had planned a 10th anniversary celebration back in May 2020 but then Covid-19 hit and we had to cancel the event. Now three years later, the Society is finally proceeding with hosting such an event.

Our AGM will take place at the Hammonds Plains Community Center beginning at 7pm on the 29th. The night will consist of a celebratory presentation on the accomplishments of the society since its inception in 2010 and the unveiling of a new historical film produced by the society outlining the history of the community, as told by long time residents. The film entitled 'Reflections of a Resilient Village' is a combination of pictures, story telling and a narrative history of Hammonds Plains. The meeting will also include the presentation of the Annual Report from the Board of Directors, along with the election of the Board for next year. Attendees will also be eligible for door prizes and everyone attending will be given a small keep-sake from the society. Snacks will be provided. Come and walk away with a Historical Society souvenir. **We want everyone to feel comfortable who is attending the meeting, so mask wearing is very acceptable and spacing of seats will be provided, if needed.**

Due to the nature of this meeting, we have decided to only offer an in-person option for this event. If possible, consider attending in-person. The video that we will be unveiling at the meeting will be posted on our website in the coming months. We will not be recording this meeting.

We now have 20 Podcasts to view on our website. If you have a few moments to spare and haven't viewed one of the podcasts yet, why not take the time to check out one of the podcasts. You can view all of the podcasts under the Resources tab on the homepage of our website. During the coming summer months, we will be doing a series on a comprehensive history of Hammonds Plains. Look for it in the podcast section.



The Bay Treasurer Chest Honorary Program

Bay Treasure Chest

Our Society participates in the Bay Chest Honorary Program. By providing counters twice a year for their Wednesday counting sessions, the Bay Treasurer Chest donates funds to our society. We are able to raise \$1000 per year for society activities through this program.

For those who are not aware, The Bay Treasurer Chest is a weekly \$2 draw in the St. Margaret's Bay area, and it includes Hammonds Plains in their circulation area.

Through this participation, we recently were able to purchase a portable speaker system. This will better allow us to host events in a variety of settings, as we can now use our own mic system.

We thank the Bay Treasurer Chest for the opportunity to further our goals.



Views of the Past

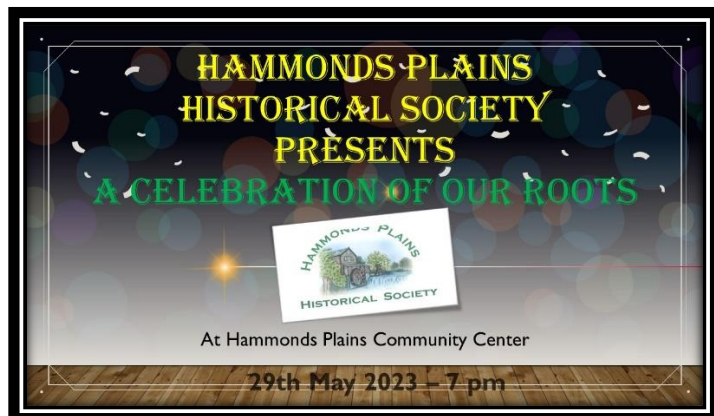
How to Become a HPHS Member:

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.



OUR AGM

We are on Facebook

We are continuing to post weekly historical photos of Hammonds Plains on our facebook page? On a recent post, we reached 50 likes, which was a record for us. If you haven't done so, please connect to our Facebook page and check out some of the pictures. Memories and comments are welcome.



Before refrigerators became a norm in Hammonds Plains homes, residents had ice sheds in which big blocks of ice were stored during the spring and summer to keep perishables available to consume. Here you see a sled hauling blocks of ice across the Hammonds Plains Road from First Lake to a local Ice Shed. Taken in the 1940's.



Making hay was an important summer chore in Hammonds Plains for many years. Residents used the hay to feed live stock. At one time, this was done by horse power. Here is a photo from the 1930's of a hay wagon being filled. The hay was lifted in the wagon by fork. Once the wagon was filled, it would be taken to the family barn for the hay to be stored for the winter months

Hammonds Plains News From the Past:

Editor's Note: This article appeared in April 1991 in the Halifax Chronicle Herald. It is interesting read about the outstanding feat of Weilder Haverstock, who at the time was celebrating 65 years playing as a organist at St. Nicholas Anglican Church.

Can't keep good organist down

By Andrea Nemetz
SACKVILLE BUREAU

She's outlasted eight ministers, a couple of hymnbooks and two organs.

She's spent 65 years playing hymns old and new — more years than all the other organists at St. Nicholas Anglican Church put together.

And although she officially retired last year, Weilder Haverstock still plays for the occasional Sunday service at the tiny church in Hammonds Plains.

"She appreciates it when someone else plays, but when there's no one there, she'll get up to play. She doesn't need to be asked," says Rev. Cal Pretty, who also serves as minister of St. John's Anglican Church in Lower Sackville.

"I think music is a very important part of the church service," says the 82-year-old Mrs. Haverstock. "There should be singing. You'll hear people say it's a dull service if there's no one to play the organ."

The lifelong Hammonds Plains resident began playing at St. Nicholas when she was 16 at the request of Rev. Arthur Tyers, who was looking for a replacement for an organist who had moved away.

"I played for my own confirmation that year," she remembers.

After that, she played an average of four hymns every Sunday, usually choosing the hymns herself, with the minister occasionally making special requests.

Mrs. Haverstock also played at weddings and other special occasions, taught Sunday school and was closely involved with all aspects of church life.

She continued playing after marriage at 23 and the birth of her two sons and two daughters.



Andrea Nemetz, Sackville Bureau

Although officially retired, Weilder Haverstock still occasionally plays the organ for services at St. Nicholas Anglican Church in Hammonds Plains.

"Things have stayed pretty much the same at the church over the years," she says, thinking back. One notable exception is the organ — the model she launched her career with had only one keyboard and two foot pumps. She prefers

the older organ to the current one, which has two keyboards, one foot pump and a host of stops.

Her dedication has not gone unnoticed — when the church celebrated its 100th anniversary in November 1990, it presented her with a special plaque.



This is one of our oldest photos. It was taken in 1923. It is a winter scene taken looking at the intersection of the Lucasville Road from the hill on the Bedford side of the intersection. You will notice the St. Nicholas Church on the left and the two story house that is still standing near the intersection of the Lucasville on the right. This big house was the residence of Mike & Mary Smith at the time of the photo. Check out the fencing that was located along the Hammonds Plains during this era.

[Our Annual Report](#)

Each year, the Board of Director's of the Hammonds Plains Historical Society provides an annual report, outlining the society's activities for the past year. This is usually presented at the AGM in May. The following link brings you this year's annual report. Check out what we been up to during the past 12 months.

[..\HPHS\HPHS Annual Report 2023.docx](#)