

Hammonds Plains Historical Society Newsletter

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

What's Going on!



September 25th – 7pm

A Celebration of Our Roots

Join us on September 25th for a 'Celebration of Our Roots' evening. This occasion will serve as the yearly AGM and be in replacement of the AGM cancelled in May due to the wildfires.

This meeting will take place 7pm at the Hammonds Plains Community Center (2041 Hammonds Plains Road).

During the celebration, the society will be unveiling its new film 'Reflections of A Resilient Village', a video exploring the history of Hammonds Plains as told by its residents.

This event will be an in person meeting only, due to the nature of the presentation.

We will be presenting regular AGM items at this meeting, including the annual report, financial statements, and elections of the Board of Directors. **There will also be a presentation on the 10 year accomplishments of the society.**

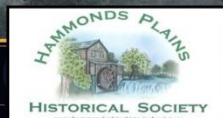
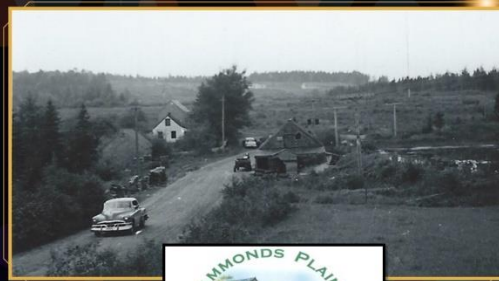


A Celebration of Our Roots

Hammonds Plains Historical Society AGM

Monday September 25th at Hammonds Plains Community Center – 7pm.

A celebratory event highlighted by unveiling of our new film 'Reflections of Our Resilient Village'. This is a replacement of cancelled May Meeting.



Despite the cancellation of our May AGM due to the wildfires, our Board of Directors continued to meet during the summer to plan for the coming year. Here are the highlights of what's been going on behind the scenes.

- A schedule of meetings has been devised for the upcoming 2023-24 year (See page 2 for schedule).
- Memberships are now open and being accepted for 2023-24 (See page 2 for details).
- Podcasts on our web page are continuing with a new series 'A Journey Thru Time – A History of Hammonds Plains' being the focus of this year's podcasts. Episodes 1-3 have been completed and posted.
- Weekly historical photos continue to be uploaded to our Facebook Page (see page 3 for details).

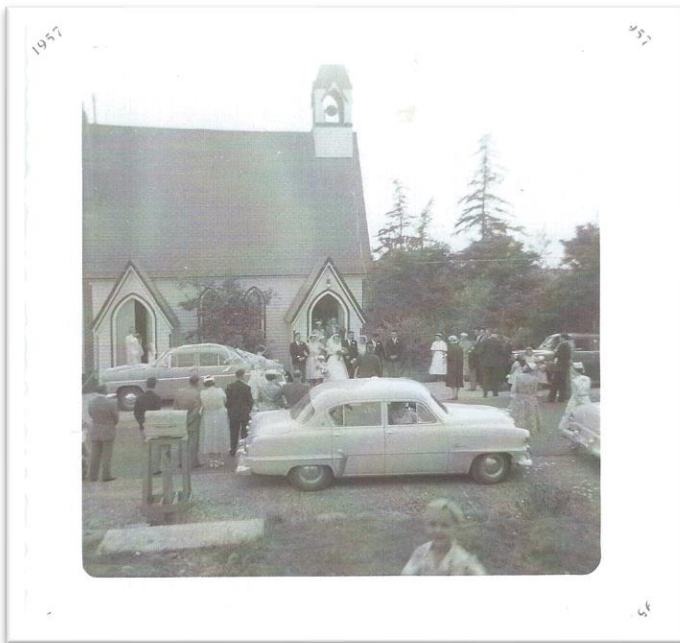
Becoming a 2023-24 HPHS Member:

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.



A Hammonds Plains wedding from the 1950's. Here is the photo of a 1957 wedding at the St. Nicholas Anglican Church.

Our 2023-24 General Meeting & Presentation Schedule

September 25th – Viewing of new film 'Reflections of Our Resilient Village' (In Person only meeting).

November 27th – History of Upper Hammonds Plains Fire Department (the only all Black Fire Department in Canadian history) – by Gina Jones-Wilson (In person meeting).

January 29th 2024 – Hammonds Plains of the 1940's (On line Meeting).

March 25th 2024 – An evening of Hammonds Plains History Trivia (In person meeting).

May 27th 2024 – A Fort Sackville Manor House Play (In Person meeting).

Come to Our November Meeting and Learn about the Historic Upper Hammonds Plains Fire Department



Early members of the Upper Hammonds Plains Fire Department standing beside Fire Truck

News from the Past

(From Halifax Herald – July 4, 1944)

Hammonds Plains News

The closing exercises of the Hammonds Plains School were held June 21, under the direction of the teachers, Miss Barbara Brittain and Mrs. Raymond Smith. An interesting program was presented by the pupils.

The I.O.D.E. prizes were as follows: Interest shown in Grade 11 work; Bernice Romans; Grade 10, Francis Haverstock; Grade 9, Shirley Haverstock; Grade 8, Ronald Eisenhower; Grade 7, Ross Haverstock; Grade 6, Emily Wright; Grade 5, Harold Fraser; Grade 4, Mona Haverstock and Mary Rafuse; Grade 3, Voila Haverstock; Grade 2, Audrey Haverstock; Grade 1, Joan Romans; Primer class, Eleanor Wright and Hazel Haverstock, class attitude in the advanced department, Mildred Haverstock; improvement in work in the Primary Department; Henry Haverstock and Benjamin Thomas.

A special feature on the program was the award of an English game book written and given by Miss Rosamond Archibald, teacher at Horton Academy, Wolfville. Miss Archibald conducted a very interesting class at the Teacher's Institute and offered the book as a prize in all schools to the child who used the best-spoken English during the year. As these games were carried out the enthusiasm of the children grew each day and spoken English was valued more than ever before by the children.

War Savings Stamps bought and sold by the pupils during the year amounted to \$532.05.

Miss Barbara Brittain former principal of the Hammonds Plains School has left here to take up a position in Halifax for the summer months.

The funeral of the late Burton Smith was held from the home of his parents Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Smith on Monday June 26. The service at house and grave by Rev. B. A. Cobham, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Hammonds Plains. The funeral was largely attended. Besides his parents, the deceased leaves to mourn several sisters and brothers.

A supper was held in the basement of the First Baptist Church, Hammonds Plains Thursday. Proceeds will be in aid of church work.

Series Snapshots

On our Facebook page we have been posting weekly historical photos of Hammonds Plains. Have you viewed them yet?



Here is our latest post:

Series Snapshot # 47:

One of the larger business operations in Hammonds Plains during the first half of the 1900's was the Wooden Box Shop and Storage Shed operated by brothers, Ronzo and Garvie Haverstock (and later by their sons). This was located along the Hammonds Plains Road, across from where the Mind Hack Escape Room is located to-day. What made this business unique was that the brothers actually had their own separate milling operations but shared this facility as part of their own business. The operation was demolished when the road was widened for paving in 1957. This photo shows part of the business along the road in 1955. Note how close it was to the Hammonds Plains.

Don't forget that many resources pertaining to Hammonds Plains History can be found at our website: hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca



Pockwock Lake – A Legacy of Giving

(This article appeared in the September Edition of the Neighbours of Hammonds Plains Magazine)

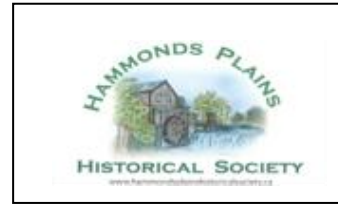
Pockwock Lake is well known as the trusted and safe water source giving many residents of HRM their water supply, but decades ago, it also gave local folks recreational enjoyment as a special place for boating, swimming and fishing. Centuries before that, it was a water route where our first nations peoples paddled as part their nomadic lifestyle.

It is believed that Pockwock Lake got its name from the Mi' Kmaq word 'Paakwaak' meaning: **'stop here, you can not go any further'**. This may be in reference to the fact that for centuries, the Mi' Kmaq nation wintered around Pockwock Lake due to the large moose population in the area. It was thought that further travel inland was not necessary to set up their winter encampment, as the big lake provided all of their life's essentials.

During the early 1800's, the Pockwock Lake area drew interest from emerging communities in the area as a source of timber. The forests around the lake contained excellent virgin trees and in 1823, the first lumber mill was built on the lake. Mills such as these remained on the lake for the next 150 years, employing many generations of local mill workers.

In the later 1800's, area residents found Pockwock Lake to be a delightful recreation haven, mostly due to its excellent supply of trout. Many stories of the 'big' one that got away were heard as the lake increasingly drew anglers to its waters.

The 1900's brought more and more folks to the lake as transportation evolved and access was made easier. Soon cottages sprouted up and small boats progressively became a common site on the lake. Once a dam was erected at the foot of the



lake in the 1930's, swimming around the dam became popular as well.

An exciting activity during the mid 1900's, was driving one's car on the lake ice during the winter months. The drive was 18km of true thrill seeking, depending on speed.

For many years, Hammonds Plains families traditionally went to Pockwock Lake on Victoria Day Weekend for a day of fishing, boating and picnicking. During this era, you could always count on Victoria Day to be a day when there were lots of motor boats on the lakes.

In the 1960's, the city of Halifax came calling and after much negotiation they decided that Pockwock Lake would become the new water supply for the city. By 1973, all lands surrounding the lake had been expropriated and construction had started on the new water treatment system.

Today Halifax Water oversees Pockwock Lake as it sits within its watershed. It ensures the biggest lake in the area sits in peace yet continues its legacy of a lake that keeps on giving.



Local residents with cars on Pockwock Lake during the 1950's. Lumber camps shown in the background.