

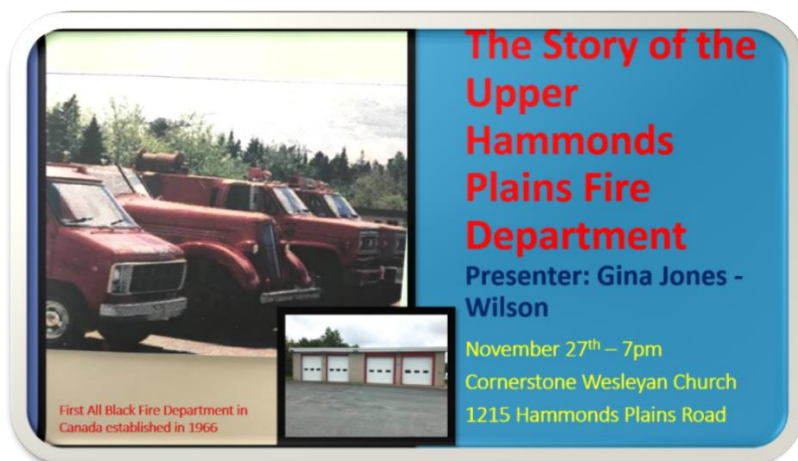
Hammonds Plains Historical Society Newsletter

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

What's Going on!

We have been busy planning for our November general meeting and presentation, which is upcoming on **Monday November 27th - 7pm** at the Cornerstone Wesleyan Church (1215 Hammonds Plains Road). The presentation for the meeting will be 'The Story of the Upper Hammonds Plains Fire Department'. In 1966, the community of Upper Hammonds Plains formed the first all Black Fire Department in Canada. *Gina Jones-Wilson*, the first female African Nova Scotian to serve as a voluntary fire fighter and current president of the Upper Hammonds Plains Community Development Association will lead the presentation. She will discuss the formation of the Fire Department and how it left a profound legacy on the community it served.



The Story of the Upper Hammonds Plains Fire Department
Presenter: Gina Jones - Wilson
November 27th - 7pm
Cornerstone Wesleyan Church
1215 Hammonds Plains Road

First All Black Fire Department in Canada established in 1966

We continue to post weekly historical photos on our Facebook page. If you haven't done so yet, please check out our Facebook page and see all of the fascinating photos that have been posted so far. Each of the photos have a short description of what each photo is all about.

Memberships for 2023-24 are now being accepted. Check out the write up on page 2 to join or renew for the coming year.



Hammonds Plains - A Journey Thru Time

The Hammonds Plains Historical Society is the midst of producing a 10-part series outlining the history of the area. Each episode is about 10-15 minutes long and is done in a video format. The first 3 episodes of **Hammonds Plains - A Journey Thru Time**, are now posted in the Resources section on our web site:

www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca



First 3 Episodes:

- Part 1 - First Contact
- Part 2 - The Original Land Grants
- Part 3 - New Arrivals

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.



Sometimes, accidents occur that need fixing.

Here is a photo from 1950, of a tow truck hauling out a lumber mill truck from Pockwock Lake. The lumber mill truck, belonging to the Moran's Mill on Pockwock Lake, had gone through the ice while driving across the lake. A diver had to be hired to hook a chain unto the truck before the tow truck was able to pull it out.

Hammonds Plains & the 1940's



Walking along the Hammonds Plains Road in winter during the 1940's

Don't miss our January meeting, where we will be travelling back to the 1940's to highlight that decade in Hammonds Plains.

The January meeting will be on Monday January 29th, beginning at 7pm. This meeting will be an online meeting only. You can join the meeting via a Zoom link, which will be on our web page. It will also be e-mailed out to HPHS members ahead of time.

The 1940's in Hammonds Plains were dominated by the war years, with rationing, community support for service members and the economic boom brought on by the local barrel and box industry highlighting community daily life of that decade.

However, lots more was happening during this decade as well, with new schools being built, the building of a hockey rink, the peak of the Hammonds Plains Phone Company, the beginning of the Hammonds Plains Fire Department, the birth of the Labour Day Picnic and the official naming of Upper Hammonds Plains all taking place.

Tune in on January 29th to travel back to visit this fascinating decade in Hammonds Plains history.

News from the Past

(From Halifax Herald – September 1943)

Upper Hammonds Plains News Hosts Noteworthy Church Event

A total of 150 delegates were registered at the 90th annual United Baptist Association, which opened in Hammonds Plains Baptist Church. The moderator was Rev. A. N. Morgan.

In his opening address, Mr. Morgan reviewed the progress that had been made during the last 15 years and stated that even greater opportunities lay ahead of the association.

An encouraging financial report was given by the treasurer, J. Ross Kinney. It was reported that the association had bought a \$200 war bond.

Rev. W. P. Oliver presented the executive report, in which he outlined the activities of the year. Dr. E. S. Mason reported on the Grande Ligne and home missions.

Rev. W. P. Oliver and Rev. A. N. Morgan were appointed to attend the Maritime United Convention at Wolfville.

An address of welcome at the Saturday night session was given by Deacon Edmond Symonds of Hammonds Plains Church. Response was made by Rev. M. L. Anderson. Following this, the program was turned over to the Young People's Association, who carried on under the direction of H. D. Thomas. Messages were read by Misses W. Williams and S. Morgan. Pleasing duets were sung by E. Clayton and S. David and a solo was rendered by Donald Fairfax.

A Prayer service was held at 9:30am Sunday, and at 11am another service was conducted by the Rev. A.A. Wise. Mr. Oliver preached the associated sermon in the afternoon. Large congregations attended all services.

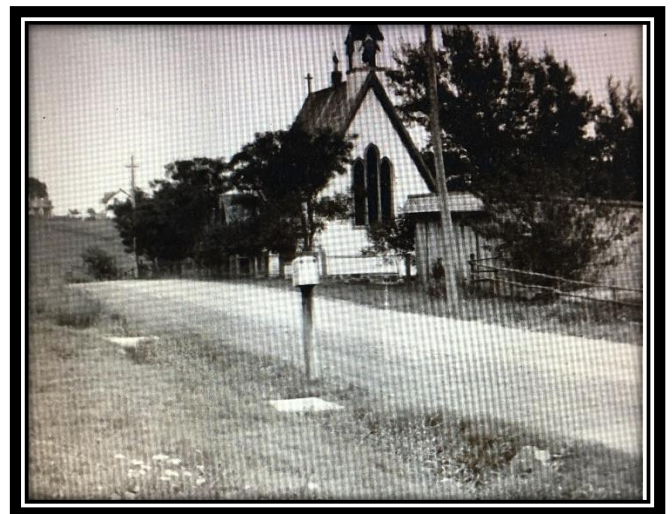
In the evening a presentation was made to Dr. E. S. Mason, who is retiring after having been mission superintendent for 28 years and a warm tribute was paid to the service he had given.

Learning about about Church Sheds

At one time, many churches, including some in Hammonds Plains had a Church shed. Church sheds were common during the horse and buggy days, where they were used to house horses during the church services. The driver of the wagon would drop their family (passengers) off at the church door and then put their steaming steeds in the shed.

It was always rather entrancing for youngsters to see the horses taken out of the sheds after the service on a cold winter's day. Some of them perhaps had had no exercise all week, and "they were up on the bit", meaning that they could become a little excitable.

The sheds were great places to chat and much passing of news was initiated in the sheds.



A photo of the old horse shed that was located next to the St. Nicholas Church, along the Hammonds Plains Road (taken 1950's)

The Wooden Box – A Hammonds Plains Heritage Moment

It's been approximately 30 years since the last wooden box was commercially made in Hammonds Plains. Yet, for many years, the wooden box was a key symbol of economic prosperity in the area. At one time, thousands of wooden boxes were made in Hammonds Plains and surrounding area on a daily basis.

The making of wooden boxes was a natural offshoot of the forest trade that dominated industrial growth in the area during the second half of the 1800's. With excellent timber in ready supply and dozens of mills on local lakes, it became a good fit to create wooden by-products to match the lumber being sawed in the mills. Since wooden boxes were in high demand for the fishing industry in Nova Scotia, with fish being packed in the boxes and shipped to markets across the world, it made sense to create wooden box shops that were associated with the mills. By the 1880's, several small box factories had been created in the area. Some of them were located next to the mill, while others were along the Hammonds Plains Road away from the mill, so to take advantage of easier transportation. In those box shops, box pieces were cut at the mills and brought via horse and wagon to the box shops. The individual pieces were called 'shooks'.

Once the boxes were made, they were loaded onto a wagon and then driven to market. Many of the boxes were delivered to the fish plants along the Halifax Waterfront, but others were taken to the Bedford Train station to travel to market by train, or to fish plants in St. Margaret's Bay. While fish boxes were the main product in Hammonds Plains, boxes were also made for delivery of apples, potatoes and soft drinks.

During these early years, the boxes were totally made by hand. The box makers would either nail the sides onto the ends or pound them together with a wooden mallet, if the box shop or mill had a groove or tongue machine. The bottom would then be nailed on to the box. Most often tops would be sent along with the boxes to market in stacks so that they could be nailed on once the box was filled.

The golden age of the box shop in Hammonds Plains was in the years leading up to the 1930's. During this time, there were more than 15 box shops in the area.

During the early 1900's the old way of putting boxes together was updated with the introduction of nailing machines, in some of the bigger box factories. The nailing machines could put the bottoms on the box in very little time.

With the demise of fish stocks, the effects of the great depression and the introduction of plastic boxes the 1930's started a gradual trend of reduced demand for wooden boxes and soon the box shop landscape in Hammonds Plains was reduced to only a few box shops. By the 1970's few boxes were being made with the last box shop closed down in the 1990's.



Photo showing a load of wooden boxes being loaded for delivery during the 1960's, The photo is from the Haversatock Brothers Box Shop located on Pockwock Lake.