

# Hammonds Plains Historical Society Newsletter

Web Site: [www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca)

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

## What's Going on!


Welcome to 2024! Now that the holiday season is behind us, it's time to get back to our Historical Society projects.

Our first event of 2024 is our January General Meeting. It will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. **This meeting will be an online meeting only.** You can link to the presentation by visiting [www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca), on the evening of the meeting or connect via direct link that will sent out to our e-mail list.

The presentation for the meeting is entitled **'The 1940's in Hammonds Plains – A Decade of Sacrifice & Unity'**. The 1940's were a decade consumed by WW2, but highlighted by a community togetherness that was able to lay the foundations for future prosperity. We will be mixing photos from the decade with videos of folks talking about what life was like in Hammonds Plains during that decade.

Hammonds Plains Historical Society Presents

The 1940's in Hammonds Plains - A Decade of Sacrifice & Unity



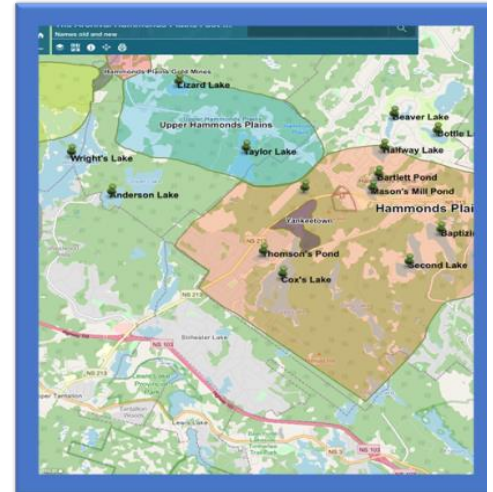
January 29, 2024  
Via Zoom

Link at  
[hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca](http://hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca)

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## Archival Hammonds Plains Fact Map Update



The Archival Hammonds Plains Fact Map was developed by Ian Rouse, one of our Board of Directors. It is a map site of the Hammonds Plains area, built on layers, which provides location and information of the following:

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

**The map has now been updated with photos attached to many of the Hammonds Plains landmarks.**

The map can be accessed at:

<http://arcg.is/9WXry>

Join us on January 29<sup>th</sup> to learn about a truly fascinating time in Hammonds Plains history. You will be easily able to connect with us from the comforts of your home.

We continue to produce our history series entitled '**Hammonds Plains – A Journey Thru Time**' Each episode is about 10-15 minutes long and is done in a video format. The first 6 episodes of the series are now posted in the Resources section on our web site. The first 6 episodes traces the history of the Hammonds Plains area from its beginnings to 1880.

We also continue to post weekly historical photos on our Facebook page. If you haven't done so yet, why not check out our Facebook page and see all of the great photos that have been posted so far. Each of the photos have a short description that goes along with the post.

Memberships for 2023-24 are now being accepted. See below to join or renew for the current year.

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### **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](mailto: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.

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## **Hammonds Plains Historical Trivia Night**

**March 25, 2024**



Our March meeting is promising to be full of fun and entertainment, as we present our first ever **Hammonds Plains Historical Trivia Night**.

Come and play trivia where you will be asked a series of both well-known and obscure facts about the past in Hammonds Plains. It will be surefire fun, made to order for both long time residents and those new to the community.

Here's a sample of a trivia question:

**Hammonds Plains once had a military presence through one of the following:**

- a. A 1700's Military Blockhouse
- b. A pair of cold war era Communication Towers
- c. A WW1 Militia Training Depot
- d. An Internment Facility used to house French Prisoners during the 7 Years War

Test your knowledge of the history of the community to guess your answer. The answer is given at the end of this newsletter.

Don't miss out on an entertaining evening of historical tidbits and surprising truths! Hope you can join us on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Cornerstone Wesleyan Church at 7pm. Prizes will be offered.

# News from the Past – 1940's Edition

(From Halifax Herald – September 22, 1947)

## Provo Wallis Chapter Meets

The first meeting of the chapter since June last took place at the Foresters Community Hall. Mrs. Charles Harris, the regent was in the chair.

The ways and means of raising money for the chapter and the awarding of prizes next year to the pupils of the Community School was discussed.

The members of the chapter turned in their filled nurse bags and finished pyjamas, which are to be sent to England.

A standing vote of thanks was tendered to Mrs. Kenneth Thomson for the use of her home during the winter and early spring.

The chapter will start a travelling basket through the community right away in order to raise funds for their immediate needs.

There will be a card social at the Forester's Hall on Saturday evening, September 25<sup>th</sup> and the chapter is anxious to have a good crowd.

The next meeting of the chapter will take place Wednesday evening October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Forester's Hall as the usual date of the meeting falls on Thanksgiving Day.

The chapter members reported the food parcels were sent to England during July and August.

## Learning about the I.O.D.E. in Hammonds Plains

There have been many references to the Hammonds Plains chapter of the I.O.D.E. in our historical accounts over the years. Few in the community today however are truly aware of the purpose of the group and what were their contributions to the community. This account aims to give you some insight.

The I.O.D.E. stands for the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire. The Canadian Chapter of the I.O.D.E. was formed in 1900. It was set up as an all women's charitable organization for the purpose of providing support for soldiers of the British Empire and their dependents. Over the years, it transitioned to a community support group focusing on children, education and community services.

The Hammonds Plains Chapter of the I.O.D.E. was organized sometime during the 1930's. The Chapter was officially named the Provo Wallis Chapter, with a full slate of officers forming an executive. The head of the chapter was known as the Regent. Monthly meetings were regularly held either at a local home or at the Community Hall.

In the late 1930's, the I.O.D.E. took over the operation of the Community Hall. Much of their fundraising efforts was to maintain the hall. However, the group also raised funds for the local school. For a time, prizes were given to students in each class by the I. O. D. E., at the end of the school year for academic achievement.

During WW2, the I.O.D.E. group in Hammonds Plains was very active and they sent many kits to service personnel in Europe.

The Provo Wallis Chapter dissolved in the 1960's as the community started to see massive changes and the need for fund raising became less, as services were slowly taken over by government agencies or other community groups.

## The 1940's in Hammonds Plains:

The 1940's were a period in which a World War raged on across Europe, but in Hammonds Plains focus was more on the Wooden Box and Barrel industry which was booming, due to the War efforts. During the war, there were 18 working mills in the area, with an estimated 80 000 barrels and 70 000 fish boxes being produced yearly.

During the 1940's, the Community Hall stood as the social hub of Hammonds Plains, with community suppers, card games, afternoon teas and concerts being regular events.

Other highlights of the decade include:

- Military presence in the community
- Labour Day Picnic Established
- Hammonds Plains Phone Co. hits its peak and then dissolves
- Outdoor Rink is built
- Formation of Fire Fighters Organization
- High School Education becomes a priority
- Bus service is introduced
- Women's Groups lead the war effort

Here are some photos that highlight the decade:



During the 1940's, everyone just hopped on back of a box truck to go to a social event.

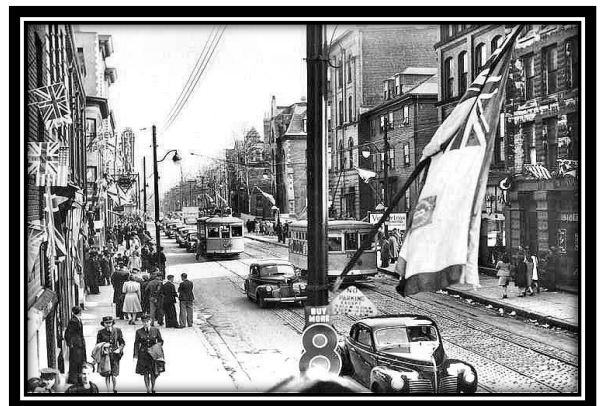
**Answer to trivia question – b. A pair of cold war era Communication Towers**



On the left side is the new outdoor rink built in 1944, near the Lucasville Road – Hammonds Plains Road Intersection. Check out the boards.



Hammonds Plains resident, Clyde Haverstock in his WW2 uniform, outside his Hammonds Plains home.



A trip to Halifax was becoming more common for Hammonds Plains folks during the 1940's. Barrington Street shown above was the place to go at the time. Note the old fashion streetcars, which ran on Halifax streets until 1949.