

Hammonds Plains Historical Society Newsletter

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

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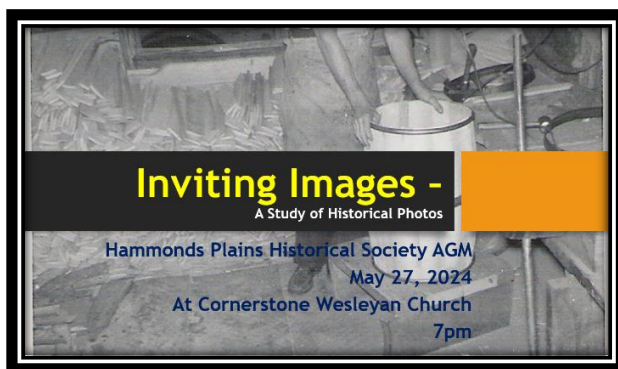
What's Going on!

Our AGM is upcoming on **Monday May 27th** at 7pm. This is our annual meeting where we submit yearly reports and hold our Board of Directors elections. It will take place at the Cornerstone Wesleyan Church (1215 Hammonds Plains Road).

Our presentation for May 27th is entitled '**Inviting Images**'. The presentation will be a photo study of Hammonds Plains photos of the past, including a discussion of what the photos show, who is in the photo, when and where the photo was taken, and the historical significance of the images. Join us on May 27th for an engaging and interesting look at our past.

We continue to post weekly historical photos on our Facebook page. You can go onto our Facebook page and see all of the neat photos that have been posted so far. Each of the photos have a short description that goes along with the post. Our goal is to post a total of 100 historical photos. After we reach that goal, the plan is to initiate another look at Hammonds Plains history.

Our Annual Report will be tabled at the AGM. You can find a copy of the report on page 4 of the newsletter. The report highlights the year's activities of the society.



Inviting Images – May 27th



Here is a photo of a building long gone from the Hammonds Plains landscape. It is of the Yankeetown Baptist Church, an operational Baptist Church in Hammonds Plains from 1897 to the early 1980's.

The significance of the photo is that it highlights the importance of religion in Hammonds Plains during the 1900's. It was also one of the smallest churches in Nova Scotia measuring only 3.5m by 4.5m.

The Church was located near the middle of the area known as Yankeetown, along the Yankeetown Road, at the time the photo was taken.

The church was retired, sold and transferred to another community during the 1980's.

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.

Do You Remember when Hammonds Plains had home milk delivery services?



During the 1950's and 1960's, Hammonds Plains had a milk truck that delivered milk products to the front steps of each home. Folks had to put a card in the window to indicate they wanted milk delivery for that day. On the front step, you then had to put a note as to what product you wanted. Before the mid 1900's, milk was delivered from a community farm.

News from the Past

Hammonds Plains News – June 8, 1959

(Published in Halifax Mail Star)

The C. G. I. T. closing banquet was held recently in the vestry of the First Baptist Church. The banquet was attended by the members and their mothers, Reverend and Mrs. Terry Tingley and special speaker, Miss Nina Gower, principal of the local school here. The ladies of the First Baptist Church served.

Betty Jane Thomson proposed the toast to the Queen, after which all present sang, "Gpd Save the Queen". May Smith led the gathering in silent prayer in appreciation of the Church. The pastor of the church, Rev. T. B. Tingley, responded. Fay Smith proposed the toast to the mothers, and toast was responded to by Mrs. M. Eisenhower.

Jo-Anne Eisenhower, president of the C. G. I. T., extended a welcome to all, and the secretary, Marjorie Eisenhower, read a report of the year's activities, and helped Faye Smith lead a sing-song around the table. Following Miss Gower's talk, the members recited their purpose, sang their hymn and all joined hands for the 'taps'.

At a recent meeting of the First Baptist Church the following officers were elected to serve the Church: Deacon for Life, Carl Haverstock; Harvey Smith, deacon to retire in 1961, and Charles Romans, deacon to retire in 1962; Edwin Haverstock, treasurer, and Mrs. Chester Spence, financial secretary.

Miss Della Moren, who recently retired as financial secretary after more than 20 years in that position, was honored with a presentation for her faithfulness by members of the church.

The home nursing course sponsored by the Home and School Association, held a final meeting at the home of Mrs. Earl Haverstock, under the direction of Mrs. Jack Hankey, RN. The following took examinations from Mrs. Taylor RN: Miss Edna Haverstock, Mrs. Edgar Silver, Mrs. Elias Rafuse, Mrs. Earl Haverstock, Mrs. Frank Thomson, Mrs. Douglas Eisenhower, Mrs. Owen Eisenhower and Miss Myrtle Haverstock.

The annual supper and sale to be held by the members of St. Nicholas sewing circle will be held Saturday June 13th at the Community Hall.

HALIFAX COUNTY – A HISTORICAL LOOK

---Hammonds Plains was part of Halifax County from the time of the original land grants in 1786 until 1996. At that time, Halifax County was officially dissolved as a governing unit, replaced by the Halifax Regional Municipality. However, Halifax County continues to exist as a county in Nova Scotia and folks still refer to the unit in some conversations of the Hammonds Plains area.

--- Halifax County derived its name from George Montagu-Dunk, 2nd Earl of Halifax (1716–1771) Halifax County was established by Order-in-Council on August 17, 1759. The boundaries of four other counties - Annapolis, Kings, Cumberland and Lunenburg - were specifically defined at that time, with Halifax County comprising all the part of peninsular Nova Scotia that was not within their limits.

---Following the end of Seven Years' War in 1763, Cape Breton Island was returned to English rule and was formally annexed to Nova Scotia. For a time it formed part of Halifax County.

---The boundaries of Halifax County were modified in 1822. That part of St. Mary's Township (established in 1818) which had been in Halifax County was annexed to and included within Sydney County.

---The dividing line between the Districts of Halifax and Colchester was confirmed and established on May 3, 1828. In 1835, Halifax County was divided and the Counties of Colchester and Pictou County were created out of parts of what had previously been Halifax County. Eventually in 1880 the boundary between the Counties of Halifax and Colchester was fixed.

--- The Halifax County Court of General Sessions of the Peace oversaw all operational aspects of the county until 1879. This was an committee appointed by government.

--- In 1880, Halifax County was incorporated under the County Incorporation Act. Under the act, Halifax County became an elected municipal council. 31 districts were designated by the act and each district had its own seat on the council. A warden was then elected among the councillors, by the councillors, to serve as chief executive officer. Hammonds Plains was considered one of the original districts (District 16). In the 1880 election, Hammonds Plains resident, Norman Hays was elected the first councillor of District 16.

--- Residents in the community were paid a stipend to administrator many of the legal aspects of the council such as assessors, tax collectors, overseers of highways, constables, fence viewers, health officers and overseer of the poor.

--- The number of councillors changed throughout the years to reflect changes in district boundaries. District 16 remained in place until 1938 when it was joined with Bedford, Rockingham and Birch Cove to form district 8. It was changed again in the 1960's to form district 18 when Hammonds Plains was joined with St. Margaret's Bay.

--- In 1996, the City of Halifax, Dartmouth, town of Bedford and the Halifax County Municipality were amalgamated to form HRM. At that time, all municipal government and service delivery was provided by either the Regional Municipality or the Indigenous Canadian Reserves, with no additional county level government or administration.

--- Today, boundaries of Halifax County county are also the boundaries of the Halifax Regional Municipality, plus the Native First Nations Reserves of Cole Harbour, Sheet Harbour and Shubenacadie, parts of the Millbrook and Shubenacadie First Nations.

HPHS Annual Report – 2023-24

We had a challenging start to the past year, as the wildfires that significantly impacted the Upper Tantallon and Hammonds Plains communities in late May last year resulted in us having to postpone our AGM last May. This resulted in us having to regroup during the summer months and then have a belated AGM in September. Thankfully our current Board members all agreed to stay in place during the summer months so that we were able to continue board activities.

In September at the 2022-23 AGM, we were able to confirm that all the Board members from the past year agreed to have their names put forward to serve on the Board once again. Consequently, Sandra MacLeod, Robert Restin and Ann MacLean were able to continue in year 2 of their two-year terms. Elections were held for the other Board positions and Dave Haverstock, Cathy Munroe, Nancy Boland and Gail Stronach were re-elected to another two-year term, while Ian Rouse was re-elected for an one year term.

Since September, the Board of Directors met 7 times via Zoom, focusing on planning for general meetings and working on the strategies related to our Strategic Plan. With COVID gradually transitioning to the rear-view mirror, we did agree as a Board to continue some of the practices started during the pandemic. For instance, we continued our Board meetings online and we moved our January 2024 general meeting to an online event. The remaining general meetings were either in person or of hybrid nature, using both in person and digital formats. Attendance at our general meetings remained staple throughout the past year.

At our general meetings, we hosted several interesting presentations, including the unveiling of our new film 'Reflections of a Resilient Village', in a celebration of the society's anniversary, in September, the 'History of the Upper Hammonds Plains Fire Department' facilitated by Gina Jones-Wilson in November, an exploration of 'Hammonds Plains of the 1940's' in January, the first ever Hammonds Plains History Trivia Night in March and tonight's session called 'Inviting Images', in which we will explore some of our historic photos in detail.

Society memberships increased again this past year, as we nearly reached pre Covid numbers As of April 30th, we had 42 paid members for the 23-24 year.

Our finances remained stable during the past year. As with the last few years, we were able to keep our expenses to a minimum.

Our newsletters continued to be published, with editions being sent to members via e-mail at the time of the general meetings.

We were able to keep our web page updated, with new resources being added. We started a new series in our podcast section entitled 'Hammonds Plains – A Journey Thru Time', which is a multi-piece video account of the history of the area. To this date, we have 6 episodes completed.

Our Facebook page continued to experience higher traffic as our photo series called 'Series Snapshots' continued to good reviews. We have now posted 80 photos with short descriptions with each photo, on the page. Our aim is to reach 100 photos in the series.

As indicated at the beginning of this report, attention at our Board meetings was given to discussing the strategies related to our Strategic Plan. During the earlier part of the past year we focused on the Permanent Interpretative Historical Panel that we hope to erect in Hammonds Plains. However, concerns about the cost of liability insurance presented a road block which has held us to temporary halting the initiative. We are still waiting for new information from HRM before we can move forward. Since November, we have concentrated on our new education piece we are hoping to introduce to middle school students at Madeleine Symonds Middle School. The education program centers around the poem 'Auntie Emm' written by Dorothy Bezanson Evans and presents all kinds of resources which students can use to search for answers to a series of 30 questions about the poem. We are now in the final stages of rolling out this education program. The Board wishes to acknowledge the work that Cathy Munroe has put into designing the education program and thanks her for the many hours of work that has gone into this initiative.

The past year has seen us continuing to consolidate our place in the community. Our digital resources have increased and we continue to seek new opportunities and networks to expand our message. Thanks to a dedicated Board of Directors, we are in a position to grow the promotion of our vision of gathering, preserving and sharing the rich history of Hammonds Plains and we look forward to continued community engagement in the coming year.