

SEPTEMBER 2024 / 2024-25 Edition 1

# HAMMONDS PLAINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

## The Latest HPHS News!

Welcome to the 2024-25 year! The HPHS Board of Directors have been doing some planning during the summer and the following highlights some updates to HPHS activities.

- A schedule of meetings has been planned for the upcoming 2024-25 year (See page 2 for schedule).
- Memberships are now open and being accepted for the 2024-25 year. As per previous years, the membership fee is \$10 for the coming year. (See page 2 for details).
- Our weekly historical photo series that we have been displaying on our Facebook Page has reached 100 photos. Our original goal was to post 100 photos, so we have ended this series. It proved to be a big hit, certainly increasing our audience and creating new connections.

We will be beginning a new series during the first week of October entitled 'Did You Know?' This series will be presenting a weekly fact about the history of the area, facts that will highlight the history and heritage of Hammonds Plains. Once again, we will be encouraging comments that invoke either questions or memories after each of the facts are published. Look for this starting the first week of October on our Facebook page.

- We have recently posted 3 more podcasts on our web page of the 'A Journey Thru Time – A History of Hammonds Plains' series. 9 Episodes have now been published looking at the history of the community until 1940. More episodes will be published in the coming months.

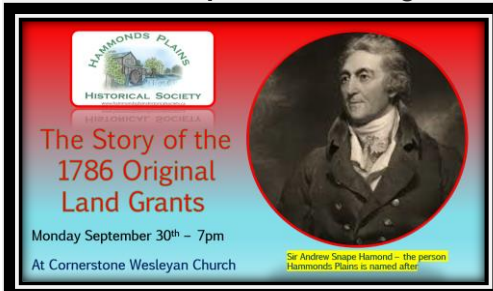


**September 30<sup>th</sup> –  
7pm**

## **The Story of the Original Hammonds Plains Land Grants**

*Have you ever wondered how Hammonds Plains started? Here's your chance to find out.*

*At the Hammonds Plains Historical Society fall meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> (7pm), at the Cornerstone Wesleyan Church we will be presenting 'The Story Behind the Original Hammonds Plains Land Grants'. Come and learn about the beginnings of the Hammonds Plains we know today. The meeting will also be shown online. Website will have link on the day of the meeting.*



**We will also be having an Ask a Question session at the meeting. Participants will be given the opportunity to ask any question about the past in Hammonds Plains. Get your questions ready!**

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## **Becoming a 2024-25 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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The Hammonds Plains chapter of the I.O.D.E. (Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire) was a leading force in the community during the mid 1950's. It was a women's group who provided support for military personnel from Canada. It was especially active during World War 2 and the Korean Conflict. Here you see the Hammonds Plains Chapter posing in front of a quilt that they had made to send overseas during the Korean War of the 1950's. This picture is from 1955. All the ladies in the picture were Hammonds Plains residents at the time.

## **Our 2024-25 General Meeting & Presentation Schedule**

September 30<sup>th</sup> (Wesleyan Church) – The Story behind the Original Hammonds Plains Land Grants

November 25<sup>th</sup> (Wesleyan Church) – 'Shared Beginnings – The Connections between Hammonds Plains and the historic Halifax Subdivision of Schmidtville'

January 27<sup>th</sup> (Online only) 'A Hammonds Plains Short Story – Auntie Emm'

March 31<sup>st</sup> (Hammonds Plains Community Center) – Hammonds Plains History Trivia – Part 2

May 26<sup>th</sup> (Wesleyan Church) – A Hammonds Plains Historical Photo Study – Part 2

**Come to Our November Meeting and Learn about the how the first subdivision in Halifax actually has several interesting Hammonds Plains connections. The presentation will be a joint one with representation from both communities.**

**CONNECTING COMMUNITIES**

**UNLOCKING THE LINKS BETWEEN SCHMIDTVILLE AND HAMMONDS PLAINS**

A Joint Presentation by  
William Breckenridge &  
Dave Haverstock

Schmidtville

Hammonds Plains

# News from the Past

(From the Bedford-Sackville Weekly News – August 12, 2005)

## Long Time Coming for School Reunion

Residents are already calling it the social event of the century. This past weekend the Hammonds Plains School reunion took place ---- and went off without a hitch. Committee members said it was successful beyond their wildest dreams.

“You can only hope,” said committee member Marie Kerr. “We are worked very hard, but there’s no way of knowing how people will respond. We never imagine this kind of turn out, and everyone had the time of their lives.”

Registration was held at the original school where past students and teachers mingled, regaling each other with stories from days gone by. Nearly 200 people turned out from far and wide to celebrate all those who attended the small school from 1939 to 1967.

Beautiful displays were set up all over the room; each representing a decade. Copies of report cards, newspaper clippings and old vinyl records were mixed in among the class pictures of that era.

Slide shows of black and white photographs ran throughout the night while news members were being made with a digital camera in a makeshift portrait studio in the corner.

Partygoers, whose ages ranged from their 50’s into the 90’s, enjoyed many trips down memory lane with friends they hadn’t seen for decades. Olive Romans, one of the belles of the ball at a young 95, is currently the oldest resident of Hammonds Plains and attended the school from primary to grade 11.

Many teachers were on hand as well, including Lena Smith who taught from 1943 until the school closed in 1967 and Rosa (Hobbs) Haverstock who was the first teacher at the school.

Some people traveled as far as Ottawa and British Columbia to reminisce about their school days. Many of them hadn’t been home in over 50 years. Barry Thompson came in from Portland, Oregon. He left Hammonds Plains in 1953 when he was in grade 7. He said he loves coming home and like everyone else, was mostly looking forward to renewing old acquaintances. “I haven’t seen some of these people in 52 years,” he said “It’s Amazing.”

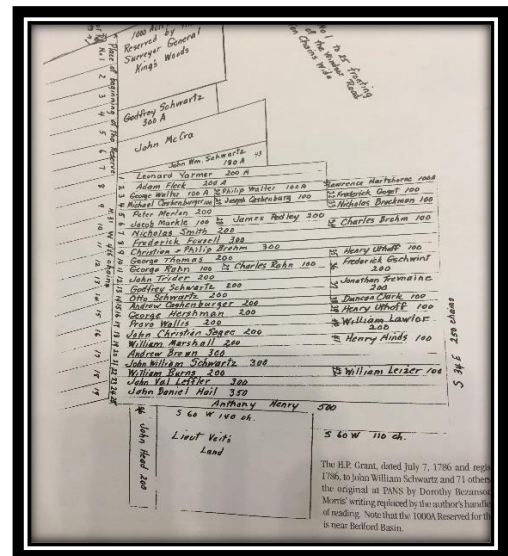
The two-day reunion wrapped up on Saturday, with a dinner and dance at Vernon Kynock’s home. After the catered buffet style meal, several people entertained the crowd with stories about their time at Hammonds Plains School. Later in the evening, a live band had everyone up dancing with favorites from the 50’s and 60’s.

Kynock said people were having such a good time they didn’t want the night to end. Some even stayed on well after the band packed up at midnight.

# The Original Hammonds Plains Land Grants of 1786

## Some interesting tidbits!

- Grants were issued to 42 land owners. Not one ever set up residence in Hammonds Plains.
- Grants weren’t actually grants, as grantees had to pay for their lands.
- A condition of the so called grant was that the grantees had to clear the land, erect dwellings and keep cattle.
- The original lots bordered lots that extended from the old Windsor Road in Sackville.
- The original lots were either 100 or 200 acres of land.
- A water lot on Bedford Basin was included in the original grants.
- Lots were named after Sir Andrew Snape Hamond (Former Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia.)
- A road was built from the grants to the nearest community at the time – at Nine Mile River in Bedford. Part of the road was not on grant lands.
- Some of the original grantees established homes that they rented out to family members or other settlers.
- By the early 1800’s most of the original lots had changed hands either through sale or the government taking the lots back and then selling off the lots.



The Original Grants of 1786

# Let's Go to the Ex ...

Going to the various Nova Scotia Fall Exhibitions used to be a favorite outing for folks in Hammonds Plains. Many couldn't wait until the exhibition season, so to be entertained by the sites and sounds of the various agricultural fairs. Once cars became a normal fixture in Hammonds Plains, residents would travel regularly to Halifax, Bridgewater, Lunenburg, Windsor, Middle Musquodoboit or Truro to attend their favorite exhibition. Some folks even entered some of the competitions that were common place at these exhibitions. Here are some neat photos of the exhibitions of the past.



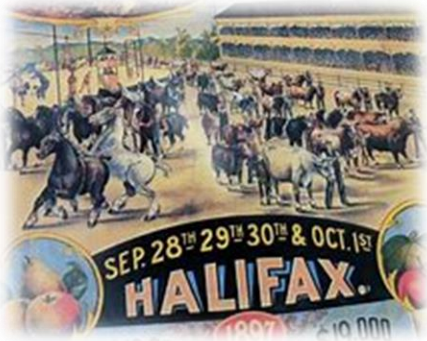
Lunenburg Fisheries Exhibition – 1950's



Hants County Exhibition – Windsor 1940's



South Shore Exhibition 1926



A poster from 1897 Halifax Exhibition



Bill Lynch Rides – 1950's at Halifax Exhibition Grounds