

JANUARY 2025 / 2024-25 Edition 3

HAMMONDS PLAINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

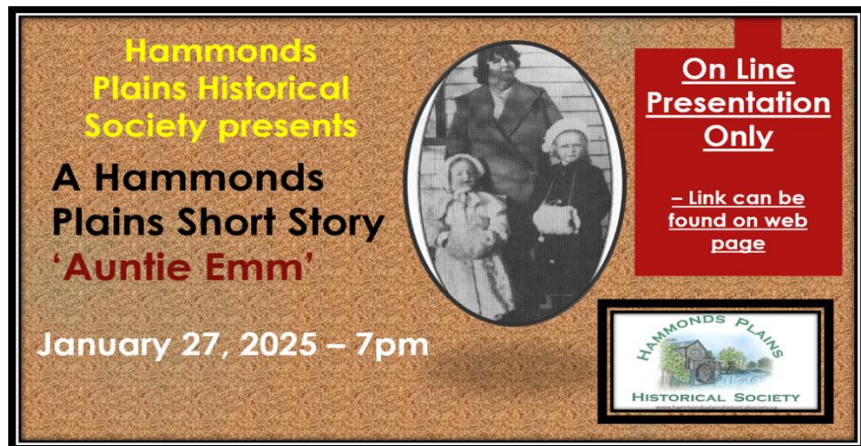
Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

2025 Society News

Our first general meeting of 2025 will be held on January 27th at 7pm. This will be an on-line meeting, to be presented via Zoom. A Zoom link will be provided a few days before the meeting. Meeting can also be accessed through our web site.

The presentation for the meeting will center on the story of 'Auntie Emm', which was a short story written by Dorothy Bezanson Evans during the 1980's. The story focuses on 'Auntie Emm' and her family but also details what life in the community was like in the early part of the 1900's.

Join us for an intriguing look at the village of Hammonds Plains during an era where self sufficiency meant having a horse and reliable neighbours.



Hammonds Plains Historical Society presents
A Hammonds Plains Short Story
'Auntie Emm'
January 27, 2025 - 7pm

On Line Presentation Only
- Link can be found on web page

HAMMONDS PLAINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society has been working on producing a digital album entitled 'Hammonds Plains of the 1960's'. We plan to show the final product at either the March or May General Meeting.



Who was Auntie Emm?

Aunti Emm (officially known as Emma (Bezanson) Haverstock) was a life long Hammonds Plains resident who was known for her kindness and devotion to the community. She was born in Hammonds Plains in 1860, daughter of Amos and Isabella Bezanson. She grew up in the Bezanson House which was located across the road from Mason's Pond, near where the little strip mall containing PharmaChoice is located today. She grew up in Hammonds Plains, attending school in the community. In 1886, she married John Haverstock, who had grown up near her home. John & Emma settled at a home on the Pockwock Road, near where The Maplewood Subdivision meets the Pockwock Road today. They had two sons, Maurice and Christopher. During the first World War they purchased the property where Hammonds Plains Consolidated School presently sits and lived there. Tragedy struck in 1918, when youngest son, Christopher was killed fighting overseas during the war. Emma would spent the rest of her life in angst, lamenting the lost of her son. She passed away in 1939.

Noted Hammonds Plains historian, Dorothy Bezanson Evans, was a niece of Emma and wrote the short story 'Auntie Emm', among her many historical writings. She was brought up in the same house, as Emma.

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 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.

Views of Our Past



One of the first auto service centers in Hammonds Plains. This photo from 1956 is of the White Rose Service Center, operated by Roy Eisenhauer. It was located next to the present-day Fire Station.

Hammonds Plains Historical Society Trivia Night

Due to the great response, we had last year to our Hammonds Plains Trivia Night, we will be hosting a second Trivia night at our March 31st general meeting.

Come and play trivia where you will be asked a series of both well-known and obscure facts about the past in Hammonds Plains.

The meeting will take place at the Hammonds Plains Community Center (7PM)

To get you in the mood, here's a sample trivia question:

The Hammonds Plains Lake that was named after a drowning victim, who drown there in 1830 is:

- a. Schmidt Lake
- b. Bartlett Lake
- c. McQuade Lake
- d. Taylor Lake

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 31st.

The Bezanson House

(Editor's Note – The house referred to in this article is the house that Auntie Emm was raised in. Her parents, Amos and Isabella are mentioned in the article. It was also the home of noted Hammonds Plains author, Dorothy Bezanson Evans. Aunt Jane who the article refers to was Dorothy's mother. The home was located in the area now occupied by the small strip mall at 2120 Hammonds Plains Road)

(Appearing in the Halifax Chronicle Herald – September 17, 1959)

Bezanson House Is Historic Landmark

Riders on horseback and travellers in lumbering horse-drawn wagons once passed in front the old Bezanson homestead at Hammonds Plains. Later motor traffic travelled close to its fence. With diversion of the road and construction of a wide, curving highway along the end of the nearby millpond the attractive little dwelling now has a quiet existence more to itself. Owned by Mrs. John Publicover a descendant of the family which constructed the more than century old house it is currently rented to others.

In earlier times the land on which it stands bordered the traffic route which formed a link between Halifax and Annapolis. However, for many years past there was only a grassy trail leading up the slope from the Bezanson home to suggest that once a roadway wended its way across a good share of the Western part of the province.

In distant days, the travellers went out through the Plains, across sections cut by what later became known as Yankeetown road, along the Kemptown road and so on to the other side of the province.

"Auntie Jane's" Home

It is recalled by many in the district as the home of a beloved lady, generally known as "Aunt Jane", who passed away a few years ago at an advanced age. The former Jane Melvin of Halifax, she lived in the house for decades following her marriage in 1910 to Charles Martell Bezanson, who passed away in 1940. The present owner, Mrs. Publicover, is a daughter of the couple.

Originally the house was built by Mr. Bezanson's father, the late Amos Bezanson. The elder Bezanson and his wife, the former Isabella Smith, were married on Jan. 6, 1855, by Rev. John Miller, then pastor of the North Baptist Church at Halifax. Records of that marriage, as well as other varied other milestones in the family history, were recorded in the treasured family bible.

According to stories handed down in the family the house was really an offshoot of the cooper shop in which Amos Bezanson piled his trade. When marriage made possession of a dwelling essential it is said that Amos built his picturesque little home attaching it directly to the shop. Later this work section was razed and another separate one built in its stead. Removal of the shop made possible for extension of the dwelling.

Through the years when 'Aunt Jane' was its occupant the hospitable home was a popular gathering place for people of the area for she was friend to all and participants delighted in having children around her.



The Bezanson House – Taken in the mid 1950's

Favorite Shopping Spots – Pre 1960's

Hammonds Plains residents had several favorite shopping spots before the time of the big malls in the Halifax region. Three of those spots were Kings (in Bedford), Simpson's (Halifax) and Barrington Street (Halifax). Here are some photos pre 1960 of those shopping havens. It was exciting venture for the folks of Hammonds Plains to travel outside the community to buy a new outfit.

KING'S



Kings (located on the Bedford Highway) was a clothing store that was used by many folks in Hammonds Plains. It even had a clothing truck that travelled up and made stops along the Hammonds Plains Road, where residents could come onto the truck and purchase clothing and shoes. This photo from the 1960's shows the front of the Kings Store.

Answer to Trivia Question – from Page 2

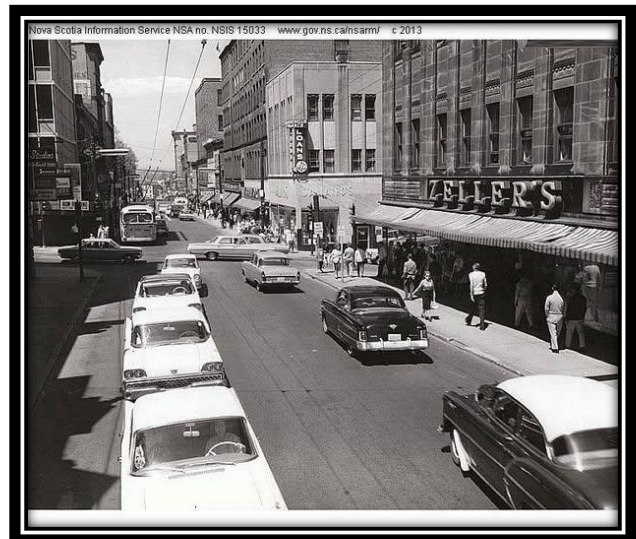
b. Bartlett Lake

SIMPSON'S



The largest store in Halifax pre 1960 was Simpson's, which was located where the West End Mall is located today. This photo from the 1940's shows the Simpson's Store, with part of its large parking lot.

BARRINGTON STREET



The go to Shopping Street in Halifax during the first half of the 1900's was Barrington Street. It had Eaton's, the Metropolitan Store and Zellar's as its flagship stores. Here is a photo of the Zellar's store from the 1960's.