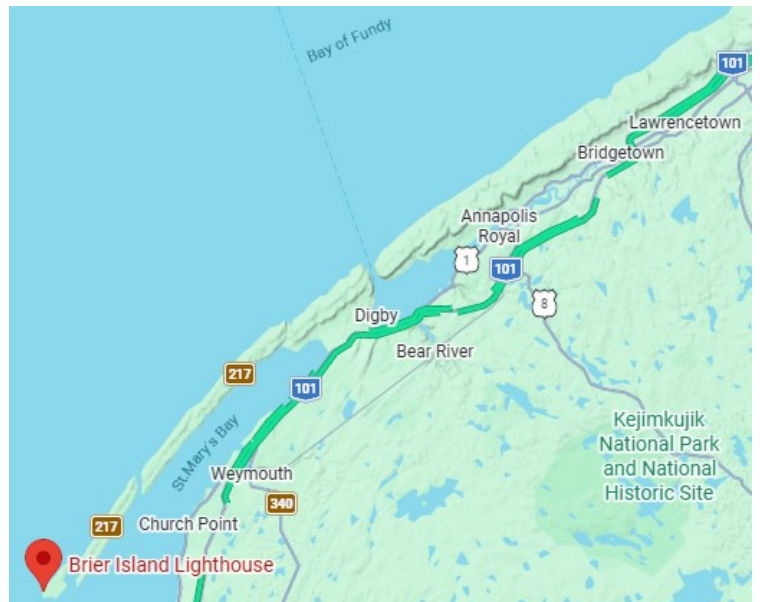


Brier Island Lighthouse Facebook Post May 5 2026



2<sup>nd</sup> Brier Island Lighthouse 1901  
Credit: Library and Archives Canada



Location of Brier Island Lighthouse  
Credit: Google Maps

Two little known facts about the first Brier Island Lighthouse built in 1809: it was originally to be a stone tower and after changing the building material to wood, both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick paid for its construction. This lighthouse was said to be “so vilely constructed and ill lighted” that in 1834 it was replaced with a tall wooden tower that shone an adequate light until it burned down in 1944.

One of the first lightkeepers was John Suthern who had served in Admiral Nelson’s fleet and on the ship that took Napoleon to exile on St Helena’s. John started at Brier Island in 1820 and tended the light until 1867 when he died at the age of 83. One of his grandsons was Joshua Slocum who was the first person to sail solo around the world in his sloop, The Spray.

The burned lighthouse was replaced with one made of reinforced concrete and it also sports three red bands around its white tower just like the previous lighthouse did. In 1987 the lighthouse became automated and in 2022 its ownership was transferred under the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act to the Municipality of the District of Digby with non-profit group, SAIL2, responsible for its maintenance.



Building the 3<sup>rd</sup> and current Brier Island Lighthouse  
Credit: Library and Archive Canada



Brier Island Lighthouse Aug 2025  
Credit: NSLPS - DPC