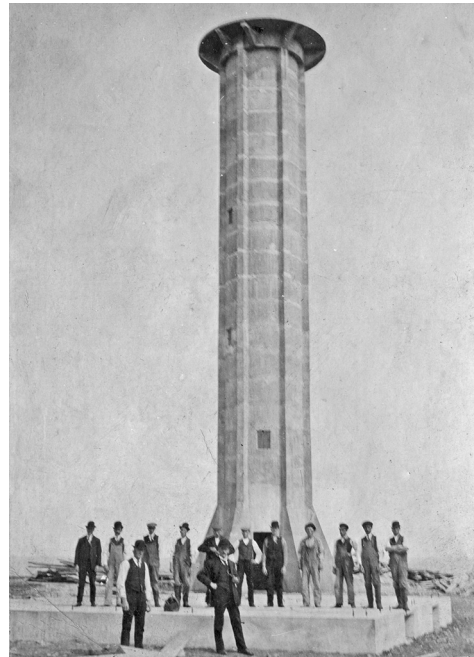




Flint Island Lighthouse 1910
Credit: Nova Scotia Archives



Little Hope Island Lighthouse
Credit: Library and Archives Canada

In the early 1900s the Canadian government started building concrete lighthouses in two styles: a narrow concrete tower supported by flying buttresses and a wider tower whose vertical buttresses or ribs were attached to the walls. Pointe-au-Père Lighthouse constructed in 1909 in Rimouski, QC, is an example of the first and is open to the public in the summer where you can climb 128 steps to the top! In Nova Scotia, two lighthouses with vertical buttresses were built on Flint and Little Hope Islands. Flint Island Lighthouse lasted only 45 years (from 1909 to 1954) as the contractor had supposedly used sea water to mix the concrete instead of fresh water. Little Hope Island Lighthouse erected in 1907 stood until 2003 when it was greatly weakened by category 2 Hurricane Juan. A nor'easter toppled the lighthouse the following winter. Once airport beacons replaced heavy Fresnel lens and their rotating equipment and with improvements in the quality of concrete, buttresses were no longer needed to support the weight of a lantern room on top of a concrete tower.



Pointe-au-Père Lighthouse July 2025
Credit: NSLPS - DC



Pointe-au-Père Lighthouse under construction
Credit: Pointe-au-Père National Historic Site

