

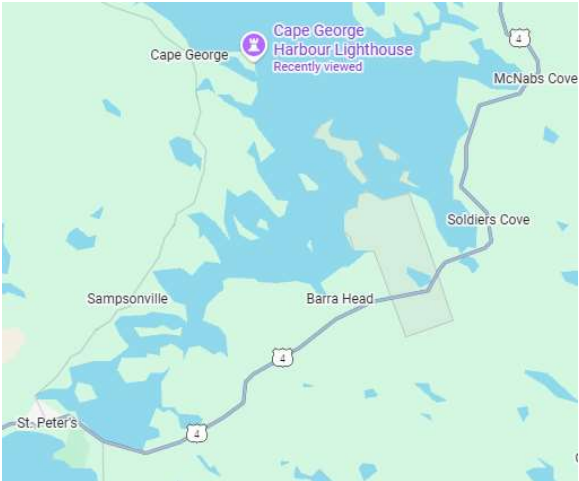


First Cape George Bras d'Or Lighthouse  
Credit: Nova Scotia Archives



Second Cape George Bras d'Or Lighthouse  
Credit: Steve A Trivago

It wasn't unusual for a father to hope a son would replace him as lightkeeper upon retiring. Having several generations of one family working as lightkeepers at the same lighthouse is! For 94 years, five members of the Murray family that included one woman tended the Cape George Lighthouse, one of seven Cape Breton lighthouses built in 1875. This lighthouse was erected to guide vessels from Big Bras d'Or Lake through St Peters Inlet to the St Peters Canal. It was a white pepper-style wooden tower with an attached dwelling that stood until 1949 when it was replaced with a similar tower and a separate dwelling. An oil lamp shone a fixed white light until 1968 when technology developed in the 1930s was installed to allow the light to flash. This involved the installation of a four-bulb changer and flasher powered by ten large batteries and later a solar panel. It also meant the services of the Murray family became unnecessary in 1969. The second lighthouse has been discontinued but is still standing with a modern aid to navigation nearby.



Location of Cape George Lighthouse  
Credit: Google Map

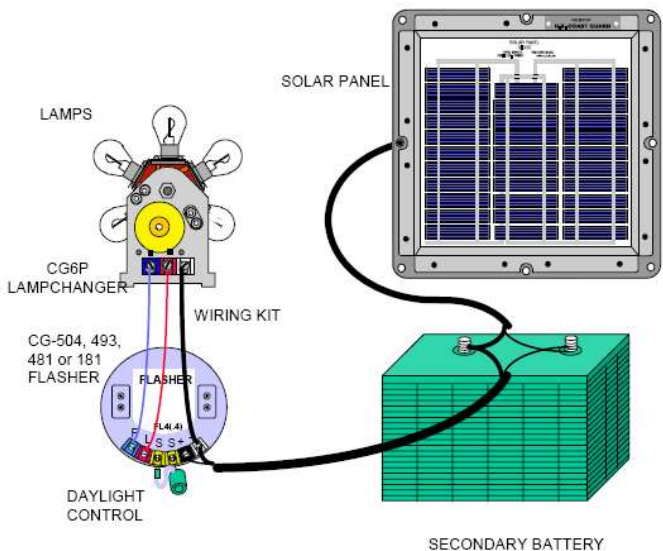


Diagram of Lighthouse Bulb Changer  
Credit: Wikipedia