



Joe Flemming, past NSLPS President, with a Fresnels lens section from Cape Sable  
Photo Credit: Kathy Johnson

Cape Sable Lighthouse south of Clark's Harbour in Shelburne County is the tallest lighthouse in Nova Scotia at 31 m (102 ft) high. It didn't always hold this record as the first tower built in 1851 was an octagonal wooden tower only 15m (49ft) high. This smaller tower had a lantern room with tinted red windows to make the lighthouse unique. It also reduced the power of the light by almost 60%! Consequently clear windows were installed and in 1902 a 3<sup>rd</sup> order Fresnel lens went into operation to give fishers the guiding light they had been requesting all along. In 1924 the current concrete tower was erected and the Fresnels lens transferred to the new tower. In 1986 the lighthouse was automated, the Fresnels lens removed and the lightkeeper retired. Imagine the surprise when 32 years later, 19 boxes holding the Fresnels lens were discovered in a Canadian Coast Guard warehouse that was to be torn down! Rescued at the last moment, these boxes are now in secure storage awaiting the resources to reassemble the lens for public display.



First Cape Sable Lighthouse  
Credit: Library and Archives Canada



Second and current Cape Sable Lighthouse  
Credit: Coastal Adventures