



Great Bras d'Or Rear Range
Credit: Lighthouse Friends



Navigation from Little Narrows to Great Bras d'Or
Credit: Google Maps

Range lights using a pair of lighthouse tower structures were once common in Nova Scotia but in 2026 only three such pairs remain. One exceptional pair is located at the north end of the Bras d'Or Channel where its narrow width produces a severe tidal current for mariners to navigate.

In 1903 a short white pepper-shaker style tower was built to act as the Front Range light with a very tall white pepper-shaker style tower acting as the Rear Range light. In fact this Rear Range tower at 16.8 m (55 ft) is the tallest wooden tower in Nova Scotia and the same height as the Louisbourg Lighthouse.

Their fixed white lights became fixed green lights in 1956 with red vertical stripes painted onto the towers in 1984. Once sun switches to turn the lights on and off were installed along with backup battery lights in 1958, two lighthkeepers saw their jobs eliminated. Both then were hired as caretakers until 1968.

With the re-opening of the gypsum mine in Little Narrows this year, this pair of range lights will once again guide commercial traffic through the hazardous waters of the Bras d'Or Channel.



Great Bras d'Or Front Range
Credit: Rich Schoeller



Proposed Gypsum Mine at Little Narrows
Credit: Canadian Gypsum Company