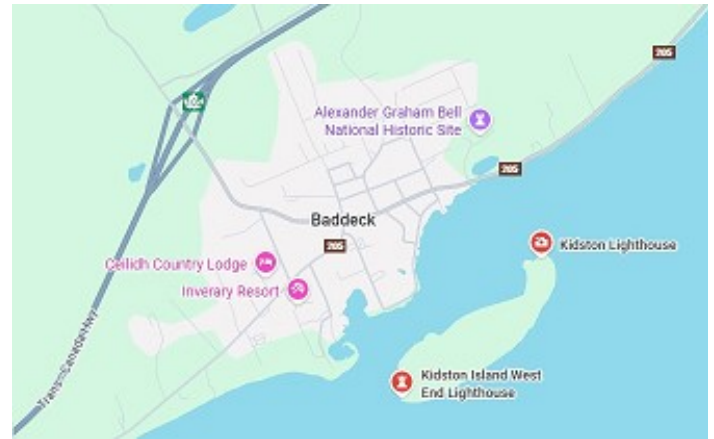




Original Kidston Island Lighthouse
Credit: Nova Scotia Archives



Location of Kidston Lighthouse
Credit: Google Map

Baddeck in Cape Breton has so long been associated with Alexander Graham Bell's inventions that it is little known that it was once a busy port on the Bras d'Or Lake when farm produce plus gold and gypsum were loaded onto ships bound for foreign destinations. To indicate safe passage a small square white pepper-shaker style lighthouse was built in 1875 at the northeast tip of Kidston Island that acts as a natural breakwater to the Baddeck harbour. Kidston Island was close enough to the mainland that the lightkeeper was given a boat to sail from his house in Baddeck to do shifts at the lighthouse. In 1912 a taller version of the lighthouse was built to better guide mariners and yet the old lighthouse was allowed to stand beside it before being demolished in 1959. Another curious fact was that the light was at first seasonal, then made year-round in 1962 to allow travel on winter ice, and is now listed as being seasonal again. Still can you imagine walking along on the ice by the light of a lighthouse?



First and 2nd Kidston Island Lighthouse side by side
Credit: Musee McCord (Montreal QC)



2nd and current Kidston Island Lighthouse 2012
Credit: Lighthouse Friends