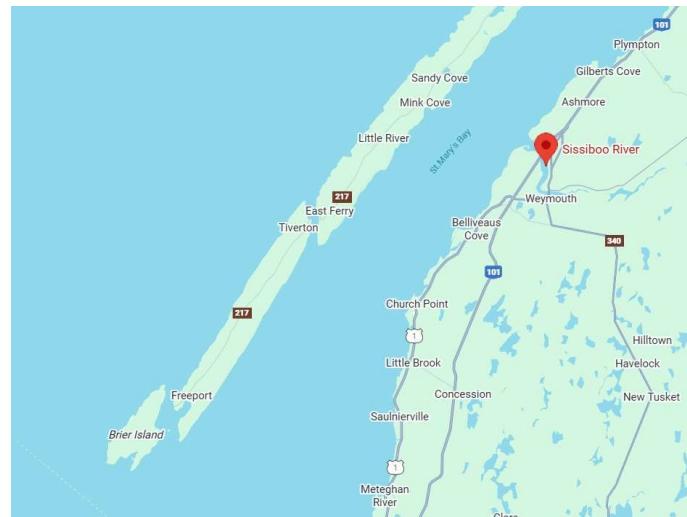




Sissibou Lighthouse

Credit: Library and Archives Canada



Site of lighthouse on Sissibou River

Credit: Google Maps

It has been fifty years since the Groundhog Day Storm hit the Nova Scotia coast on the Fundy Bay on Feb 2 1976. Not only did the wind reach 188km/h (116mph) but the storm surge was 1.6 meters (5 feet 3 inches) above the high tide that was at its maximum level. The combined wind and flooding caused extensive damage to wharves, boats and coastal buildings including the Sissibou Lighthouse. This lighthouse was built in 1870 at the mouth of the Sissibou River to guide ships to wharves where to pick up lumber destined for ports in England and South America. It was a white wooden pepper-style tower 10 m (33 ft) high and stood just above the high-water mark in the shelter of a gravel bar that acted as a breakwater for local fishing boats. However the breakwater provided no protection on Feb 2 1976 and the Sissibou lighthouse was destroyed. It was replaced with a modern aid to navigation that was removed in 2004. Now a buoy is used to mark the entrance to the Sissibou River.



Aerial View of Sissibou Lighthouse

Credit: Nova Scotia Archives



Destruction from Ground Hog Day Storm 1976

Credit: Nova Scotia Archives