

Margaretsville Lighthouse

Light Details Today

Lighthouses were once considered state-of-the-art technology and like today's technology, the Margaretsville Lighthouse has undergone many changes to be the one that visitors see today:

Tower	Original erected in 1859
Tower Style	Square Pepper Shaker
Tower Height	9.4 metres
Daymark Colour	White and black horizontal bands
Lantern	Six-sided aluminum with black top
Light colour	White occulting
Light Characteristic	Lit 10 sec; dark 3 sec; lit 4 sec; dark 3 sec
Arc of Visibility	Visible from 095° through S. to 236°
Nominal range	11.2 nautical miles
Active Aid	Canadian Coast Guard light #195
Operation	At night year round
Powered by	Electricity
Heritage Status	Lighthouse Heritage Protection Act 2022 (federal)



Did You Know?

The Margaretsville Lighthouse is the only one with a black horizontal band in Nova Scotia. Its uniqueness may be the reason that Canada Post put its double on a 5-cent postage stamp in 1967, Canada's Centennial year. It is also the original wooden tower erected in 1859, a rarity, as most similar towers from that time have since burnt down.

Facts

Built as a coastal light in 1859 overlooking Reagh's Cove to warn mariners of the ragged black ledge of rocks jutting 274 metres (300 yards) into the Fundy Bay, the tower was originally painted white and displayed two vertical lights, a white one seen at 5 miles out and a red one on closer approach to the lighthouse.

In 1866 it got its black band to make it distinct and more visible in daytime and stormy weather. The lighthouse has displayed just one light since 1911 when it got a new cast iron lantern, the second of four to top the tower.



c1906

2022



Lightkeeper History

Lightkeepers	Employed
William Early	1859-1887
John Early	1887-1907
Ruth Early	1907-1909
Wesley W. Goucher	1909-1912
Joseph L. Cleveland	1912-1937
Lehan H. Cleveland	1937-1940
Reagh Hall	1940-1956
Gordon Aldred	1956-1963

- ▶ The first keeper, William Early, was originally a steward for Lord Brenton Halliburton, 8th Chief Justice of the NS Supreme Court, who donated the land for the lighthouse. William supervised its construction and was its keeper until 1887.
- ▶ His son, John, took over and, during his tenure, emergency quarters were established on the 2nd floor.
- ▶ When John died in 1907, his wife Ruth took over the responsibilities of keeper for three years, the only woman to do so at Margaretsville.
- ▶ When electricity replaced the oil lamp in 1960, the lighthouse become automated and later unmanned in 1963.

