



THE Lightkeeper

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Vol. 6, No. 3, Sept, 1999

The objectives of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society are: to promote and support preservation and awareness of Nova Scotian lighthouses; to assist community groups in leasing or taking ownership of lighthouse sites; to provide access to written research and photographic documentation and to initiate oral history research; and to classify and monitor the status of historic lighthouse sites.

WEBSITE: <http://www.EDnet.ns.ca/educ/heritage/nslps>

LIGHTKEEPER EDITORS: Kathy Brown & Chris Mills

PATRONS: Carl R. Lautenslager, Roderick J. MacLennan, Scott Mullin, Jeanne Thomas, South Shore Tourism Association

AFFILIATES: Advocate District Development Association, Age of Sail Heritage Centre, Burntcoat Head Park, Cape Sable Historical Society, Central Nova Tourism Association, Chapel Hill Historical Society, Five Islands Lighthouse Society, Friends of the Yarmouth Light Society, Henry Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, Margaretsville Community Hall Society, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Medway Area Communities Association, Mosher Island Lighthouse Society, Municipality of Queens Tourism & Development, Nova Scotia Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, Prince Andrew High School, Sandy Point Recreation Group, Seal Island Tours, South Shore Tourism Association, Tidal View Drive Association, Walton Area Development Committee

WELCOME ABOARD!

The following new members recently joined NSLPS:

Prince Andrew High School, Anne G. Wickens, Lynn Beth Davis, Susan Munro, Mary MacLellan, Paula J. Kelley, Peter J. Fitzpatrick, George S. Thompson, Carol & Cam Veinotte, Janice Frost, Susan Moxon, Dominique Larcher, Brian Sears, Valerie Young Mount, Patricia Hunter, S.P. Rosenbaum, Coastal Communities Network, Maureen Mills, Kay Chadwick Smith, George Hebb, Loren Sutherland, Steven Winter, Pam Knol, Tony & Margaret Holland, Scott Mullin, Norman L. Turner, Mary Ann Nolan

NSLPS MEETINGS

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Water St., Halifax

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 22: 7:00 PM, General Meeting

***FRIDAY* OCT. 29, Yarmouth, NS, 7 - 9 PM,**
at the 1999 B.E.A.C.O.N. Conference. (See p. 2)

WEDNESDAY NOV. 24:

7:00 PM, General Meeting.

7:45 PM: The Challenge of Saving Lighthouses

A dramatic illustrated talk by lighthouse activist David Currie who helped save the Port Bickerton Light. Learn about the challenge of saving lighthouses and what is being done to protect them.

Last Lighthouse Trip for 1999:

McNabs Island, Halifax Harbour

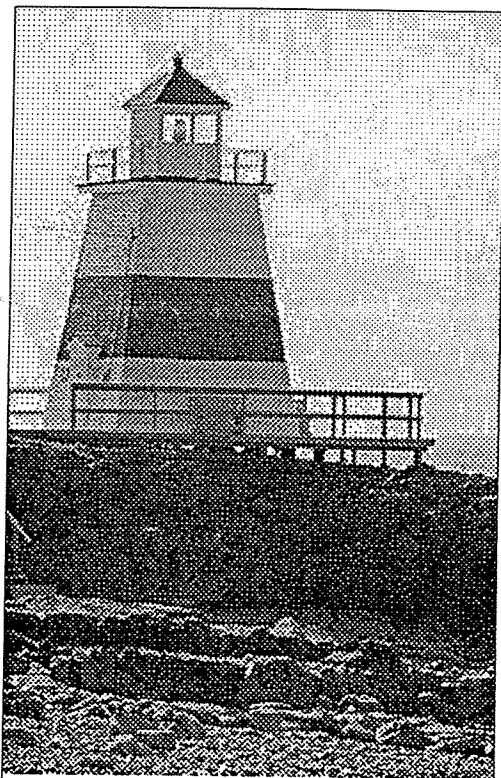
Sunday, Oct. 17, rain date Oct. 24

Leaves Cable Wharf on waterfront 10:00 AM, returns 4:00 PM.

Cost: NSLPS members: \$6.50. Non-members: \$8.50.

Registration not required.

A joint trip with Friends of McNabs Island and the Halifax Field Naturalists Society. Tour the Maugher's Beach lighthouse, take guided walks and explore this historic island. Bring your membership card, lunch and water. Dress warmly.



Margaretsville Lighthouse, on the Fundy Shore. Photo: Peter MacCulloch

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LIGHTHOUSE DAY, OCTOBER 2, 1999

241 years ago, on October 2, 1758, legislation was passed to create Sambro Lighthouse near Halifax, the oldest surviving lighthouse in North America. This is the first of what we hope will be an annual opportunity for groups across Nova Scotia to celebrate their local lights and draw attention to the need for preservation.

We hadn't heard from everybody by press time but here are some examples of what is happening across the province on Saturday October 2.

For more information about other Lighthouse Day activities, call Bruce Cochrane in Halifax (902) 465 3549.

Special activities sponsored by NSLPS Affiliates

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Interpretive Centre

Port Bickerton, on the Eastern Shore

Open House & HAM Radio

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Amateur HAM RADIO Operator Merle Taylor, who is a member of the Antigonish Club, will be operating a HAM RADIO from the site. The call sign to reach Merle is VE1 VCI.

The Port Bickerton & Area Planning Association will host an informal tea while Mrs. Taylor promotes the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and Port Bickerton Lighthouse Beach Park world wide via the air waves.

The Public are cordially invited, so please join us.

Hampton Lighthouse

Annapolis County

7:30 pm Celebration at Hampton Community Hall

A lighting-the-lamp ritual followed by a country and gospel music concert to support the Lighthouse Protection Act and save the Hampton Lighthouse.

Call Louise Sanderson for more details (902) 665-2138

Mabou Lighthouse

Inverness County, Cape Breton

10:00 - 4:00 pm special out-of-season opening of Mabou Harbour Lighthouse.

Lighthouse Poster contest at Port Hood Consolidated and Mabou Consolidated Schools. Call Carrie Beaton for more details (902) 625- 7101 or (902) 945-2360.

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

1679 Lower Water Street, Halifax

All day, 9:30 to 5:30: NSLPS Information desk with displays and a chance to write or fax Sheila Copps in support of the Lighthouse Protection Act.

10:00: slide show - Lighthouses of Nova Scotia

11:00: Tour of lighthouse artifacts and stories

12:00: Slide Show - Sambro Island Lighthouse

1:00: Children's Workshop Build a beautiful and accurate model of the Sambro Lighthouse. \$5 fee for materials.

Registration required call 424 7491.

2:00: Talking Foghorns Learn how lightkeepers saved ships and talked to them.

3:00: Slide Show Need for a Lighthouse Protection Act

4:00: Tour of lighthouse artifacts, and stories

No fee to visit the information desk but the museum admission charges apply for other activities. Call 424-7491 for more information.

NSLPS member action:

NSLPS members and the public are also being asked to mark Lighthouse Day by a **fax and e-mail campaign to Sheila Copps** in support of the Lighthouse Preservation Act. Please write a short note about why lighthouse are important to you and why we need a lighthouse Protection Act to preserve them. Send to:

Sheila Copps fax: 613 994 1267

E-mail: Copps.S@parl.gc.ca

or by mail:

House of Commons, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

B.E.A.C.O.N. CONFERENCE - 1999

October 29 - 31, Yarmouth, NS

For all lighthouse enthusiasts!

READ ON!

It's that time once again. Everyone interested in the future of our lights is welcome to come and take part in this annual event which brings together committed individuals and groups from across the Maritimes. This year's conference is being hosted by the Friends of the Yarmouth Light Society, in beautiful Yarmouth, N.S. It is an excellent opportunity to learn about sites around the region, and to share your own experiences. Bring your friends and family along so that others can catch the magic that our lighthouses inspire.

This year's conference is the first to be hosted and sponsored by a community organization. Friends of the Yarmouth Light Society is a very appropriate group to hold this event, as they typify the spirit, enthusiasm and dedication required to operate and maintain a lighthouse site. The work done at Cape Forchu, their unflagging devotion to the cause of lighthouse preservation and promotion and their desire to work with Coast Guard show us how a small local group can achieve great things.

On Friday evening, the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society will hold their monthly meeting in conjunction with the conference. Everyone is welcome to attend, offer their ideas and participate in the ongoing discussions about how best to 'keep our lights shining'.

Saturday will feature success stories, practical information, updates on the proposed Lighthouse Protection Act, Coast Guard updates, and many other informative and engaging discussions. Plenty of time will

be left for everyone to participate and add their own views and perspectives to the presentations.

Sunday, join a tour to Cape Forchu (Yarmouth)
Lighthouse perched in a spectacular location at the entrance to the harbour. Of course, the renowned Yarmouth hospitality will keep everyone well fed and entertained throughout the weekend.

So remember - attend the conference.

B.E.A.C.O.N 1999

Together we can make great things happen.

Registration or further information:

Mrs. Lyn McGray at (902) 742-6569

LIGHTHOUSE REPORTS

Mabou

This past summer was a very busy season at Mabou Light. The great weather, and the wonderful setting brought large numbers of visitors to this Cape Breton lighthouse. Two students provided interpretation and local information to guests. Friday nights saw ceilidhs on the wharf.

Plans are in the works for another ceilidh this month in conjunction with the Celtic Colours celebration.. Mabou light is open to the public until the end of September. Stop by if you are on the west coast of Cape Breton..

Cape Forchu (Yarmouth)

This past summer was another extremely busy season for the Friends of the Yarmouth Light and Cape Forchu Lighthouse. As of September 7, nearly 13,000 visitors had signed the guest book, and many, many more had visited the site. This is a great spot to view this unique lighthouse, watch the fishing boats enter the harbour, see a great variety of seabirds or just relax and enjoy the beauty of Yarmouth Harbour. Visitors to the site were very pleased with the latest upgrades to the facilities at Cape Forchu. This year two permanent washrooms, and two new viewing platforms were added. Combined with the charming museum, gift shop and signage, this site is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Friends of the Yarmouth Light. Hats off to you all! The site will be staffed until mid October.

Visiting Cape D'Or

Kathy Brown

This is the only lightstation in Nova Scotia where you can stay in a keeper's house B&B. The drive out the Cape is spectacular, with wonderful views of the cliffs of the Minas Channel. At the end of the road, the lightstation spreads out below you, across Cape d'Or. The home-cooked food in the Lightkeeper's Kitchen is delicious and staying in the Guest House with the light sweeping across your bedroom is a great experience. Wind, tide rips, the crash of the surf below the Cape, seabirds, falcons, even a freighter waiting

for the tide - the Cape has it all. Advocate District Development Association has added an information centre on the parking lot above the light station. They are having another very successful season, and will be open through the Thanksgiving weekend.

Coffin Island

Ken Wilkinson

The work on Coffin Island to protect the lighthouse from erosion is almost complete. Large scale re-enforcement with armour rock and infill was installed around the lighthouse and the work went off without a hitch. The work meets or exceeds Coast Guard standards. Based on similar work on Islands in Mahone Bay, the Coffin Island should be safe for many years.

The Coffin Island Society still needs to raise \$20,000 to pay all the bills of the \$70,000 job, but they felt the work had to be done this summer. Discussions continue with the Coast Guard on long term ownership and management of the site.

Burntcoat Head

Burntcoat Park continued to be a popular destination for travellers along Nova Scotia's Glooscap Trail this summer. In addition to the attractive replica of the 1913 lighthouse, this unique park has many other features. The world's highest tides, an interpretive centre and easily accessible walking trails add to the natural beauty of the site. This past summer, an extremely rare reptile fossil was uncovered just below the site of the former lighthouse. Open until the end of October, this site will be equally enjoyable as part of the "Fall Colours" program.

GREETINGS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND

Currently, Newfoundland does not have a lighthouse society. For anyone wanting to visit a lighthouse, other than one of the few under the care of either the Provincial Dept. of Tourism or Parks Canada, little information is available. A Newfoundland group faces the challenge of a massive province, part island, and part mainland.

Wanda Barrett is working to establish a society. She's following the Nova Scotia example in suggesting that Newfoundland needs an "inventory" of lighthouses," and the promotion of interest in the preservation of these icons for future generations, and encouragement of tourism to the sites. The Newfoundland group had their first meeting on Sept. 1st. Twenty people attended. Wanda has received a lot of positive feedback on organizing a group. The next meeting is Oct. 2.

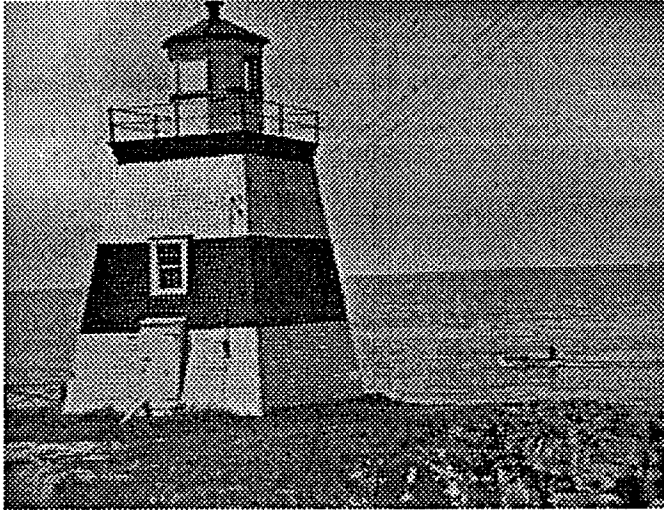
If you or anyone you know is interested in helping to form a Newfoundland Lighthouse Preservation Society, please contact Wanda either by phone: (709) 368-0071, or e mail: wbarrett@webworksinc.com, or snail mail: 18 Crewe Place, Mount Pearl, NF A1N 2E9.

A HISTORY OF THE MARGARETSVILLE LIGHT

by Viva Moody, *The Mirror* (courtesy of Mailman Publishing)

Edited by Chris Mills

The black-banded lighthouse was built on Margaretsville Point in 1859. Nearby is a cliff known as Peter's Point, where wrecker Peter Barnes fell to his death 20 years after he had lured a schooner to her tragic end at that very spot. Today, the Margaretsville light still guides and warns vessels travelling the Fundy shore.



The lighthouse in it's early years.

When the Margaretsville lighthouse was erected, it was one of the first along the Nova Scotia side of the Bay of Fundy. Before that time there were only about half a dozen lighthouses in operation on the Bay. But the year 1859 seemed to be a good one for lighthouse building as there were several more built around this time. Another one of the period still stands at Port George, Nova Scotia.

In 1859, a deed was drawn up between Sir Brenton Haliburton, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, Stephen S. Thorne, Chairman and George P. Mitchell and Andrew McKinley, Commissioners of Public Property:

"and whereas said Legislation made appropriation for the erection of a public lighthouse or beacon light at or near Margaretsville... and the said commissioners accept all that certain land situated at Margaretsville, Wilmot, and being a portion of land originally laid out as a shipyard."

The Margaretsville light was lit by a kerosene lamp within the iron lantern of the lighthouse. According to the diary of lightkeeper Joseph Cleveland, the amount of kerosene used during summer months was about seven gallons. During the dark winter days about 12 gallons were consumed on average, per month. The light was lit just before sunset and extinguished at dawn. Before the new lantern was installed in 1911, the light consisted of eight large red lamps with brass reflectors. These had to be cleaned and polished each day and filled with oil.

The first keeper of the Margaretsville light was William Earley, who served from 1859 to 1887. He was

succeeded by his son John, who held the position from 1887 to 1907. While John was keeper, the second floor of the light was converted to living quarters, where he stayed during bad weather.

Gordon Aldred, the last keeper, recalls as a boy that he and John's grandson Ralph spent many evenings with John, listening to the old gentleman's tales. After John's death, his widow Ruth became keeper in 1907. She had the distinction of being the only women to be a keeper of the lighthouse. After Mrs. Early retired in 1910, retired sea captain W. Wesley Goucher took charge of the light. His successor, Joseph L. "Dody" Cleveland (1912 to 1937) was a familiar figure to a generation of visitors to the Margaretsville light. In 1937, Lehan H. Cleveland took over from "Dody". When he was just a lad of 15, Lehan had joined World War I and served in France. When World War II broke out, he again joined the armed forces to serve in Canada until the end of the war.

Much of the information used in this history was



Margaretsville waterfront, 1998. Photo: Peter MacCulloch

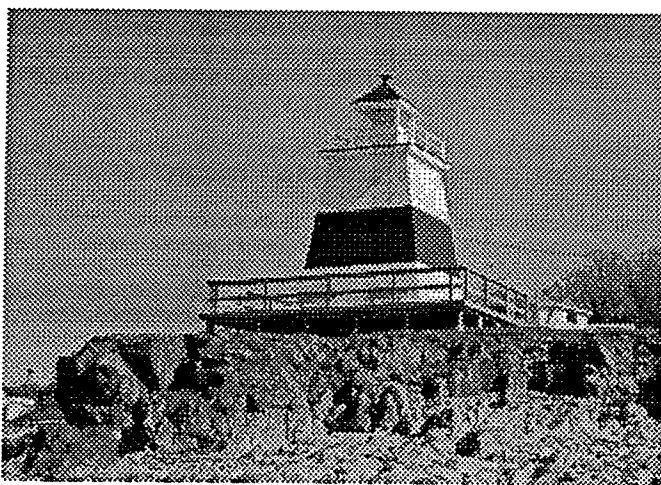
gathered from Lehan Cleveland, Gordon Aldred, and Mrs. Maybelle (Earley) Warren. One particular story recounted by these old timers tells of a keeper who would take off his cap each evening as he entered the lighthouse, and with a deep bow, say "Good evening, Dave". They believe he was addressing the apparition of a man who had jumped from the wharf at high tide. Afterwards, his body was brought to the lighthouse and laid there overnight before being hurried outside to a cemetery to be buried in an unmarked grave.

Reagh Hall became keeper of Margaretsville light in 1940. He had been one of the survivors of the Grace Hankinson -Ruby L. II tragedy in 1930. His term ended in 1956. The last lightkeeper was Gordon Aldred, who left in 1963 when the old lamps became obsolete and electricity

was installed.

The people of Margareville are proud of their lighthouse, which as a tourist attraction, has been photographed by almost everyone who has been in the village.

Many poems have been written about the lighthouse. One



Margaretsville Lighthouse, 1998. Photo: Peter MacCulloch

was penned by Olivia C. (Cleveland) Starkweather, who was born and raised in sight of the light and was a sister to lightkeeper Joseph Cleveland (and aunt to four others!):

Loved object! built so long ago
Upon a solid rock
Just like the faithful Christian
Will stand life's fiercest shock
May God perform the Pilot's part
And from all dangers keep
Guard thee from winds and storms severe
Thou sentinel of the deep!

A Lightkeeper Remembered

In 1859, William Earley supervised the construction of the Margareville Lighthouse, built by Sir Brenton Haliburton. The guiding light was installed in October and William became the first lightkeeper. Through the endeavours of Viva Moody of Margareville and Mrs. Maybelle Earley Warren of the USA, the Canadian Coast Guard placed a plaque on the lighthouse commemorating William's tenure as lightkeeper, in 1985. Mrs. Warren, although of an advanced age attended the dedication and installation of the plaque. The ceremony was attended by a large group of people, including a representative from the Coast Guard. Mrs. Warren has since died at her home in the USA. The plaque she helped install will serve to remind visitors for years to come of the dedication with which William Earley performed his lightkeeping duties.

Ingonish Ferry Lighthouse

Barry MacDonald



Ingonish Harbour Lighthouse.

Courtesy Barry MacDonald

The little "pepper-shaker" style lighthouse at the narrow entrance to Ingonish Harbour first shone its kerosene light in 1887. Although the harbour entrance is sheltered from the brunt of Atlantic seas, the passage has always been narrow and

tricky to navigate. The new light must have been a welcome sight to mariners of the day. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries Ingonish Harbour was home to many schooners and smaller vessels engaged in the fishing trade. The original schooner *Bluenose* was known to visit the port on her many voyages to the Grand Banks, and no doubt her captain was welcomed to the harbour by the little light.

Over the years, the light became a familiar landmark and it was well maintained by a number of keepers, the last of whom was Donald MacKinnon Sr., or "Big Donnie" as he was affectionately known. The light was decommissioned by the Department of Transport in 1956 and replaced by an electric light on a skeleton tower complete with daymark.

The lighthouse stood in various stages of disrepair for many years. During 1969-1970 the building was leased to an individual who did some renovations on the tower. But the lighthouse was soon abandoned again.

On the morning of October 26, 1983 the people of Ingonish awoke to a horrendous sight. During the night, either a tidal wave or a spring tide of unprecedented height had wrecked most of the wharves, buildings and boats along the shore of the harbour. One estimate had the water level 11 feet above high water mark at its peak.

One of the many victims of this disaster was the old lighthouse. Only four years away from its 100th birthday, the structure had been carried off its foundations and smashed on the shore a half mile away. As part of the site clean-up the Department of Transport sent a contractor in

Ingonish Lighthouse cont'd
to remove the lighthouse foundation.

The foundation consisted of stone and mortar walls, with a concrete slab floor. In the process of uprooting one of the cornerstones, a worker noticed an object lying in the rubble. It was an unusual metal statue. The small figure was two-faced and appeared to be of East Indian origin. One face is that of the Hindu god "Brahma" (supreme eternal deity). The other is of "Ganesh", god of knowledge, wisdom, literature and fire.

Where could this statue have come from and why was it placed under the lighthouse? The statue was assessed by an individual from Harvard University and estimated to be 500 years old. Could this have been brought over on a ship in John Cabot's time? For many years during the age of sail, ships were known to carry Indian sailors as part of their crew. They had a reputation for being very capable mariners. Could this statue have come from such a ship? Why was it placed there instead of Saint Elmo (patron saint of sailors), as Ingonish in 1887 was a community of Christian beliefs.

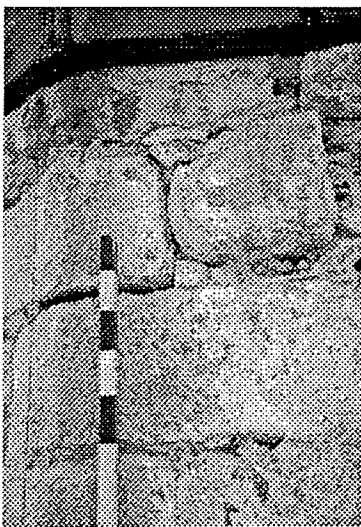
Another interesting aspect of this mystery is the spelling of the god "Ganesh". Does it have any connection with In-gonish? It is a fascinating piece of our lighthouse history. Today, the statue remains the property of the man who found it. If only it could talk.

THE CHEBUCTO STONE QUARRY, THE NAVAL YARD AND SAMBRO LIGHTHOUSE

Dr. Julian Gwyn

Professor Emeritus

Department of History, University of Ottawa



The stone of the Sambro Lighthouse, at the top of the 1758-60 tower. Photo: NSLPS

NSLPS organized a research trip to Sambro Island last fall. Geologist Alan Ruffman discussed possible origins of the stone in an article the March issue of Lightkeeper. In this article, another participant, historian Julian Gwyn, examines that question in relation to other construction in Halifax

Where was the stone quarried in 1758 to build Sambro lighthouse? The ready availability of stone round Halifax harbour

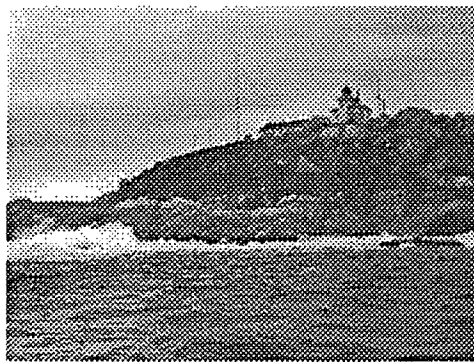
suggests that it was probably found locally. The exact site is still unknown. A clue is found in the fact that Chebucto Head stone was used to refinish the principal buildings of the Naval Yard in 1769, and a wall built round the yard between 1769 and 1771. It is unlikely that the navy found the stone by themselves. Rather it was probably suggested by those who knew the site quarried for Sambro's stone a decade earlier.

The initiative for this construction at the naval yard came from Samuel Hood, when commodore of the small North American squadron, based at Halifax between 1767 and 1770. The principal buildings were the capstan house and its two wings used as storehouses, built initially with wood.

With peacetime reductions in 1763, the yard was not properly maintained. By 1768 the yard was going rapidly to ruin. Winter storms, a hurricane and frost "wrecked havoc" on both wharves and buildings. The prospect of abandoning the base, when these reports reached London, was not considered. The Navy Board, as they always then did, blamed American wood "which in that country is of short duration." But it recommended reconstruction.

It was arduous toil. "After digging down fifteen feet, we were obliged to drive 160 piles which were cut off even and covered with thick plank to lodge the foundation on...The ground being so soft and miry that the workmen have sunk by their own weight only, mid-leg deep. The present one will be the last, as I am sure the building will stand forever."

Hood was given authority to finish the reconstructed buildings in stone and to slate the roofs. Hood believed that "all works of a public nature ought to be well executed. Duration is thereby given them, which they so often fail of, by being slovened over, as is generally the case when they



Cliffs at Chebucto Head, 1907.

are performed by contract, especially in such a place as this, where there is perhaps not one man capable of contracting. This is exactly the case in regard to the mason's or

bricklayer's work. The master himself is honest...but the workmen are sad drunken fellows."

The stone, at 2s.6d. per ton, came from Chebucto Head. Hood called it "as fine building stones for coarse work as any in the world. It lays in huge rocks, which are split out without much difficulty by wedges and crowbars

Chebucto Stone Quarry cont'd

I have had some masons and men at work for some days and have attended them myself very frequently. The stone is very hard and comes out in pieces from one to three feet thick, and from 3" to 7" thick." As no contractor offered to undertake the quarrying from the perceived difficulty and the labour costs, Hood employed sailors to assist the masons, who were given "a little rum to be mixed with their beer, at stated times of the day...It is very warm work, and cannot be done without a little drink, better than common spruce." The quarried stone was lowered to the high water mark, transferred to two floating stages and loaded into hired vessels for shipment to the yard.

The slaters came from Boston "as none of the masons we had before understood the business." Hood boasted of the "exceeding fine slate, which is dug upon the king's land directly opposite the Yard," on the Dartmouth shore, and was "superior to any in America." Joseph Gerrish, since 1757 the naval yard storekeeper, thought the effort produced "an extream good piece of work."

The commodore was more ambitious. When the yard's wooden fence, already "quite decayed," was further damaged in a week-long hard gale in November 1769, Hood recommended that it be replaced with a stone wall, which "will give great safety to all the buildings. As the wooden fence is so dry that it might be set fire to by carelessness of a drunken sailor with his pipe. It would have been ablaze in five minutes a few weeks since had it not been for a gentleman passing by, who extinguished some shavings on fire close to the fence." Despite the guards "sailors or the people they buy rum of are almost continuously making holes in the night to put bottles through."

It is not clear that the stone for the yard wall came from Chebucto Head. Begun in 1770, after Hood departed, it replaced a board and batten fence some 2,330 feet long and ten feet high raised in 1761. It was spiked to "prevent people getting over." When this wooden fence collapsed in a week of hard gales from 9 to 15 November 1769, Hood suggested that it would be cheaper to erect a stone or brick wall on the land side of the yard. He sent a rough design and an estimate, which included an impressive stone gate entrance on Water Street. Work began in September 1770, just as Hood left Nova Scotia for England, and the stone wall was completed in 1771. The stone was supplied by private contractors, at least one of whom brought it by boat to the yard. Bricks were used for coping, while broken glass bottles were mortared into the ridge.

It might interest you to know that, unlike Sambro Lighthouse for which a continuing use is found, Hood's fine, stone buildings, which had survived the 1917 Halifax harbour explosion, were wantonly demolished late in 1941. In a trice Halifax harbour's most important historic

set of buildings vanished. Built on the waterfront, the south end opposite Dockyard Lane and the extending northwards half way to North Street, their iconographic record is readily traceable. What became of the rubble stone is unclear; but if used as landfill at the site, it is recoverable.

Sources: Correspondence by Admiral Hood, the Navy Board and Admiralty 1768-1770; at the Public Record Office in Britain: ADM1/483, ADM106/1179, ADM106/1167, ADM42/2149 and at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich ADM/B/180. For more detailed citations, see Julian Gwyn's forthcoming book on the Halifax Naval yard.

LIGHTHOUSE PROTECTION ACT UPDATE

David Curry/Chris Mills

Since the Press Conference at the Chebucto Head Lightstation in March 1999, there has been considerable public interest and support for a national Lighthouse Protection Act. That interest is strong and growing, especially as the public becomes more and more aware of how much these icons of our maritime and national identity are threatened by neglect and disposal. It is not too much to say that any legislative achievement will be because of growing public awareness and strong public support for "keeping the Lights".

Legislation is, of course, a matter of political action requiring the initiative and support of our elected and appointed representatives. Letters have been sent to all Canadian MP's and Senators calling attention to the plight of the Lights and asking for leadership and support. Letters, too, have been sent to the respective Ministries of Fisheries and Oceans and Heritage.

The response, for the most part, is encouraging - beyond the simple acknowledgment of our letters, some MP's and Senators have sent letters of support for an act to the Minister of Heritage, the Hon. Sheila Copps, for instance. To date, she has not yet responded to our letter to her. We have received a response from the former Minister of Fisheries and Oceans which is, quite frankly, an embarrassing claim to the adequacy of the status quo of government regulations for preserving the heritage value of lighthouses. We have, of course, written to his successor, Mr. Herb

Dhaliwal, pointing out that such claims will not stand up to public scrutiny.

We have also sought the support of provincial legislatures for a federal Lighthouse Protection Act. The Nova Scotia legislature passed a resolution on May 27, 1999 calling upon the dominion government "to review and revise" their "current position on divesting lighthouses". We hope that other provincial legislatures will present similar motions to Ottawa. We intend to hold the new PC

government to its pre-election promise that they "will urge the federal government to develop legislative means of protecting and preserving" the lighthouses which are a "valuable piece of Nova Scotian history and heritage".

There is interest for the drafting of legislation both at the Parliamentary level and the Senate. We hope to insure that our aims and objectives are adequately represented in any prospective piece of legislation. We have the support of Heritage Canada, too, in trying to get heritage recognition for the Lights of Canada.

A lot is happening and the committee is most grateful for the very real support of the NSLPS. What more can you do? On Friday, October 1, fax, e-mail or snail-mail the Minister of Heritage, the Honourable Sheila Copps and/or the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable Herb Dhaliwal. Keep up the pressure. Let's keep the Lights in the light!

LIGHTHOUSE CALENDARS

I would ask that as many people as possible refrain from purchasing the **Canadian Lighthouses Year 2000** calendar published by American company Browntrout Publishing. One of the lighthouses is Newfoundland's Cape Spear, but it's identified as Cape Bonavista. I contacted the company. They informed me it was too late to do anything. They would not recall these items. I am not sure how many other products produced by Americans have errors but this can't be the only instance. We Canadians ought to boycott these products, and develop our own. *Wanda Barrett, Newfoundland*

A Canadian Lighthouse Calendar!

Point Abino is a monumental Canadian lighthouse on Lake Erie. Despite the successful efforts of the Point Abino Lighthouse Preservation Society in getting it declared a National Historic Site, the tower and keeper's dwelling face disposal, sale and possible demolition by wealthy American landowners who have already cut off Canadian access to the site. A rescue campaign is underway and this is part of their fund raising efforts:

Point Abino 2000 Calendar

* 12 magnificent views of one of North America's most photogenic beacons * High quality glossy colour photos * Map showing Ontario lighthouses * Historical data and description Point Abino Lighthouse * All proceeds to Point Abino Lighthouse Preservation Society
\$10.00 (tax included)

Available from:

Janet Truckenbrodt, PO Box 546, Crystal Beach, Ontario L0S 1B0. Tel.905-894-3179

WEBSITE NEWS

We've broken the 10,000 mark! As of Sept. 15, visitors since Jan. 1998 were 11,982. Lighthouse enthusiasts, tourists, researchers and just plain folks visit the site. We receive 5 or 6 e-mails a day, many asking for more information about Nova Scotian lighthouses.

Here's one of the most enthusiastic messages to date: "The NSLPS web site is beyond a doubt the finest lighthouse site I have found. I will be back in Nova Scotia next year to photograph lighthouses and this site with the interactive maps will be of immense value."

_____, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Congrats to Peter MacCulloch, Kathy Brown, and all the contributors.

LIGHTSHOP

Order from: Jeanne Thomas,, 262 Purcell's Cove Road, Halifax, NS, B3P 1C3. Telephone 479-1626

Please make cheques payable to the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society.

NSLPS MEMBERSHIP PINS: \$5.00 + \$1.00 shipping.

Back by popular demand:

VANISHING LIGHTS *Chris Mills* a lightkeeper's experiences during the last days of staffed lights in the Maritimes. \$13.00 + \$3.00 shipping

ART PRINT: *The Work Crew on Sambro Island:*

7 x 10 1/2, *Maurice Bernard*, ready to frame.

SPECIAL \$20.00, including postage.

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NSLPS MEMBERSHIP FORM - 1999

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