



THE Lightkeeper

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Vol. 7, No. 2, June/July 2000

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>

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AFFILIATES: Advocate District Development Association, Beacon Memories, Burntcoat Head Park, Cape Sable Historical Society, Chapel Hill Historical Society, Clyde River Inn, Coastal Communities Network, Five Islands Lighthouse Society, Faith Tabernacle Church, Friends of the Yarmouth Light Society, Greville Bay Shipbuilding Museum Society, Henry Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, Margaretsville Community Hall Society, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, McNab's Island Ferry, Medway Area Communities Association, Mosher Island Lighthouse Society, Municipality of Queens Tourism & Development, Nova Scotia Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, Sandy Point Recreation Group, Seal Island Tours, South Shore Tourism Association, Terence Bay Lighthouse Committee, Tidal View Drive Association, Town of Lockeport, Walton Area Development Committee, Walton Pub & Eatery



The original Cape St. Lawrence lighthouse.

Courtesy Albert Zwicker

IN THIS ISSUE:

Lighthouse Trips: p.2

News: p.3

Feature Light: Cape St. Lawrence: p.4

International Lighthouse Conference: p.6

Good News for Yarmouth Light: p.9

Lead Paint Letter: p.9

Lighthouse Protection Act: p.10

Annual General Meeting: p.11

WELCOME ABOARD!

The following new members recently joined NSLPS: Grant MacDonald, Scott Higgins, Patricia Uthe, Berthe Amirault, Joyce Mitchell, Dan & Linda Macintosh & family, Lauralene & Paul Van-Loon & Family, Shelley & Karl Webb, Anne Chapman, Marilyn Smith, Beacon Memories (affiliate member).

NSLPS MEETINGS & PROGRAMMES

are held monthly except August
at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic,
1679 Lower Water St., Halifax

WEDNESDAY, July 26

7:00 pm: General Meeting

NSLPS GUIDED LIGHTHOUSE TRIPS

REGISTER EARLY! These trips will be advertised to the public.

NOTE: Lighthouse islands are usually rough places for walking. Some trips require climbing high wharves and rocks, and are not suitable for children under 9 years or people with mobility difficulties. Inquire when registering. Weather dates can be used, so be sure to keep that weekend free.

NSLPS GUIDED LIGHTHOUSE TRIPS



Seal Island Lighthouse
Chris Mills

SEAL ISLAND

18 miles out to sea off
Cape Sable Island
**Sat. and Sun. July 29 &
30**

**Weather dates: Sat. and
Sun. Aug. 26 & 27**

Visit one of Nova Scotia's
most remote and
interesting islands! After a
2 hour boat trip out to the
island, explore the rocky
coastline, shipwrecks and
sandy beaches. Learn the
romantic story of the
establishment of the
lighthouse, climb Nova

Scotia's oldest timber lighthouse, and stay overnight in the
fishermen's bunkhouse.

Trip leaders: Kathy Brown and Tim Hall.

Departs: Sat. morning from Clark's Harbour, Cape
Sable Island. Return Sun. afternoon.

Cost: Register by July 4, \$60, after that, \$70.

What to Bring: Details supplied before the trip.

Registration required by July 15. Call Kathy Brown
479-3115. Or e-mail krbrown@ns.sympatico.ca. Call
early because this trip fills quickly. Limited to 17
persons.

MABOU HARBOUR AND HENRY ISLAND

Western Side of Cape Breton

Sat. August 12, Sun. Aug. 13

*In partnership with the Henry Island Lighthouse Preservation
Society, and the Mabou Harbour Authority.*

Visit two wonderful western Cape Breton lighthouses.
Drive to Mabou on Saturday (about 4 hours from Halifax)
and visit Mabou Harbour Light, an 1884 three-story
wooden light perched in the scenic harbour. On Sunday,
you have the very rare chance to visit Henry Island. After
the boat ride out to the island, climb the magnificent 53
foot high 1902 wooden tower. You'll also visit the oldest
surviving keeper's dwelling in Nova Scotia, beautifully
restored by a member of NSLPS, American lighthouse
enthusiast Bill Baker. This is a very special trip - one that
should not be missed. Trip leader: Carrie Beaton of
Mabou.

Requires an overnight stay in the Port Hood Area.
Affordable accommodation recommendations available.
Sunday's departure from Port Hood at 10:00 am.

Return to Port Hood about 2:00 pm.

Cost: Register by July 15, \$25, after that, \$35.

Trip limited to 20 people.

Registration required by July 31.

Call Dorothy MacLeod 423-8034



Henry Island Light Station *Courtesy Bertie Smith*

COFFIN ISLAND Liverpool Bay

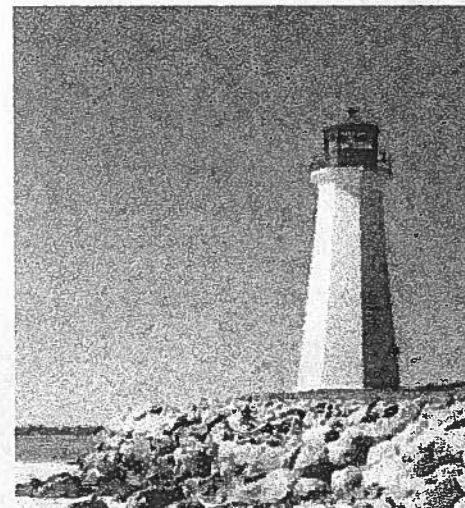
Sat. Sept. 9

Weather date

Sun. Sept. 10

*Co-sponsored by the Coffin Island Lighthouse Heritage
Society*

Visit the fifth oldest lighthouse site in Nova Scotia and get
a first-hand look at the armour-rock wall installed last year



Coffin Island Lighthouse with armour rock
wall. *Courtesy Coffin I. Lighthouse
Society*

to save the light
from falling into
the ocean. The
trip starts with a
short boat ride
to the island
where chowder
and hot dogs
will be
available. Then
hike to the
tower along the
shore or through
the forest. Visit
inside the large
85 year old
tower - climb to
the top for a
superb view.

Members of the Coffin Island Lighthouse Heritage
Society will act as guides to the site which dates from
1812. All proceeds go towards the cost of saving the light.
Departure: 11:00 am from Brooklyn Marina (Across
the Harbour from Liverpool, near the Bowater Mersey

Mill). Boat returns at 3:30 pm
Cost:, \$25. Space is limited. **Register by Sept 1.**
 Call Dorothy MacLeod 423-8034.

CHEBUCTO HEAD

Halifax Harbour

Sat. Sept. 23

10 am - 12 noon

Join Jim Guptill the last keeper at Chebucto Head and



Chebucto Head Lighthouse

Past-President of NSLPS for tours of the tower and the facility as far as the engine room and Vessel Traffic Radar.

Meet at the lighthouse. Tours will be continuous.

Cost: Donation to NSLPS

MAUGHER'S BEACH LIGHTHOUSE,

McNabs Island,
Halifax Harbour

**October 14, weather
date October 15**

A joint trip with Friends of McNabs Island. More details in September *Lightkeeper*.

FEWER TRIPS THAN LAST YEAR?

YES!

We got overloaded in 1999. Too many trips and not enough time to advertise. So, some trips didn't work. To do more trips we need more leaders. Trip leaders travel free! If you are interested in leading a trip in 2001, call Dorothy MacLeod, 423-8034.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Grand Harbour Light, Grand Manan, NB, is the most endangered light in North America. It is owned by a private person. Some months ago the American Lighthouse Foundation sent him a donation of \$10,000 on the understanding that he would begin repairs on the building. Nothing has happened. What's going on here? (A photo of *Grand Harbour Light* heads the Canadian Doomsday List on the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society website.)

The Canadian Coast Guard is in the midst of negotiating the transfer of lights in Cape Breton to local groups. Neil's

Harbour, Mabou, and Kidston (Baddeck) Lights will be handed over. We hope the process will go smoothly and quickly. Members should keep an eye on their local newspapers for developments.

Man of War Point, Cape Breton has gone to a second tender for disposal by the Department of Public Works. There is evidence that the nearby landowner who wants to purchase the lighthouse will cooperate with a local community group to preserve the lighthouse.

Watercolour Painter Donates to Society

E. Jane Carson, NSLPS member who lives in Sydney, NS, has been painting the lighthouses of Cape Breton for the past 3 years. She's painted 28, from Money Point (Cape North) to the Canso Causeway. She will be having an exhibition of her work called *Sentinels of the Sea* at Gallery II of the University College of Cape Breton September 5 - 20 and after that at In-Sight Gallery Sydney Mines. She has limited edition prints for sale of Low Point Lighthouse and of Louisbourg Lighthouse, for \$48.00 (including tax), from her home in Sydney. \$10.00 from the sale of each print will be donated to NSLPS. She can be reached at

E. Jane Carson, 26
Rennett St.
Sydney, NS,
B1L 1C8,
(902) 567-
2661. She sent us a brochure showing the painting of Low Point and it is a beautiful rendition of the light. Thanks to E. Jane Carson for her donation.

Donors now get a charitable donation receipt!



Low Point Lighthouse, by E. Jane Carson is one of the prints you can purchase.

More Paintings!

Member Joyce Mitchell, also has watercolour paintings and prints of lighthouses for sale. Joyce Mitchell, PO Box 183, Tantallon, NS, B0J 3T0



The original Cape St. Lawrence lighthouse. *Courtesy Canadian Coast Guard*

THE CAPE ST. LAWRENCE LIGHTHOUSE

Barry MacDonald

Situated on the northwestern tip of Cape Breton Island lie the remains of what was probably the most isolated lighthouse on mainland Nova Scotia. In late June 1999 I made my first trip to Cape St. Lawrence, accompanied by long-time friend Albert Zwicker, who was born and raised in nearby Bay St. Lawrence. Albert shares my interest in lighthouses and Cape St. Lawrence in particular. His grandfather was lightkeeper there during the 1920s and 30s.

The trip, which we had planned for almost a year, began in Capstick where we loaded an all terrain vehicle on our truck. We drove to Meat Cove (the most northerly community in Cape Breton) and over a narrow road which is accessible only by a four wheel drive vehicle.

After travelling about four km, we came to a trail known to local residents as "The Lighthouse Road". From there we climbed aboard our borrowed ATV for a sometimes nerve-racking four km trip over and down a mountain to Cape St. Lawrence.

Upon arriving at the location of the old lighthouse

I was amazed by the beauty of the rugged landscape. Free-range horses and highland cattle soon greeted us and seemed quite curious about our presence.

The rubble-stone foundation of the original lighthouse and concrete foundations of the second lighthouse and keeper's dwelling are all that remain of the Cape St. Lawrence lightstation.

The present skeleton tower sits on the foundation of the second lighthouse. It holds a small, solar-powered light which is still operational.

The original lighthouse was built in 1888 and first lit in 1889. All the material used in its construction was brought in by ship and transported up the 50-foot embankment by winch.

The light was kerosene-fuelled, of the third order, fixed and visible for 17 miles. It was later changed to a revolving light.

The second lighthouse and separate keeper's dwelling were built in 1952. This light was kept by the last keeper, D.A. MacLellan until it was automated in 1965. In a recent conversation with Francis MacLellan, brother of D.A., I asked him if the family has saved any artifacts from the old lighthouse.

"Sure did," he said. "I'm living in them." He went on to explain that after the second lighthouse and

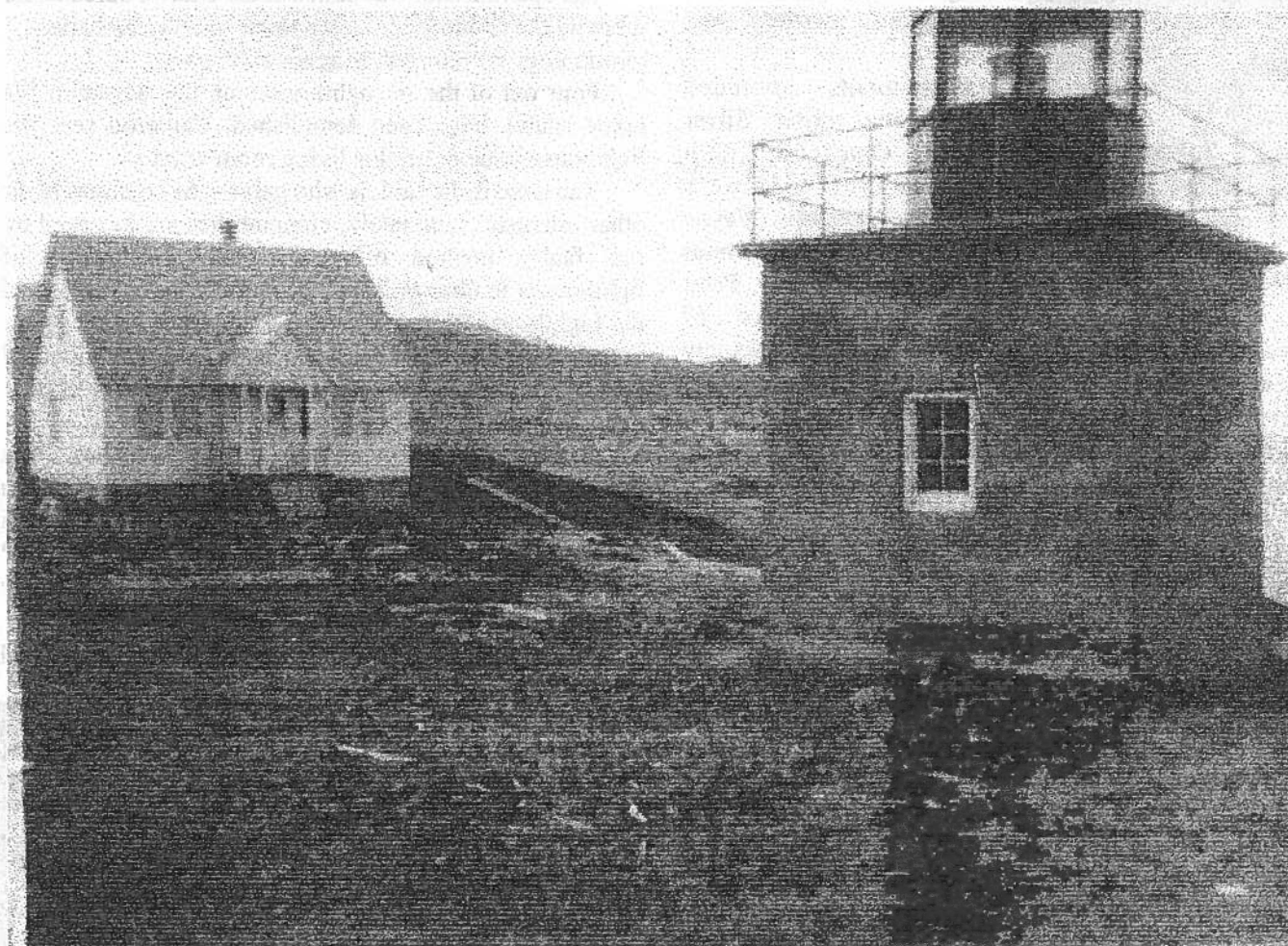
dwelling were completed, he and brother D.A. tore down the old light, transported the materials to Meat Cove and built a house with them which he still lives in.

Life was hard for the people who kept the Cape St. Lawrence light over the years. The isolation, the lack of electricity and running water and oftentimes harsh conditions all added up to a life most of us cannot even imagine.

Robert MacLellan, son on D.A., tells of being accidentally shot during a hunting mishap on January 27, 1961. Not being able to cope with such a serious injury, the family contacted Coast Guard by radio and

little beyond what we sometimes grumble about today. Robert MacLellan tells about carrying water from the nearest source, about a kilometre away. Some days the wind would be so strong that he would lose half the water in his buckets before reaching the lighthouse. This of course meant a return trip!

Robert also tells of the hard work in unloading 45 gallon drums of kerosene from the supply ship, getting them up the steep bank, then transporting them overland by horse and sleigh, or wagon. He recalls his younger brother fell under the wagon once and was run over. Fortunately, he escaped without serious injury.



The second Cape St. Lawrence lighthouse and keeper's house, built in 1951 *Courtesy Canadian Coast Guard*

a helicopter was dispatched the next day. After getting Mr. MacLellan aboard, the helicopter pilot headed for Sydney where medical help was waiting. Due to severe weather, the chopper only made it as far as Meat Cove where it was forced to make an emergency landing.

It was the following day (Jan 29) before the pilot was able to resume the flight and get the injured man to hospital. As a result of the delay, Mr. MacLellan almost lost his leg to infection.

Day-to-day chores at Cape St. Lawrence went a

Life was indeed busy for the lightkeeping families at Cape St. Lawrence as they farmed and fished in season as well as tending to their many lighthouse duties. Standing there on that warm June morning it was difficult for me to see beyond the beauty of the spot, and the romance I have always associated with a way of life that sadly has disappeared. I feel fortunate to have made this trip and to do something to help keep alive the memories of Cape St. Lawrence.

THE 2000 INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE CONFERENCE AT WHITE POINT, NOVA SCOTIA



Conference participants visit the Port Medway lighthouse. *Chris Mills*

The week of May 29 to June 2 saw more than 100 lighthouse experts and enthusiasts from Canada, the United States, Wales, England and Australia share their love and knowledge of lighthouses during a week packed with presentations, exhibits and stories.

Participants included Nova Scotia writer Silver Donald Cameron, Tim Harrison of Maine's Lighthouse Depot, Wayne Wheeler of the United States Lighthouse Society, Peter Williams, publisher of

Leading Lights, Ken Trethewey of the Lighthouse Society of Great Britain, and lighthouse preservation consultant Cullen Chambers.

Lighthouse preservationists from Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island also shared the ups and downs of lighthouse restoration. The efforts of Rita Anderson (Rose Blanche lighthouse restoration project and Gert Sweeney and Craig Harding) showed hard work and perseverance *can* save some of our lights.

Highlights of the week included a wonderful evening of reminiscences from Sid and Betty June Smith, who kept the light at Cape Sable, N.S. They were joined by Betty June's sister Anne, who grew up on Bon Portage Island with her sister, brother Laurie and parents Evelyn and Morrill Richardson. Evelyn Richardson's book *We Keep A Light* was published in 1945 and soon became a Nova Scotia classic.

During the week, participants toured lighthouses at Fort Point, Port Medway and Medway Head. On Friday there was a trip to Coffin Island and its newly stabilized lighthouse.

Conference participants were treated to excellent food, hospitality and entertainment at White Point Beach Resort. Many people said they came away from the conference with renewed goals and new hope for lighthouse preservation.

Special thanks to Lynn Perry and Lynn Appleby of the South Shore Tourism Association -- their tireless enthusiasm and planning made the 2000 International Lighthouse Conference a week to remember.

The following accounts touch on some of the highlights of the conference:

ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

Silver Donald Cameron, award winning author and journalist, D'Escousse, NS.

Report by Kathy Brown

The dry title of this opening address for the International Lighthouse Conference was deceiving. Cameron is anything but dry!

His opening shot was aimed at the Ottawa bureaucrats who run the country: He called them "market barbarians," terminology he returned to again and again.

Four out of the six lighthouses on Isle Madame, his home island, have been demolished. Cameron sees the lighthouse issue out of his living room window.

The issue is, he said, is who gains - the community, or other interests? Ultimately, communities are besieged by our faulty method of government. The value of lighthouses is ultimately not economic, he believes, and the Lighthouse Protection Act is a matter of values.

He suggested that we learn how to fight individual issues. He said we must use facts and arguments broader than the issue of lighthouses.

We are told there is no money for lighthouses. Then why is the government making tax cuts? Are we called a special interest group? Why isn't the Business Council on Policy and National Issues called a special interest group? (It seems the only "special interest group" is ordinary citizens when they band together for a purpose.)

What will you do with the lighthouses? Give real answers supported by evidence, Cameron said. He suggested we may have to use boycotts, demonstrations and letter-writing to get across what people and coastal communities want and need.

There was more; some fun with a serious message - we have a fight on our hands!



Betty June (left) and Sidney Smith, with Betty June's sister Anne Wickens. *Chris Mills*

THE COAST GUARD POLICY ON LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTIES

Larry Wilson, Regional Director, Canadian Coast Guard
Maritimes Region
Report by Kathy Brown

The mandate of the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) is to provide an efficient and affordable navigation aids system. Periodic service reviews assure a safe system for the area in question - needs differ across the country. New technology has changed requirements for some mariners. For instance, landfall lights are becoming redundant. **Canadian Coast Guard goals regarding lighthouses:**

1. To facilitate divestiture and alternative use of properties, where possible.
2. To respect history and culture.
3. To accommodate a transitional period of change from a navigation aid to another use.

There are three options for lighthouses:

1. Divestiture under Real Property Directive 96-1. (See *The Lightkeeper* December, 1998, or *BEACON Conference 1998* on NSLPS Website.)
2. Alternative use.
3. Disposal through the Department of Public Works.

Real Property Directive 96-1 is useful because it can be used to allow communities to take possession of working lighthouses. We have to work together to develop innovative ideas for alternative use.

Public safety and serious environmental concerns cannot be ignored. The lighthouse community, including the CCG must work together to solve these issues.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Restructuring

A Real Property Sector is being organized under the Corporate Services Group. They have taken control of all the properties.

The CCG delivers the navigation aids program but also has a high level of activity in the area of property.



Peter Williams, publisher of *Leading Lights*, at the Fort Point Lighthouse.
Chris Mills

The CCG's Real Property Sector acts as custodian of the lighthouse properties.

Public Works and Environment Canada do environmental assessments and deal with remediation and divestiture.

Larry Wilson's Comments on the first two days of the conference:

1. Be realistic: accept that we may not be able to save all lighthouses.
2. Find out what is unique



The view from the old Medway Head lighthouse, now Alden Wamboldt's summer home. *Chris Mills*

about your site.

3. Address public safety issues.
4. Find a champion - often one or two people save a lighthouse.
5. Develop a business plan that will work - you can't depend on public funds.
6. We have to speed up the process, but safety, the environment, and liability issues have to be kept in the forefront.

At the end of his presentation Wilson announced the transfer of the Cape Forchu Lighthouse to the municipality of Yarmouth under Real Property Directive 96-1, for \$1.00.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Bert Gauthier, Environmental Services, CCG
Maritimes, and Randy Vallis, Public Works/
Government Services, Canada

Report by Kathy Brown

The Department of Public Works is a service agency for the rest of the government departments. Public Works contracts out much of their work. Their consultant for environmental assessments is MGI. Assessments must be done before leasing or disposing of property. Assessments are done in accordance the CSA standard and standards set by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

The issues regarding lighthouses are mercury, lead, PCBs and hydrocarbons (oil).

Public Works must act with due diligence, know what they are dealing with and meet or exceed environmental standards. They must make full disclosure regarding property environmental status because of potential liability. They must adhere to the National Environmental Sustainable Development Policy (This was not distributed.) No federal property will be transferred

without knowledge of its environmental status.

The Process (developed by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment):

PHASE I: 4-5 weeks

- Historical information gathering including building records, photographs, interviews.
- Site visit.
- Regulatory contact (federal and provincial registries)

When completed:

- No known concern = further assessment not required
- Potential concerns identified: confirm or deny. If confirmed, proceed to...

PHASE II: 6-8 weeks

- Terms of reference developed for consultants
- CCG appraised of what problems may be at the site
- The outcome can be no problem or minor recommendations to CCG, or proceed to

PHASE III: length of time depends on site

- Done if there appear to be substantial problems
- Scope of work fine-tuned
- Contract out to qualified consultants
- Results shared with CCG, stakeholders (i.e. community groups), province.

CLEANUP

- can be managing the site to avoid the risk

Discussion

MGI, the environmental assessment consultants used by Public Works does remediation as well as assessment. Isn't this conflict of interest? Vallis replied that they have regulations to control this and also they rely on the integrity of the company and of Public Works employees. It's unfair to expect groups taking over lighthouses to pay for the cleanup - they shouldn't pay for the sins of their fathers (as preservation consultant Cullen Chambers noted). Shouldn't those who caused the problem clean it up? If a large industry was taking over it could become part of the hand over - perhaps affecting the price of the property because they have money. Lighthouse groups have to band together to handle this. Those who benefit will have to pay. There are acceptable solutions. On the inside you can remove or encapsulate the paint. Paint on the outside weathers, so that's more difficult.

When did lead paint become an environmental concern? Previously CCG was just dealing with initial phases of the hand over. The government has to hand over clean sites.

Just before lunch, Larry Wilson took the floor to make the following points:

1. People are aware that there are environmental laws that must be obeyed by everyone.
2. Environmental awareness has changed in the past 2 years - operators are responsible for being aware and acting accordingly.
3. As a public agency, CCG has to make sure that every tax dollar is spent on its mandate (aids to navigation) not on cleaning up lighthouse sites. If an item is no longer needed as a navigation aid the CCG has to get rid of it. Innovative ways have to be found to solve the contamination problem. Who has the mandate to address it? Tourism, and heritage because they will benefit from the hand overs.

The handling of the lead paint issue has raised serious questions:

- Is the assessment by MGI a valid risk assessment?
- If this is dangerous contamination, why is it not a prominent environmental issue? Most buildings in Canada were painted with lead paint at one time. The whole country must be contaminated.
- If lead is a danger to health, then why is it addressed only when CCG is handing over properties? Is it not a danger to CCG technicians working on the stations and to lightkeepers and their families on the 52 remaining staffed lighthouses in British Columbia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland?
- Why is it more dangerous for a person to spend an hour in a lighthouse than to live in a house which was painted with lead paint in the past, as many of us do?
- Why is it more dangerous for people to visit lighthouses painted with lead paint than to visit Parks Canada historic sites with buildings which were painted with lead paint?
- Why is this suddenly an issue at this time?

ABOUT LEAD PAINT CONTAMINATION

- The level of exposure from walking in and out of a building is minimal.
- At issue is how much lead there is and whether it is loose.
- Children are in danger if they eat paint chips. Dust from deteriorating lead paint can be dangerous if it is breathed in or eaten.
- Lead contamination can be controlled by washing down surfaces thoroughly to remove dust, isolating old lead paint with an overcoat of non-lead paint, and covering lead-contaminated ground with grass or groundcover.
- Buildings painted with lead paint have been over painted with non-lead paints, over time, so the lead is isolated.

GOOD NEWS FOR YARMOUTH LIGHT

Chris Mills

On Thursday June 1, the Coast Guard's Larry Wilson officially handed the management of the Yarmouth light over to the municipality of Yarmouth during a presentation at White Point Beach Resort.

After the Cape Forchu light was destaffed in 1993, the site was leased by the Yarmouth County Tourism Association. In 1994 Craig Harding and Gert Sweeney formed The Friends of the Yarmouth Light.

They took over management of the station and poured thousands of dollars into re-shingling the keeper's duplex, painting and installing a new septic system. They set up a museum in the old duplex and a tea room in the new keeper's house. Thousands of tourists visit the site each year.

But federal policy did not favour long-term leases for community groups interested in maintaining lighthouses. Sweeney says Friends needed a firm answer about the management of the lighthouse before they did any more work to the site.

"We were just at a point where we were taking too many risks at the site and having nothing in return, not even a letter of agreement to be there," she says.

Then along came directive 96-1.

Before the Coast Guard and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) were amalgamated in 1996, 96-1 was used by DFO as a method of transferring surplus fish hatcheries to other groups or government agencies.

With the marriage of DFO and Coast Guard, the bill can now be applied to surplus Coast Guard property and buildings like the Cape Forchu lightstation.

For the Friends of Yarmouth Light, the transfer has ended years of worries of losing an important local landmark.

"It means that Friends are secure in the management of the site" says Sweeney.

She says the municipality is committed to maintaining this historic landmark and keeping it open to the public. And she says the municipality is willing to accept responsibility for the environmental cleanup ordered by the federal government.

Sweeney says the municipality accepted clean-up bids until the end of June. The municipality may award a contract for the clean-up in early July.

As a note of interest, Sweeney says the cordoned-off areas at Cape Forchu don't appear to be bothering visitors. About 100 people a day sign the guest book at Cape Forchu.

Directive 96-1 has given the Cape Forchu lightstation a new lease on life thanks to the efforts of

Craig Harding and Gert Sweeney. The Friends of Yarmouth Light deserve hearty congratulations for their tireless work and their commitment to lighthouse preservation.



Gert Sweeney and Craig Harding at Medway Head light.
Chris Mills

LETTER REGARDING THE LEAD PAINT ISSUE

The following letter has been sent by Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society to Senator J. Bernard Boudreau, Leader of the Government in the Senate, with copies to Hon. David Anderson, Minister of the Environment, Hon. Alfonso L. Gagliano, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, Hon. Herb Dhaliwal, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Dear Senator Boudreau,

I wish to alert you to a serious difficulty facing community groups in Nova Scotia who wish to preserve lighthouses.

As you may know, many community groups in Nova Scotia have invested huge amounts of money and resources in preserving lighthouses in the hopes of restoring them and keeping them open to the public as heritage tourism attractions.

The Canadian Coast Guard, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Ministry of Public Works and Government Services have recently introduced dramatic new environmental clean-up standards that require an expenditure of tens of thousands of dollars to completely remove lead paint - the same type of paint which can be found on many older public and private buildings in Canada.

The federal government is telling community groups that unless they pay for this work, the lighthouse they have worked on will be sold to the highest bidder. This clean up

seems only to be required of community groups taking over a lighthouse, and not of others.

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society feels strongly that since the federal government is responsible for any contamination at these sites and since they are setting the standards, then they should clean-up the sites and not bully small community groups into doing the work. If this policy continues unaltered, it will prevent community stewardship of countless lighthouse sites in Nova Scotia, and an important feature of our maritime heritage will be lost to public access.

I hope you will raise this concern with the federal departments involved. I am certain it will surface in the next election as an unfair burden on community groups. One possible solution which may merit consideration is a federal environmental clean-up fund to which lighthouse groups may apply.

Yours truly,
Kathy Brown, President
Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Lighthouse Protection Act Update

Senators Michael Forrestal and Pat Carney introduced lighthouse protection act bill S-21 in the senate on April 12, 2000. The bill passed second reading on June 1. It has now been referred to the Senate Fisheries Committee for consideration.

The following is a condensed version of the act:

* *The purpose of this Act is to facilitate the designation and preservation of heritage lighthouses as part of Canada's culture and history and to protect them from being altered or disposed of without public consultation.*

* *This Act applies to all lighthouses within the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada, whether or not they are used as navigational aids.*

* *The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Board, designate, for the purposes of this Act, lighthouses as heritage lighthouses.*

* *No heritage lighthouse shall be removed, destroyed, altered, sold, assigned, transferred or otherwise disposed of, unless authorized by the Governor in Council.*

* *Where it is intended to remove, destroy, alter, sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of a heritage lighthouse, an application for authorization to do so shall*

be filed with the Minister, in accordance with the regulations, after public notice is given in the prescribed manner of the intention to file the application.

* *The Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Minister, and on such terms and conditions as the Governor in Council considers appropriate, authorize the removal, destruction, alteration, sale, assignment, transfer or other disposal of a heritage lighthouse.*

This Act or any provision thereof shall come into force on a day or days to be fixed by order of the Governor in Council.

We have heard Parks Canada and Canadian Heritage staff are taking the act seriously and are reviewing their lighthouse work.

Many NSLPS members have received replies from federal cabinet ministers to letters you wrote in support of the Lighthouse Protection Act. Thanks to all who wrote! You have helped keep the pressure up.

The replies show federal heritage and Coast Guard staff were compelled to come up with some answers. Nonetheless, some answers show that we must continue to show the government how important the lighthouse preservation issue is.

Sheila Copps' staff wrote that 14 lighthouses have been made national historic sites and over 100 have been given federal heritage status. This represents only 20 per cent of Canada's heritage lighthouses, far below the figure of more than 70 per cent of American lighthouses with similar protection.

Many of Canada's "protected" lighthouses are in fact in danger of disposal and neglect. The

wooden tower at Seal Island, Nova Scotia faces serious decay, and the historic Point Abino lighthouse in Ontario is not accessible to the Canadian public, having been surrounded by wealthy American landowners who would like to buy the lighthouse for their own use.

Recent federal environmental decisions (removal of lead paint and mercury from lighthouse sites) are now being used to force communities to pay for lightstation clean ups, such as Cape Forchu.

The need for The Lighthouse Protection Act is stronger than ever. Please take the time the time to write your MP and keep up the pressure. Thanks for all your support - we'll continue to provide progress reports.

(Rev'd David Curry/Chris Mills
Co-chairs, Lighthouse Protection Act



Abandoned lightkeeper's house, Sambro Island. Chris Mills

NSLPS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society held its annual general meeting at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on April 26. At the meeting the executive tabled a special resolution changing the society's memorandum of association. The resolution was passed at the next regular meeting.

The memorandum now reads: "To work with related groups to ensure the identification, documentation and preservation of lighthouse sites. To ensure the restoration, protection and continued maintenance of lighthouses and lighthouse grounds, and to encourage opening the sites to the public."

Executive 2000-2001:

President - Kathy Brown

Past President - Jim Guptill

1st Vice President - Barry MacDonald

2nd Vice President & Newsletter - Chris Mills

Secretary - Tony Thompson

Treasurer - Lewis Perry

Director, Communications - Bill Mont

Director, Trips - Dorothy MacLeod

Director, Web Site - Tracy O'Brien

Director, Sales and Logistics - Jeanne Thomas

Director - George Hebb

MORE NEWS!

Thanks to persistent lobbying by Kathy Brown, the NSLPS now has a large storage cabinet at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic to hold meeting supplies, publications etc. Many thanks to Gerry Lund and Derek Harrison at the museum for installing it.

Lightkeeper honoured in New Boat at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Elson Perry, the first keeper of the Port Medway lighthouse, was honoured on June 24 when the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic gave his name to a 21 foot wooden ketch built by museum staff. The new vessel is a replica of an inshore fishing skiff built by the real Elson Perry in the 1890s. Perry was a boatbuilder and keeper of the Medway Head light from 1850 to 1892.

The museum received the original boat as a donation in 1985 and built a replica over the last year and a half as a staff project. The new *Elson Perry* was christened at her launch by Muriel Smiley, the wife of the

last lightkeeper at Port Medway, Douglas Smiley.

The *Elson Perry* will be used by the museum for training, participation in events on the water and will be raced against the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic.

Lighthouse Day Saturday September 30

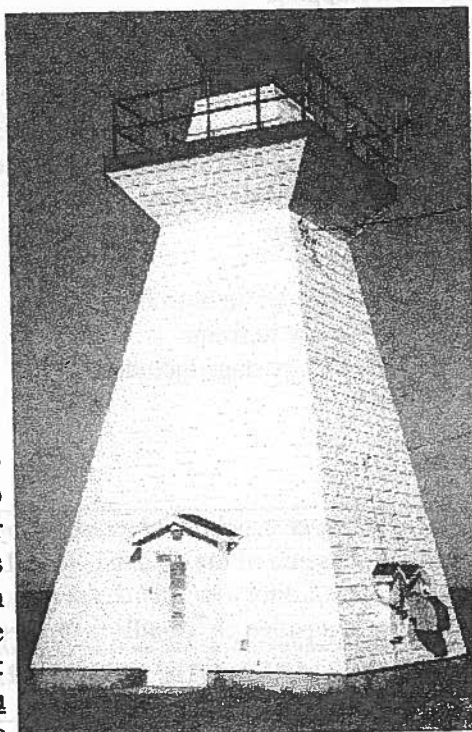
Invitation for Events

Last year the NSLPS created the first annual Nova Scotia Lighthouse Day on October 2, the anniversary of Sambro Light, North America's oldest surviving beacon. Events were held at ten lighthouses across the province.

This year the NSLPS is working with the Coastal Communities Network to expand the event. This year the date falls on Saturday September 30.

We hope that community-based lighthouse groups will plan local events for September 30. It is a great chance to promote your local lighthouse and the cause of lighthouse preservation generally. Excursions may be planned to remote lighthouses, while community picnics, open houses, and other events might be held at more accessible beacons. Teachers might want to get local school children involved through lighthouse-related class projects. Or, perhaps a knowledgeable member of the community could be found to speak about the history of their local lighthouse and its place in the past and present of

daily life. We encourage you to hold a local event on Nova Scotia's Second Annual Lighthouse Day. Also, please let us know about your event by Friday, September 1, so we can help publicize your activity. As well, keep an eye on the NSLPS website: <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/educ/heitage/nspls> to see what other



The present lighthouse at Medway Head.
Chris Mills

community lighthouse groups are planning.

For more information, and to inform us of your community-based Lighthouse Day event, please call Scott Milsom at 445-7168.

LIGHTSHOP

Order from:

Jeanne Thomas, 262 Purcell's Cove Road

Halifax, N.S., B3P 1C3

Telephone 479-1626

e-mail: jmthomas@navnet.net

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

PEGGY'S COVE LIGHT PAPER WEIGHT

A three inch circle of smoothly finished hardwood topped by a Turk's Head knot and a Peggy's Cove lighthouse quarter. A collectable only available from the NSLPS.

\$10 + \$3 shipping

NSLPS MEMBERSHIP PINS

\$5 + \$1 shipping

LIGHTHOUSE LOCATOR MAP

Two copies of a map showing the location of lighthouses in Nova Scotia. One map is suitable for framing; the other can be folded up and taken on lighthouse trips.

\$13 + \$2 shipping.

VANISHING LIGHTS

Chris Mills

This book tells of a lightkeeper's experiences during the last days of staffed lighthouses in the Maritimes, and includes snippets of lighthouse history.

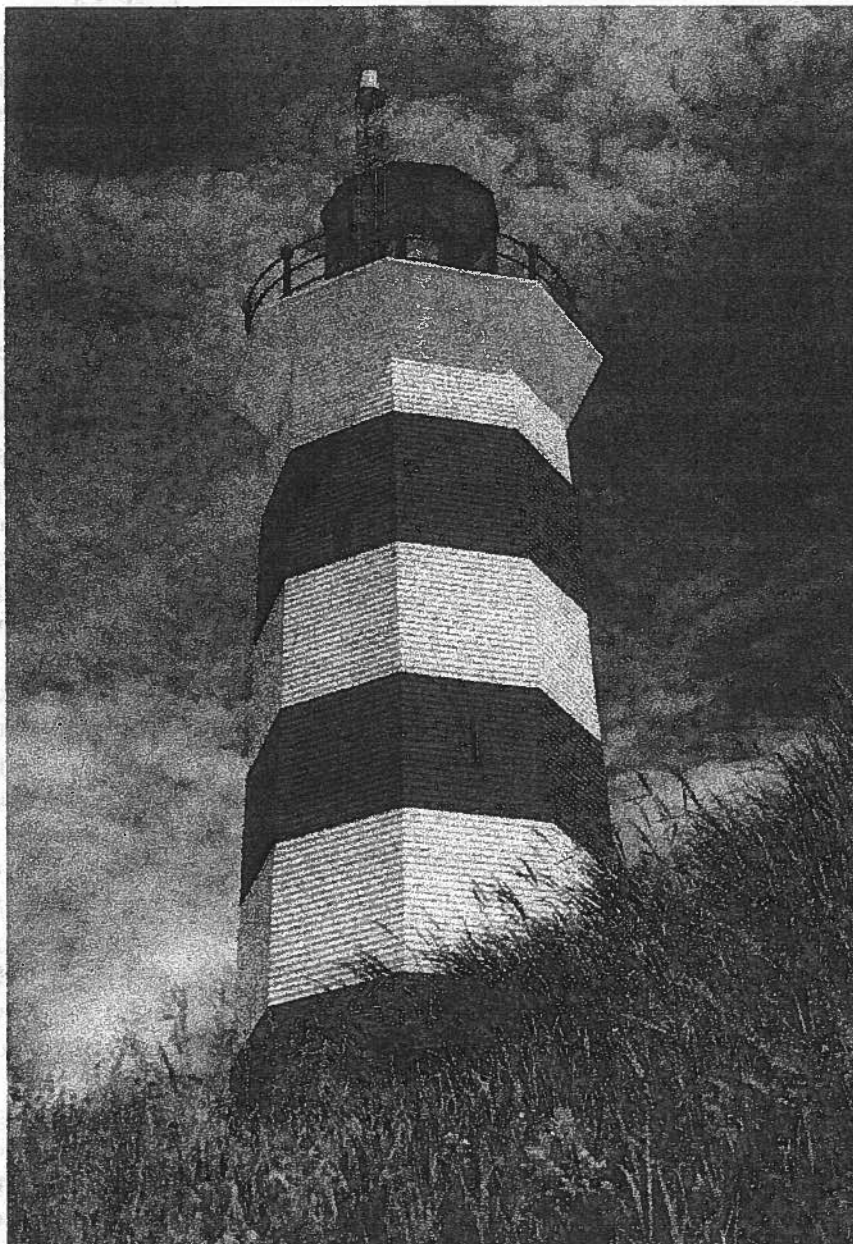
\$13 + \$3 shipping

ART PRINT

The Work Crew on Sambro Island

7" x 10.5", ready to frame

SPECIAL \$12, postage included



Sambro Light *Chris Mills*

The Lightkeeper is published quarterly by THE NOVA SCOTIA LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY, c/o Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax., B3J 1S3 Editor: Chris Mills. Send items for publication to Editor *The Lightkeeper*, c/o 1121 Ketch Harbour Road, Ketch Harbour, NS B3V 1K7, or E-Mail ketch@ns.sympatico.ca. **Deadline for September issue: August 20, 2000.**

NSLPS MEMBERSHIP FORM : January 1 - December 31, 2000

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ POSTAL CODE _____

E-MAIL _____ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Membership Number: _____

Family/Group names for extra card(s): _____

Single - \$15.00 Institution/Group - \$30.00 (4 cards) Patron - \$100.00

Family - \$20.00 Sustaining - \$50.00 Foreign - \$15.00 U.S. Funds, or equivalent.

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Please make cheques payable to Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Mail to: THE NOVA SCOTIA LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

c/o Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax, B3J 1S3