

THE Lightkeeper

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Vol. 8, No.1, March 2001

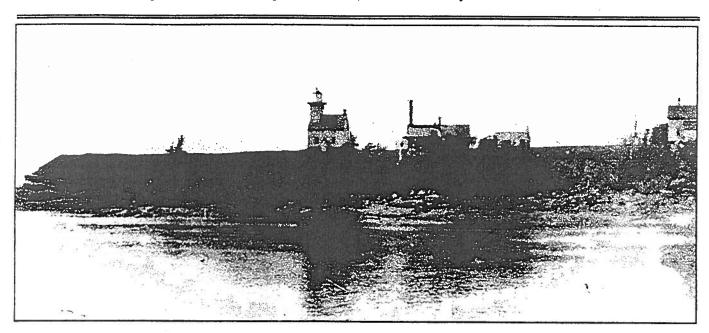
The objectives of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society are: To promote and support preservation and awareness of Nova Scotian lighthouses; to assist community groups in leasing or taking ownership of lighthouse sites; to provide access to written research and photographic documentation and 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 EDITOR: CHRIS MILLS

PATRONS: Carl R. Lautenslager, Jeanne Thomas

AFFILIATES: Advocate District Development Association, Beacon Memories, Burntcoat Head Park, Cape Sable Historical Society, Chapel Hill Historical Society, Clyde River Inn, Coastal Communities Network, English Harbour Heritage Society, Five Islands Lighthouse Society, Faith Tabernacle Church, Friends of the Yarmouth Light Society, Greville Bay Shipbuilding Museum Society, Henry Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, Keepers of the Beacons, 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



IN THIS ISSUE:

AGM: p.2

Lighthouse Programs and Trips: p.2

News and Views: pp.2-3 Lighthouse Day: p.3

Feature: Apple River Lighthouse: pp.4-5

Lost Lights: Ketch Harbour: p.6

Keeping Our Lights: p.7

Gannet Rock: p.8

Coast Guard Structure/ Surplus Lights: p.9

From the Past. Cross Island: p.10

Faces of the Lights: p.11

WELCOME ABOARD!

The following new members recently joined NSLPS:

Cynthia Dorkin, Allan & Gail Golding, Kenneth Morash, Karen Keller, Joan Meloni, Roger Roosa, Tonya-Anne Clark, R. Wayne Miller, George Locke, Gerald A. Jones, John Dalziel, Denyse Contrasty, John McCallum, Michelle Landreville, David Bancroft, Helen Leona Lewis, John H. DeLong, Doug & Anne Gregory, Carole Thompson, Alison Flether, Pamela Eisan, Ron Gallant, Greg Dickie, Neil Tramble, Sheila Fraser, Glen Carrigan, Jeannine Kent, Gail Wright, Doug Wright, Daphne Watson, F. Heard.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

DalTech Architecture Building

Spring Garden Road (facing the Halifax Public Library)

Friday April 20, 7 pm

Reports and election of executive and board members.

8 pm: Illustrated talk by Bill Budge, son of a former keeper at St. Paul's Island, of the north tip of Cape Breton. Refreshments will follow the talk.

The AGM and talk are the opening activities of KEEPING OUR LIGHTS 2001, Lighthouse Workshops for Nova Scotia. This is a chance to hear a great speaker and meet people from across the province who are working hard to preserve our lighthouse heritage.

NSLPS LIGHTHOUSE TRIPS

May: No trip because of Lighthouse Day

June:

Walton and Burntcoat Head Lighthouses Sunday, June 3 Date set by the tides!

In cooperation with the Halifax Outdoor Club

This is a land trip.

Experience the red cliffs and high tides of the bay of Fundy! Meet at the *Walton lighthouse*, the last original light in Hants County, perched on a spectacular site above the bay. Visit the light, then hike (or walk) along the tidal flats of the Fundy Shore. Drive to *Burntcoat Head*, site of the highest tides in the world. Visit a replica of the old lighthouse, see exhibits on the geology of the Bay of Fundy and the history of the lighthouse. Learn the source of that strange name! You can walk the shore here, too. This is an area where fossils are also found.

Times: Meet at Walton at 10:30 AM and at Burntcoat Head at 1:00 PM. You can eat at the Walton Pub and Eatery (a NSLPS Affiliate) or picnic either at Walton lighthouse or Burntcoat Head Lighthouse Park.

Cost: Donation to NSLPS
Trip Leader: Kathy Brown

Registration: Call Kathy at 479-3115 between May 22 and May 30. We need to know how many cars to expect!

The following trips are in the planning stages and information will be in the June Lightkeeper. The NSLPS applied to the Canadian Coast Guard before the end of January for a license to visit these lighthouses. We are still waiting for the arrangements to be finalized. If you are interested in any of these trips, call Dorothy MacLeod at 423-8034. She will record your name and send information later. Discount for early registrants.

July:

Offshore trip to Bon Portage Island (Outer Island) near Shag Harbour. The island was home to Evelyn

Richardson, author of We keep a Light. Trip leader-Janet McGinity.

August:

Offshore trip to *Isle Haute*, Bay of Fundy in August. Trip leader-Dan Conlin.

September:

Georges Island and/or Sambro Island

October:

Maugher's Beach lighthouse in cooperation with The Friends of McNabs Island

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Kathy Brown

Activities since December/January Lightkeeper report

NSLPS had a booth at Boat Show Feb. 15 - 18. We talked to over 500 visitors, gave out info about NSLPS and the "Visit Our Lighthouses" brochure, received memberships, sold some of our items. Special thanks to Barry MacDonald who organized the event, and everyone who helped.

Correspondence

The NSLPS sent a letter about lighthouse preservation to Robert Thibault, MP West Nova and Minister for ACOA. We receive a thank-you letter noting that he looks forward to working on this. There has been no reply to a letter on the same subject sent to Geoff Regan, MP Halifax West. Copies of *The Lightkeeper* along with a letter were sent to all Nova Scotia MPs.

The Coast Guard keeps a list of lighthouses designated "A" discontinued lights, "B" lighthouses under review, and "C" lights to be retained in use for the foreseeable future. An updated listing will be provided to NSLPS in the near future. Information will be available to those attending the Keeping Our Lights workshops. In addition, NSLPS is being notified when lights are placed with Department of Public Works for disposal. Thanks to Real Assets and Property Management section for including us in "the loop."

Charity.ca

We will shortly be on this website that allows people to donate using their VISA.

Board members are working hard on the Keeping Our Lights workshops, Lighthouse Day (May 26), and the trips for the summer. Look for news about these events elsewhere in this issue.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Chebucto Head is being assessed by the Fisheries and Oceans and it is likely the light will be severed from the rest of the property. Most of the property reverts to the province but the house, garage and parking may become available.

The lighthouse land on Seal Island is being evaluated

with a view to severing the amount needed for the light and disposing of the rest.

Mabou harbour Lighthouse has been declared surplus to Coast Guard requirements and Public Works and Government Services Canada has been instructed to proceed with disposal of the property. This disposal is proceeding on the understanding that Fisheries and Oceans is devolving of its program at this location. John Rankin, President of the Mabou Harbour Authority has been informed. The Harbour Authority has expressed an interest in acquiring the lighthouse.

Man O'War Point Lighthouse owner Kevin Bray says he has moved the tower from its original location on the Bras d'Or Lakes. Bray says he plans to use the lighthouse as a gallery.

LIGHTHOUSE DAY 2001

"In a sea kayak, it's easy to lose your bearing when the fog rolls in. A mistake in direction could spell disaster. I've used the Betty Island Lighthouse countless times to guide me back home."

~Dave Adler, Kayaker, Lower Prospect~

On May 26th, more than 160 beacons along Nova Scotia's coastline will be honoured during the province's third annual Lighthouse Day.

In recognition of Nova Scotia's lights and the important role they play in marine safety and navigation, Lighthouse Day 2001 will take place during International Safe Boating Week: May 20th - May 26th.

Community groups

across the province invite everyone to take part in their celebrations. Activities this year will include everything from lobster bakes and kayaking to riding in a fishing boat and trekking to one of the many lights along our coast to listen to the stories of former light keepers.

The Coastal Communities Network (CCN) is organizing the event, along with the NS Lighthouse Preservation Society. Human Resource and Development Canada (HRDC) is providing funding, as are a growing number of corporate sponsors.

CCN Executive Director Ishbel Munro says, "Lighthouse Day is a day for people to experience the joy of lights, and to recognize the important role they play, both as symbols of our heritage and as beacons of safety in our coastal communities.

A school drawing/poetry contest will also make up part of Lighthouse Day. Children from primary to grade 8 will draw pictures or write poems to show what lighthouses mean to them. ATV's Peter Coade is overseeing the contest. By taking part, children will learn more about Nova Scotia's lighthouses, their complex history, and the important role they play in the province's marine heritage.

There is something planned for everyone. If you

don't qualify for the Drawing Contest, you might want to take part in our Amateur Photo Contest. Lighthouse Day Chair Pam Harrison says her passion for lighthouses has led her to capture hundreds of lights on film. "I can't seem to separate my finger from my camera - I guess I get a little carried away... But it's a special thing to be able to capture beauty and history on a roll of film," says Pam. If you are like her, the only problem you're going to have with the Photo Contest is narrowing down your entries!

C o o r d i n a t o r s anticipate Lighthouse Day will be the provincial event of the year! "These lights are historic icons," says CCN's Ishbel Munro, "precious treasures that warrant celebration."

Details of the Drawing and Photo Contests, along with other event details, can by found on the Lighthouse Day

Web Page:

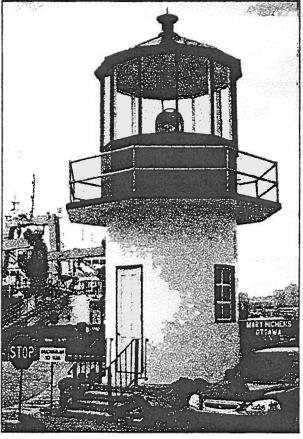
www.coastalcommunities.ns.ca and follow the links.

Be sure to check your local newspaper to find out what's happening at your light and around the province. Remember to mark May 26th on your calendar!

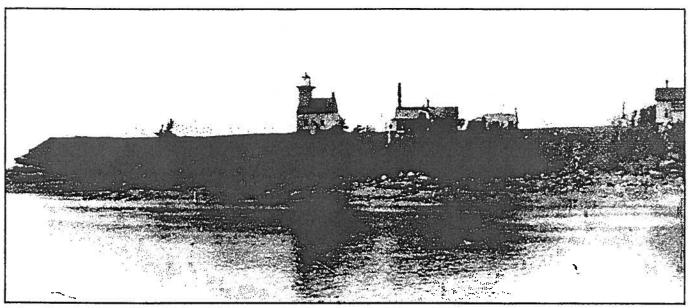
For more information please contact: Jillian Brown

Lighthouse Day Coordinator Tel. (902) 852-2126

E-mail: lighthouse@jillianbrown.com



The old Saint Pauls south lighthouse, now at the Coast Guard base in Dartmouth, NS. Chris Mills



Apple River lighthouse, fog alarm and keepers house circa 1900. Courtesy Derek Bull

APPLE RIVER LIGHTHOUSE

Derek Bull

Growing up spending summers in Nova Scotia brings to me many favourable memories. One in particular is the Apple River Light. Due to its limited accessibility, it has always been somewhat of a mystery to me.

The Apple River lighthouse was established in 1870. Its location is on a peninsula in Chignecto Bay known as Cape Capstan at the mouth of Apple River, in the village of Apple River. The light is best viewed from West Apple River and also from Eygetts Beach.

The original lighthouse was a wooden structure with a dwelling attached which was the assistant keeper's residence. The head keeper stayed in a separate house. The original light was an Aladdin lamp, which provided direction to sailing ships and fishing boats entering Apple River. This light was bright enough to be seen as far away as Martins Head, New Brunswick.

The foghorn was installed in 1889 and was powered by steam. Water for the steam was piped from a cistern in the woods. In dry times, water had to be hauled to the cistern. This system was later improved by two steam-producing English-manufactured Lister Engines.

Over the years, there were four keepers: E. Fowler, Shaw Elliott, Victor Elliott and Marven McNally. The keepers of Apple River Light, like most keepers, stayed busy. Fog watch and making sure the lamp didn't flare up or turn black were just a few of their many duties.

There were no roads to the light. At high tide,

the light was reached by boat and at low tide by a horse and wagon, which was later replaced by a tractor. The children of the keepers were educated by correspondence.

In 1967 the original light was finally replaced. The new light was the common tower on the corner of the fog signal building. The two homes were also replaced by the well-known bungalow homes seen at most Maritime lighthouses. The new light and homes were identical to neighboring Cape d'Or, lighthouse, another favorite lighthouse of mine.

By December 1968 the new homes and light were ready for move-in. The new homes were modern with electricity and plumbing. Water was a problem however, as a well driller was unable to get anything except salt water. A cistern was built in the basements to catch rainwater used for everything except drinking. Drinking water was fetched from a spring a mile and a half away in the woods.

In1973 the tide of automation hit Apple River Light. The lighthouse became automated and the homes abandoned.

I remember looking across the channel at the Apple River Light. The homes for years sat empty and abandoned thus becoming victims of weather and vandals.

In the early 1980s the two homes were finally removed. So far, I can only account for one of the homes. It sits on the beach in the village of East Advocate near the old wharf and appears to be used for storage. It is still in bad shape.

In the summer of 1990, with the aid of a topography map, I was able to find a trail to the light. The trail was probably what was left of a road the contractors built to access the cape in order to build the new light in 1967.

What I found at the end of the trail was an open field on a cape surrounded by beautiful scenery. All that was left of the light was a concrete tower topped by a flashing light and a siren fog horn.

The fog signal building had been removed leaving only the tower on a concrete slab. It appears the fog signal has been discontinued as well.

I haven't been back to the light since that time.

Today, the Apple River area is a not what it once was. Where once the channel was full of sailing ships coming and going, it is now used only by a few fishing boats guided into the channel by the single light.

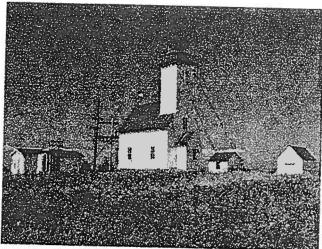
It's sad to see a place once so lively and dedicated to the lighthouse service replaced with only a tower. The days of a brightly painted lighthouse with nearby homes and manicured lawns are now gone with the times. The tower that now stands is all that serves as a memory for those who remember the Apple River Light.

Some details were provided from The History of Advocate and Area, a book by the Super Seniors.

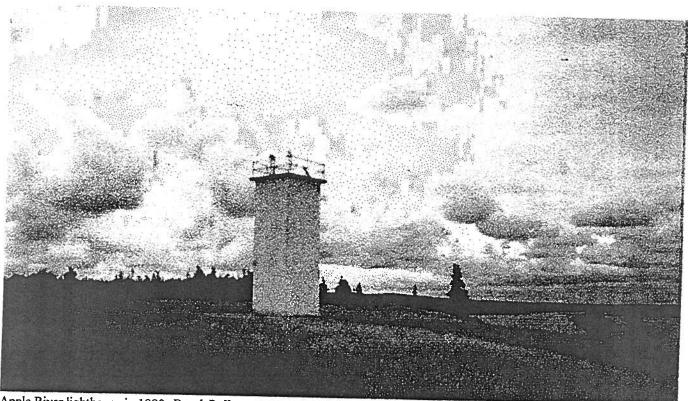
Derek Bull lives in Tampa, Florida. His father's side of

the family is from Spencers Island (home of the ill-fated Mary Celeste) on the Parrsboro shore. Bull's Great great great great grandfather Lieutenant Robert Spicer, was the first settler in Spencers Island. His grandmother was born and raised in Spencer's Island and later moved to the United States. Bull's family still has a summer home in Spencers Island.

* * * * *



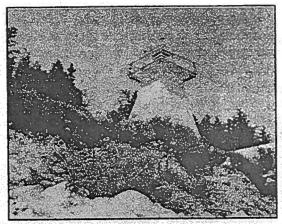
The current lighthouse at East Ironbound Island is almost identical to the original light at Apple River. E.H. Irwin



Apple River lighthouse in 1990. Derek Bull

LOST LIGHTS

The Ketch Harbour lighthouse was built in 1905. The tower displayed a fixed red light visible for seven miles. In 1952 the light was automated and changed to flashing green. The lighthouse was discontinued April 13th, 1962. The tower was later destroyed, although concrete supports for the structure can still be seen on the west side of Ketch Harbour.



Ketch Harbour light, August 16, 1953. Courtesy Jean A. Waldron



Mary and Mark Martin with their daughter Jean (Waldron) at the Ketch Harbour lighthouse, circa 1928. Courtesy Jean A. Waldron

Ketch Harbour lighthouse keepers:

1905-1931: Charles Martin 1931: Thomas Martin 1931-1952: Wilfred Fleming

Background photo couries) Don Galligher

KEEPING OUR LIGHTS 2001

Lighthouse Workshops for Nova Scotia

Dal Tech Architecture Building facing the Halifax Library on Spring Garden Road Friday April 20 - Sunday April 22

 $\star\star\star$

Friday, April 20,

6pm to 7pm: Registration

7 pm: NSLPS AGM

Policy on relocating lighthouses

8 pm: Growing Up on St. Paul's Island, an illustrated talk by Bill Budge son of a former keeper.

9 pm: Refreshments and networking

Saturday, April 21,

8:30 am: registration

9am - 4pm: Workshops sessions

Sunday, April 22,

9am - 12am. Workshop sessions

Workshop sessions will include:

•exchange of news from community groups across the province

•running a lighthouse as a small business

•the latest organizational structure at Coast Guard/Fisheries and Oceans

•what happens in an environmental assessment

•requirements for remediation

•lighthouse divestiture

•lighthouses and tourism

doing lighthouse research

•the Cape Forchu Experience

•and more!

Registration fees:

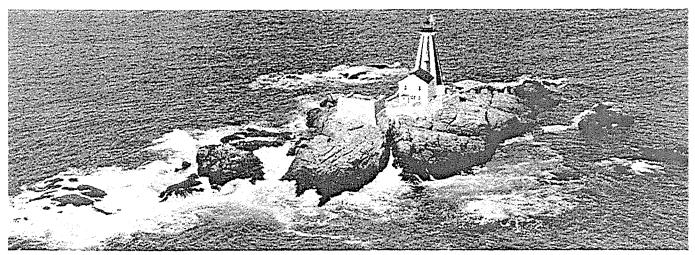
Affiliates and community groups: \$20 to send 3 people

Individuals: \$10/One-day pass: \$5

Registration information will be sent out early in April.

•The workshops are for everyone interested in saving our lighthouse heritage.

If you are running a lighthouse site, working to save your lighthouse, thinking of doing so, or just interested in what is going on, don't miss this opportunity!



Gannet Rock in 1991. Chris Mills photos

GANNET ROCK UPDATE

On February 13th, Maritimes Regional Director Larry Wilson held a meeting at the Coast Guard base in Saint John, New Brunswick. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss upcoming changes on Gannet Rock.

The Coast Guard plans to solarize the light and horn this year. The powerful light and fog horn currently operate on diesel-generated electricity. Although solarization will not affect the 1831-vintage lighthouse, the process will have an impact the interior of the attached 70-year-old dwelling.

Since the lightstation was de-staffed in 1996, the condition of the interior of the keepers house has deteriorated – lack of heat, and various leaks have led to mould and water damage to gyproc.

The Coast Guard plans to remove the gyproc from interior walls and re-inforce the roof of the dwelling to support the solar array. This raises concerns about important interior features of the house, including Douglas Fir door and window mouldings, two "faux" mantlepieces, and hardwood floors.

But the current plan is likely the best option for Gannet. The Coast Guard had considered demolishing the dwelling to make way for the solar panels. The current plan will see the dwelling remain an integral part of the station. Although the interior will be gutted, the station will maintain its historic exterior appearance.

Larry Wilson said the Coast Guard will make efforts to save any significant elements of the house (i.e. doors, ornamental fireplace mouldings, etc.) before work begins.

The Coast Guard's Carl Goodwin noted there will be no chance of public access to Gannet Rock in the next few years because of the light's remote location and its continued use as an aid to navigation.

Gannet Rock is recognized, but not classified by the FHBRO.

The Coast Guard Plan:

- 1)Proceed with a project funding submission to allow for the following work to be carried out this construction season:
- 2) Reinforce second floor of dwelling to allow for solar panels on roof.
- 3)Remove fuel tanks & two interior concrete walls of fuel bunker.
- 4)After consultation with FHBRO proceed with removal of contaminated insulation within the main dwelling (gut the interior)
- 5)Structural maintenance. Removal of chimney may have to be addressed.
- 6)Refurbish helicopter pad and remove lower dock structure.
- 7) Refurbish exterior of buildings, tower, etc.
- 8)General clean-up of site.



The meeting was attended by Larry Wilson (CCG Regional Director, Maritimes), Betty Tozer (DFO/RPAM), Deborah Daggett (wife of the late Doug Daggett, former Gannet Rock keeper), Chris Mills (NSLPS/former Gannet keeper), Bill Parker (Strategic Planning, CCG), Ralph Hartlen (CCG Saint John), Bob MacDonald (DFO/RPAM), Kelly Ann Loughery (New Brunswick Lighthouse Society), Barry Nisbet (Level of Service, CCG), Rodger Maker (former Gannet keeper), David Carlson (Senior Navaids Officer, CCG Saint John), Carl Goodwin (Strategic Planning, CCG).

COAST GUARD ORGANIZATION AND CONTACTS

In 2000, a restructuring of Coast Guard property management took place. This has left many people mystified. Here (we hope) is clarification!

The Real Property and Assets Management Branch (RPAM) of Fisheries and Oceans has taken over management of lighthouse properties from the CCG in the Maritimes Region. CCG is a client of the property service. CCG decides whether or not service is needed from a particular site.

If a site is no longer needed, RPAM handles the divestiture (to another government agency or level, or a non-profit group) or disposal (sale). They are also in charge of handling issues related to public access, liability and environmental issues.

CCG's involvement is as a facilitator/liaison with special interest groups, communities and provinces. CCG assists in ensuring the best continued and future use of lighthouses.

People to call re inquiries:

Betty Tozer, RPAM is Maurice Girouard's assistant. 426-7449.

Personnel RPAM:

Maurice Girouard: Regional Director

Mike Chaisson: leases and issues of public access. David Cooke: disposals/divestiture for redundant

lighthouses

Facilities Management Group:

Supervisor: R. Macdonald Dan Venoit - Atlantic Ralph Hartlen - Fundy Glen Fry - North

Canadian Coast Guard:

Nancy McNeil- Director, Marine Programs Carl Goodwin-Director, Strategic Plan Implementation: liaison re policy issues.

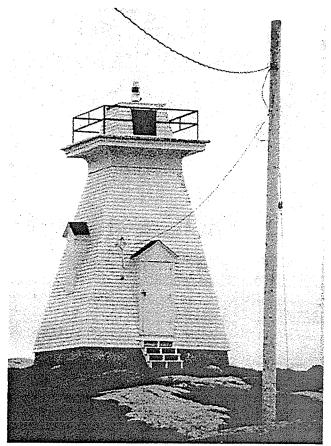
LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTIES UPDATE

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans/Coast Guard has declared three more lighthouse properties surplus. The Terence Bay lighthouse on Tennant Point has been declared by Fisheries and Oceans to be excess to its requirements. Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) has been requested to proceed with disposal in accordance with the devolution option. Devolution refers to a light that will remain in operation. Under directive 96-1, PWGSC will offer the

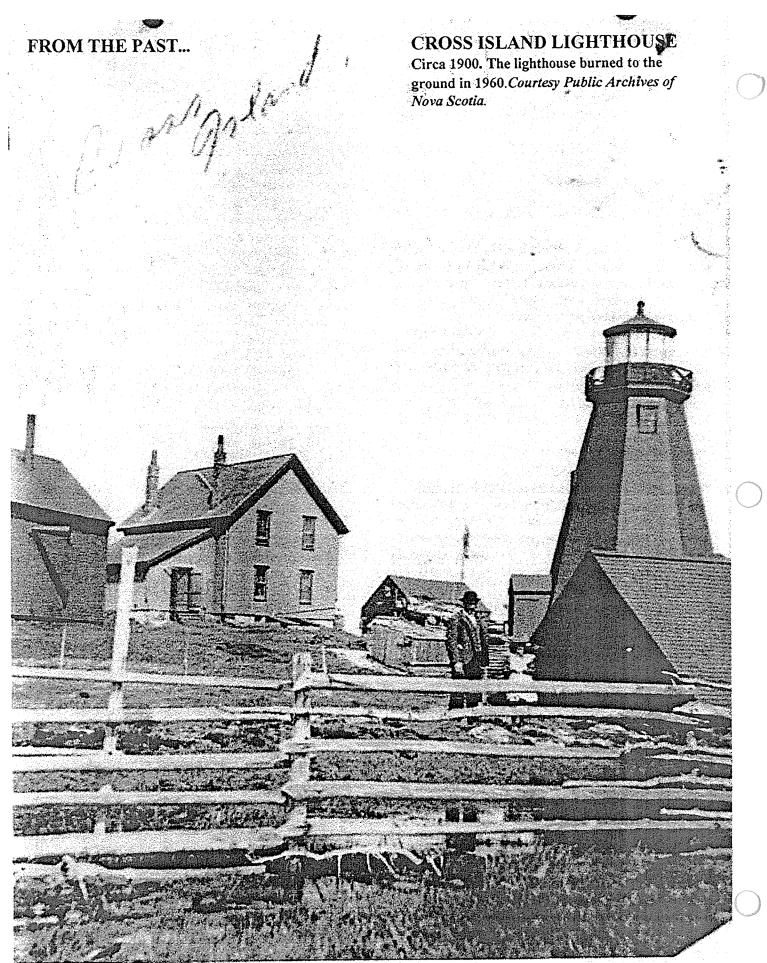
lighthouse to various levels of government, including Halifax Regional Municipality, and after that to any non-profit group that has expressed interest in the lighthouse. The agreement of sale will be that the purchaser operate the light for an agreed period of time. The lighthouse may be transferred for one dollar.

Country Island has also been declared excess to DFO's requirements. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)has expressed interest in assuming control and administration of the island. DFO has instructed PWGSC to proceed with devolution for the portion of the property occupied by the lighthouse, and to proceed with the normal disposal process for the remainder of the property if the CWS does not require it. Normal disposal process refers to surplus lights or land. The lighthouse or land will be offered for sale at market value to various levels of government including the municipality, and after that to interested non-profit groups. If no one is interested, the land will be placed on the real estate market.

Port Bickerton lighthouse has also been declared excess. PWGSC will proceed with the devolution process for the portion of the property occupied by the lighthouse buildings and with the normal disposal process for the remainder of the property.



Terence Bay lighthouse, Tennant Point. Chris Mills



FACES OF THE LIGHTS

From 1734 to 1993, lighthouse keepers kept Nova Scotia lights burning through darkness and storm. Although the work of the lightkeeper has been taken over by automated equipment, the men and women who lived and worked on our lights hold a wealth of memories of service to mariners and life on the wild coast of Nova Scotia. Here are some of the faces of that heritage:

Photos by Chris Mills



Geraldine and Robert Spears, Scatarie Island, 1987



George Locke, Cross Island, 1988



Lemuel Moreau, Western Head, 1987



Donald Wickerson Lent, Brier Island and Grand Passage lighthouses, early 1960s to 1984 (2001)



Ingram Wolfe and friend, Moshers Island, 1989



Donald Gallagher, Chebucto Head 1930-1950 (1999)

DONATIONS

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society has charitable tax status. That means you'll get a receipt for your donation to the NSLPS. We'll gladly accept donations in memory as well.

LIGHTSHOP:

Order from: Jeanne Thomas,

144 Spinnaker Drive, Halifax, NS B3N 3C1

Telephone 479-1626

e-mail: jmthomas@navnet.net

Please make cheques payable to the Nova Scotia

Lighthouse Preservation Society.
Peggy's Cove Paper Weight

\$10 + \$3 shipping

NSLPS Membership Pins

\$5 + \$1 shipping

Lighthouse Locator Map

\$13 + \$2 shipping.

Vanishing Lights by Chris Mills

\$13 + \$3 shipping

(NOW OUT OF PRINT)

Art Print

The Work Crew on Sambro Island

7" x 10.5", ready to frame

Special \$12, postage included

COMING IN THE JUNE ISSUE:

SUMMERS AT WEST IRONBOUND

LIGHT

LEADING LIGHTS

is the international journal of aids to navigation. Regular issues are available by postal subscription.

Six issues (pre-paid) \$50 CDN

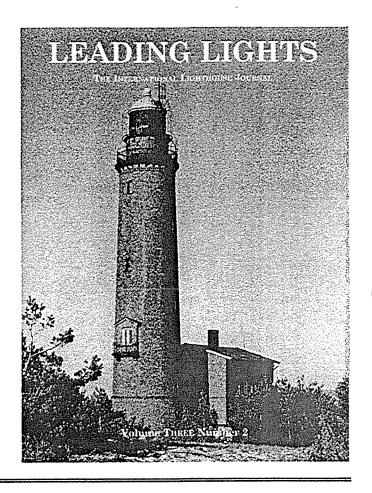
"Support us in our work to promote worldwide lighthouse heritage"

Leading Lights

Peter Williams Associates

Milford Marina, Milford Haven

Pembrokeshire, Wales SA73 4AF U.K.



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 June issue: May 20, 2001.

NSLPS MEMBERSHIP FORM: January 1 - December 31, 2001			
NAME TELE		PHONE	
ADDRESS	POSTAL CODE		
E-MAIL	New		Renewal Membership Number:
Family/Group names for extra card(s):			
Single - \$15.00	Institution/Group - \$30.00 (4 card	is)	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			