



# THE Lightkeeper

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Vol. 8, No.3, September 2001

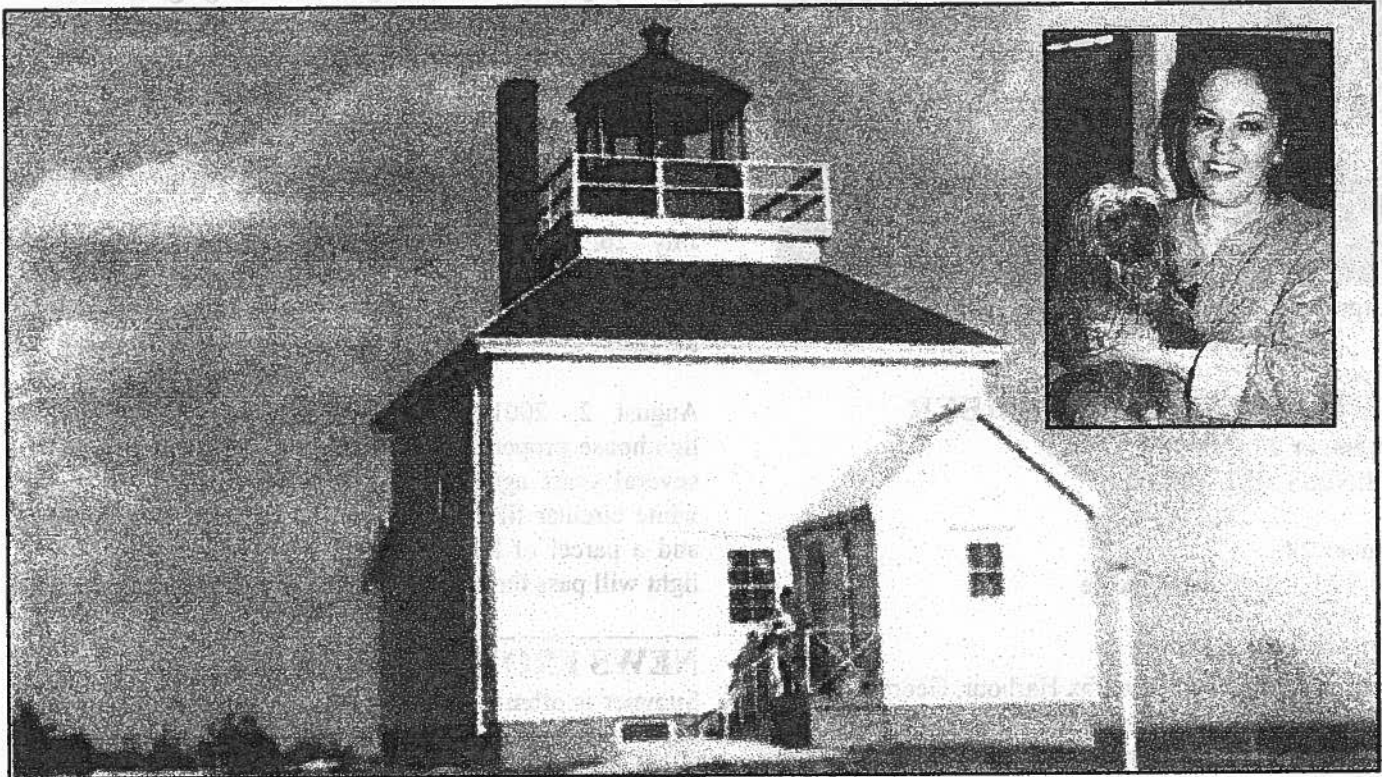
The objectives of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society are: To promote and support preservation and awareness of Nova Scotian lighthouses; to assist community groups in leasing or taking ownership of lighthouse sites; to provide access to written research and photographic documentation and 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:** Beacon Memories, Cape Sable Historical Society, Central Nova Tourist Association, Chapel Hill Historical Society, Clyde River Inn, Coastal Peoples Learning Network, English Harbour Heritage Society, Five Islands Lighthouse Society, Friends of the Yarmouth Light Society, Greville Bay Shipbuilding Museum Society, Henry Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, Island Historical Society, Keepers of the Beacons, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, McNab's Island Ferry, Medway Area Communities Association, Municipality of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia Scuba Association, Port Bickerton and Area Planning Association, Sambro-Ketch Harbour School, Spencers Island Community Association, Terence Bay Lighthouse Committee, Tidal View Drive Association, Town of Lockeport, Walton Area Development Committee.



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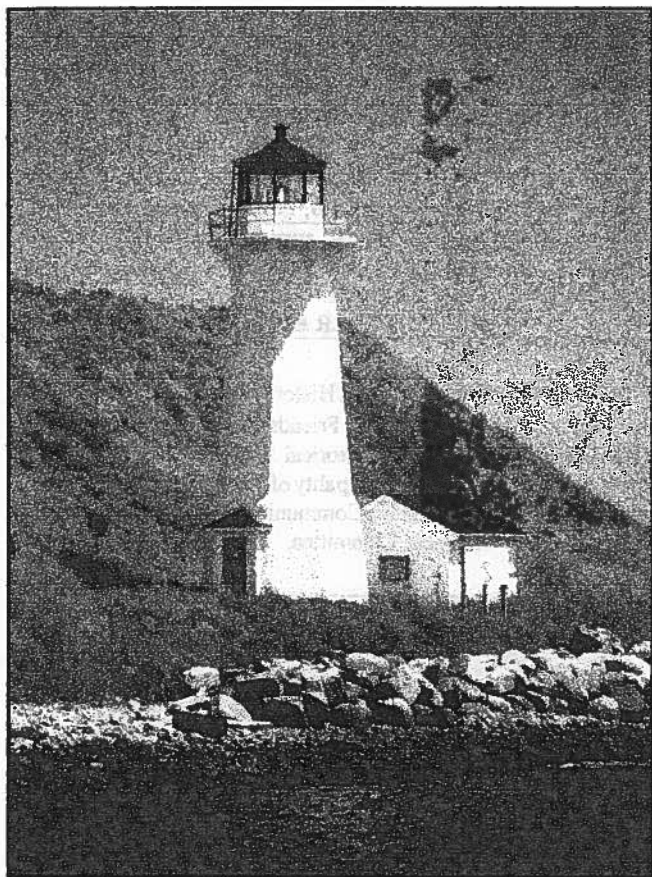
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## WELCOME ABOARD!

*The following new members recently joined NSLPS:*

Verna Goswell, Municipality of Yarmouth, Dawn Waltonbaug, Sambro-Ketch Harbour School, Del Lowe, Rene & Sherrill Kitson, Dr. & Mrs. Herman Hugenholtz, Patricia Leesinsky, Stanley Van Dyke, Linda Cameron, James Richardson, Tony Costa, Sheila Lewis, Derek Bull, Elizabeth J. Sacca, Robert L. Emery.

## MEETINGS & PROGRAMMES:



Georges Island, summer 2001. *Chris Mills*

### SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

September 26, 7:00 PM  
BUSINESS MEETING

October 24  
7:00 P.M. - Activities Update  
7:30 P.M.

#### GEORGES ISLAND

Sitting in the middle of Halifax Harbour, Georges Island has one of the most visible lighthouses in Nova Scotia. The island is also home to extensive underground fortifications. Join Parks Canada historian Ron Macdonald for an illustrated talk on the history of the island and its fortifications.

November 28, 7:00 P.M.  
BUILD A MODEL LIGHTHOUSE  
Wed. Nov. 28, 7:00 P.M.

How do you put the unique East Ironbound lighthouse in your living room? In miniature, of course. Make a wooden miniature of this lighthouse with attached dwelling which has guarded the entrance to Mahone Bay

since 1870. This workshop is for adults. There will be a fee for the materials provided to make a quality model. Registration required. Limited to 20 participants. We expect this workshop to fill quickly. To register, call Dorothy MacLeod now at 423-8034.

December:  
No Meeting

### COMMUNITY NOTICE

Lighting of the Seal Island Light Lens  
Sat. Dec. 15, 7:30 P.M.

Seal Island Light Museum, Barrington.

The Seal Island Light Museum is proudly topped by the only large installed Fresnel lens in Nova Scotia. Each Christmas it is lit, and the twinkling prisms cast rays of light into the darkness as they did from the first decade of the 20th century, to 1978. Come and see this unique sight and join the community for carol singing next door in the Old Meeting House. After the concert, you are invited to the Cape Sable Historical Society Centre, next door to the Meeting House, for hot mulled cider and treats.

### DIVESTITURE

July 26, 2001: Hampton, NS, excess lighthouse property. Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) has been requested to proceed with the disposal in accordance with the devolution option.

August 2, 2001: Pubnico Harbour, NS, excess lighthouse property. This lighthouse was discontinued several years ago. The property comprises a red and white circular fibreglass tower, an equipment building and a parcel of land protected by armour stone. This light will pass through the normal disposal process.

### NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Summer is often a time to relax and take life easy. Not so for members of the board! For one thing, there are all those lighthouse trips. Somehow, most of them are led by board members.

Tony Thompson ably organized the Isle Haute trip and Dan Conlin acted as guide and historian; George Hebb was leader for the Georges Island visit and member Dale Veinot added her reminiscences of growing up at the light; member Janet McGinity led the Bon Portage weekend.

A big thanks to Dorothy MacLeod for all her work in taking registrations and informing people of the details. This year was the first for trips done under a

license from the Coast Guard. After time-consuming work to get it, everything went very smoothly.

Dan Conlin and Kathy Brown were on the Lighthouse Day Committee.

Member Tim Hall, and Alison Fletcher of the board did presentations about Nova Scotia lighthouses for Elderhostel in Shelburne, hosted by the Coastal Peoples Learning Network

A special meeting of the Board was held with Lynne Perry, President, and Rick Welsford, Managing Director, Atlantic Lighthouse Council, to explain the re-organization of the council and their plans for the future and to explore the relationship between NSLPS and ALC. (See ALC Report about the re-organization.)

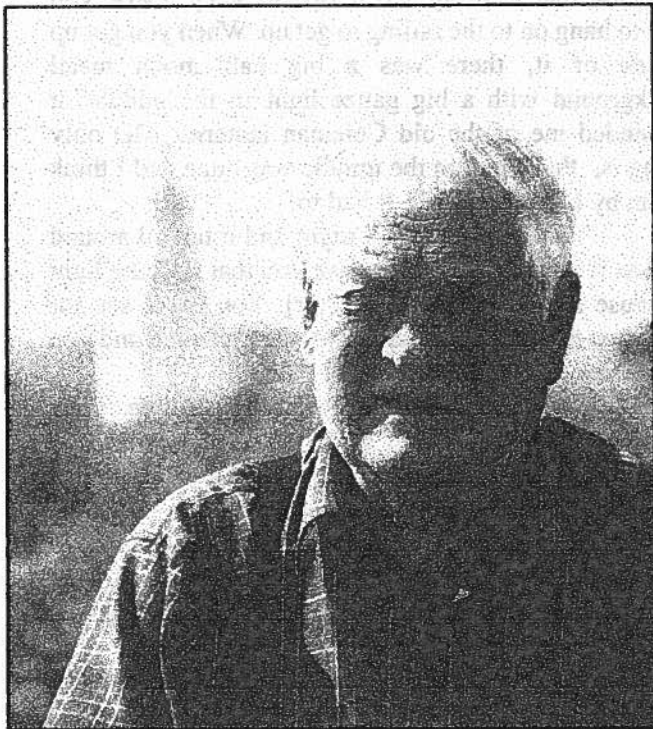
NSLPS is inviting ALC to join as an affiliate, and a letter has gone to ALC regarding the relationship between the two groups.

An updated re-issue of the brochure "Nova Scotia: Visit Our Lighthouse" is planned for the next tourist season, and funding will be sought.

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## ORAL HISTORY GRANT

NSLPS has received a grant for \$3,500 from Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) to gather oral history from former lighthouse keepers and their families in HRM which covers the coast from Hubbards to Ecum Secum.



Ivan Kent, one of the lighthouse people interviewed as part of the NSLPS Oral History Project. Ivan's father, mother and grandfather were keepers of the French Point light (Musquodoboit Harbour rear range), on Kent Island, Musquodoboit Harbour. *Chris Mills*



Andrew Hodder, wireless operator on the Sambro Lightship, 1947-54. *Chris Mills*

Originally the plan was to hire a summer student, but the grant was less than we asked for and arrived too late for a summer project. Fortunately, Chris Mills, Vice-President of NSLPS and editor of *The Lightkeeper*, lighthouse researcher, was available and has undertaken the project. Chris has a contact network of former lightkeepers, and has recording equipment used in his work as a freelance broadcaster. He has completed eight interviews so far. Thanks to George Hebb for heading up this important project. We hope this is the beginning of a more wide reaching initiative to record our lighthouse heritage.

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## WEBSITE NEWS

*Kathy Brown*

**New Lights: Ingonish Ferry, Whitehead Island**

New button on home page: "Top 25 Lighthouse Sites."

In July, the NSLPS website was chosen as one of the top 25 lighthouse sites on the Internet, at the launch of a new website of top lighthouse sites. A click on the "Top 25 Lighthouse Sites" button takes you to this site - and acts as a vote for our site. Scroll down the home page to get to the list and description of the top 25. The last time I looked, NSLPS was #28, and on the list of the second 25. Help bring us up from there! This is also a way to discover some very fine lighthouse sites on the 'net.

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## LIGHTHOUSE PROTECTION ACT

We have been reliably informed that the act was favourably received by the Fisheries Committee and will be re-introduced in the Senate this fall. The bill has been re-drafted as a result of the committee hearings. Dan Conlin, David Curry and the Canadian Heritage Foundation made presentations. A meeting of the Protection Act Committee will be held in the near future.

## VOICES OF THE LIGHTS



Pat Haughn: "I do remember it was a life of solitude" *Chris Mills*

*Pat Haughn grew up in the LaHave Islands, on Nova Scotia's south shore. As a young teenager in the mid-1960s, Pat spent a few weeks each summer with her cousin Donna Bush at the West Ironbound Island lighthouse. They were guests of lightkeeper Ingram Wolfe, his wife Lynne and their children. In February 2001 Pat Haughn shared her memories of summers on "Ironbound Island".*

I remember my first trip to Ironbound. It was a family dinner that Lynne and Ingram put on. That's the first time I had Lynne's cherry pie and I just loved it! Couldn't wait to go back again! The dinner was for Donna's mother and father, Roy and Marie Bush. We all went out in boats and Lynne had a big spread put on. I was just a young nervous little kid, my first trip out there, but I wasn't long going back after that!

We used to anchor off shore of the island and take a little dory from there because it was shallow, into the beach, and then walk up the lane to the lighthouse. The lighthouse was a gorgeous old building. I remember the layout. You'd go into a porch. There was

a big kitchen with a big wood stove. It was going all the time. It had all the old irons where you could iron your clothes. There was no power. I could smell kerosene and to this day when I smell kerosene it reminds me of the lighthouse. The place used to reek of kerosene 'cause everything was run by it.

Sometimes Lynne would store milk and things that would go bad in the porch. They sorta used it as a refrigerator in cold weather. But there was a fridge there and I think that was run by kerosene.

They had a little black and white TV that was run by a generator in a little building out by the porch. The sink had an old hand pump. I can remember we used to have to pump quite a while before you got water to come out of it.

And two staircases. I don't know why. A lot of the older homes had one in the kitchen and one in the living room. But it was great for kids who wanted to carry on and play all day! You'd race up one and down the other and just back and forth.

The lighthouse was a big two-story older home, but it had the light on the top of it. Upstairs was all the bedrooms. I can remember the floors all being painted, with mats. They had big wide boards, they were painted green, I think.

Ingram took Donna and I up [to the lantern] a couple of times. It was a steep, I think it was a metal staircase that went up and it was so steep 'cause you had to hang on to the railing to get up. When you got up inside of it, there was a big half moon metal background with a big gauze light in the middle. It reminded me of the old Coleman lanterns. The only thing is, that thing in the middle was huge and I think it ran by kerosene. Well, it had to!

You'd light it up at night and it turned around and as it turned that's what gave you that flashing light because it had that big [reflector]. You could see for miles up there. You could see Mosher's Island and you could see the boats coming and going.

I do remember it was a life of solitude. Their children were all raised I think, on correspondence. I think they came inland to do errands or chores or shopping every once in a long while, but it had to be quite a different life. I know Ingram ran the light and I think he was responsible for radioing Halifax or some place by radio for the amount of traffic for the fishing boats that he saw passing every day.

It was during the summers that I visited for maybe a week, maybe two weeks. The one side of the lighthouse, right in front of it, had a big bluff, a big drop of rocks and we used to collect fools gold out of the rocks. On the other end there was a beach which we used to beachcomb. Down around the beach there was

a storage building for the kerosene and the fuel that was needed.

It was a fair-sized island to comb around every day. I loved it! It was foggy a lot of the time. My parents lived inland in West Dublin and I remember a lot of fog there so it had to be foggy on the island, even more! [It was] damp and wet but we still went out, we still did our thing.

The island used to be full of rabbits. We'd see little brown rabbits everywhere. And I also can remember seeing deer from the light one night. Ingram picked it out. "Look out there", he says and you could see deer swimming from Moshers Island to Ironbound. We used to see deer on the island all the time. In the mornings you'd get up and look out of the kitchen window down towards the beach end of it and you'd see deer grazing in the field.

I remember rough weather. At night inside the lighthouse, you could hear the sizzle from the light going. It sounded like a tea kettle boiling all the time. When a wave would hit the rocks then you could hear the spray on the kitchen windows.

My cousin Donna and I, we used to sleep in the same bed upstairs. We'd lay there all huddled up and

you could hear the creaking and the groaning of the place.

I think I was probably a little bit scared. You know, you're right out there in all the wind and the elements and everything's hitting that lighthouse. I'm sure it didn't bother Lynne and Ingram much though.

Donna and I were talking a while ago and she said "Do you remember when the big wave came in and took Heather out?" And I said "Oh my God, Donna, I had forgotten all about that!" She said "How can you forget that?!"

Ingram and Heather, their daughter and Johnny the son, and Donna and I were out along those rocks in front of the lighthouse where the big bluff is. The waves were just ordinary. We were down there playing around. Then we looked out and all of a sudden here came this big wave.

It came in and it grabbed Heather and took her out. Donna leaned ahead and grabbed her by the foot, and her boot came off. Her little rubber boot came off and she kept going. Donna grabbed again and got Heather by the hair. It was quite a thing, you know, we almost lost her. She was just a little girl, maybe four or five.



West Ironbound Island lighthouse in the 1960s. *Courtesy Ingram and Lynne Wolfe*

I remember when Ingram and Lynne were moved from there to Mosher's Island light I was devastated. When they moved to Mosher's Island, Donna and I used to go and stay there some too, but I didn't like it as much as Ironbound.

I went back to Ironbound years later. You know what an old building would be like after it had been abandoned for ten years with the elements, the weather? You could see that it was falling apart and the doors hangin' off the hinges and inside it was mounds of rabbit nests, squirrels nests and the environment was

then until 19...maybe 86? Friends of mine the Wentzells had owned the island at that time and they raised sheep there.

I spent a couple years going out just to help with the sheep and the reason I wanted to go was because I remembered what it was like as a kid. I just always wanted to go back and see what it was like. It broke my heart to go up over the cliff and see no building, nothing there but a post with a light on it.

I remembered the little trips that we took on the rocks for fools gold hunting, and I just kept looking at



Mosher's Island lighthouse in 1989. West Ironbound Island on the horizon. *E.H. Irwin*

taking over. The elements and the animals...it was just being taken over.

I don't know what happened [to the building]. They must have torn it down later. I think I just poked my head in the window. I don't know if it bothered me, or that I had to walk away from it, but I didn't go through the building. I looked in through the back door where the porch was and I could see all the mess.

I just don't like to see old buildings of any kind let the elements, the weather take over and have them falling [down]. There's nothing worse than driving through the country and see some beautiful old farm place with a barn and the rooves are caved in. It's just like they've been abandoned, which they have been. I just think it's nice to fix those things up, keep them.

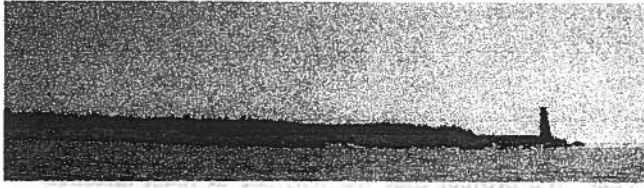
I don't know what happened to the island from

this post that used to have a big beautiful old building and it was long gone. It was sad.

The best thing I think was the island itself, just roamin' around to see the waves, the surf, and the bad weather. I really liked Lynne and Ingram. They were really good to us. All Ingram did was pick on us kids and tease us and we loved it. But they were very good to us, very good. It made the trips really memorable.

Just in the last year or so I remember watching a program on TV about lighthouses. It said very few people ever get to experience what life on a lighthouse is like and I felt really lucky. That's when it came back to me again. I thought, you know, I grew up in a fishing village, but these people are saying that not many people ever get to experience this. And look here, I was one of them!

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Burntcoat Head

Charlie MacCulloch reports business as usual at Burntcoat Head lighthouse this year. Last year the light saw 6,363 visitors and Charlie estimates the numbers will be similar for this year.

### Cape Forchu

*Lin McGray*

On the weekend of August 18 and 19, the Friends of the Yarmouth Light hosted the Yarmouth Amateur Radio Club for the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. This was the Yarmouth club's first time participating in this annual event, when amateur radio clubs around the world broadcast from lighthouses or lightships. It's a way to obtain exposure for the hobby as well as for the sites, and was considered a resounding success. There were only 6 Canadian sites taking part in the event, and the Yarmouth club was the only one in Nova Scotia participating.

The local members worked 289 radio contacts from 27 countries, which included 38 lighthouses and 1 lightship. Visitors to the Yarmouth Lightstation over that weekend were invited into the fog alarm building, where the radio equipment was set up, and given the "grand tour" while the purpose of the event was explained. Several of the visitors were also ham radio buffs and quite delighted to talk with the local club members. As a result of this very positive experience by both parties, the Yarmouth Amateur Radio Club is planning to take part in this event each year from now on, and the Friends of the Yarmouth Light will be delighted to play host."

*Lin McGray also reports The Friends of the Yarmouth Light have a new President -- Adrienne Speck.*

*As of Sept 19, 13,480 visitors had visited Cape Forchu. 35 visited on the day of the New York tragedy, and a total of 506 visited between September 11 and September 19.*

### Coffin Island

Good news from Nova Scotia's fifth oldest lighthouse site! Ken Wilkinson reports that in the last two months the Coast Guard has re-lit the Coffin Island lighthouse. The light was decommissioned last year and replaced by a buoy. Heavy seas drove the buoy ashore several months ago and Ken says the light has been re-lit to

mark the island as "a hazardous navigational point."

Wilkinson says the re-lighting is "great news", but says he does not know how long the light will remain lit. He's also concerned about the Coffin Island Lighthouse Heritage Society's continued involvement with the lighthouse if the Coast Guard retains management of the lighthouse property. Wilkinson says the group is waiting to hear if the Coast Guard plans to keep the lighthouse operating.

"On the one hand, we're greatly relieved that the light's on", he says. "[But] we're disappointed that we may not have the same access to the facility that we might have, had we been able to take it over ourselves." Wilkinson admits that a society-run aid to navigation would pose challenges for the group, especially if the light required servicing during the winter months.

Wilkinson says the society has not been able to do much at the site since the armour rock wall was installed in 1999. The society approached the municipality of Queens for funding to carry out work at lighthouse, but Wilkinson says they were turned down because the municipality does not know who the landowner is.

### Gilberts Cove

The Gilberts Cove and District Historical Society has a new slate of officers. The society's new president is Tom Haynes-Paton. Haynes-Paton says the society will appoint an honorary lighthouse keeper each year. The honour will go to individuals who have contributed to the preservation of the light, and activities at the site.

Haynes-Paton says the society has canvassed the local community to increase membership, which now stands at approximately 250. The lighthouse (a combined light and dwelling built in 1904) sees between two and five thousand visitors per year. Haynes-Paton says the society has held a number of community events at the lighthouse, including an evening of reminiscences with community elders.

The Gilberts Cove lighthouse is owned by the province of Nova Scotia. Haynes-Paton says the light has been leased from the government since 1982. He says he's concerned the province may want to follow the federal government's lead in divesting itself of lighthouse properties and structures. The society has asked Gordon Balser, their area MP, to let the province know that the community would like to assume ownership of the lighthouse, or obtain a permanent lease.

### Hampton

*Louise Sanderson*

We started our group (Tidal View Drive Association) six

years ago and we have been working to save our light since that time, but now the community wants to have it under a separate name. Our joint stock papers have been filed for our new name as the Hampton Lighthouse Society. The name was authorized last week. We are now working on a charitable licence and historical recognition by the federal, provincial and municipal groups.

October 1 is our next meeting with DFO, but the key will not be turned over to us for a few more weeks when the deed is to be passed over to - all for \$1.00.

Our light is still operation and will remain so after we take ownership of lighthouse. At present our lighthouse only requires a good coat of paint. When it was done over four years ago, it looks as if they had not even painted the back side, but a lot of paint is coming off now, so we felt it should be painted before winter. At present we are planning to have a paper museum in the lighthouse but a few would like to see ice cream sold in the corner. The museum is a go with the ice cream being in question. We are planning to have it open next spring and run through to the fall. We do have quite a few seniors visiting in the fall for the autumn colours.

#### **Margaretsville**

John Freeman reports the Coast Guard is getting ready to paint the Margaretsville light. The tower was re-shingled a few years ago and John says it is still in good repair. The Coast Guard had the lighthouse site re-surveyed during the summer, but John says he has been told the light will remain Coast Guard-operated for the next five years. The tower is not open to the public.

#### **Port Bickerton**

*Gwen Robar*

We opened for the season on June 15 after much hassle and red tape concerning our license. The following day the family of a dear friend, Jim Johnson, held a Time of Remembering in his memory. Jim's sudden passing was a great shock and he is greatly missed. In the early 60s he was assistant lightkeeper here and this place became very dear to him.

The second-last week-end of June is our community's "Harbour Light Days" celebrations but due to inclement weather we had to cancel most of the activities which were to be held at the lighthouse.

On September 16 we held a Gospel Sing-A-Long featuring the Sherbrooke Village Singers and friends. This was followed by a meal of homemade beans, brown bread and birthday cake commemorating 100 years of guiding boats into Bickerton Harbour, for it was on October 10, 1901 that the light shone from the first lighthouse on Barachois Point. Although our

numbers are down we have had a good season. We close on September 30.

#### **Walton**

*Jennifer Robert*

We have reached well over the 9000 mark for visitors this year. We project that we will see at least another 3000 or more by closing at the end of October. Our gift shop "The Beacon" has been a huge success, and we plan on collecting more local artisans' works throughout the winter to ensure we present an accurate picture of the local talent.

We also signed a lease on the property this summer, and obtained permission from an adjoining land owner to keep our trail, and to make further beautifications to it. In the spring we will be turning it into an interpretive "nature hike".

### **LETTER FROM NANCY MCNEIL, DFO/CANADIAN COAST GUARD**

*Cape Forchu Lighthouse Transfer*

I considered it a great honour to represent the Canadian Coast Guard at the recent ceremony to mark the formal transfer of ownership of the Cape Forchu Lightstation from the Federal Government of Canada to the Municipality of Yarmouth.

Although many people were involved in this effort, I took the time to thank Larry Wilson for his vision of alternate uses for lighthouses, the municipality for their commitment to the effort but most importantly to Craig Harding and Gert Sweeney for their persistence and hard work.

Without them, I firmly believe that this transfer would never have happened. I personally have admired the dedication and patience that they have demonstrated in working on this initiative and I have been honoured to work with both of them.

During the ceremony, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society had established an annual award in Craig Sweeney's memory. There could be no more fitting first recipient than Craig himself.

I commend Kathy Brown for the fine delivery she made of the award and for all those that were instrumental in making it a reality. Keep up the great work!

*Nancy McNeil*

*Director, Marine Programs*

*Department of Fisheries & Oceans, Canadian Coast Guard, Maritimes Region*



The former Saint Pauls southwest light currently graces the parking lot at the Canadian Coast Guard base in Dartmouth. *Chris Mills*

## PROPOSED POLICY ON THE MOVING AND RELOCATING OF Lighthouses

*NSLPS*

Nova Scotia's lighthouses can be found in some surprising and strange places, hundreds, even thousands of kilometres from their original location where they once stood beside salt water as real working lighthouses. More relocation is on the way as the Canadian Coast Guard increases its decommissioning and disposal of lighthouses, putting more lighthouses at risk and on the market. The sturdy nature of our many small "pepperpot" harbour lights makes them attractive candidates for "portability".

Relocating lighthouses (some would say "dislocating" or "kidnapping") lighthouses poses some serious heritage issues and has a decidedly mixed track record in Nova Scotia.

Here are some examples, both good and bad, of relocated lighthouses:

**Cape North/Cape Race** - moved 3000 kilometres from Cape Breton to the side of a four lane highway in front of the National Museum of Science and

Technology in Ottawa.

**St. Paul's Southwest** - moved from Cape Breton the seldom-seen Coast Guard Parking lot in Dartmouth.

**Digby Wharf** - moved from Nova Scotia to a parking lot at the market square retail development in downtown Saint John, New Brunswick.

**Port Greville** - moved 500 km from its home to the campus of the Coast Guard College and then returned to within a few hundred metres of its original site in 1997.

**Five Islands** - moved several hundred feet from its eroding base to be restored at an adjacent campground.

**Wallace** - moved several kilometres from its original site to be restored as a private cottage.

**Man of War Point, Cape Breton** - recently purchased by private landowner who has moved it back onto his property from its eroded shoreline location.

### ***Dangers of Moving Lighthouses:***

This is what we lose when a lighthouse is moved from its original location.

1. Loss of context from original location
- Conveys false messages about the history and use of

a lighthouses.

- Reduces its unspoiled scenic value.

2. Loss to a coastal community of a tourism attraction which robs remote

communities of a community development opportunity

3. Loss of landmark for local identity.

4. Complete loss of the lighthouse's navigational function, still the ideal use of a lighthouse, either as a potential private aid to navigation or as a daymark for navigational reference.

5. Damage and loss of original architectural features in move.

6. Loss and erosion of the authenticity of all lighthouses by reducing them to parking lot attractions and blurring the line between real lighthouses and fake ones.

However, it must be conceded that there are sometimes pressing reasons to relocate a lighthouse. When erosion or imminent demolition is threatened or if absolute isolation negates the cultural value of a lighthouse, there can be a case for relocation.

### **The society proposes the following guidelines:**

A fundamental principle of lighthouse preservation should be, whenever possible to retain and restore a lighthouse at its original location.

### **Exceptions:**

1. If a lighthouse is in pressing danger of destruction by uncontrollable erosion.

2. If a lighthouse faces demolition by new or irresponsible owners which may be avoided by relocation.

3. If a lighthouse has already been moved far from home and is being returned closer to its original location.

4. If an overwhelming case can be made that a lighthouse is so remote that restoration, maintenance and public access can only be made possible on

another site. This exception should be used with care and only as a last resort. Remote is a subjective term. Eco-tourism such as hiking, boating and adventure tourism are changing the definition of remote. Some lighthouses create a visual access just by being visible across a harbour as a scenic and cultural landmark. This exception does not justify moving a lighthouse merely for convenience of motor visitors or to exploit the lighthouse as a commercial attraction at a busy location.

5. If there is a real threat to the public posed by the original location of the lighthouse. This should be a genuine and pressing and demonstrable danger. It should especially be kept in mind that moving a lighthouse itself may create new dangers (creating an inappropriate playground for children in an urban area, creating a traffic hazard, a target for vandals, etc.)

### **Required Process:**

Moving a lighthouse from its original location creates pressing and important responsibilities if its heritage characters is to be preserved:

1. The local community should be advised and consulted about the proposed move.

2. The new location should be as close to the old as possible.

3. The new location should be accessible to the public.

4. Year round exterior signage

should explain the lighthouse's original location, function and history.

5. The new location and use should respect and interpret the history of the lighthouse and not reduce it solely to a prop or commercial retail attraction.

6. Heritage standards should be applied to the lighthouse to ensure it retains its original appearance and that it is not disfigured or destroyed by the pressures and demands of a new location.

7. The old location should be documented and marked.



The Port Greville lighthouse when it stood on the grounds of the Canadian Coast Guard College in Point Edward, NS. 1988. *Chris Mills*

## LUNCH WITH LARRY WILSON

Kathy Brown

In August, Larry Wilson, Director, Maritimes Region, Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) invited the Presidents of all the Maritime provinces lighthouse societies, the Managing Director and President of the Atlantic Lighthouse Council, and some key personnel from Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to lunch. Actually, it was an update meeting and discussion of divestiture issues lasting from 10:00 AM to after 3:00 PM, and lunch was greatly appreciated!

This was the first time representatives of the heritage groups and CCG/DFO had sat at the table together to discuss the divestiture program. At this point Real Property and Assets Management (RPAM) are negotiating with provinces to take over groups of lighthouses under the 96-1 directive. (To run and maintain the light for 5 years and in return receive ownership for \$1.00.) The province would then arrange for non-profit groups to run them. It is hoped that by handing over a block of lights, lights that are less suitable for tourism can be included and supported by the others.

P.E.I. is the furthest advanced in these negotiations. Environmental concerns are the main outstanding issue. As a result, DFO is developing an environmental policy which will be applicable to the whole of the country.

Nova Scotia and RPAM have met and NS will supply a list of lights they might be interested in, and is in the process of appointing representatives to meet with RPAM for further negotiations. In Nova Scotia, other federal agencies such as Parks Canada and the Canadian Wildlife service may be involved. New Brunswick is somewhat behind Nova Scotia in the process.

If a province does not take lighthouses, municipalities will be offered the lights in their area. Meetings will be held in communities about the future of their lighthouse.

The list of lights for divestiture in each province will be posted on the RPAM website by the end of September. As a result of discussion it was decided that DFO would request provinces that the president of the provincial lighthouse society be invited to attend meetings as an observer. In addition, the societies will be advised of community meetings so a representative can be sent.

In addition to the discussion, each president was asked to make comments or voice concerns. I noted that there will be lights that are unsuited to tourist development but that people wish to save, and this should be made possible. I also suggested the addition of

a historic preservation covenant to purchase agreements is important to assure the preservation of at least the exterior of buildings and the layout of light stations.

## ATLANTIC LIGHTHOUSE COUNCIL

The ALC presented a report at the "Lunch with Larry Wilson." They have re-organized into a board, plus two committees: the Tourism Partners Committee and the Community Committee. Each committee will have representatives on the board.. This summer visitor polling regarding satisfaction with the experience is being held at nine lighthouses to follow up on the visitor survey of last year. In addition, an economic impact survey is being done which will be a help in obtaining funds for lighthouses and to show provinces how valuable lights can be to the economy of an area. The managing director has also met with the four ministers of tourism, the ACOA Minister, and with DFO.

The ALC has established the Canadian Lighthouse Foundation to raise funds to assist groups with lighthouse projects.

ALC will hold a regional conference November 23 and 24. The theme will be communities and divestiture.

## DOOMSDAY LIST

This is a partial list of Canadian lighthouses and lightstation buildings in danger of being lost:

**Cape Roseway, NS** *Dwellings and old fog alarm building*

**Country Island, NS** *Keepers houses*

**Cross Island, NS** *Keepers houses*

**Fish Fluke Point, NB** *Combined light and dwelling*

**Flowers Island, NF** *Combined light and dwelling*

**Georges Island, NS** *Keeper's house*

**Guyon Island, NS** *Keepers houses*

**Keppel Island, NF** *Lighthouse, keepers houses, fog alarm building, boat house*

**Liscomb Island, NS** *Keepers' house*

**Man of War Point, NS**

**Margaree Island, NS** *Lighthouse and dwelling*

**Moshers Island, NS** *Keepers' houses and small fog alarm building*

**Point Abino, ON** *Greek Revival style lighthouse, keeper's dwelling*

**Queensport (Rook Island), NS** *Combined dwelling/lighthouse*

**Sambro Island, NS** *Dwellings and Gas House*

**Seal Island, NS** *Lighthouse, radio operator's house, barn*

**Southwest Point, Anticosti Island, QC**

**Saint Paul's Island, NS** *South light keepers house, wireless operators house*

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