



The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

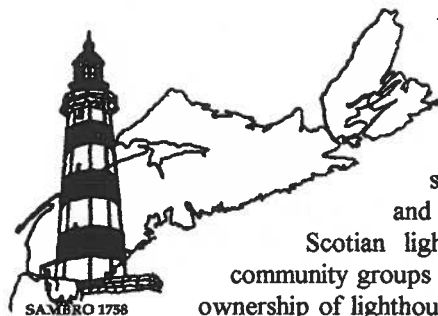
THE Lightkeeper

Vol. 9, No.2, June 2002

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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.

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WELCOME ABOARD!

The following people recently joined the NSLPS:

Kalin Smith, Joel Irving, Lois Daly, Jill Cooper, M.E. Waddington, Richard & Annie Stivers, Louise Johnston, Anne Johnston, Shirley Roberts, Sherry Mochinski, Joan McGregor, Glen Melvin, Fiona Marshall, Frank & Carol Wilson, Faye (Cleveland) Power, Radha Mohandas, Andrew Hodder, Sam & Betty Semple, Naomi Blanchard, Peter Newbould, Jim & Ruth Hartling, Joanne McCormick, Cunard Steamship Society, Spencers Island Community Association.

LIGHTHOUSE TRIPS

Summer 2002

The NSLPS has applied to the Canadian Coast Guard for a license to visit the following lighthouses. Arrangements will be finalized later. The number of participants is limited. If you are interested in any of these trips call Dorothy MacLeod at 423-8034 and leave your name so it will be on the list.

Sambro Island (From Sambro Head)

Saturday, June 22. Weather Date: Saturday, June 29.

Short boat trip and visit to the island, 2 ½ hours.

COST: \$20.00 per person.

Seal Island (SW Nova Scotia)

July 13/14, weather dates July 27/28

Two day offshore trip 18 miles off Cape Sable Island.

Cost \$70.00 per person.

Our premium offshore trip to one of Nova Scotia's most remote and interesting islands, 18 miles off Cape Sable Island.

Stay overnight in the fishermen's cook house and explore the island; enjoy beaches, rocky shores, shipwrecks, and ocean and bird life. Limited to 20 participants. No children under 12 years of age. Registration required.

Call Dorothy MacLeod, 423-8034 before July 1. Call early as this trip will fill quickly.

East Ironbound Island (Mahone Bay)

Saturday August 17 (weather date: Sunday Aug 18).

Meet at the Blandford Wharf (beside the Granville Gates Fish Plant). Coming from Hubbards via Bayswater turn left at Blandford and go about 200 metres down the side road; coming from East River turn right. There is adequate parking nearby.

The boat is small so the number is limited to 16. It also means we will have to make three trips out and back. The first will leave Blandford at 8:30 a.m.

Wear strong footwear and adequate clothing for changeable weather. We expect to be back in Blandford by 2 p.m.

COST: \$30

Register early!

Chebucto Head (Halifax Harbour)

Saturday, September 7

Cost: Donation to NSLPS. No registration required. If the lighthouse is open, there will be tours led by a former lightkeeper. Trip run in cooperation with the Halifax Field Naturalists Society.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Annual General Meeting

The following are excerpts from the address by outgoing president Kathy Brown. The AGM was held at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on April 24, 2002.

This really is the report of the very hardworking board, and first of all I want to thank all of them for their support and for the fine year we have had. I decided I would attempt to give you a sense of how we on the board try to fulfill the NSLPS mission statement and what the current situation is regarding the future of lighthouses in Nova Scotia.

How do we promote and support preservation and awareness of Nova Scotian lighthouses?

In 2001 we helped organize Lighthouse Day in cooperation with the Coastal Communities Network. We had a very successful booth at the Halifax International Boat Show, too. Then there's the *Visit Our Lighthouses* brochure. Work has already started on a revision which will be out this summer. There are more open and picnic lights to add! The Atlantic Lighthouse Council is partnering with us on this.

One of our more important advocacy actions in 2001 was a written submission to the Task Force on Non-resident Land Ownership of the Voluntary Planning Board. We noted that in the next five to ten years the federal government will be dismantling and selling off what is probably the largest number of publicly owned

coastal properties in Nova Scotia - our lighthouses. As a result of the NSLPS submission, lighthouses were specifically mentioned as an issue in the report - which became mainly a report on access to the coast.

How do we assist community groups in leasing or taking ownership of lighthouse sites?

We hold workshops to help communities in obtaining or running a lighthouse. Keeping Our Lights 2001, Workshops for Nova Scotia weekend, was held just after last year's AGM. We try to make these low-cost, practical sessions, including everything from the latest DFO happenings, to how to run a lighthouse as a small business. People get a chance to share their problems and experiences with others, meet DFO staff and network with others from around the province. They learn they are not alone!

We provide access to written research and photographic documentation and to initiate oral history research.

Our research is free to those who need it, providing NSLPS is credited. We have developed guides for lighthouse research, photo indexes and indexes of the Sessional Papers of the NS Legislature that are available to members and Affiliates. We're hoping to do more oral history research and make the results available on the Internet.

To classify and monitor the status of historic lighthouse sites.

We investigated and took action on the status of St. Paul Island SW Light, which is at the Coast Guard base in Dartmouth, Chebucto Head keeper's house and lighthouse, Seal Island Lighthouse, Abbotts Harbour, Lower L'Ardoise, Mabou lighthouse, Cape Breton -- these are the ones I remember! There were a lot of telephone calls!

We support the Federal Heritage Review Board Office in their classification of lighthouses by providing historical information and evaluation.

Current situation.

This is a busy time because the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is going forward as quickly as they can to divest themselves of many lighthouses. We have the list of lighthouses that are up for devolution over the next few years.

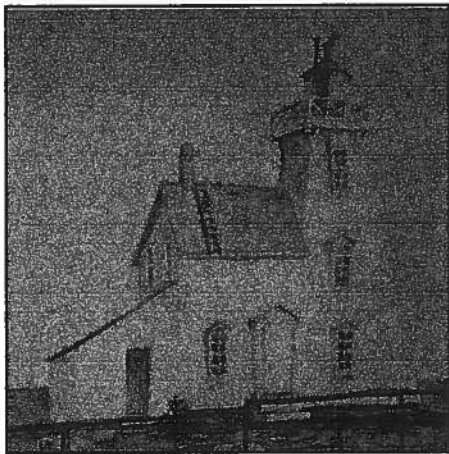
Dealing with matters of divestiture will be our biggest activity in the coming months. Right now we are involved with the ALC's proposal, in which groups of lights would be transferred from DFO to a holding company which would seek community or non-profit groups to run them, and oversee their operation by community groups. This group divestiture is the most likely scenario and we will be cooperating with the ALC to develop the best arrangement possible for Nova

Scotia's lighthouses. As the Lighthouse heritage and community society for Nova Scotia we have two representatives on the ALC Community Council: Dan Conlin and Josette d'Entremont.

Thanks again to the Board, and to members for their support. We're an entirely voluntary group and we accomplish all that we do with many hours of donated work by the Board and others, and through your memberships and donations.

Editor's Note: *Thanks to Kathy Brown for her hard work as president over the past two years. The society has prospered and grown under her leadership.*

ORAL HISTORY



Green Point (Hubbards) lighthouse, from a painting owned by Grace (Shatford) Cahill. *Chris Mills*

Chris Mills presented a talk about the oral history project at the NSLPS AGM on April 24, using excerpts from the 18 interviews completed. The interviews cover the following lighthouses (and one

lightship) in the Halifax Regional Municipality:

Green Point (Hubbards)
Croucher Island
Sambro Island
Sambro Lightship
Chebucto Head

Maughers Beach
McNabs Island
Georges Island
Devils Island
French Point

The interviews provide a rare (and often humorous) glimpse into a way of life which has now disappeared. The material will be available for research purposes as approved by the NSLPS executive

Walton Lighthouse Wins Provincial Heritage Award

Dan Conlin

The Walton and District Development Association has won the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society's Craig Harding Award for saving the Walton Lighthouse.

The award was presented on April 24 at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax

The NSLPS cited the Walton association as a pioneer in lighthouse preservation in Nova Scotia and praised members for their faithful preservation of the 1873 lighthouse. In recent years the lighthouse and surrounding grounds have become a community landmark and a regional tourism attraction.

Frederick Burgess and Reginald Clark accepted the award for the Walton Area Development Association. Burgess thanked the society and explained that it took years of trying to finally get the light from the Coast Guard, but that it was worth it.

Clark told how he grew up with the lighthouse light shining right into his kitchen and how he provided wood from his own land for the repair and restoration work at the light.

The Walton group has also managed to obtain a small Fresnel lens and working mechanism. These artifacts are becoming increasingly rare; the lens at Walton is a valuable addition to the lighthouse site.

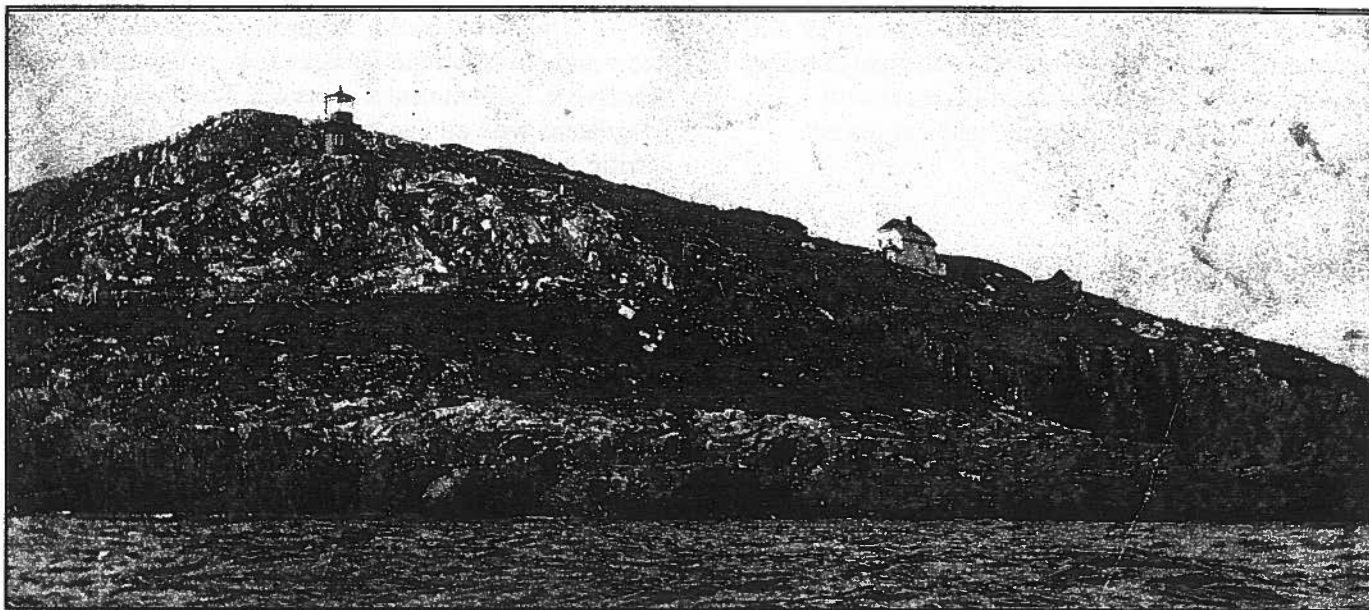
The Walton lighthouse was built in 1873 to guide vessels into Walton Harbour. It is the only surviving original lighthouse in Hants County. It is also one of only six lighthouses left in Nova Scotia which were built immediately after Confederation as the brand new Canadian nation struggled to cover the world's second largest coastline with lighthouses.



Dan Conlin presents the Craig Harding Award to Frederick Burgess (l) and Reginald Clark, of the Walton Area Development Association. *Chris Mills*

The simple wooden rectangular tower, topped by an attractive octagonal lantern at Walton, became the classic Canadian style until concrete towers arrived during World War One.

The Walton tower is also significant as a reminder to the impressive shipping which moved out of Walton until relatively recent times, with large ocean going ships loading barite and gypsum.



Saint Paul Island's south west light circa 1920. The lighthouse now sits at the Canadian Coast Guard Base in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The keeper's house is still on site, but is about to fall down. *Courtesy Claude MacLeod*

DIARY OF A LIGHTKEEPER

St Paul Island South West light, Nova Scotia
January 1st 1916 to June 30th 1920

Frank H. Huntley was born in Chicago in 1889. His mother died when he was a young boy, and Frank's father sent him to live with his aunt, on Cape Breton's north shore.

Over the span of his life, Frank worked as a farmer, fisherman, stevedore and lightkeeper. He and his wife Katherine (Katie) had three children - Alexander ("Sander"), Katherine and Claude.

Frank Huntley was appointed keeper of Saint Paul Island's south west light on October 21, 1916. He kept a diary of events until his family left the island in 1920.

Saint Paul was a world in itself, with its two lighthouses and lifesaving station at Atlantic Cove. Life was tough, and Frank's matter-of-fact observations note the fundamentals of island existence - wind, fog, shipwrecks, and the winter ice-up in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

Frank H. Huntley arrived on Saint Paul Island December 11, 1915. Worked on the life-saving station from December 12, 1915 to October 4, 1916. New dwelling at south west [light] opened by F. H. Huntley, Lightkeeper. New lighthouse first lighted by James MacPherson. A.G. McNeil lightkeepers assistant (Bay St. Lawrence) March 17, 1916.

January 1: *S.S. Seal* called at Saint Pauls with

mails and freight, on her way to Newfoundland. *S.S. Sable* called at St. Pauls with mails Jan 26 on her way to Halifax from Newfoundland ports. First sealing steamer sighted south south east March 15 on way up to Gulf. Temporary house finished at south west light March 17.

March 31: Schooner *J.R. Bradley* (sealer) at St. Pauls Island. A few of her crew ashore at NE light. Heard of Parliament buildings being burnt down at Ottawa.

April 27: Five schooners sighted. No ice around Saint Pauls after April 16. A very fine month.

May 7: Seen 35 schooners and one steamship to the north west. Dan, Mike and Sandy MacNeil from Bay St. Lawrence arrived at St. Pauls in their motor boat. Considerable ice passing out off south west light

June 20: Local elections held. Murray government returned. Murray and J.G. Morrison defeated Philip MacLeod and Dr. Hayes in Victoria County.

July 15: *S.S. Seal* here on way to Newfoundland. John McDonald, missionary from Neils Harbour (formerly from Boulanderie), was passenger for St. Pauls. July 16: held meeting at north east light. Everybody at station attended.

July 20: *S.S. Aranmore* arrived at St. Pauls with supplies and material for the new dwelling at the SW light. J.L. Coulter of Halifax Boss carpenter. Same day Dan and Joe MacNeil Bay St. Lawrence came over with ten men to work on dwelling.

Sept 1: Done haymaking. Sept 11: *S.S. Tyrian* out fixing cable between St. Paul and Bay St. Lawrence. Sept 14 completed fixing the cable which was broken

from Aug 1915 to Nov 1916 – 14 months Sept 19: S.S. ~~Arantmore~~ landing material for south west light dwelling and north east bridge. Inspector of Lights aboard.

From Nov 10 to last very cold and stormy.

1917

Jan 4: John MacLeod (north east light) and Frank Huntley caught about 200 lbs of fish on north side of island. Jan 20: Zero weather. Drift ice sighted. Jan 27. Light shut down. Ice everywhere.

March came in clear and frosty. March 7th I had light ready for lighting. March 22: Light put up. March 27: Boys at main station got 9 seals.

April 17: Put light up for the summer. April 20: Money Point light lit. 21: Sighted smoke of two steamers south east from St Pauls. 25: First lake boat passed going in. No ice in sight.

May 18: Planted our first potatoes. May was foggy and cold.

July 30: Began mowing hay around south west light. By the last of July Frank Huntley had one barrel herring and 200 lbs codfish total. Finished haymaking at south west light Aug 10. Aug 23: Frank Huntley finished haymaking at "whistle" Had grand weather.

Sept 2: We tried our new potatoes. (Not bad) Sept 11: S.S. *Stanley* back at St. Pauls. Landed 200 bags coal and 75 cases oil for SW light.

Dec 1: A beautiful day. A heavy storm with sleet and rain from east south east. Dec: 6 S.S. *Seal* here on way to Newfoundland. A very fine and calm day. Also Dec 6 had explosion in Halifax. Over 1,200 persons killed and \$40,000,000 worth of property destroyed. Explosion heard on Saint Pauls.

Dec 7: We had a strong breeze from SE with snow and through night it began to blow a terrific gale from NNE. Government steamer S.S. *Simcoe* lost off the Magdalens with all hands. December 1 to 12 it blew a terrific gale from the west. Broke glass in south west lighthouse. Dec 17 general elections held. Union government (R.L. Borden Premier) returned by over 50 (?) majority.

Dec 20: Picked up water-logged life raft off south west light. Name *Tuscorora*. Seen lots of wreckage floating. Dec 25: A fine and mild day, good sleighing. Nobody visited SW light. Dec 30 and 31: We had an old-fashioned snow storm. Worst for years. It took five boys two days to break roads from Main Station (Atlantic Cove) to SW light. Had to shovel every step.

1918

Jan 2 and 3: Boys at Main Station reached SW light after taking two days breaking roads. Had horse and ox. Jan 13: A lake boat anchored in Bay St. Lawrence. Was one of those caught in ice up the Gulf of St. Lawrence. A bunch of them left Quebec left last week in December.

Jan 15: A very fine day but a terrific gale of wind in night from SE. Mr and Mrs McLeod from NE light visited SW light. Campbell fishing, caught but one codfish.

Jan 23: Frank Huntley stopped

smoking.

March 1: A splendid day. Very clear. I was cleaning lens for a while in lighthouse.

April 13: Mild in afternoon. Raining in



Frank Huntley with his daughter Katherine, 1920. Courtesy Claude MacLeod

afternoon. Betsie Campbell died at 6 p.m. April 14th Age 78. April 16: Funeral of Miss Betsie Campbell took place at St. Pauls. Names of those present: John M. Campbell, John McLeod, Kenneth McLeod, Charles Buchanan, William MacDonald, Rannie MacDonald, Dave McQueen, A.I. MacLeod, F.H. Huntley, Lou Gildes, Beatrice Flicker.

May 4: Foggy in morning. SE wind. Clear and cold in afternoon. W wind. Heavy packed ice as far as the eye can see.

May 15: Fine and clear. Ice going out fast. Myself and Sander visited Main Station. May 16: No ice around island but quite a few strips off Money Point and south. We planted 80 hills potatoes. Cable to mainland broken.

June 11: Fine and clear in forenoon. Foggy in evening. SE wind. Found cow after being away three days.

August 5: Fine. Some rain in night. Commenced haymaking. Also had message that Misses Huntley had baby girl (Katherine) on the third. August 27: Our telephone service to Bay St. Lawrence disconnected by order from Ottawa.

Sept 8: I let the cow go dry. Sept 23: *S.S. Lady Laurier* landed 25 casks oil and 250 bags coal.

October 11: Blowing a light SW breeze, Two aeroplanes flew over St. Paul's. Came from Sydney and went back in that direction. Mrs. F.H. Huntley, Baby Katherine and Sander arrived by *S.S. Scotsburn*, also

Frank Huntley's cow from North Shore arrived.

November 7: Fine and clear. Germany and the allied nations sign an armistice after being at war from August 4th 1914 up to November 11th 1918. Four years, three months and one week. November 14: The heaviest gale for years. ESE. Did considerable damage at Atlantic Cove. Cleaned all the boat slips and best part of boatshed. I lost my boat at Atlantic Cove.

December 25: Disagreeable day with sleet and rain. Nobody visited SW light. On the night of the 26th the stays at lighthouse broke. Dave McQueen and Will Hawkins Neils Harbour were with me all night turning light [by hand].

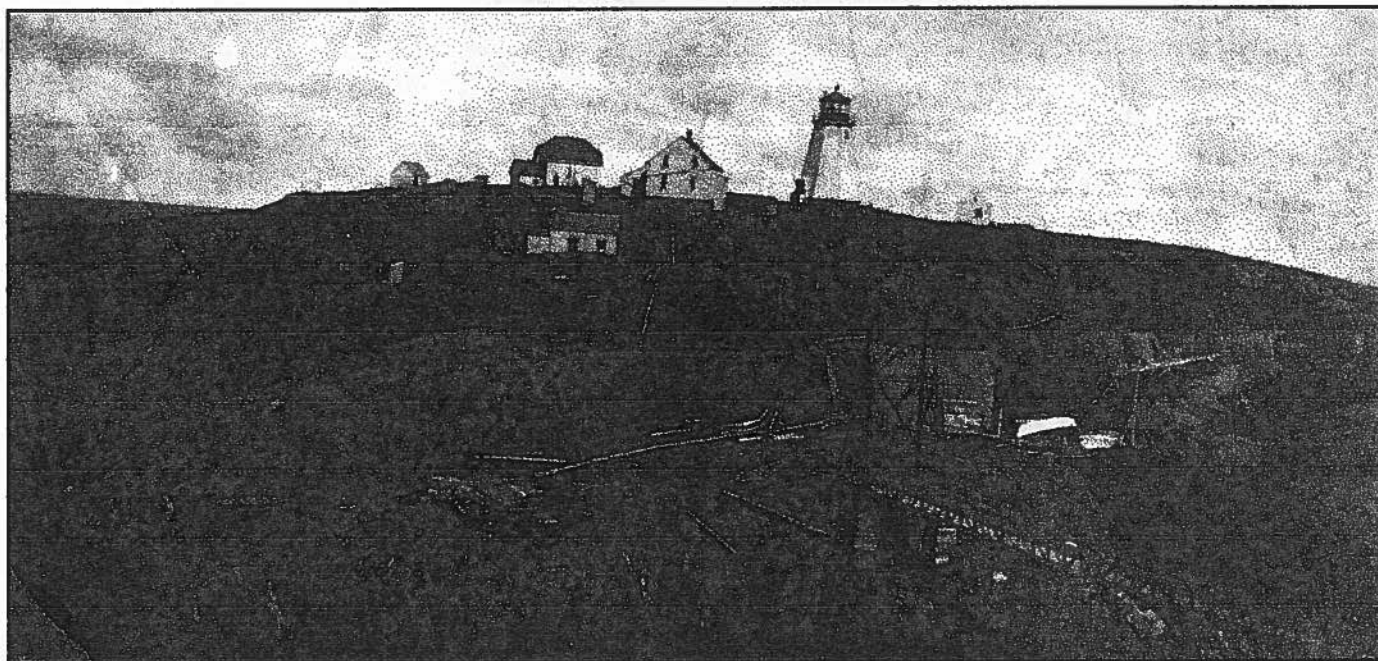
1919

March 15: Schooner at island after drifting down in ice from Bird Rock. Left for sea in search of seals. Capt. John Gillem from NFLD at island on his way to sea in search of seals.

Aug 22: Very hot and sultry. Also foggy and calm. I sent Bull home after being up at the SW light for nearly two weeks. Cow seemed to be in season.

Sept 12: Foggy with SE breeze. At 4:30 AM the *SS Chelston* 6,500 tons, lumber laden from Chatham, NB for Glasgow, Scotland went ashore about half way between Petries point and Goat Rock. Captain A.M. Forthingame.

Sept 13: Strong W breeze in afternoon *S.S.*



The north east light at Saint Paul Island. showing the bridge that spanned the 'Tittle'. The bridge was destroyed by a storm on December 11, 1919. Courtesy Claude MacLeod



Newfoundland fishing vessels at anchor in Atlantic Cove, circa 1920. *Courtesy Claude MacLeod*

Princess stood by *Chelston* during night. Tugboat *Humber* and Revenue Cutter *Restless* arrived at Saint Paul's about 6 a.m. but left about 12 o'clock without giving any assistance to *Chelston*.

Sept 17: Very fine. Wrecking steamer down to have a look at *Chelston*.

October 1: A gale of NNW wind and cold. S.S. *Chelston* went to pieces.

December 4: Abbie and the boys down killing MacLeod's pig.

December 11: We had a extra No. 7 gale of WNW wind and snow squalls. Weights blew off trolley and clock card (cable?) parted and couldn't be replaced before the 12th. (Because the lighthouse was so short, an external cable was used to guide the weight system for the clockwork that turned the lens-Ed) The bridge across the Tittle (to North East light) was carried away by storm.

December 25: Fine and clear. 20 degrees above zero. North wind. Good sleighing between SW light and Atlantic Cove. Myself and Mrs. Huntley, Sander and Katherine had dinner at Atlantic Cove.

1920

Jan 15: Strong westerly wind. Heavy packed ice everywhere. SW light shut down. Also NE light shut down.

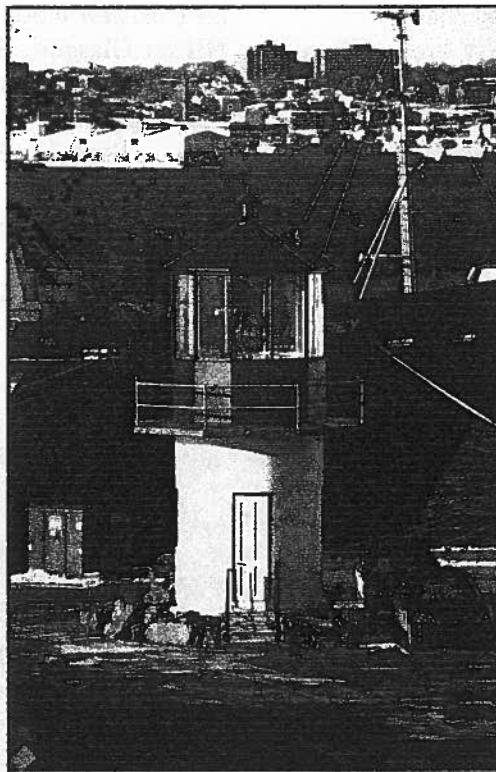
March 13: Sander cut his finger and fainted.

March 30: SSE wind and sleet. West wind and clear in evening. Mrs. Huntley and family went down to Atlantic Cove for a few days. Very little snow on roads. Moved beds upstairs and washed dining room.

June 3: Raining. South wind. Cow calved. 14 days overtime.

June 21: Abbie (Mrs. Huntley's brother) and Jane left for Cape North via Joe Cox's boat. June 22: Abbie and Wife came back. Abbie and Janie were married June 22nd at Cape North by Rev. MacKenzie.

July 1: Windy and dull. SSW wind. DIARY ENDS



The Saint Paul Island south west light today, in a decidedly less rugged location. *Chris Mills*

Special thanks to Frank Huntley's grandson Claude MacLeod, who provided this material for use by the NSLPS. Claude hand-copied his grandfather's complete St. Paul diary by hand.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Eddy Point light extinguished

Barry MacDonald

On March 21, 2002, the Canadian Coast Guard removed the lighthouse at Eddy Point on the strait of Canso. The Canadian government established a light at Eddy Point in 1851. Opposition to the light's removal has been strong by at least three groups in the area. Charlie Warner, representing the Eddy Point Marine Park Association, told me that the association had been lobbying Coast Guard for two years, trying to have the foundation of the tower shored up.

Elias Dorey, captain with the Pilotage Authority, tells me that he and the other pilots have relied on this



Eddy Point light in 1989. E.H. Irwin

light and very much want it returned to service. Chris Topps, who represents a yacht club in the Strait area, echoed the same concerns for the speedy return of this important light. So far the Coast Guard has not made a decision as to whether the wishes of interested parties will be considered. We will be watching this issue closely and will have a follow-up in the next *Lightkeeper*.

Seal Island Light Museum Needs Help

Chris Mills

Today, many lighthouses in Nova Scotia are facing tough times. With government purse strings tighter than ever, our guiding lights are not getting the care they need. In a harsh marine environment, some towers are losing their paint, and, in extreme cases, some structures are literally rotting away.

The Seal Island Lighthouse Museum in Barrington is also in trouble. The structure was built in 1983, to support the 1906-07 second-order lens and cast-iron lantern from the Seal Island lighthouse. (The

Coast Guard removed the lantern and lens in the late 1970s.) The interior of the lighthouse museum also houses artifacts from other lighthouses in the area.

Brenda Maxwell is manager of the Cape Sable Historical Society. She says in 1995 the structure had began to leak through the dome of the lantern. Water then ran down through the exterior walls to lie on each floor of the 'tower'. As a result, some areas of the floors have rotted.

The water has also caused rot on at least two of the walls, and the sills are deteriorating. Windows need to be replaced. The balcony (lantern deck) outside the lantern also requires replacement, as it is deteriorating rapidly. In order to replace the deck, the lantern must be removed. While it is removed, it will be possible to get at the dome to do repairs and repainting. When the dome is replaced, the deck must be fibre-glassed for longer life. (As was done with the 1831 Seal Island lighthouse last year.)

Maxwell says the Cape Sable Historical Society has been able to make minor repairs to the building so that it can be open to the public for the summer season. She says it will cost about \$50,000 to repair the building.

The society is currently working on a plan to raise the necessary funds, will also apply to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) for a grant to help with repairs.

The Seal Island museum is now open for the summer season. Anyone wishing to make a donation to help raise funds for repairs to the lighthouse can do so by contacting the Cape Sable Historical Society at P.O. Box 67, Barrington NS B0W 1E0. Please specify if donations are for the restoration fund.

Brenda Maxwell can be reached at (902) 637-2185, or via e-mail at maxwelbm@gov.ns.ca

Evelyn Richardson Centennial Day

Fiona Marshall

On Thursday, May 16, 2002, the Chapel Hill Historical Museum in Shag Harbour hosted an Open House in celebration of "Evelyn Richardson Centennial Day". Evelyn Richardson is the well-known author of *We Keep a Light*, the classic book about an island lightkeeping family in Nova Scotia. She and her husband Morrill moved to Bon Portage Island in 1929, where they lived for thirty-five years.

Visitors and family remembered the author and historian through dozens of photographs, displays and artifacts, including the piano the Richardsons brought to Bon Portage from Bedford in 1937. Evelyn wrote that

the piano was towed to the island "on a platform of boards across two trawl-dories that had been lashed together."

The most noteworthy token of Richardson's professional career on hand was the Governor-General's award she had received in 1946 for *We Keep a Light*.

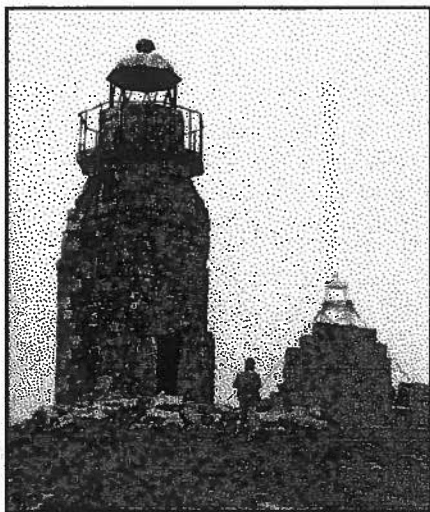
The day was highlighted by remembrances shared by her daughters Betty June Smith and Anne Wickens and various friends and relatives. In addition to *We Keep a Light*, Evelyn Richardson wrote numerous works of fiction and non-fiction, including *Desired Haven*, *No Small Tempest*, *My Other Islands*, *Living Island*, *B was for Butter and Enemy Craft* and *Ben Peach and the Pirates*.

Special thanks are extended to Richardson family for donating keepsakes for public viewing at the event, and to the Chapel Hill Historical Society, whose Museum houses a wonderful collection of nautical and household relics from along the south shore, including one of Gilbert Nickerson's famous "wreckwood chairs."

In addition, the Observation Tower atop the Museum affords great views of the lighthouses at Cape Sable, West Head, Bon Portage and Seal Islands.

Lightkeepers Guide Tourists in Newfoundland

Kathy Brown



Rose Blanche lighthouse in 1986. Anne Mills

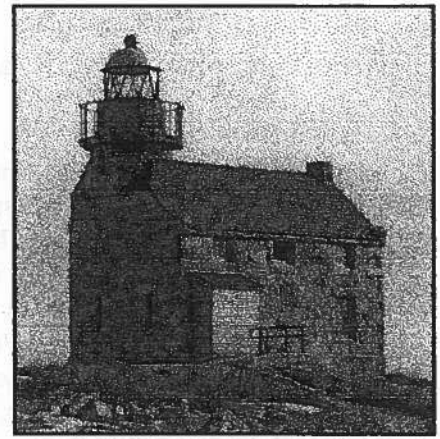
On August 3, 2002, the Rose Blanche Lighthouse, near Port Aux Basques on the southwest coast of Newfoundland, will be relit and once again become an aid to navigation after lying in ruin for over 50 years.

The stone

lighthouse was designed by the famous Scottish firm of lighthouse engineers D & T Stevenson, and built between 1871 and 1873. In the 1940s it was replaced by a beacon on a wooden platform and the stone building soon fell into ruins.

In 1988 the Southwest (Newfoundland) Development

Association and other community groups began the long process of restoring the structure to its original condition. Actual rebuilding began in 1996 with funding from government agencies, and the lighthouse is now re-furnished and open to the public.



The restored Rose Blanche lighthouse. E.H. Irwin

In conjunction with the re-lighting, a lighthouse festival is being held in the area and the April issue of *Sea Beacon*, the newsletter of the Lighthouse Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, announced "Other exciting activities will occur around the Cape Ray and Cape Anguille lighthouses, as two area development associations have agreed to participate in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Coast Guard Division of the lighthouse transfer program.

The development associations will now run these two lighthouses and light keepers will be on site during the summer months to help with interpretation and maintenance. This is a new program by DFO that will greatly add to the sites for tourism activities."

On page 1, the same newsletter gives background: "...the Coast Guard is proceeding with its Lighthouse Transfer Program. This will result in re-opening some of the currently closed, road accessible sites, as keepers from a number of dangerously remote sites relocate to these accessible sites. This will certainly make visiting those lighthouses much more interesting."

Editor's Note: *It is interesting to see that lightkeepers are being retained for what appear to be economic (tourism) and heritage purposes, while the number of staffed (and historically significant) lightstations (i.e. Belle Isle north and south lights) is decreasing further. In the past, the Coast Guard has stated strongly that it is not in the tourism or preservation business. Although it is heartening to see formerly de-staffed stations getting a new 'lease on life', the lightkeeper relocation program raises some interesting questions about the consistency of national Coast Guard policy towards care of lighthouse sites. Will we see the day when former Nova Scotia keepers are brought out of retirement to re-staff our own accessible, historically significant lightstations?*

LOW POINT LIGHTKEEPER'S HOUSE

Glen Fry of the DFO's Real Properties office (RPAM) recently contacted NSLPS President Tony Thompson with information about the possible fate of the lightkeeper's dwelling at Low Point, near Sydney.

The house has been empty since some time after the light was de-staffed in 1988. Fry says the house has been repeatedly vandalized and as soon as the RPAM sends anyone out to board it up, it is broken into again.



The Low Point lightkeeper's dwelling in 1987. *Chris Mills*

DFO may decide to demolish the house if no interested group comes forward to maintain the building. There are few enough keepers' houses remaining in Nova Scotia – we hope there are interested groups in the Sydney/New Waterford area which will come forward with a plan to save this important part of the Low Point lightstation.

RAFFLE WINNER



Yvonne Hamm with Jeanne Thomas.
Courtesy Jeanne Thomas

The NSLPS held a draw for the painting "Sea Lane Switchboard" at the society's AGM in April. Of the four hundred tickets sold, Yvonne Hamm, of Sambro, NS, was the lucky winner.

The painting illustrates the array of communications devices at Chebucto Head – a key location at the southern

approaches to Halifax Harbour.

Visitors to Chebucto Head are rewarded with views of tankers and auto carriers plying the ocean highway in and out of Halifax.

The NSLPS would like thank Allan Savidant for very kindly donating the painting by his late wife, Diana Lemire Savidant

LIGHTHOUSE PROTECTION ACT UPDATE

The May 31 edition of the Halifax Herald reports that Senator Mike Forrestall has not forgotten the plight of Canada's historic lighthouses.

The article notes "Mr. Forrestall, who is trying to push through a heritage bill, said if something is not done,



The Moshers Island light in 1990. *Thom Drew*

the country will lose these 'monuments to the Canadian way of life.'

Bill S-43 would require the government to maintain designated heritage lighthouses [such as] those at Sambro and Cape Sable...

Mr Forrestall said the Lighthouse Preservation Society, based in Nova Scotia, has done a lot to examine the plight of the historic structures and save them from destruction."

Lighthouse Protection Act Committee chair Barry MacDonald says he is now waiting to hear from Senator Forrestall's aide, Joe Varner, about the progress of the act in the Senate.

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
Ingonish Island, NS Keeper's House
Isaacs Harbour, NS Combined dwelling/lighthouse
Keppel Island, NF Lighthouse, keepers houses, fog alarm building, boat house
Liscomb Island, NS Keeper's house
Low Point, NS Keeper's house
Margaree Island, NS Lighthouse and dwelling
Moshers Island, NS Keepers houses and small fog alarm building
Peases Island, NS Keepers duplex
Queensport(Rook Island), NS Combined dwelling/lighthouse
Sambro Island, NS Dwellings and Gas House
Seal Island, NS Radio operator's house, barn
Southwest Point, Anticosti Island, QC
Saint Paul Island, NS South west lightkeeper's house, wireless operator's house

★ ★ ★

Cover photo: Don Gallagher grew up at the Chebucto Head lighthouse, where his father Edward was lightkeeper from 1928 to 1950. *Chris Mills.*

Back cover: The Moshers Island light falls to the ground in 1990. The Coast Guard replaced the wooden structure with a fibreglass tower. *Thom Drew*

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, 2002.**

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