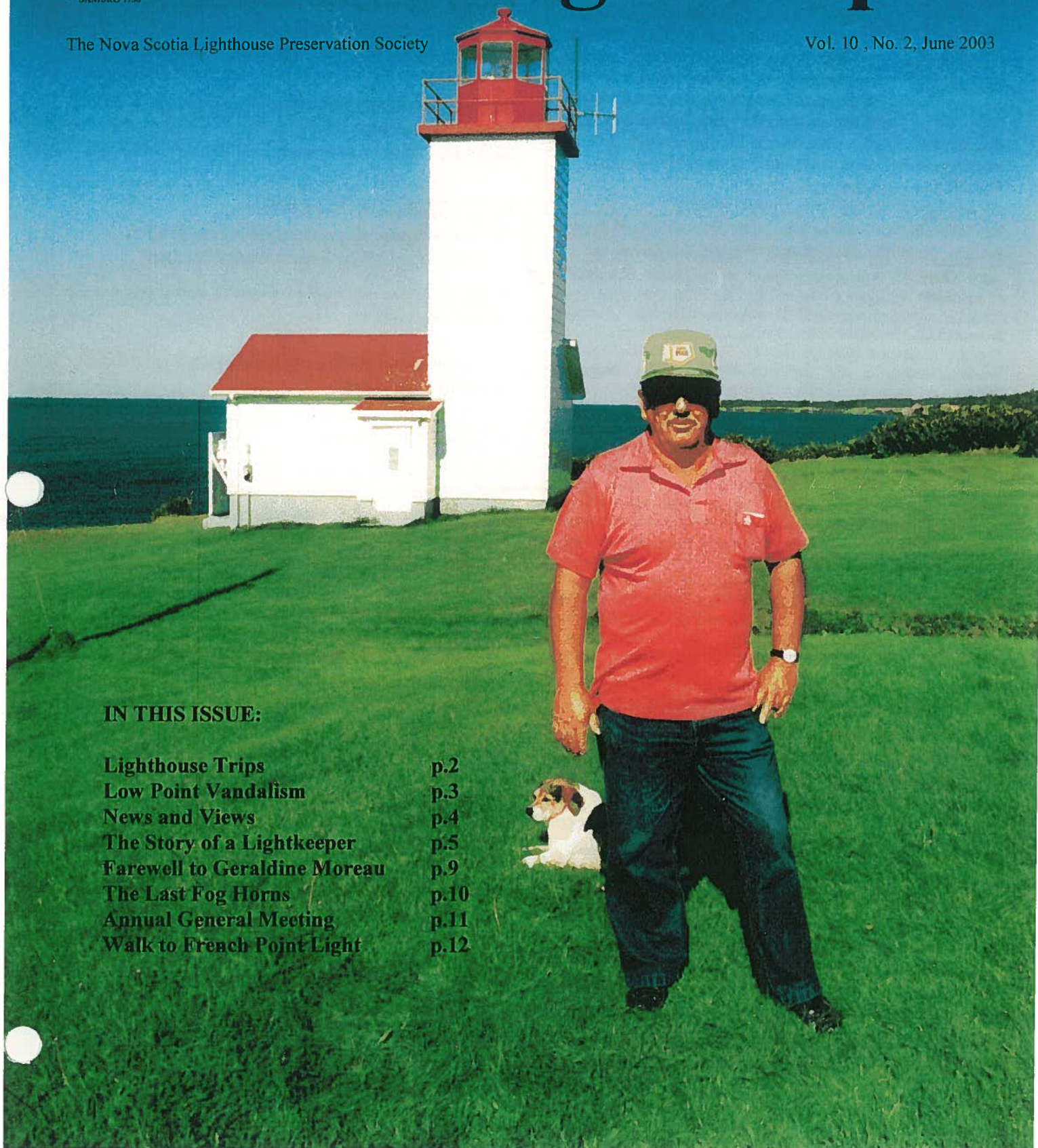




THE Lightkeeper

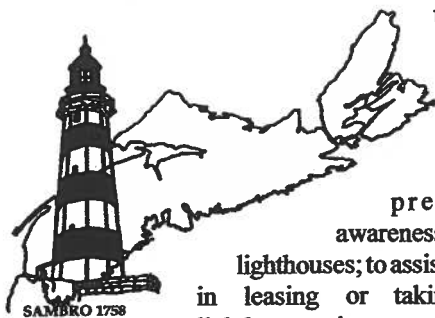
The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Vol. 10 , No. 2, June 2003



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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.

WEBSITE: <http://www.nslps.com>

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PATRONS: Paul & Sally Bates, Carl R. Lautenslager, Betty Schloss, Peter Westaway, Ronald Stewart, Ian Anderson

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Director, Member-at-Large, ALC Chairperson: Brian Liekens

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WELCOME ABOARD!

The following people recently joined the NSLPS:
Ronald Kenney, Chris Turner, Nancy Walker

PROGRAMS

NSLPS programs will resume in the fall. See September *Lightkeeper* for details.

NSLPS Trips 2003

Please note:

As a result of concerns within the DFO's Real Properties department, the NSLPS will *not* be allowed access to the interior of *any* lighthouse structures. The department's concerns are:

- 1) The presence of mould in these structures.
- 2) Security concerns- keys .
- 3) Visitors in structures that have working equipment.

Of these three concerns, the main issue is mould, which is a definite health concern. DFO/Coast Guard is now supplying their technicians with appropriate safety gear when they enter lightstations.

Loss of public access to the interior of our lighthouses is an unfortunate turn of events and will no doubt reduce the numbers of participants for our trips. The NSLPS hopes the problem will be resolved quickly.

Lights Along the Parrsboro Shore

Bass River, Five Islands, Spencers Island, Port Greville, Cape d'Or lighthouses

August 2,3,4

In co-operation with the Halifax Field Naturalists

Trip Leaders: Tony Thompson, and Doug Bamford

Discover a scenic coast often by-passed by travellers.

Drive along the Cobequid Bay and the Minas Basin and

visit some fine lighthouses. Enjoy the scenery -- from sand beaches and wooded offshore islands to magnificent red rock cliffs. NSLPS guides will be at the lighthouses to greet you. Visits will be made inside Five Islands, Port Greville, and Spencers Island lighthouses. Visit the Greville Bay Shipbuilding Museum. Dinner on Saturday evening is at the Cape d'Or *Lightkeeper's Kitchen*. Cape d'Or is the only station in Nova Scotia where you can stay in a keeper's house. Call (902) 392-2267 for accommodation. Transportation for this trip is by your own car.

Cost: \$20.00 (trip only, no accommodation).

Registration required.

For more details and to register call Dorothy MacLeod, 423-8034, after July 1.

Lighthouses of Kings County

A Driving Tour of Kings County Lighthouses

August 24 - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Rain Date August 25

Donation of \$5

Fossils, shipwrecks and "the lighthouse in the hayfield". Explore the little-known lighthouses of Kings County. Although the Annapolis Valley is best known for its apples and agriculture, it was once a shipping powerhouse with an extensive lighthouse network, including lights in some unusual places.

This driving tour through the lovely Annapolis Valley countryside will visit three lighthouses in Kings County: Horton Bluff, Canning and Black Rock. Presentations by local historians will be made at each scenic location and will include the ruins of one of the oldest lighthouses in the upper Bay of Fundy at Black Rock, as well as the surviving structure of the 1904 lighthouse in Canning, now the focus of a restoration campaign. We'll also review the history of the little-known and now-vanished lighthouses at Wolfville, Kingsport, Halls Harbour, Harbourville and Isle Haute.

Transportation for this trip is by your own car. Cost: \$15.00. Registration required. For more details and to register call Dorothy MacLeod, 423-8034 after August 1.

Lighthouses of Halifax Harbour

September 13. Weather date Sept. 14

10 AM to 4 PM

With five lighthouses, Halifax has the most lights of any harbour in Nova Scotia! Join Captain Ed and NSLPS guides aboard the *Sea Tiger* for our first all-day guided boat trip around the harbour past each lighthouse: Georges Island, Maughers Beach, Devils Island, and Chebucto Head. Then, land on Sambro Island at the

harbour's outer entrance to see the oldest working lighthouse in North America, and explore the island. Pass Chebucto Head for a second time on the way back into port. This trip will depart from Purcell's Cove at 10 AM, returning about 5 PM.

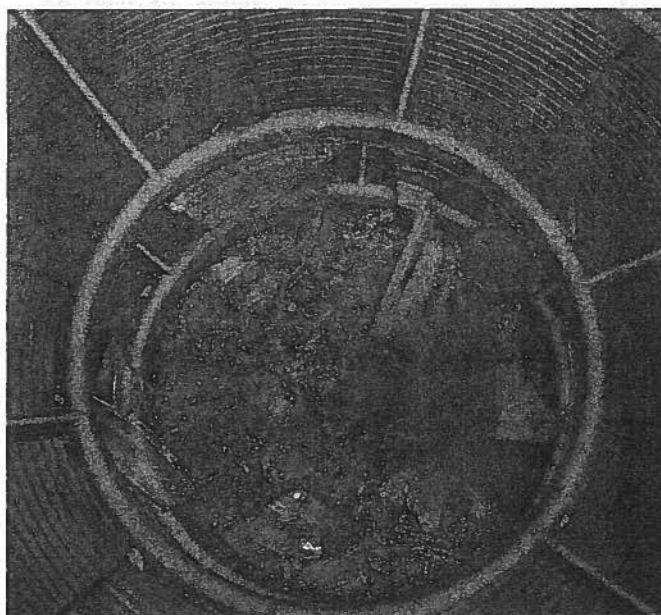
Cost: \$40.00 Registration required. For more details and to register call Dorothy MacLeod, 423-8034 after August 15.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The new NSLPS Board has hit the ground running this year, attending to various developments on many fronts, including the new *Visit Our Lighthouses* brochure, the recent formation of the Chebucto Head Lighthouse Society, the awarding of Kaplan funds to ten community lighthouses, the ongoing progress of the Lighthouse Protection Act, and a full slate of summer lighthouse trips. For details of these and other issues, read on!

NEWS AND VIEWS

Low Point Vandalism

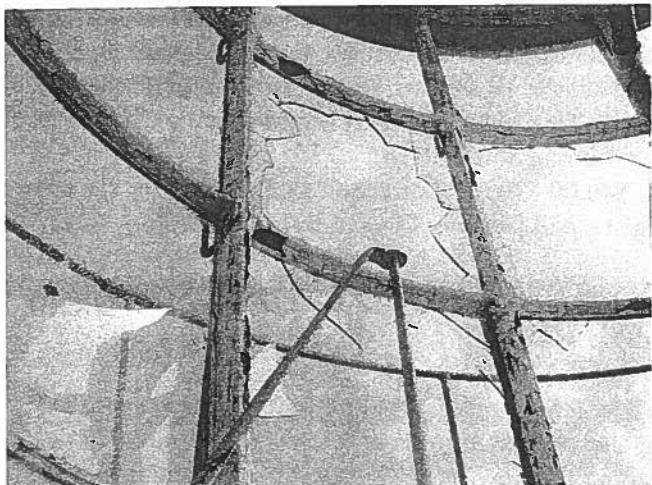


Smashed DCB 36 lens in the Low Point lighthouse.

Canadian Coast Guard

Sometime over the May 31-June 1 weekend, vandals broke into the Low Point Lighthouse at the entrance to Sydney harbour, causing much damage and destroying many pieces of irreplaceable lighthouse history.

The original lighthouse at this site dates back to 1832. It was an octagonal wooden structure surmounted by a round iron lantern. The lantern and third order, double bullseye lens were manufactured by the French firm of Barbier, Bénard et Turenne. When the original



Broken lantern panes at Low Point. *Courtesy Canadian Coast Guard*

wooden tower was replaced in 1936 by the present concrete tower, the original lantern and lens were reused. The glazing in this lantern consists of multi-paned, curved glass, most of it original.

The vandals took aim at this glass, smashing a total of 17 panes. In addition they smashed the fog detector, several regular window panes, as well as dropping a large battery through the lens of a spare DCB-36 optic was stored on site. Thankfully a fire started at the old keeper's house did not succeed in doing any damage.

There is a history of such senseless acts at this site since the station was de-staffed in the late 1980s, but nothing to compare with this.

An eleventh-hour deal was struck in August 2002 to save the keeper's house from demolition and a lease was signed with the ALC, who are working with the Sydney Harbour Fortifications Group on a viable business plan for the site.

Immediate plans for the house include accommodations for a person who will, in addition to regular duties, act as a "built-in" security guard.

We at NSLPS feel this site has a lot to offer in terms of both strong heritage value and excellent "pay-it's-own-way" business potential. It is our hope that local residents will see this and band together to watch over the site until the business plan becomes a reality.

Seal Island

The NSLPS has requested a re-evaluation of the FHBRO report on the Seal Island light. The lighthouse missed classification by one point, which is entirely unacceptable, given the light's documented history, location and present condition.

The Seal Island light was lit in 1831. It is the second-oldest wooden lighthouse still in operation in Canada.

Visit our Lighthouses Brochure

It's been along time coming! Enclosed with this edition of *The Lightkeeper* you will find a copy of the 2003 *Nova Scotia Canada: Visit Our Lighthouses* brochure. We've updated information and made improvements so the brochure is easier to use.

The brochure was produced with major funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism and Culture, and contributions from the Atlantic Lighthouse Council, and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and support from the Canadian Tourism Commission.

We hope you will enjoy using it over the summer. If you don't live in Nova Scotia, then we hope it will entice you to come and enjoy our lighthouses, coastal communities and scenic shores.

The Atlantic Lighthouse Council is looking after distribution of the brochure to facilities and people other than the Visitor Information Centres which are part of the provincial distribution service. If you'd like to request brochures, please call the ALC at (902) 543-3925 or e-mail alcoffice@ns.sympatico.ca.

Chebucto Head

Lise Chapman

The Chebucto Head Lighthouse Society continues to work towards preserving the lighthouse site at Chebucto Head. The details of the divestiture procedure remain somewhat uncertain, but the society continues to shape its vision for the future of the property.

We see great urgency in restoring the keeper's house, as it has been repeatedly vandalised and suffers severe deterioration. We have approached the officials to get permission to do some interim repairs to the building.

Simultaneously, the society is designing an opinion poll directed to visitors at the site, as well as for local residents of the area, as to how different users envisage the future of Chebucto Head.

Our history committee explores the past of Chebucto Head lighthouse through research at the archives, and interviews with former lighthouse residents to emphasise its importance in maritime history and generally raise public interest for the site.

We are trying to increase communication with individuals as well as other groups who have expressed interest in the site and would like to cooperate towards the common goal of saving the light and the property.

...cont'd p.8

THE STORY OF A LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

Courtesy Geraldine Searles (W.L. Munroe's grand daughter)

Letter to the editor of the *Eastern Chronicle* from W.L. Munroe, Keeper of the Three Top Island Lighthouse, Guysborough County, N.S. Dated Dec 20th, 1910. Munroe died in 1925.



Stoic Three Top lightkeeper William L. Munroe with his wife Jane Frazier Munroe. *Courtesy Gerry Searles*

To the Editor of the *Eastern Chronicle*
Dear Sir,-

Allow me space please in your valuable paper to insert a sketch of my past thirty-two years as a light-house keeper on what is known as or called by mariners "Three Top Island," which lies at the west entrance of Whitehead Harbour, one mile from the mainland, being W.N.W. from White Head light, distance one mile.

The light is called a harbour light, but [it is] not like many harbour lights on the coast, whereas most such called lights [are] attached to the mainland.

This island takes its name by having three hills as nature formed it, each hill or peak running eighty to a hundred feet horizontally, with no real landing place such as a beach.

It is iron bound all around, with a boat slip running down a step embankment where with a block and tackle attached to a capstan fixed in a boat house on the side of the cliff, we haul our boat to safety. By times, when there is a heavy sea on, [it] is a pretty risky piece of business. Many times I have had my boat filled in effecting a landing.

Well, Mr. Editor, the life of a lightkeeper is a dreary one, watching the storm-tossed seas that I have witnessed time and again caused by heavy winter gales on the southern coast of our Province, facing the Atlantic Ocean.

I remember one storm in particular about 18 years ago in February. The sea in one of its fierce rushes bursted our door at ten o'clock at night and flooded our floors to a depth of six inches of water. My wife and the children screaming, thinking they were doomed.

I got them gathered to a window, there to make our exit and flee to one of the highest peaks, but in this case Providence favoured us by the gale moderating and the sea falling some, did not cause us to face such an ordeal in a winter's hurricane on a naked cliff.

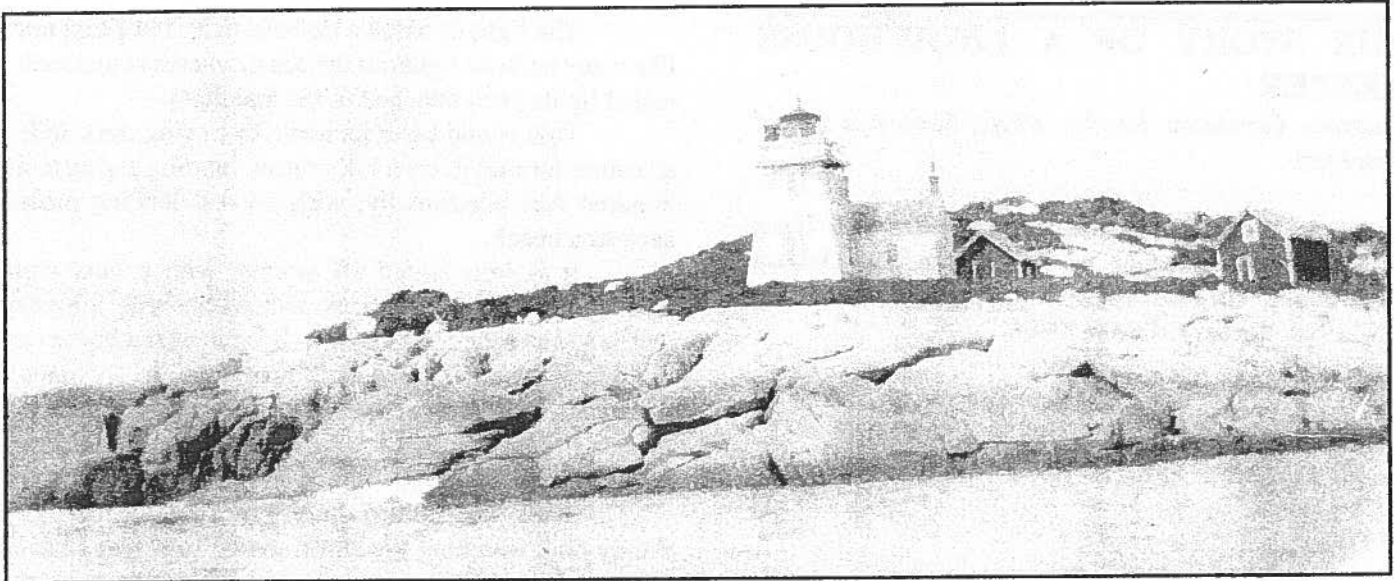
Also, Mr. Editor, I could relate several cases in sheltering ship-wrecked crews since my abode as lightkeeper, if space could afford.

One case in particular I must relate. It was on a Christmas eve about 16 years ago, if I remember right. There was a heavy gale a raging from the NE, with snow and the temperature was at zero. My three eldest daughters were on the mainland at the time attending a concert at the Methodist Church.

The small children had retired early in the evening as usual. My wife and I went to bed about half past ten o'clock after seeing that Santa Claus was to visit the island, and I suppose we had been retired about 20 minutes and I had about fallen to sleep, when my wife aroused me by telling me that she heard a horn blowing.

I told her she was dreaming, to go to sleep; but to please her I got up and went to the door to investigate.

I found to my horror that she was right, for there on the reef that extends SE away from the mainland about two hundred yards, lay a stranded vessel and they were blowing horns and shouting for their lives for the keeper to save them, as they thought from the way their



The Three Top Island lighthouse as it appeared during William Munroe's time as keeper. *Courtesy Gerry Searles*

ship was pounding she would break up, and certainly they would be doomed under such circumstances. Well, my man being ashore to spend his holidays of course left me alone.

I dressed and went to the cliff, as near as I could venture and shouted as loud as I could as I could not attempt it until daylight. Well I don't suppose they could hear me, but dear; their wailings were terrible to hear on such a night. And again I went and shouted to them to take their own boat and I would guide them by a torch. Well, again they could not hear me, as they kept up their wailings.

I could hear the wind whistling in the wreck, but I leave that to one's imagination, what it sounded like, together with their shoutings to save them. Well I went to the house and told my wife that in God's name I would try and launch a boat and go off to the wreck, and of course, as usual with women, my wife crying and begging me not to dare such a thing on such an awful night, and the children awakened by the tumult to make matters worse joined their Ma in begging me not to go, and I was pretty near abandoning the idea altogether until daylight.

Well, I went out of doors and down to the cliff, and by the way their shoutings seemed to me, I imagined there were at least some of them in the water, and perhaps drowning. And then I said to myself "I am going to try it anyway and if I get lost it will be in a good cause trying to save my fellow men".

Well, I lit a fine torch, or flare up, as some call them, and my wife following me, I went to the slip and let the boat down, as far as I dared. the sea was coming up by times half way to the slip. As the gale was blowing

fair on it was so much the worse to get clear.

I was about to run down and after lowering her and did unhook the boat [when] there came a heavy sea and swept the boat clear of me just as I was in the act of leaping into her. She turned completely bottom up. Well, that pretty near discouraged me. However, I had another boat in the store that I had stowed away since the past summer not intending to launch her until spring lobster fishing. To her I ran and got her on the slip but having only one pair of oars left, it was risking losing two pairs on the first boat. However, I let the boat down part way this time, put my oars in her, unhooked my tackle and sprung into the boat, taking chances going down the slip equal to "loop the loop" and landed safe in the boiling water made by the gale.

I grabbed my oars and as skilfully as I could, managed my boat until I got out to the wreck, which I found to be the *George P. Trigg* from Charlottetown, P.E.I., bound to Boston, loaded with several thousand bushels of oats. She was trying to make the harbour to clear the storm when stranded.

They had lowered the boat when first she struck the ledge and lost the boat in the sea. I found the men very much frightened. They all wanted to get in my small boat at once, but I told them to do as I told them and I would try to land them.

So I took three men at a time getting to the island. My wife held the torch and that was a great help to me. I backed the boat stern-first as near to the surf as I dared and told the men to leap which they did, and landed safe, and then I began another struggle for the wreck, which I gained after a hard fight and got the captain, mate and the remaining one of the crew.

I dared not allow anyone to touch my oars by myself as I had only one pair and to break one we were doomed. However, I reached the island and landed safely, thank God, where we were all housed at 3 o'clock in the morning on Christmas Day.

The wreck presented a gloomy-looking sight in the morning. The top of the hull, which was above water, was a mass of ice, where no one could go near her for a couple of days.

I can vouch, also, for keeping five wrecked crews for over a week at a time. All for which I have never received a cent. Although I billed parties, I was never recognized after.

My family consists of ten children, seven girls and three boys, of which two died young and one girl died also. After reaching womanhood four reside at Somerville, Mass., the eldest Mary marrying Mr. J.D. McLean, a contractor in the team fitting business. The next, Alice, a music teacher, lives with her sister. Edith also lives with her sister, and their next youngest sister is attending high school in Somerville.

My salary had been very small. After paying a man and feeding him at the high cost of living, three hundred dollars does not go far.

Now Mr Editor I will conclude by saying to give me justice don't you think that I am worthy of a



William Munroe and family. *Courtesy Gerry Searles*

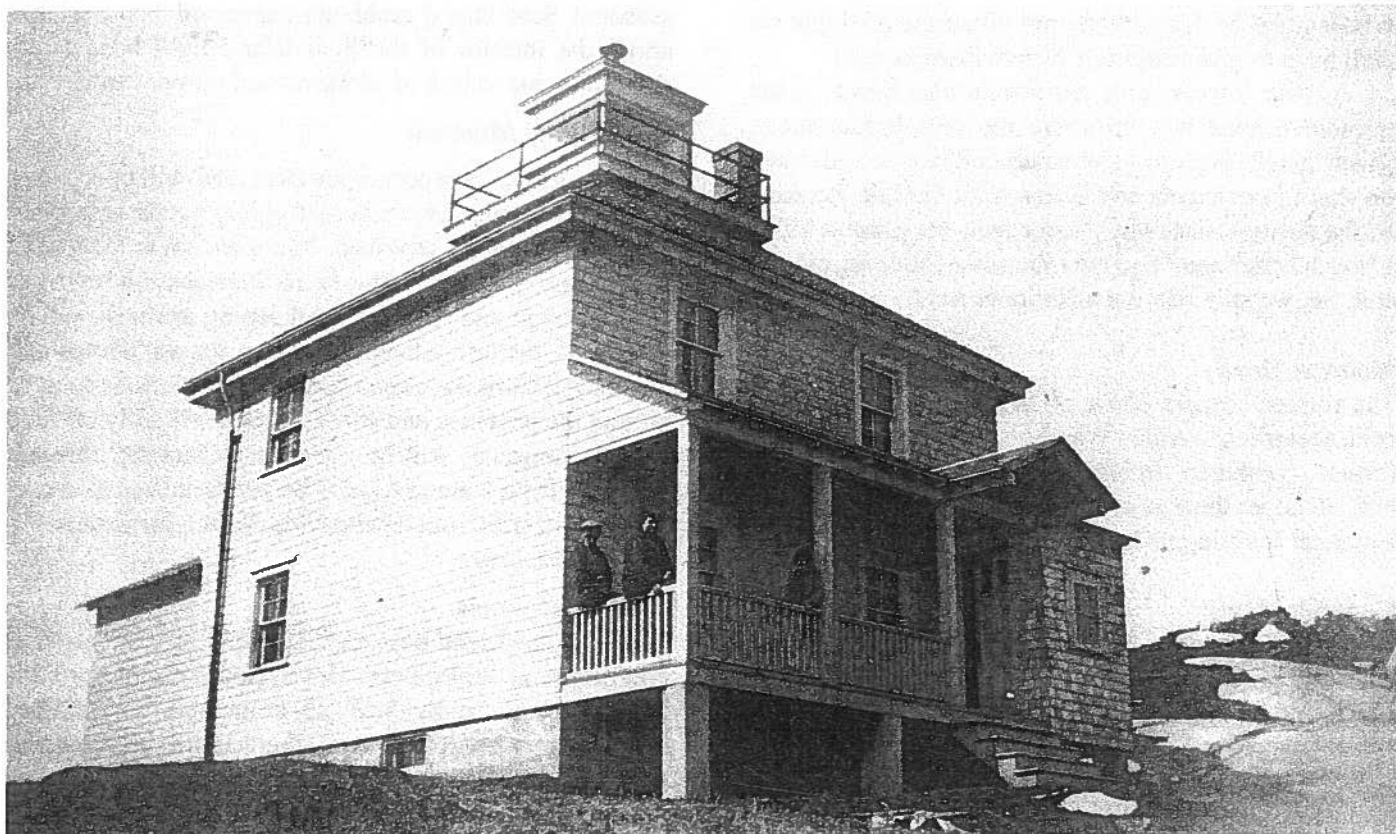
superannuation fund when I leave this Island which I suppose will be very soon now..

Thanking you kindly Mr. Editor for your space allotted.

Yours Truly,

(Sgd) *W.L. Munroe*

(Of course Mr. Munroe will be superannuated. The Dominion of Canada cannot afford to do its housekeeping by turning off old servants who have served it so gallantly for so many years, without anything to live upon so far as the country is concerned. Editor, *Eastern Chronicle*.)



The second Three Top Island lighthouse, built after 1930. *Courtesy Gerry Searles*

NEWS AND VIEWS CONT'D: Chebucto Head...

One of our major concerns remains the conservation of 'coastal barrens' at Chebucto Head, an extremely fragile ecosystem, which is an integral part of the landscape surrounding the site. We therefore believe that any future use of Chebucto Head needs to be moderately scaled to assure the continuing integrity of the natural environment in the area.

Should you wish to receive further information as well as regular updates on the society, please contact the CHLS through its president (Lise Chapman at 868-1357) or by email: chebuctolight@yahoo.ca

Lighthouse Protection Act

NSLPS president Barry MacDonald recently spoke with Mr. Joe Varner (Senator Mike Forestall's) aide in Ottawa concerning the status of the Lighthouse Protection Act. The bill now has yet another number, "Bill S-7" and may be viewed on the Parliamentary website www.parl.gc.ca.

At present the bill is in second reading. As part of that stage it is before the Social Affairs committee for study. Some of you may recall that the first bill went before the Fisheries Committee and testimony was given to that committee via teleconference by Dan Conlin and the Rev. David Curry. We now have to wait for the bill to be studied by this current committee and no doubt we shall have to give testimony before them as well.

Mr. Varner could not offer a time frame, as the committee head will prioritize the bills before them. Given that the Senate begins summer recess in mid- June, we should not expect any action until the fall. Looking on the positive side, Mr. Varner feels the present bill is a "much better one," and the Liberals are looking closely at it. So, we still may see a National Act.

Medway Head

The former keepers house at Medway Head has been sold, according to Alden Wambolt, who owns the nearby former combined lighthouse/keepers dwelling. The NSLPS hopes the new owners will maintain the house in a manner befitting its location and history.

Concrete News!

A photo of the newly-restored Port Medway lighthouse currently graces the cover of the Summer 2003 *Ready Mix News*, a publication of the Atlantic Provinces Ready Mixed Concrete Association.

The headline reads "Lighthouse Park made beautiful: Concrete enhances Port Medway's newest attraction."

South Shore Ready Mix supplied aggregate

concrete for more than 1,200 square metres of walkways at the park.

Clarks Harbour

Past president Tony Thompson travelled to Clarks Harbour on May 25th to make a presentation at the Seaside Heritage Centre. The centre is located in a beautifully restored heritage building which will soon house some useful displays – on fishing, the Cape Island fishing boat and lighthouses, with special reference to Cape Sable, Seal Island and Bon Portage Islands.

A good crowd showed up to see slides shown by speaker Sonia Newell, whose father and grandfather were lightkeepers on Seal Island.

About 30 people stayed to listen to Tony's presentation, including the mayor of Clark's harbour, who is a member of NSLPS.

Tony talked about what the NSLPS does and about our current projects – Kaplan, web, trips, divestiture and the protection act. Tony also mentioned the possibility of a reappraisal of Seal Island by FHBRO.

Tony also showed a few slides of Cape Sable and Seal Island. People were interested to see slides of the interior of Seal Island (courtesy Kathy Brown). Ronald Kenney (father of Charles and a long-time seasonal Seal Island resident) expressed his concerns about the interior of the Seal Island light because of dampness due to lack of windows and proper ventilation.

Queensport Museum

Affiliate group "Keepers of the Beacons" will open Nova Scotia's first museum dedicated solely to the history of lightkeeping in the province. The museum is located in Half Island Cove on Highway 16, between the towns of Guysborough and Canso. Lightkeeping artifacts will be displayed, including lamps, lanterns, lenses, photos and books. All items have been donated from various sources around the province and abroad. Open officially on June 30th, the museum will be operational Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm. The site promises to attract lighthouse buffs from far and wide. Watch for more in the next *Lightkeeper*.

ALC Conference

The Atlantic Lighthouse Council held its second large conference at White Point Beach Lodge from April 24-27. A number of individuals, government representatives and lighthouse groups from the Maritimes, Ontario, British Columbia and the US attended.

DFO/Coast Guard representatives made presentations about divestiture. David Cooke spoke at length about the opportunities that now exist for local

communities to work with the Coast Guard.

We need to find a way to make this happen in Nova Scotia. In particular, the province and municipalities must be persuaded to become involved. Divestiture on a one-by-one basis is too slow and many of the same problems recur with each light.

On the FHBRO front, NSLPS past president Tony Thompson spoke with Jacqueline Huker (FHBRO manager) about the low number of Canadian lighthouses with full heritage protection. Tony says if NSLPS could document these numbers carefully, FHBRO may consider our concerns about lighthouse sites without protection (e.g. Seal Island).

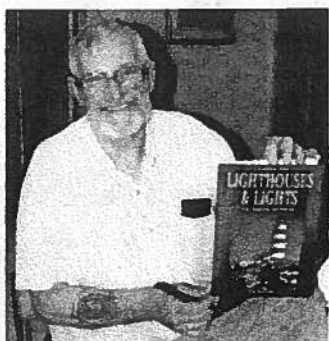
Saturday began with the ALC AGM. There was lengthy discussion about the PEI situation. The ALC is no longer involved in the negotiations for divestiture. These discussions are now taking place between the province of PEI and DFO. There was also a long discussion of the problems of insurance (a widespread concern in the region).

Chris Mills gave a presentation on the NSLPS oral history project after the AGM.

Later in the afternoon, the group running Ontario's Flowerpot Island lighthouse (one of a number of lights on the Bruce Peninsula) gave an excellent presentation on this lightstation, which has been restored and maintained as a successful tourist attraction.

In summary, it was an informative conference, but one that would have been more useful if more local groups from the Maritimes had attended.

Lighthouses and Lights Launch



Josette d'Entremont

Nimbus Publishing, in association with the NSLPS and the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic held a very successful book launch for Rip Irwin's *Lighthouses and Lights of Nova Scotia* on May 28th. This book has been almost two decades in the making. The 183 page work is crammed with interesting facts about 164

Nova Scotia lighthouses and lights, all of which Rip has visited (sometimes at risk to life and limb!).

Rip's work is all the more poignant as many of the sites he has visited have succumbed to the ravages of time and government in recent years.

Highly recommended! Available in bookstores, and from Nimbus Publishing Ltd., PO Box 9166, Halifax, NS B3K 5M8.

Seal Island Museum on the move?

The May 06, 2003 edition of *The Coast Guard* ("The Voice of Shelburne County") reports that Barrington Municipal Council is considering the possibility of incorporating the museum with a planned municipal visitor information centre.

The 1,500 square foot facility will be built on the site of the former Barrington Consolidated Elementary School. The article goes on to say that "The Seal Island Lighthouse Museum is the biggest tourist attraction in the municipality, drawing between 8 and 10 thousand visitors a year.

"It has been plagued with structural problems since it was built and has deteriorated to the point that the top floor is no longer open to the public."

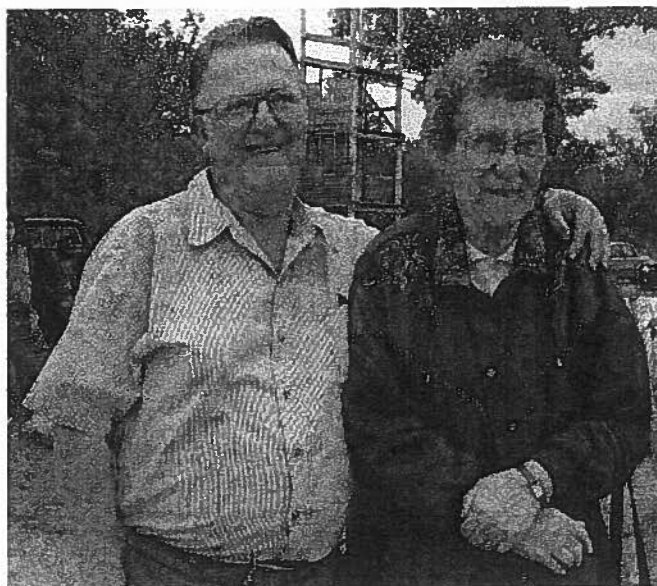
Barrington Municipal Council has discussed various ways to incorporate the lighthouse in the new centre, including salvaging the good lumber and rebuilding the tower at the new site.

The Seal Island light museum was built in 1985. It supports the iron lantern and second order Barbier lens installed at Seal Island in 1907-08.

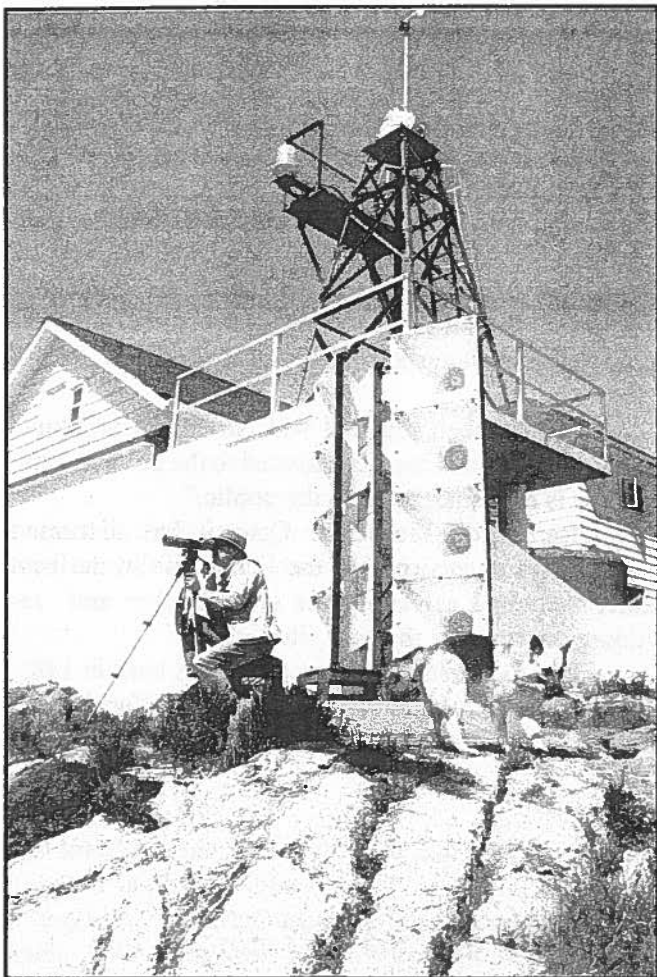
FAREWELL

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Geraldine Moreau, on May 13, 2003. Geraldine and her husband Lemuel (the subject of our Sept/Oct 2002 *Lighthousekeeper* cover) kept the light at Western Head until 1989, when the Coast Guard de-staffed the station. I'll certainly remember Geraldine for her cheerful hospitality and kindness during my visits to Western Head in the late 1980s. (Ed)

Our condolences to Lemuel and his family.



Lemuel and Geraldine Moreau. Dan Sinclair



Ivory Island's Stone-Chance fog horns in 1996. *Chris Mills*

THE LAST FOG HORNS

Sherrill Kitson

April 4, 2003: It should be just a normal day on Ivory Island but we, as well as McInnes Island, Addenbroke Island and Egg Island have been advised that today is the day scheduled for CCG Helicopter 358 to bring a technician to permanently discontinue our fog horns – the last remaining fog horns in operation on the North and Central Coasts of British Columbia.

At 0315 PST I head outside to accustom my eyes to the darkness before taking my observations for the 0330 weather. I have good visibility, 15 miles, clearly noting all our markers - the lights flash brightly from Susan Rocks and Idol Point and the McInnes Island peripheral is so brilliant this morning it feels like I could stretch out my hand and touch the light as it skims across the water. There are plenty of stars but I note the low circular arc reflected from our light and know we have some stratus cloud moving through.

I move away from the light and in darkness observe a wide band of low solid stratus across

Seaforth Channel. I watch as the beam of our main light picks up the wisps of thin cloud moving past us. Experience tells me there is likely fog further down Seaforth Channel and I think it won't be long before the fog moves up the channel and covers us like a blanket. For a few minutes I stand quietly and contemplate the irony of being fogged-in today of all days, and for a split second I hope for a reprieve. But realistically, I know by the temperature and the time of year it will only be a morning fog which will quickly dissipate and the helicopter will be able to make the trip as scheduled.

At 0420 from our kitchen I hear the familiar pre-foghorn "click" that signals our Stone Chance's imminent operation - the horns are 18 m from our bedroom window and have heard a curse or two from me on many a sleepless night over the past ten years. But they are an integral part of my life. I applaud the venerable history of our lights this morning as I listen to our horns sound out their last warning to transiting mariners.

I reflect on the keepers before us and think of people like Peter Wylie, the first Ivory Island lightkeeper in 1898, who would diligently operate foghorns manually for whatever duration was necessary, dedicated to ensuring safe passage for all mariners. I am suddenly filled with pride.

We have come a long way since 1898 and for many technological advances I am grateful, but today I don't like the modernization that will remove a still economically viable safety measure for mariners and silence a part of history.

Several hours after the helicopter has departed, I listen to the Notships (Notices to Shipping) on the CMB (Continuous Marine Broadcast), advising mariners of the foghorn permanent discontinuances - P0571 Egg Island, P0572 Addenbroke Island, P0573 McInnes Island and P0574 Ivory Island.

Our coast is silent.

The silence is deafening.

Sherrill Kitson is a lightkeeper at Ivory Island, BC



Sherrill and Rene Kitson.
Chris Mills

2002/2003 AGM

Kaplan, Westaway and Harding. No, it's not a legal firm!

Rather, these three names figured prominently at this year's NSLPS AGM. The year's biggest news came in the form of a \$50,000 US matching funds grant from the Kaplan Foundation of New York..

Jacob Merrill Kaplan (1891-1987) established the fund in 1944, with proceeds from the sale of his Welch Grape Juice Company. Just under half of the Fund's annual grants budget is awarded to organizations selected "by individual trustees, on the basis of their own investigations." The grants support a variety of causes and activities, including art, architecture, conservation of land and buildings and human rights issues.

To make a long story short, the NSLPS was successful in securing the \$50,000 US grant last year, to be distributed to lighthouse groups across Nova Scotia for restoration and maintenance of our historic community lights.

NSLPS Kaplan Committee members selected the recipients of the Kaplan funds earlier this year, and at the AGM, announced the winners. The successful lights/groups were: Boularderie Island, Walton, Five Islands, Coffin Island, Port George, Low Point, Gilberts Cove, Port Bickerton, Borden Wharf (Canning) and Port Greville.

This generous grant from the J.M. Kaplan Fund represents a huge boost to Nova Scotia communities trying to save and maintain their lighthouses. Through matching funds, local groups will be able to make repairs to lighthouse structures, restore historical architectural details and allow site development for tourism.

Gail Long of the Gilberts Cove and District Historical Society says her group is "delighted" to receive \$21,000 from the Kaplan Fund. Long says the funds will go towards restoration of the 1904 lighthouse, in time for its 100th birthday next year.

"Now, with a \$61,000 budget," says Long "the lighthouse will wear some new timbers, mortar and glass as well as a bright red roof, and a new flagpole."

This year's second big name was Westaway.

Peter Westaway owns the Old Cut Lighthouse at Long Point on Lake Erie. Last fall the Westaway Foundation donated \$5000 to the NSLPS. Some of this money has been used to purchase a computer and software for *The Lightkeeper*. The NSLPS is grateful for the Westaway Foundation's generosity.

And finally, Harding. Craig's name is synonymous with the Cape Forchu light and its careful restoration and development during the 1990s. Craig passed away in April, 2001, but his spirit and dedication continue in the work of countless volunteers at dozens of community lighthouses across Nova Scotia.

The 2003 AGM saw the presentation of the third annual Craig Harding Award, to the Medway Area Community Association. The group rescued the 1899 lighthouse from oblivion, restoring the tower and turning the site of a former fish plant into a beautiful waterfront park.



Presenting the award, Dan Conlin noted that the Port Medway lighthouse project stood out for several reasons. It is a dramatic example of a lighthouse that was rescued from oblivion. Four years ago, it was a dreadfully sad sight. The awful aluminum siding was peeling off in layers. Window frames were rotting. The outer door was lying smashed open. It was surrounded by a bankrupt abandoned fish plant on the edge of a crumbling wharves. Today, thanks to dedicated work by the Medway Area Communities Association, the light is now restored and relit and the centrepiece of a fine waterfront park. The Society

also praised the level of local control and input into interpretation at the site and the way the site was developed so it did not overwhelm the lighthouse. The municipality in Queens County has a good track record in commitment to lighthouse preservation with past projects such as Fort Point and Coffin Island and NSLPS hopes this commitment will continue. The award was accepted by Margo Zwicker, president of the Medway Area Communities Association, Jill Cruickshank, Project Co-ordinator and Dan Sinclair, Bob Whitelaw and Maurice Whynot, project volunteers.

THANKYOU!

We are grateful to NSLPS members George Hebb and Jeanne Thomas for helping out with book sales during Rip Irwin's *Lighthouses and Lights of Nova Scotia* launch on May 28. George and Jeanne filled in for Dorothy McLeod, who had a bad fall last month and was unable to attend. We're pleased to hear that Dorothy is on the mend and look forward to seeing her back in the fold!

DONATION

Thanks are also due to Nancy Russell, of Bella Vista, Arkansas. Nancy very kindly sent a \$50 US donation to The NSLPS, along with her memories of summer visits to Bayview and the Point Prim Lighthouse, near Digby. Watch for Nancy's story and photos in the September *Lightkeeper*.

SHAG HARBOUR LIGHTS AND UFOs

Thanks to Cindy Nickerson and the folks who put together the 2003 Lighthouses and UFOs Festival in Shag Harbour. The festival took place May 16-18, in conjunction with celebrations for the 101st anniversary of Evelyn Richardson's birth. Evelyn and her family lived on Bon Portage Island, just off Shag Harbour, from 1929 to 1964.

The 2003 festival included a parade, Miss UFO contest (!), lobster supper, and two lighthouse presentations, by Bill Budge (who lived at the Saint Paul Island Southwest light in the late 1950s) and Chris Mills.

NEW BOOKS

Along with Rip Irwin's excellent *Lighthouses and Lights of Nova Scotia*, look for two more additions to the growing list of books about Atlantic Canadian lighthouses. In the fall, Pottersfield Press in Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia, will publish William Budge's reminiscences of growing up at the Saint Paul Island southwest lighthouse. The book promises a rare

and engaging look at lighthouse life at a very harsh, remote site.

Look also for David Baird's *Lighthouses of Atlantic Canada*, published by Red Deer Press in Calgary. Includes 260 lighthouses from Quebec to Newfoundland. 240 pp., 340 colour photos, 12 maps.

WALK TO FRENCH POINT LIGHT!

On June 12th, students in Grades 2 & 3 from the Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre, along with a few teachers, parents and Josette d'Entremont had a fun-filled day at the French Point lighthouse, on Kent Island (see *Voices of the Lights: Ivan Kent and the French Point Lighthouse; The Lightkeeper*, Vol.8, No.4, December 2001). The visit was part of the Lighthouse Tour Project, organized by volunteer Ann-Kay.

It all started this school year as an extra-curriculum program, so that the students could learn more about their heritage, and do more physical work, including walking the school yard to locate each lighthouse on a map on the ground. The students are very excited about this new program, and it was a thrill for them to visit one of the lights they have "walked" to. They got to hear Mr Kent's 'Admiral Horatio Nelson' ghost story, and a little bit of lighthouse history. The group enjoyed a stroll to the lighthouse, a look out to the sea, while the admiral no doubt looked on.

On a more serious note, the French Point light is in very poor shape, with rotten siding and an decrepit lantern deck. It is still an active aid to navigation.

Cover photo: Lightkeeper Frank Kozera at the Black Rock Point lightstation, Cape Breton in September, 1988. **Chris Mills. Back cover:** Students from Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre visit the French Point light, home of Admiral Horatio Nelson's ghost. *Josette d'Entremont*

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NSLPS MEMBERSHIP FORM - January 1 - December 31, 2003

NAME _____	TELEPHONE _____
ADDRESS _____	POSTAL CODE _____
E-MAIL _____	New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Number: _____
Family/Group names for extra card(s): _____	
Single - \$15.00	Institution/Group - \$30.00 (4 cards)
Family - \$20.00	Sustaining - \$50.00
Patron - \$100.00	
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	
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