



10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR!

# THE Lightkeeper

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Vol. 10, No. 4, December 2003/January 2004

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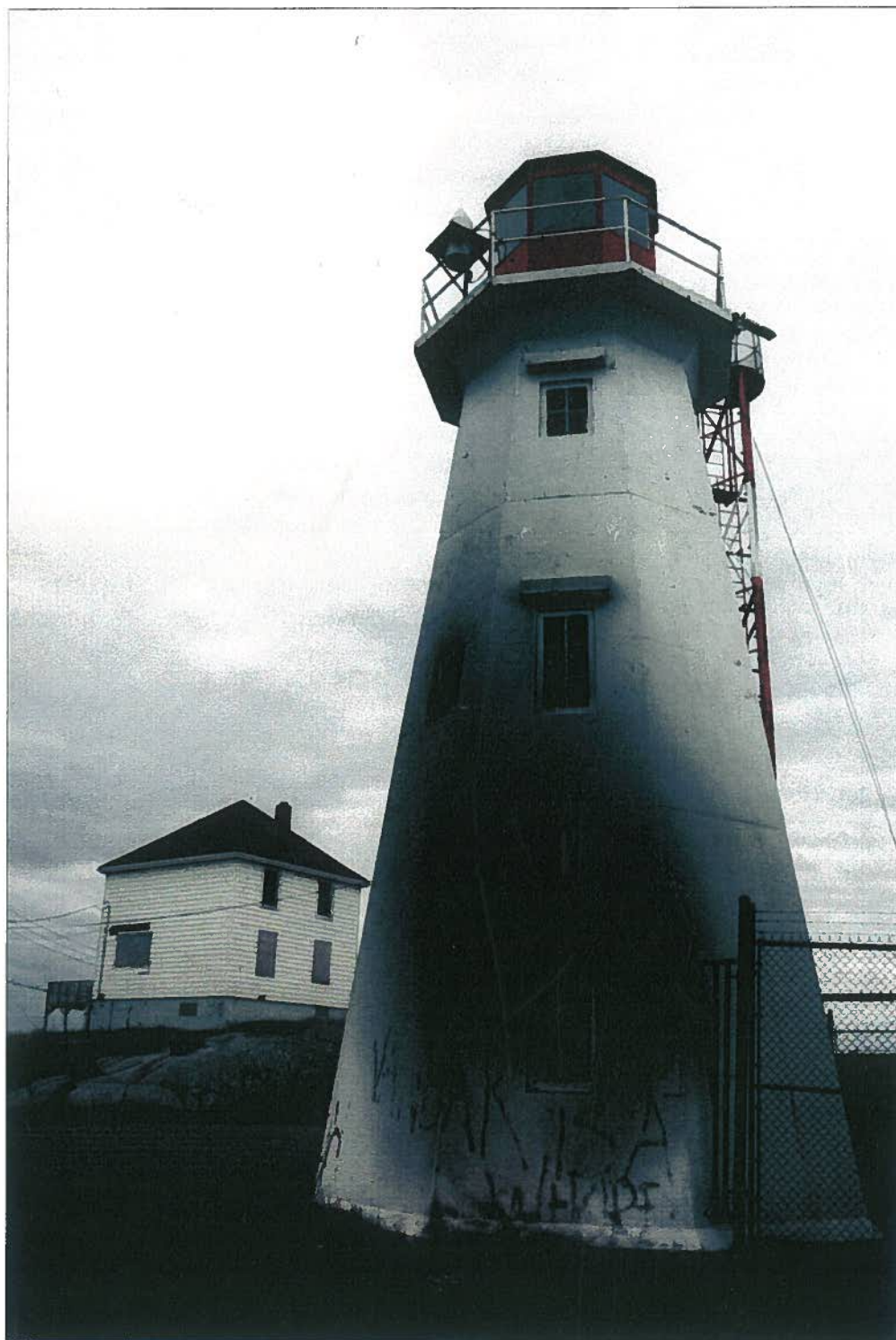
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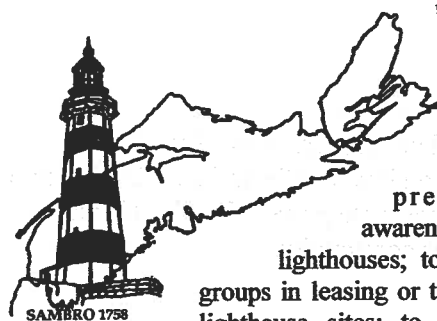
Lightshop

**DON'T FORGET: IT'S  
TIME TO RENEW FOR  
2004!**

Fire damage at Chebucto  
Head in October, 2003  
*Chris Mills*

Back Cover: Jim Lovett,  
former federal Fisheries  
Minister Robert Thibault  
and Digby Municipal  
Warden Jim Thurber at  
the ceremony to  
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for the Gilberts Cove  
Lighthouse in October,  
2003. *Chris Mills*





The objectives of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society are: To promote and support preservation and awareness of Nova Scotia 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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**PATRONS:** Ian Anderson, Paul & Sally Bates, Carl R. Lautenslager, Serge Pare, Ronald Stewart, C.A. Straughn, Betty Schloss, Peter Westaway.

**AFFILIATES:** Beacon Memories, Burntcoat Head Park, Cape Sable Historical Society, Central Nova Tourist Association, Chapel Hill Historical Society, Chebucto Head Lighthouse Society, Clyde River Inn, Coastal Peoples Learning Network Ltd., Cunard Steamship Society, English Harbour Heritage Society, Fieldwood Heritage Society, Five Islands Lighthouse Society, Friends of the Yarmouth Light Society, Gilbert Cove and District Historical Society, Greville Bay Shipbuilding Museum Society, Hampton Lighthouse Society, Henry Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, Islands Historical Society, Keepers of the Beacons, Lin Art Designs, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Medway Area Communities Association, Mosher Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, Municipality of the District of Yarmouth, North Shore Development Association, Nova Scotia Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, Old Cape Light Restoration Committee, Outdoor Club, Paddy's Head Lighthouse Preservation Society, Port George District Lighthouse Society, Region of Queens Municipality, Sambro-Ketch Harbour Elementary School, Sandy Point Recreation Group, Spencers Island Community Association, Sydney Harbour Fortification Society, Terence Bay Lighthouse Committee, Town of Lockeport, Walton Area Development Association.

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## WELCOME ABOARD

*The following new members recently joined the NSLPS:* Michael and Bobbie McFalls, Frederick Heard, Mrs. R.K. Acheson

## PROGRAMS

Wednesday, February 25

7:00 PM - Reports of NSLPS Activities

7:30 PM - Memoirs of a Lightkeeper's Son

Master storyteller Bill Budge, author of the new book *Memoirs of a Lightkeeper's Son*, will treat us to an illustrated talk about growing up on remote St. Paul Island, the "Graveyard of the Gulf," off the northern tip of Cape Breton. Bill's book will be available and he will be happy to sign it for you during the coffee time which follows the programme.

## MARCH BREAK WORKSHOP

Build a Model Lighthouse (Children's Workshop)

Saturday, March 20

10 AM - 12 NOON

How can you fit a lighthouse in your living room? If you make a miniature at this workshop, of course! Make a model of the four-sided black and white Margaretsville lighthouse which stands atop red cliffs on the Bay of Fundy.

For children aged 6 - 12 years. Younger children should bring a helper. Presented by Graham McBride of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society. Fee \$4.00. Call 424-7490 to register.

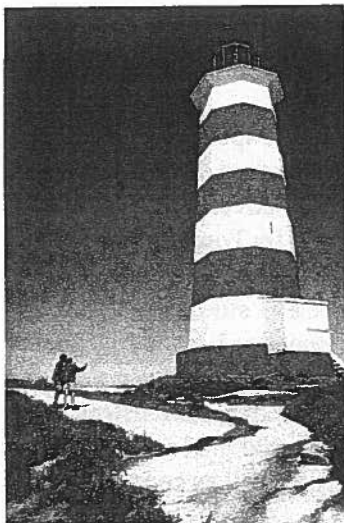
★ **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NSLPS!!!** ★

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday April 28,

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

**7:00 PM: AGM** including the final report on the exciting J.M. Kaplan Fund grants which helped restore and preserve seven



The NSLPS was born on Sambro Island in the summer of 1993 and officially incorporated in 2004. *Chris Mills*

of Nova Scotia's heritage lighthouses, presentation of the third annual Craig Harding award for service to lighthouses, reports, election of officers and board.

**8:30 PM: Birthday Party**  
NSLPS is 10 years old in 2004 and we're going to party! Chris Mills, a founding member, will give an illustrated overview of the accomplishments and activities of the past ten years; we'll light lighthouse lenses including the magnificent lens from Sambro Lighthouse, and blow fog

horns; and of course we'll enjoy some birthday cake. Join us for a celebration like no other!

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## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

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### NSLPS 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

What a decade it's been!

When the NSLPS was officially formed in 1994, the last lightkeepers had just slipped into Nova Scotia history, ending a 250-year-old tradition and leaving towers and dwellings to the mercy of the elements.

Ten years later, our remaining lightstations are in jeopardy, as nature, vandals and government take their toll on these once-vital beacons. But there's good news too – thanks to the hard work of the NSLPS and various community groups, a number of historic lights across the province are now the focal point of local communities, serving as museums and tourist attractions.

Despite local interest in community lights, we're now at a crucial point in Nova Scotia lighthouse history, as the federal government pushes the divestiture of "surplus" structures along the coast. It's time for a strong, united voice in support of OUR lights. As the NSLPS enters its second decade of service, we will continue to take a leading role in lighthouse preservation and advocacy.

The future of our lights depends on it.

### NSLPS RECOGNIZED IN NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

On Thursday, October the 23<sup>rd</sup>, NDP MLA for Halifax

Atlantic Michele Raymond tabled a resolution in the Provincial Legislature, recognizing the NSLPS contribution to the preservation of part of Nova Scotia's history. Ms. Raymond wrote "With this resolution, please accept my congratulations, and those of the entire House of Assembly. The work of the Lighthouse Preservation Society exemplifies the qualities that make Nova Scotia and Halifax Atlantic in particular, such a remarkable place to live in. Thank you for your dedication to this community."

### MOTION HONOURING NSLPS

Resolution NO.576

**MS. MICHELE RAYMOND:** Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas most of the Nova Scotia coast is dangerous to mariners and has been guarded for more than two centuries by a system of lighthouses, all of which have now been automated, while the federal government is divesting itself of the remaining properties; and Whereas each of the 150 lighthouses along our shores is a moving and instantly recognizable symbol of the history of this province; and

Whereas the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society works with community groups to help them preserve and re-use these distinctive structures and is holding a workshop this weekend for this purpose at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulate the Nova Scotia Preservation Society on its valuable work in protecting the lighthouses which have so long protected others along our coast.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** There has been a request for waiver. Is it agreed? It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

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### KEEPING OUR LIGHTS WORKSHOPS

Nov 8 & 9, 2003. Maritime Museum of the Atlantic  
*Donna Merriam*

The Saturday start to the annual community focus workshops was an enthusiastic one with 50 participants ready to hear a number of speakers deal with various aspects of lighthouse preservation and maintenance. After a warm welcome by NSLPS president Barry MacDonald and a nostalgic blast from the foghorn by Dan Conlin, the morning began with a presentation by David Cooke from Fisheries and Oceans, Real Properties, on "Lighthouse Alternative Use: Canada's

East Coast Experience”.

David's talk covered a wide range of topics from classifications of lights to be decommissioned, to the inner mechanisms and regulations within DFO and Public Works which control and dictate the process.

A, B, C site designations were described. “A” is a light that is no longer required for operations and is sold at market value. “B” is a light that is a landfall site and may be declared redundant within the near future. (DFO focus for divestitures). “C” is a light that is used for hazard avoidance. It is estimated that “C” lights will remain in service for 10 years.

The talk culminated with a suggestion that communities band together and make a proposal to DFO to take possession and maintain several lights within their geographic area.

This included recognition of a number of challenges to success in this undertaking - rapid deterioration of existing structures, the need for government and community organizations to protect and preserve lighthouses for public access, the continuing problem of site contamination and environmental management, insurance liability concerns, heritage standards observance, and the challenges of day-to-day management. The DFO program of “Invest to Divest” started in 2001 and is scheduled to end in 2006.

Jan Robar (Real Estate Advisor, Lighthouse Properties, Public Works & Government Services) contributed details of the role and process undertaken by her department at the request of DFO when a lighthouse is declared surplus. All subsequent phases must comply with the federal acts, regulations and policies governing how this process is to unfold.

A nutrition break was followed by a panel of speakers on group transfers and the involvement and roles of various levels of government and non-profit community groups. Murray Brown moderated the panel which included David Cooke; DFO, Trudy LeBlanc; Municipality of Yarmouth; Kevin Harvey, former light keeper at the Cape Sharp Lighthouse and Rick Welsford, Atlantic Lighthouse Council (ALC).

A well-organized and tasty lunch was accompanied by music from folk singer Dan McKinnon, who sang his composition “Nova Scotia for Sale,” a lighthouse song for our time, to a great round of applause. After lunch,

thirty participants stayed on for the afternoon program which centred on insurance liability and coverage required for public access to lighthouses.

Moderator Dan Conlin introduced speakers Jamie Reid, of A.P.Reid Insurance, and Rick Welsford, of the ALC, who outlined requirements, potential coverage and costs. Community updates were moderated by Tony Thompson and provided opportunities for an exchange and updates by community group participants. Case studies and success stories from Cape D’Or and from the Five Islands Lighthouse Society rounded out the day’s talks on a positive note.

Dan Conlin and Barry MacDonald demonstrated the lighting of two Fresnel lenses on the main floor of the Museum which was an interesting as well as spectacular end to the Saturday workshop.

Sunday’s program got underway with 20 participants focusing on the development of a well-constructed business plan and grant applications, led by Becky Mason from the NS Community Volunteer Network. This presentation was followed by a brainstorming session with Kathy Brown past

president of the NSLPS, on potential uses for lighthouses by communities. Dan Conlin acted as the recorder of the wide range of ideas being suggested.

Anne Langille of Fort Point Lighthouse Park and Christine Sykora, of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic (MMA) presented on their experiences with “Progressive Retail : Souvenirs and Crafts at Lighthouse Sites”. Dan Conlin (Curator of Marine History, MMA) finished the morning session by discussing the standards and guidelines relevant to “Protecting the Heritage Character of Your

Lighthouse” and offered a behind the scenes tour of the Museum as well.

Some draft pages of the NSLPS Website under construction were on display and opportunities provided for brochure exchanges.

Special thanks go out to the sponsors and supporters of the weekend events: Oceans & Coastal Management Division, Oceans & Environment Branch, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Jeanne Thomas and George Hebb and to the many volunteers who worked hard and long to make these workshops a success.

The evaluation report compiled by Dan Conlin after the workshops confirms that this is exactly what happened and includes excellent suggestions for making next year’s event even more of a success.



Dan Conlin and Barry MacDonald with a kerosene-lit 6<sup>th</sup> order lens. *Josette d'Entremont*



## VOICES OF THE LIGHTS

### Daddy's Island

Harry Major grew up poor in a little place called Petites, on the barren south coast of Newfoundland. Little Harry lived and played on the ocean, fishing to help support his brothers and sisters.

He later moved to Nova Scotia, working as a saw-filer at the Halifax Shipyards. It wasn't great work, but Harry Major was a proud man who took his duties as a family provider very seriously.

But when Harry was 48, something happened that would change the few remaining years of his life – Betty Island. From 1976 to 1983, Harry lived his dream of steady employment, hunting, fishing and family on this small lighthouse island near Terence Bay.

Harry died in February, 1986. Seventeen years later to the month, his daughter June Richardson shared her memories of Harry Major's life on Betty Island.

Daddy was a caring, loving man. He came from a family of 12. They were very poor in Petites. He used to tell me things – not often, only when he had a little drink of whiskey – like he was so hungry when went to school, he



Harry and Kay Major on Betty Island. June Richardson

would go down to the brook and drink the water to fill his tummy up. So they were really poor. It was rough times. His father was a fisherman too, and he was an ill man. He laid in bed for years and years. But he fished for a while.

My brother put it this way – he said Daddy was from the old school. He was a great provider. He was a wonderful, wonderful man. He was very reserved in his own right, but if you met him, he just opened his arms to you. When we would stay on the island with him, the first



Harry brings his grandsons to the landing on Betty Island. June Richardson

thing in the morning he'd say to my husband was "OK, Larry, let's have a drink of whiskey!"

Everybody loved him and everybody called him Uncle Harry. He was just a wonderful man. He had a heart as big as the world.

#### Island Visits

It all depended on the day and the weather. If you got beyond the shores of Terence Bay itself this huge wind would come up and Daddy would say "Honey, if the Queen was on the other side, I couldn't take you over in the boat!" My sister used to call it "cagey". A person could drown in seconds.

When we got to the island we had to go up to the skids and he would always have the old tractor there.

My boys loved it. They were young then, probably six and seven. They'd get on the tractor and they'd be bounced all over the place and we'd be walkin' over. The road was very, very pretty because on both sides were tons of alders and trees which made it like a little hollow walk-through, and then when you got to the end of the road the lighthouse itself was perched right on this great big huge rock.

There was the lighthouse, and there was the generator shed and a shed for storage. There was a great big rock and it had a big X on it – that's where the helicopters would land and bring the supplies in.

The lighthouse that Daddy lived in was like a big old farmhouse. It was beautiful! When you walked in there was this huge porch and then you would walk into the kitchen, which was about 30 by 20 feet. It was like a congregation area, because they only had a little tiny living room and a little bedroom downstairs.

In the kitchen Daddy used to have a little cot, and it was right against the window, where the sun would come in and you'd hear the water and the spray hitting the rocks.

The light was on top of the main house. You'd go up these steps that must have been about two feet wide. They were very narrow, very steep, and of course you got

to the top and they had the lantern. You could see ocean for miles. Just ocean. It was lovely.

When the big storms would come they would even hit the windows. We used to go out, Mum and I and clean the windows off after the storm was over 'cause there was so much salt on the windows.

### **The Work**

He did a lot of painting of the buildings. He had a little tiny lawn mower. Daddy was always puttering. Whatever needed fixing, Daddy was like a jack-of-all-trades and a master of them all. He knew how to do everything and anything. He just took care of it as though it were his house and it was gonna be his house for as long as he was there.

Oh, he took great pride into it. I think that's why they appreciated having him there. He never had to phone up and say "Oh, should I do this, should I do that?" He was a smart man and if something was broken, if something leaked or whatever, Daddy would just fix it.

Daddy said he had the biggest job in the world! He had to answer the sched [radio schedule] machine twice a day! The sched machine was like a Ham radio-type thing and he had to be there in the lighthouse twice a day to



The Betty Island retreat. *June Richardson*

there! You're not gonna make it!"

Mum told us she loved it 'cause her hands were always going. She was always knitting or she was sewing, and she loved the outdoors. She would go pickin' cranberries and she would help Daddy. If ever she got bored, she would say to Daddy "Take me in. I gotta go ashore now! I've got cabin fever."

He would take her ashore. She'd go to their house in Terence Bay and stay a couple days, go to bingo, go to church and come back out again. That was a nice arrangement because I think when two people live together you need space. You need a little space.

### **Good Times**

One year Daddy and Mum decided that they should have a little retreat and a place for my boys to have fun in. So they cut all these little sticks down and they made themselves a tiny camp right on the beach. When the kids came out of the salt water, they could run inside and get warm.

Daddy did something really special and I gotta tell you this. He said "You have to wash the salt water off you," so somehow he obtained this great big plastic container. The container one time had peppermint schnapps, or liquor inside it, so naturally the plastic had absorbed the smell of this very strong concentrated peppermint juice.

He made a hammock from ropes and he put this plastic container with rainwater in it on the south side of this little hut.

When the boys came out of the water, they'd stand underneath and he would take the cap where he had punched all these holes into it with a nail, and he'd give it a little twist and this beautiful cascade of peppermint spring water would come down over the boys!

They'd be screamin' and yellin'. I just loved that part! When somebody says "What do you think about the



Harry assists with fine dining on Betty Island. *June Richardson*

answer this machine to make sure everything was okay.

We'd be over at the boat shed or we'd be pickin' berries or we'd be havin' a bonfire. We'd be just doin' our thing and he'd say "I gotta go home get that sched machine!" 'Cause he figured if he didn't get there, the people would come out check on him to see if something was wrong.

Daddy was a worry-wart. Everything had to be perfect!

### **Mother**

My Mum, she was born in Terence Bay. She was 18 when she married Daddy. Oh, she loved it! People couldn't understand how she could do it because she was so chatty-like her daughter! Genes run in families, don't they?!

She was very active. Mum had to be going all the time. And they would say "Kay, you're not gonna last out



New and old lights on Betty Island, circa 1982. *June Richardson*

island?," that comes to my mind just like *that!*

We still talk about it when they come home. I'm gonna put a book together for my oldest boy, because he's the only one who's got children.

He's got a little four-year-old girl now, and I want to try to let her know – even though she's not been there and experienced it – what her great-granddaddy did. I have to, because it's so special.

### *Leaving*

All of a sudden I just knew that Daddy's time was bein' pulled out from underneath him. I think that devastated him. I really do. He didn't talk much about it, and Mamma didn't talk much about it, but I think that really shocked him.

He used to say "Honey, I hope I stay here 'till my dying days." He actually did, because when he got off the island three years later Daddy passed away from cancer. But every waking moment that he spent there was paradise and heaven to him. You could see the change into him. He put on weight, he was just active, he was like a kid. He had so much to do. It was amazing.

I think it was his niche. Daddy loved to fish. He loved the quiet, peace and quiet of it all. He just absolutely *fit* right in to that kind of lifestyle. I moulded itself right around him and he it. I never saw him in an unhappy moment, or unhappy mood. *Never.*

When people would come – Oh My God! – you'd think it was Christmas every day! He'd bring the beer, the whiskey, whatever you wanted, and the lobster and the

fish, and he just absolutely loved it.

There's not a day goes by that I don't think about it, 'cause I miss Daddy. And of course Daddy's island. We never called it Betty Island. I used to always call it Daddy's Island. I still do.

Funny, while I'm talkin' about the island, I *feel* it. I can see the sunshine. I can smell the seaweed, the salt water. I can smell the oils in the shed that he used on the fish nets. I can see those big puncheons full of fish, and that old oily film on the top.

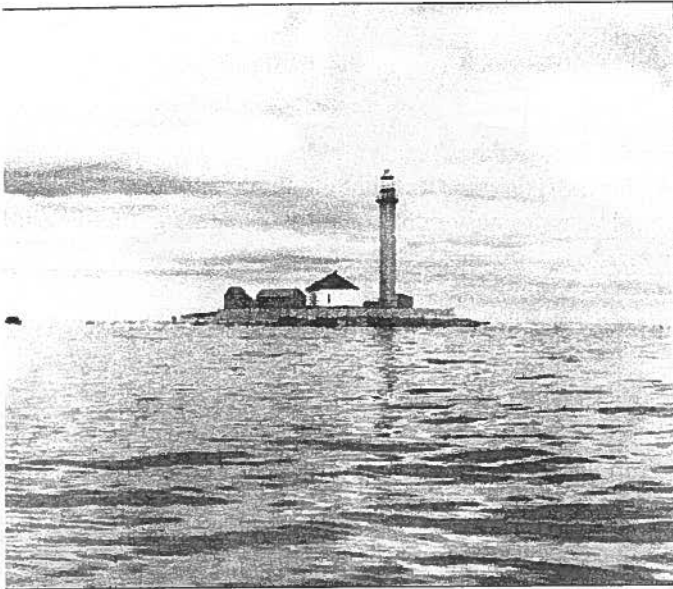
I can just picture everything as we're talkin' today. I loved it there. So I won't go back to see what kind of mess it's in now, because I understand it's just the little lighthouse there now. Everything's gone.

But not our memories. Not our memories.



★ ★ ★





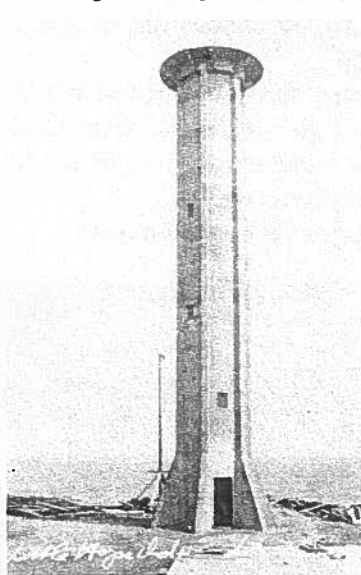
Little Hope Island circa 1940. *Courtesy Ken Burrows*

## NO HOPE FOR LITTLE HOPE

Nova Scotia loses historic south shore lighthouse  
*Chris Mills*

Little Hope is lost. Weakened by years of erosion and hammered by Hurricane Juan last September, the 77-foot concrete tower finally crashed into the sea after a vicious storm on December 7, 2003.

A lighthouse has marked this barren rockpile near Port Mouton since 1865. The tower that fell on December 7<sup>th</sup> was just five years short of its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Building the new tower in 1908.  
*Canadian Coast Guard*

The original lighthouse was built of wood. The humble structure belied its importance as a guide for commercial vessels bound for Halifax from ports along the eastern seaboard of the United States. While ships relied on the safety of its red beam, Little Hope's lightkeepers relied on stout walls and personal fortitude to weather the constant battering of the sea.

The lighthouse survived until 1906, when it was claimed not by the sea, but by fire. Soon afterwards, workers began pouring concrete for a graceful, circular, ribbed, tower which in 1908 was topped by a second order Fresnel lens and a circular iron lantern.



Little Hope Island today, showing tower wreckage at left and *Lady Helen 1. Canadian Coast Guard*

Keepers and their families endured another 40 years of harsh living conditions on the island, battering down the hatches whenever the seas crashed over the wooden wall surrounding the station, to inundate the house, tower and boathouse.

By 1948 Little Hope was left to stand alone, no doubt to the relief of its long-suffering keepers. In later years workers removed the intricate lens system and decapitated the tower, leaving it headless, but not quite lightless. Until Hurricane Juan's storm surge set the tower leaning 10-15 degrees, a little solar-powered plastic lens continued to wink its warning seaward every 10 seconds.

All that remains of the tower today is a pile of concrete rubble and twisted re-bar. Coast Guard navaids superintendent Carl Goodwin says there is a whistle buoy south of the island and that buoys are an effective way to mark hazards for fishermen and yachters. He says the Coast Guard has "no immediate plans," to replace the lighthouse.

Strangely enough, the fishing vessel *Lady Helen* - run aground on the island a few years ago - weathered the storm that claimed the tower. With the disappearance of the lighthouse, the forlorn wreck is now the only warning for mariners to stay clear of Little Hope Island.



Little Hope Island light before removal of the lantern.  
*Canadian Coast Guard*



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### **Boularderie Island (Sept 2003)**

*Ronald Stewart*

Work has progressed and will be starting in earnest on the gallery and light level of what we are calling the Boularderie Island light (really the "MacNeil's Beach Light"). We have engaged a project manager and have enlisted Central Building Supply from Sydney as a community partner to match the funds (as per the grant) and they will be supplying materials. We are also in the process of negotiating for electrification of the light.

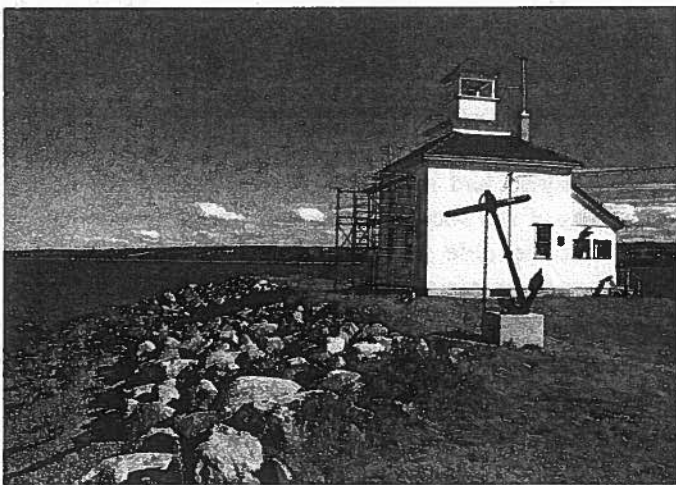
### **Cape North**

The June, 2003 issue of *Notices to Mariners* notes that the Coast Guard plans to discontinue the fog horn at Cape North. There has been a fog signal at this remote site since 1908. Unfortunately, the continued emasculation of our lightstations (through removal of fog horns and the use of low-power lens systems) is a sign of the financially-strapped and electronic world in which we now live.

### **Gilberts Cove**

*Chris Mills*

The afternoon of October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003 saw stunning blue skies and light winds over the Gilberts Cove lighthouse on Saint Mary's Bay. About 45 people gathered for the a ceremony to recognize an ACOA grant of \$29,317 towards restoration of this one-of-kind 1904 lighthouse. Then-federal Minister of Fisheries Robert was on hand, along



Gilberts Cove lighthouse. *Chris Mills*

with Municipal Warden Jim Thurber, and Jim and Lorraine Lovett of the Gilberts Cove and District Historical Society.

The combined lighthouse/dwelling has received a new roof, chimney, re-built lantern, and has had its water frontage beefed-up with armor rock. This is gem of a lighthouse in a spectacular location! Congratulations to all who have worked so hard to bring this lighthouse back to

life. Look for details of the light's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in future 2004 editions of *The Lightkeeper*.

### **Mabou**

The Mabou lighthouse was not open to the public in 2003, despite being advertised in the new *Visit Our Lights* brochure. Visitors report that the light is in rough shape. It would be extremely unfortunate to lose this graceful 1908 tower.

### **Port Bickerton**

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Interpretive Centre

*Gwen Robar*

In late May we had our annual beach and buildings clean-up. This is well attended by community and local people. We finished up with a pot-luck lunch which was enjoyed by all. Prior to opening on June 15 we were able to get repairs done to the tower of the old lighthouse. We also replaced two windows and purchased paint to do the outside of the keeper's bungalow. All this was made possible by the Kaplan Fund and volunteer labour.

This was our 7<sup>th</sup> year of operation. We were fortunate again this year to have five enthusiastic staff members.

In August we catered lunch to a group from California (two of whom had visited our light last summer). Following lunch they were entertained by stories told by Harry O'Hara, the son of the very first lightkeeper, and Eileen Beiswanger, who with her husband Harold and children tended the light in the 1960s.

On September 14 we had our annual Hymn Sing. Everyone says it is getting better every year. Despite bad weather in July and part of August we are happy to say revenue was up by 57 %. This is due to the fact that we installed an admission booth near the parking lot, meaning visitors wanting to access any of our facilities must pay admission.

In previous years only people entering the Interpretive Centre paid admission. Our overall numbers were about the same as last year. We closed for the season on September 15.

### **Sable Island Lights Out?**

The November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003 (Vol. 28, No. 11) edition of *Notices to Mariners* notes that "the Canadian Coast Guard intends to permanently discontinue the following aids to navigation: Sable Island West End Light, List of Lights #665 and Sable Island East End Light, List of Lights #666."

The Department of Marine and Fisheries established the west light in 1872, and built the east light a year later. Both lights were de-staffed in 1960. Despite decreased reliance on visual aids to navigation, it would be very unfortunate to see both lights darkened, given their long-serving contribution to the safety of life at sea around "The Graveyard of the Atlantic."

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## KAPLAN FUND UPDATE

*Brenda Shannon*

Seven lighthouse properties in the province are now in better shape, thanks to the generosity of the J. M. Kaplan Fund. The New York-based fund made a grant of \$50,000 US to the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society in 2002/03 to be used for "the preservation of the historic lighthouses of Nova Scotia".

A further stipulation was that matching funds were to be raised so that a total of about \$120,000 CDN would be made available to be put to work. The Kaplan Fund opted to work through the NSLPS because they had been impressed by the work the Society has been able to do with very limited resources. The news of the grant and information on how to apply for funds were published in *The Lightkeeper*.

The NSLPS established a Kaplan Fund committee to draw up the criteria needed for a successful funding application, to review applications and to make recommendations to the NSLPS board. The committee discovered that giving away someone else's money responsibly called for a lot of thought and care!

Eleven groups submitted applications and ten were found eligible for grants. They included buildings at Five Islands, Port Greville, Port Bickerton, Borden Wharf (Canning), Gilberts Cove, Walton, Port George, Coffin Island, Boularderie Island and Low Point.

The range of work to be done included shingling, roofing, decks, rails and painting. Seven groups have been successful in carrying out their projects. Three, for various reasons, have not been able to take advantage of their funding.

The committee followed up on the work being done wherever possible, with Doug Bamford and Barry MacDonald visiting many of the sites. Chris Mills attended a very successful ceremony at Gilberts Cove.

The Kaplan Fund committee will now undertake a review of the process of what has been a new and exciting responsibility.

The next step will be a full report and accounting to the Kaplan Fund, together with our sincere thanks for including NSLPS as a participant in this project which recognizes, in a very tangible and practical way, our province's significant and important maritime heritage.

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## CHEBUCTO HEAD LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

*Amelise Chapman*

Following a number of opportunities in the past months to present the goals of the Chebucto Head Lighthouse Society to a wider public audience, we have had some encouraging

feedback on our attempts to preserving and restore Chebucto Head and its lighthouse.

The interim lease agreement has gone from DFO to the Atlantic Lighthouse Council (ALC) and we are awaiting the ALC's response to draw up a sublease for us, in conjunction with the NS Underwater Council.

Following a major car burn at Chebucto Head in October (which charred the lighthouse and damaged the lower window), we were able to convince DFO that we needed the previously unused gate to be installed further from the site and to be locked at night.

By Hallowe'en night we had the new gate in place, and we have a local resident who has kindly agreed to be the keeper for a very reasonable fee. We were thrilled to have a sign at the gate donated by a local sign company.

The gate, which is locked from dusk until dawn, proved useful a few days later when a stolen car was abandoned in front of it – perhaps we prevented yet another act of vandalism near the lighthouse.

There was some concern by local visitors about restricting access to Chebucto Head, but generally we have been successful in convincing people that we do need to prevent further destruction of the site.

We also hope that the gate will be a temporary measure until we can replace its effects with our presence at the keepers house.

We had a major fundraising event to cover costs of winterising the keeper's house: Cynthia Grove held an art show with her paintings and donated 50% of the proceeds to the Society for this purpose.

This event, which was co-sponsored by a number of individuals who donated greeting cards as well as their time, was a big success in spite of bad weather that prevented visitors from coming out.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone who helped with this. We also had several cash donations from friends, members of the society and local businesses, so that we will now be able to secure the building with Lexan windows and replace the damaged door.

Following the mail-out of an information leaflet to the surrounding local communities, we had numerous new participants at our recent general meeting, at which Dan Conlin (NSLPS) gave a fascinating slide presentation about the light(s) at Chebucto Head.

Word is spreading and support is mounting – we can make the future positive for this amazing place!

On January 19, 2004 at 7:30 p.m., we will hold our AGM at the Herring Cove Fire Department. Chris Mills will be telling us about the oral history of Chebucto Head lighthouse families– please come and join us!

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## STUDENTS TAKE A SHINE TO OUR LIGHTS

Josette d'Entremont, our tireless lighthouse ambassador, paid a very successful visit to George Bissett Elementary School in Cole Harbour on Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, in her continuing quest to get young folks interested in lighthouses. Josette writes:

The theme was "Active Life, Healthy Kids". Anne



Lighthouse artwork adorns the hallways at George Bissett School.  
Josette d'Entremont

Kay is the volunteer program developer—she had just received funding from the Halifax Regional School Board to continue the "Nova Scotia Lighthouse Walking Tour".

The first tour was at the Middle Musquodoboit School last year, with the aim of helping youth become more physically active in a non-competitive atmosphere while having fun!

The program involves students who walk around the school yard or gym, recording their progress on a record sheet and their NS lighthouse route map. When they reach a lighthouse, they receive a collector's card of that lighthouse for their album, a pin for their pin saver, and a sticker for their map.

The teacher then reads about the lighthouse from the description book. The incentives/rewards are: they get to make a fridge magnet, bookmark and a puzzle, using a different lighthouse each year. They also construct a 3-D lighthouse with shells, rocks, fish and birds.

Another incentive is the lighthouse descriptive book which contains information and pictures about the 49 lighthouses used in the program (*Visit Our Lighthouses* brochure). To end the year, students may visit a real lighthouse, with a picnic and games. Along with the fitness

and fun aspects, there are links to mapping skills, geography, language arts, science and math. The HRM School Board hopes that more schools will get involved and Anne Kay tells me that even the folks at local Senior Citizens' Homes are starting up their very own "Lighthouse Programs"!

Staff at George Bissett are very excited about this new lighthouse program. Students have already decorated their school hallways with their own creations of lighthouse drawings!

## LIGHTSHOP

**Help support the NSLPS!** Profits from these items go to the society to help save our historic lights. *Please note: NSLPS now has Charitable Tax Status and an HST number. Because of this we must add tax to our prices.*

**Lighthouses and Lights of Nova Scotia: A Complete Guide**, by E.H Rip Irwin. Nimbus Publishing, 2003. The definitive book on all existing Nova Scotia lighthouses.

\$32.00 including tax. **Book + packing and postage:** Nova Scotia: \$40.00. For mailing in Canada outside Nova Scotia: \$43.00. For mailing to USA: \$45.00. Air mail to USA please add \$3.00

### NSLPS Membership Pin:

Enhance your prestige with this oval pin, showing the NSLPS logo in red and gold on a dark blue background. \$7.50 including packing and postage.

### Sambro Lighthouse Pewter Key Chain:

\$16.00 including packing and postage.

### Lighthouse Locator Map:

Correlates with the book *Lighthouses and Lights of Nova Scotia*.

\$18.00 including packing and postage

**Order from: Pam Tupper**, 6501 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Head of Saint Margaret's Bay, NS, B3A 2C5  
e-mail: gannetrock@yahoo.ca

**Orders must be pre-paid. Please make cheques payable to the NSLPS.**

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NSLPS MEMBERSHIP FORM - January 1 - December 31, 2004

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Family/Group names for extra cards \_\_\_\_\_

Single - \$15.00	Institution/Group - \$30.00 (4 cards)	Patron - \$100.00
Family - \$20.00	Sustaining - \$50.00	Foreign - \$15.00 U.S. Funds, or equivalent.

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

Mail to: THE NOVA SCOTIA LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
c/o Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax, B3J 1S3



