



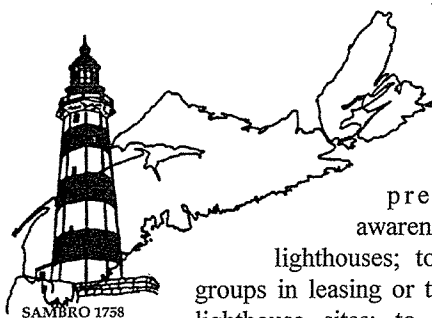
NSLPS 10th ANNIVERSARY!

THE Lightkeeper

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Vol. 11, No. 3, September 2004





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.

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

LIGHTKEEPER EDITOR: CHRIS MILLS

PATRONS: Carl R. Lautenslager, Anne and Eric Mills, Raye Miles, Betty Schloss, C.A. Straughn, Peter Westaway.

AFFILIATES: Beacon Memories, Burntcoat Head Park, Cape Sable Historical Society, Central Nova Tourist Association, Chebucto Head Lighthouse Society, Cunard Steamship Society, English Harbour Heritage Society, Gilberts Cove and District Historical Society, Greville Bay Shipbuilding Museum Society, Fieldwood Heritage Society, Five Islands Lighthouse Preservation Society, Friends of the Yarmouth Light Society, Henry Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, Islands Historical Society, LinArt Designs, Medway Area Communities Association, Mosher Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, Municipality of the District of Yarmouth, North Shore Development Association, Nova Scotia Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, Port George District Lighthouse Society, Region of Queens Municipality, Spencers Island Community Association, Sydney Harbour Fortification Society, Terence Bay Lighthouse Committee, Town of Lockeport, Walton Area Development Association.

NSLPS EXECUTIVE 2004/2005

President/Lighthouse Protection Act Committee- Barry MacDonald 827-2027 e-mail: threefathom@eastlink.ca

Past President- Tony Thompson 477-7366 e-mail: tony@mscs.dal.ca

First Vice President-1st Director, Affiliate Services- Doug Bamford 494-8180 (w) e-mail: dbamford@nscad.ns.ca

Second Vice President/Editor, The Lightkeeper- Chris Mills 868-2313 e-mail: ketch@ns.sympatico.ca

Treasurer- Peter Flemming 477-7531 e-mail: peterf@nscad.ns.ca

Secretary- Donna Merriam 461-0868 (h/w) e-mail: dmerriam@canad.com

Director, Website Content- Kathy Brown 479-3115 e-mail: kathy@fromthesea.ca

Director, Webmaster, Membership- Peter MacCulloch e-mail: petermac@ocean1.net

Director, Trips and Programmes/Mail person- Dorothy MacLeod 423-8034

Director, Member-at-Large- Josette d'Entremont e-mail: josette_dentremont@msn.com

Director, Member-at-Large- Annelise Chapman.

Director, Member-at-Large - John Ure

Director, Member-at-Large- John Langely

Director, Member-at-Large- Dan Sinclair 677-2133

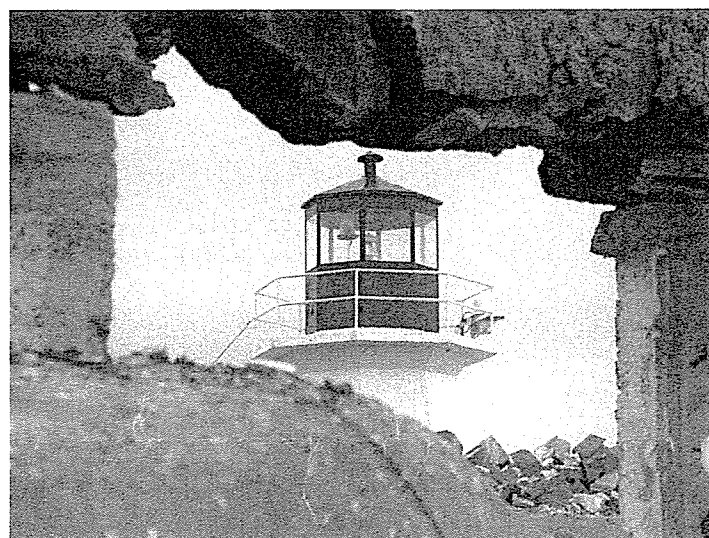
WELCOME ABOARD

The following new members recently joined the NSLPS:

Helen Flemming, Hermine Moskowitz, Tonya Clark

PROGRAMS

CHEBUCTO HEAD LIGHTHOUSE: PAST AND FUTURE



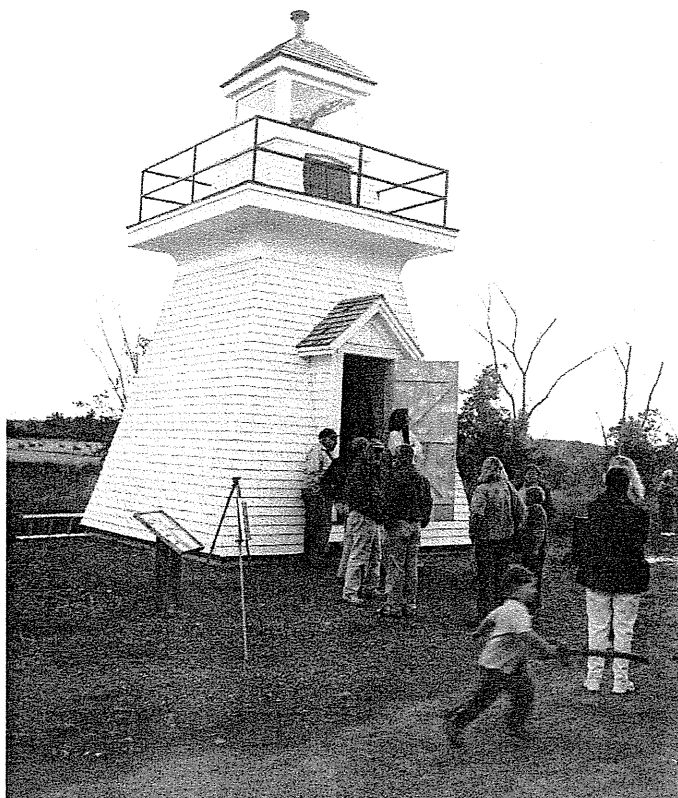
Wednesday, October 27 - 7:00 PM - Reports of NSLPS Activities/7:30 PM - Illustrated Talk

In May 2004, the tragic fire which destroyed the house at Chebucto Head made headline news. Join us for a special evening about this well-loved light at the entrance to Halifax Harbour. Learn about the four lighthouses that have stood on this headland. Meet some of the lightkeeping families who lived there and hear their stories, and get an update on future plans from the Chebucto Head Lighthouse Society.

BUILD POINT PRIM LIGHTHOUSE

Wednesday, November 24 - 7:00 PM

Point Prim Lighthouse in your living room? How? In miniature of course. Make a model of this historic lighthouse with attached dwelling which guarded the entrance to Digby Gut beginning in 1817. This workshops is for adults. There will be a fee for the materials. Sponsored by the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society. Number of participants is extremely limited. To register, call 423-8034 after October 1



Tony Thompson

BORDEN WHARF LIGHTHOUSE COMES TO LIFE!

Tony Thompson

The Borden Wharf Lighthouse in Canning, Nova Scotia celebrated its 100th birthday with a spectacular re-birth on Saturday September 4th, 2004.

The light has had a chequered life. It was commissioned in 1904 and sat on the wharf at the edge of the town of Canning which at the time was a significant port. With the decline of the port, the lighthouse was decommissioned in 1921. It remained in its abandoned state until 1959 when it partially burned and the top was destroyed. The remaining lower part was removed by a local farmer for use as a pig pen.

In 1995 things began to improve; the lighthouse was acquired by the town of Canning, partially restored and used as a tourist bureau.

In 2003 three quite separate circumstances came together for the benefit of this lighthouse. First of all, the structure was acquired by the Fieldwood Heritage Society of Canning; secondly, the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society, having been granted money by the Kaplan Fund of New York was asking for suitable restoration projects and thirdly, East Kings Vocational School shop teacher Kevin Wood was willing to take on an

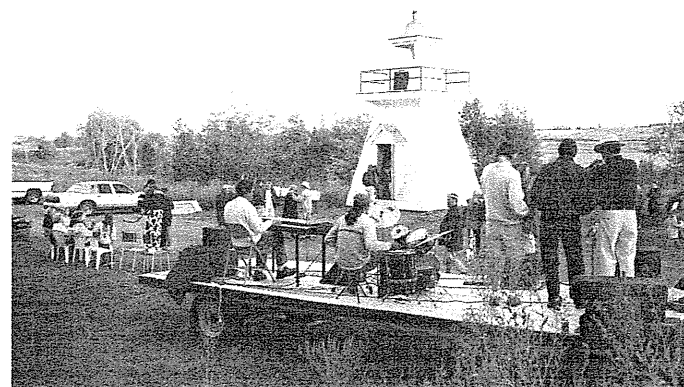


People gather as the Borden Wharf lighthouse is re-lit. *Tony Thompson*

ambitious project with his students. The Fieldwood Heritage Society applied for Kaplan funds and at the same time asked Kevin Wood if his students could do the restoration work. Both requests were agreed to and the project got under way.

The culmination of this three-way collaboration was a splendid relighting of the lighthouse on Saturday September 4th. The evening began at 6:30 with a "sail-past" of about 8 kayaks on the Habitant River below the restored lighthouse. Two groups supplied live music and there was dancing and food donated by the local Legion Hall.

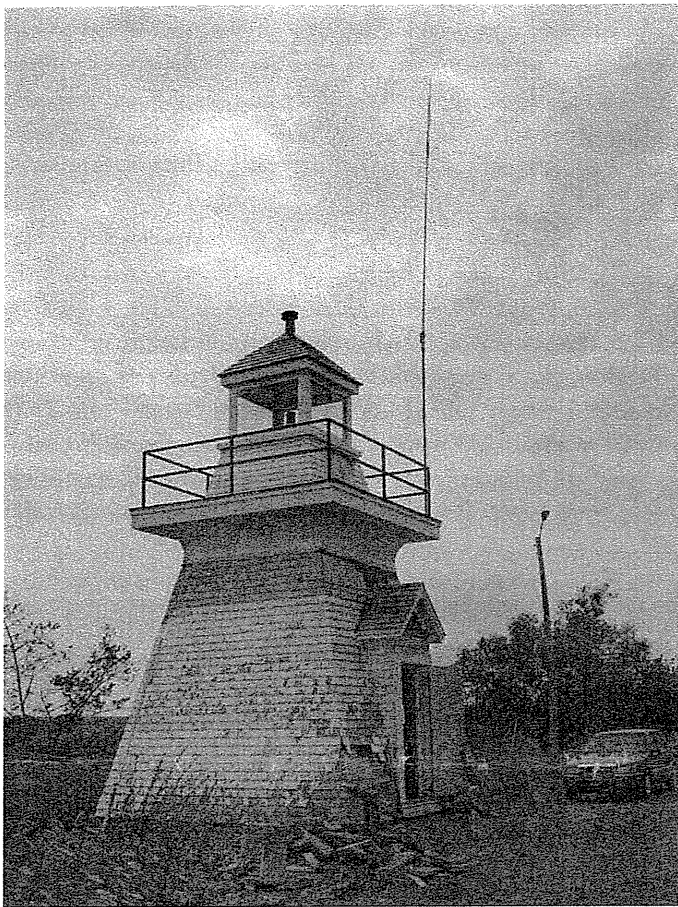
The lighthouse was open and one could go up to the lantern and look at the view and hear something of the history of the port and lighthouse. There were a few speeches and as darkness fell, the light was unveiled by the grandson of the original (and only) lightkeeper, sparklers were set off and this delightful ceremony came to an end.



Tony Thompson

As the result of the dedicated hard work of the students guided by Kevin Wood of the Fieldwood Heritage Society and its president John Newcombe and finally, the financing from the J.M. Kaplan fund via the NSLPS, we have the good news story of the resurrection of this lighthouse.

NOVA SCOTIA LIGHTHOUSES AND HAM RADIO: THE INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE AND LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND



The Canning lighthouse project nears completion. *Courtesy
Fred Archibald*

Canning Lighthouse is "On the Air"

Fred and Helen Archibald

In recent years more and more people have begun to appreciate the beauty and historic importance of the world's lighthouses. Many show an elegance and fineness of design that make them irreplaceable treasures. Some lighthouse fanciers are also amateur or "ham" radio operators.

Six years ago some of them started International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend, an annual event in which amateurs use portable short-wave equipment set up in lighthouses around the world to communicate with other lighthouses, as well as interested amateurs at home.

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend 2004 was August 21-22. More than 350 lighthouses around the world were to be on the air! Local radio amateurs Fred and Helen Archibald (call-signs VE1FA

and VA1YL) set up a station in Canning's newly restored Borden Wharf Lighthouse..

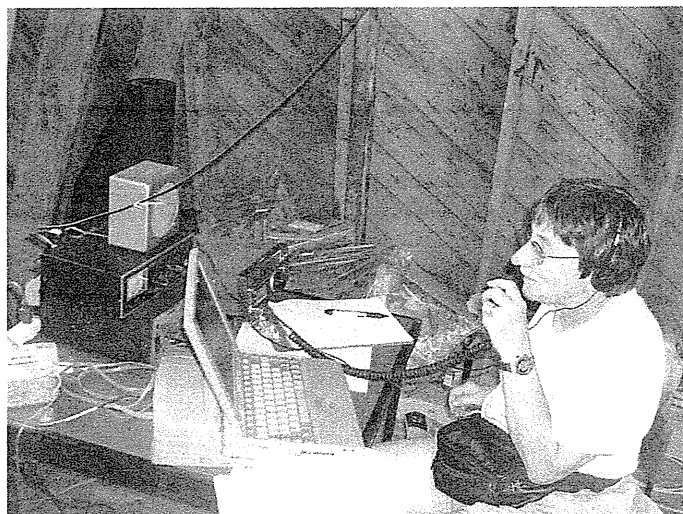
On Saturday, August 21, we attached a 27-foot tall aerial to the steel railing around the lamp-house and set up a 100-watt short-wave transmitter/receiver on a table on the first floor of the lighthouse. The lighthouse was now temporary radio station VE1FA/L!

Using the 20-meter short-wave band, Fred and Helen called for Amateurs from around the world who wished to contact a lighthouse. They also listened carefully for signals from other lighthouses. Shortwave transmission and reception is as much art as science and depends on the sun. Solar conditions were not very good, but good enough: about 70 other stations to be contacted! "Hello, VE1FA/L, the Canning Lighthouse, this is WA2LQO/L, Nantucket Lightship No.1. We copy you very well!"

The little station in the Borden Wharf Lighthouse also reached out to contact the East Point Light (NY), Port Huron #2 Light, Fort Michigan Light, Tuckerton (NJ) Light, Oak Island Light (NC), the Dunkirk Light (NY), and Burnt Island Light (ME).

When the sun and atmosphere behave, the 20 meter short-wave band can be heard around the world: when conditions are bad you'll reach further by going outside and shouting. Would conditions improve enough to carry the Canning Lighthouse's signal "across the pond"?

Hope was fading with the afternoon when we heard a faint voice giving an "MM" (British) call sign. It was the Hoxa Head Light, standing on a rocky cliff on the tiny Scottish island of South Ronaldsay in the Orkneys. A second faint voice connected us with Barnsley lighthouse on the coast near Edinburgh. We also contacted Irish and Italian hams looking for



Sitting on the first floor of Canning's Borden Wharf lighthouse, Helen Archibald uses a 100-watt shortwave transmitter to talk with other lighthouses. *Courtesy Fred and Helen Archibald*

lighthouses.

When the Borden Wharf lighthouse was built in 1904, radio was in its infancy and the ships of the world relied on lighthouses to navigate safely in dangerous waters.

Today, the radio miracles of radar, LORAN, the global positioning system (GPS), shortwave and VHF marine radio have made most lighthouses obsolete. But obsolete as they may be, the Borden Wharf Light and its 11,000-plus sister lighthouses are striking markers of the history of the world's great sailors and ships – a history to which Canning has contributed in no small way.

Gilberts Cove Radiowaves

Spurgeon G. "Spud" Roscoe VE1BC

At the March 2004 meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club I learned of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLS). I joined this organization thinking it would be an excellent hobby for an old retired Coast Guard radio operator. Through the ARLS I learned of the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend and mentioned this to the Gilberts Cove Historical Society. They were most receptive to the idea that I put their lighthouse "on the air".

We arrived at the Gilberts Cove Lighthouse on August 21st. That evening was the darkest night we ever spent in our trailer. There are no lights anywhere near the lighthouse and it was rather eerie driving back to it, especially when we rounded the corner and saw the trailer and lighthouse sitting there in the dark, wind and rain. We went to bed. There was no way I was going to try and operate in that mess.

We got up early in the morning and I gave a quick call on 3750 kilohertz with the slim possibility Fred Archibald VE1FA at the Canning Lighthouse or some of the guys from the Halifax Club operating club station VE1FO at Peggy's Cove might be around.

At 1256 GMT I went back up to the recommended frequency for the lighthouse crowd on 20 meters. There I had a chat with Larry operating the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club Station, Wilmington North Carolina AC4RC from the Oak Island, North Carolina lighthouse. This was to be my best lighthouse contact.

There were a lot of people around the Gilberts Cove lighthouse. There seemed to be someone around from the time it became daylight. Some were running and some just walking for exercise. There were a lot of cars coming and going. They all were tourists and all had relatives who were interested in amateur radio.

If these lighthouses generate the interest this one seemed to have, the cost involved in restoring them must make sense!

GILBERTS COVE DRAWS 'EM IN!

Lorraine Amirault Lovett

It was with some relief and a little sadness that we closed the Gilbert's Cove Lighthouse on Friday the 24th of September. Since early June, volunteers have had daily commitments with the operation of the museum, the little tea room and gift shop. A volunteer manager and a bilingual university student covered July and August daily hours.

In September we opened for four hours, seven days a week. Even with the OPEN sign in the window and the Canadian flag flying, many vehicles drove the short distance out on the gravel road to stop briefly, take pictures and move on without even darkening the door of the lighthouse.

Even though many travellers do not visit the lighthouse of which we are so proud, this year was our best summer in 22 years. 4028 people left their names in the 2004 visitors' book – an increase of more than a thousand from 2003. Folks came from all provinces and territories of Canada, 42 American states, the United Kingdom, Europe, Kuwait and New Zealand to visit "Willie Jane's" 100-year-old lighthouse.

We are more than satisfied that Nova Scotians made up 25% of our visitors, since we have been encouraging our members and neighbours to visit and enjoy the lighthouse and grounds. The visitors' varied and complimentary remarks definitely make the members' hard work worthwhile. From "awesome, breathtaking and charming", to "unique, very cool and WOW", they definitely penned messages indicating they were impressed with the views, the restoration work, the preserved history with photos, the friendly people and the service in the tearoom and gift shop.

In July and August we had two successful events. The annual family picnic was held on Sunday, July 18th with host band Bonded Stock entertaining the large crowd gathered on the grounds. Our favoured Acadian dish Rapure Pie was a big draw. The afternoon event under sunny skies was a great gathering place for families and was our best fund raiser to date, netting \$2,000.

On Sunday, August 1 we had our 100th anniversary celebration to commemorate the William Joseph Melanson family, which tended the light for 68 years. A complimentary chowder lunch was served to about 200 members and visitors. Two community elders, Ronald Kinney and Vincent Comeau, both with close ties to the lighthouse, performed the cake cutting. Ronald, his brother and father were lobster fishermen out of Gilbert's Cove for more than a couple of generations. Vincent, a carpenter all his adult life, was taught (as a lad of 14)

how to build a boat by the amicable light keeper in Willie Jane's boat house.

The Ancestors' Family quilt was finished just in time for our celebration. Relatives from away enjoyed being "back home" for this event. By all accounts we had a great day.

The remainder of our restoration projects should be finished by the end of October. The floors of the tea room, gift shop and front entrance will be assessed by our contractor for removal of the plywood and refinishing of the soft wood boards beneath. Some minor landscaping and driveway work is to be completed this fall.

The Haunted Lighthouse on Hallowe'en night will again be a popular event. Last year 125 children checked out the scary site, accompanied by adults who got a few good scares. Treating the kids is a good way to give back to the community that has been so supportive to the Historical Society.

In the spring of 2005 we look forward to planting a few flowers and erecting a permanent welcoming sign at the entrance to the driveway.

SPENCERS ISLAND CELEBRATES LIGHTHOUSE CENTENNIAL

Kathy Brown, with information from the Amherst Daily News

On the evening of July 10, the community of Spencers Island marked the 100th birthday of their lighthouse. The event organized by the local community association, featured cake and family activities, a talk by marine historian Stanley Spicer and a ceremonial lighting of the light.

As well as celebrating the long history of the lighthouse, the community honoured its own achievement in being one of the first communities in the province to obtain ownership of a lighthouse. The tower was opened as a small museum in 1991.

"This lighthouse would have great stories to tell," said Bill Grant, who grew up in the small community. "When I was five or six years old I sure enjoyed coming over to the lighthouse, when all the boats were coming and going. Spencer's Island was a busy little spot and it still is. It's a great little place to visit and see all your friends."

Cumberland County Councillor and Spencers Island resident Ratchford Merriam described the lighthouse as "an icon," for the community and commended the work of the community association, which looks after the lighthouse as well as the community hall and the *Mary Celeste* cairn.

I know that the campaign to save this lighthouse was long and hard. I remember Stanley Spicer's many visits to the Maritime Museum to discuss the project with staff and the thrill we all felt when the community was successful in obtaining the building.

The lighthouse, which sits right on the sandy beach at Spencers Island, helped show the way for many fine sailing ships in its heyday. It is a major feature of this historic Minas Channel ship-building community. NSLPS congratulates the community and Stanley Spicer in their achievements and for their continued care of the historic Spencers Island lighthouse

New Helmsman for Real Properties

Barry MacDonald

DFO/Real Properties announced on Monday, September 13 that David Cooke, who has headed the department's divestiture file for the past several years, has left DFO for another federal service job. Glen Fry steps into Cooke's position. Glen has much experience in the Real Properties division, and the NSLPS welcomes his appointment.

SAMBRO ISLAND IN SILVER

from the Royal Canadian Mint website

A new series from the Royal Canadian Mint celebrates the rich history of Canada's lighthouses. North America's oldest operating lighthouse, on Sambro Island launches the series.



During the 18th century, ships sailing into Halifax faced a dangerous proposition. The port was often fogged in and more than 30 shoals lay in wait - with no lighthouse to show the way. In 1758, a tower was built on Sambro Island. With a fixed oil lamp burning at 35.1 m (115 ft) above sea level, it was a small match for port conditions, but over the next 200 years, its performance steadily improved.

Today, the tower is 25 m (82 ft) high. With its original granite walls still visible inside, Sambro Island continues to shine today.

The coin is made of pure silver and is HST exempt. It has a \$20 face value and is available for \$69.95 CDN. It features a limited mintage of 25,000 worldwide.

To purchase, contact Citadel Coins, 1903 Barrington Street, Barrington Place Shops, Halifax, NS B3J 3L7. Tel: (902) 492-0130. www.mint.ca

COMMUNITY NEWS

Battery Point Horn Off and On

In early September the Coast Guard unceremoniously switched off the Battery Point fog horn in Lunenburg. The sound of silence rang loud in the ears of Lunenburg Council, which unanimously passed a motion to contact the feds to have the fog horn fired up again.

In the September 15th issue of the *Progress Enterprise*, the Coast Guard's Carl Goodwin is quoted as saying his department is not making "a great big effort to shut off all the fog horns," but looking at individual sites. The horn and light at Battery Point are powered by mains electricity provided by a cable running along the breakwater.

Goodwin said the Coast Guard will turn the horn back on "for the sake of nostalgia right now, but if that cable goes...we'll probably be discontinuing that horn."

Lunenburg Deputy Mayor David Dauphinee says "We still have a lot of boats coming around the Battery into the harbour. [The fog horn] has been part of Lunenburg for longer than I can remember..."

The Coast guard is now in the middle of a plan that will eventually see almost all sound signals removed from buoys and land-based stations. (If and when the Coast Guard decides to discontinue the horn, Lunenburg may want to look into running the horn as a private aid to navigation - *Ed.*)

Borden Wharf (Canning) Refurbished!

The Canning light has a new lease on life and *light*. See pages 3 and 4 for details.

Boularderie Island Restoration

Barry MacDonald

Work is progressing on the restoration of the McNeil Beach lighthouse on Boularderie Island. The project got off to a slow start due in part to some medical problems for Dr. Ron Stewart, the author of the original restoration plan.

Work began in June 2004 after heritage carpenter Josh MacDonald was hired to lead the project. MacDonald comes with impressive credentials and he was eager to get started. Work on the lighthouse should be completed by November 1, 2004.

Burntcoat Head Growing

Charlie MacCulloch and other volunteers at Burntcoat Head coped without a provincially-sponsored student this summer – but the feds kicked in enough money to hire one student to help with interpretation.

Plans are now in hand to expand the parking area at the lighthouse, along with widening the access road and

bring electricity to the site. The work will cost \$87,000. The lion's share will come from ACOA, and the rest from the province.

8,300 hundred visitors signed the book at Burntcoat Head last year – Charlie says numbers were up this year, despite a downward trend in tourism across the province.

Cape Forchu Heritage and Nuptials

The Cape Forchu light continues to be a drawing card for tourists visiting south west Nova Scotia, despite a rather slow tourist season. The site was designated a provincial heritage property in April and in July, the Coast Guard's Nancy MacNeil was married to local MLA Richard Hurlburt at the lighthouse.

Tenders are now out for painting the duplex, and Adrienne Speck of the Friends of Yarmouth Light says they're hoping to have a new well drilled to meet summer demand.

To date just under 10,000 visitors have signed the Cape's guest book, compared to 14,350 last year.

Cape Saint Mary's Houseless

The Cape Saint Mary's lighthouse near Mavillette now stands alone. On September 2nd, the former adjacent keeper's bungalow set off to sea...behind a Cape Island fishing boat.

Pubnico sheep farmer and plumber Arnold D'Eon recently bought the house and decided to move it to West Pubnico. D'Eon is no stranger to lightkeeper house-moving. In 1989 he floated an identical bungalow off Whitehead Island in Argyle Sound. D'Eon plans to put a new roof on the Cape Saint Mary's house and rent it as a residence.

Coffin Island Crumbling

It hasn't been a great year for Nova Scotia's fifth oldest lighthouse site. Back in 1999, Ken Wilkinson and other supporters of this light near Liverpool helped raise funds to have an armour rock wall placed in front of the tower, which was exposed to the sea.

Today, that wall is starting to erode, as is the ground around the 1915 concrete tower. Ken reports that the concrete at the base of the tower is starting to deteriorate as well.

Ken says lack of public support and the issue of cleaning up the site (mercury and lead contamination) mean it has been next to impossible to make any improvements at the site this year.

He says "a couple more storms and we're going to have a real mess on our hands."

Although he's not giving up yet, Ken says the cost of an environment clean-up (estimated at \$50-100,000) and erosion around the lighthouse mean his group cannot cope

with maintenance of a building and property that aren't even theirs yet. The tower sits on 30 acres of federal land – so far the province and the Municipality of Queens have not shown any interest in acquiring the property.

Cross Island Correction

We incorrectly reported in the June/July issue of *The Lightkeeper* that the Coast Guard had turned off the Cross Island light. Although the fog horn has been gone since early this year, a small ML-155 lens still provides a flash every ten seconds from the fibreglass tower on the south point of the island.

The Cross Island lightstation is one of the few remaining “complete” lighthouse sites in the province, although the houses and garage are in rough shape after 15 years of neglect.

Eddy Point Still Gone

Eddy Point remains towerless and dark, after the Coast Guard decommissioned the light and removed the lighthouse in March 2002. Gloria MacQuarrie and the Keepers of the Beacons have been working to re-install a light on the point, but so far they have not been successful.

Five Islands Festivities

Five Islands' Lighthouse Day on July 10 was a smashing success, according to Gloria Lewis. A steady stream of visitors visited the lighthouse and enjoyed live music and kids' games. A sea captain, complete with live parrot, helped complete the picture.

Over the summer more than 1,000 people climbed the Five Islands lighthouse for its splendid view of Moose, Long, Egg and Pinnacle Islands.

Gloria says her society hopes to have the lighthouse open again next year, through an HRDC grant. In 2004, the federal grant paid for one “lightkeeper guide” to interpret the site for visitors.

Fort Point

Unlike the rest of the province, tourist numbers were up at Liverpool's Fort Point lighthouse museum this year. Jill Cruikshank says plans are now underway for the light's 150th birthday in 2005.

Gilberts Cove Begins Second Century

The Gilberts Cove lighthouse turned 100 this year. It also played a role in modern communications...see stories on pages 5 and 6.

Hampton Light Gets a Thrifty Boost

Louise Sanderson and other volunteers have opened a Thrift Shop in Lawrencetown – all profits from the sales of bric-a-brac, clothing, books and toys go towards

maintenance of the 1911 lighthouse in Hampton. Louise says sales have gone a long way towards keeping the lighthouse in shape. Painters gave the little tower a shiny white coat early this year, and plans are now in the works for a ramp/walkway for easier access to the lighthouse.

Next July lighthouse volunteers will help host a garden party in support of the lighthouse – the gathering will also tie in with 400th anniversary celebrations at nearby Annapolis Royal. The Hampton Lighthouse is open by appointment. Contact Louise Sanderson at (902) 665-2138 to arrange a visit!

Henry Island In Print

Henry Island owner Bill Baker has produced a delightful pictorial account of his family's lighthouse retreat in *Lighthouse Island -Our Family Escape*. Baker takes a break from his position as president of Thirteen/WNET New York to spend time each summer on Cape Breton's Henry Island, where he has restored the century old lightkeeper's house.

Lighthouse Island provides an interesting glimpse of Henry Island in its many moods, and chronicles the Baker family's attachment to their island “escape”. Published by Ruder Finn Press, Inc., 301 East 57th Street, New York, NY, 10022.

Isaacs Harbour Loss

Reports indicate that the old iron lantern removed from the Isaacs Harbour lighthouse in the late 1980s or early 1990s has been destroyed. The disassembled lantern sat beneath a helicopter pad near the lighthouse until it someone hauled it to the Canso Locks. Sources say the iron lantern was “smashed up” last winter when a backhoe operator tried to uncover pieces buried in a snowbank.

Margaretsville

This black-banded lighthouse needs a good coat of paint! Lighthouse supporter John Freeman estimates it's been at least five years since the tower has felt a bristle brush.

Earlier this summer a nasty northerly breeze damaged the stairs leading from the beach to the lighthouse – they will be replaced by next spring at a cost of \$1,000.

John says “We're pretty satisfied with the way things are,” adding that he'd like to know the Coast Guard's long-term plans for the structure. The light is still serviced twice a year by CG crews and John says the light has not failed this year.

Pictou Bar To Rise From The Ashes?

Barry MacDonald

Soon after the tragic fire that destroyed the historic lighthouse on Pictou Bar, the community rallied to look into the feasibility of reconstructing the structure.

Concerned supporters held a start-up meeting on July 29th at the Pictou Landing First Nation. Financial support was high on the agenda and several fund-raising schemes were discussed.

Barry MacDonald represented the NSLPS at the meeting, pledging support for the project.

UPDATE

Janet Francis, who took the dramatic photo of the burning Pictou Bar light featured on the cover of the June/July *Lightkeeper*, says the recently-formed Pictou Bar Lighthouse Restoration Committee (PBLRC) had its first fundraising meeting on September 23rd.

The committee is shooting for \$75,000 to re-build the lighthouse. Janet says the DFO/Coast Guard has begun restoring the beach (part had recently washed away) and may be willing to “transfer the responsibility [for the lighthouse] to the First Nations community and they will also try to donate a light for us.”

The PBLRC will hold public meetings in late October to announce their plans. See <http://pictoubarlighthouse.piczo.com/> for updates.

Port Greville

The Port Greville lighthouse now sports a fresh, white coat of paint thanks to a local contractor *and* two weeks of good weather in August. Age of Sail Heritage Museum folks plan to plant bulbs around the tower this fall – watch for new growth at the lighthouse next spring!

Oralee O’Byrne says the lighthouse “is definitely an attraction,” and that it helps with tourism in the area. She estimates that at least 20 per cent of the people who visit the centre come specifically to see the lighthouse.

Port Medway Repairs

Jill Cruikshank says major repair work has been completed at the Port Medway lighthouse park after it suffered major damage during Hurricane Juan in September, 2003.

NSLPS board member Dan Sinclair adds “that the Region of Queens has been working hard at Lighthouse Park, cleaning up the final bits of debris...and doing some wonderfully colourful plantings to replace and augment those washed away...”

Queens Regional Council recently approved and supported the installation of an impressive flagpole in the park – now proudly sporting a 6 by 12 foot Canadian flag courtesy of Queens recreation director Norm Amirault.

Queensport Looking Better

The little light and keepers house on Rook Island is still operated by the Coast Guard, although the Municipality of Guysborough removed an old chimney, repaired the roof and painted the structure in 2002. Gloria MacQuarrie says workers shingled two sides of the building this year and

repaired the porch. They also installed two new doors and storm doors.

Sandy Point Splendour

Sandy Point continues to be one of the premier lighthouse sites in Nova Scotia – partly because of its beautiful location on a sand bar at the entrance to Shelburne Harbour – but mostly a result of the hard work and dedication of Bernice Goodick.

A lightkeeper’s daughter, Bernice has championed the development of the adjacent community centre and fought for preservation of the lighthouse.

The Sandy Point community group is now working on a 35' by 35' addition to the existing community centre, part of which will be used as a “convention centre” for visitors.

The 1880 lighthouse needs repair work, including some new cribwork and a patch around the lantern deck, where water has been leaking into the tower. With winter around the corner, Bernice says it’s time to get the work done.

Bernice adds she is “happy with what we’ve accomplished,” at Sandy Point, but she says it’s a struggle to maintain the aging structure. Let’s hope that the Sandy Point community group’s recent partnering with the Atlantic Lighthouse Council will allow the light to stand proud in the future.

Seal Island Lighthouse Museum Rotting Away

Brenda Maxwell reports that efforts to repair the ailing museum structure have been hampered by a lack of funding. The Cape Sable Historical Society has applied for money through ACOA, but has been turned down by the folks at Economic Development.

Brenda and other society members along with the warden of the Municipality of Barrington met with Shelburne MLA Cecil O’Donnell on September the 13th to look for support for the museum, which opened in 1985. The NSLPS has written a letter to Mr. O’Donnell, supporting the museum.

It’s about time the province got interested in the *first* lighthouse museum in Nova Scotia. The Seal Island Lighthouse Museum sports one of only two remaining circular iron lanterns in the province, and houses an *irreplaceable* second order Fresnel lens, manufactured by Barbier, Bénard et Turenne in Paris at the turn of the last century.

When the museum closes for the year, it will not open again until repairs are made to the rotting tower. Please show your support for this worthy (and absolutely necessary) project by contacting Brenda Maxwell at the Cape Sable Historical Society, P.O. Box 67, Barrington, N.S. B0W 1E0, or by calling MLA Cecil O’Donnell at

UPDATE

On September 22nd, Cecil O'Donnell announced that the Seal Island Light Museum will receive \$10,000 for repair work. The Cape Sable historical society needs \$116,000 to refurbish the light – so far they have \$58,000 in commitments and cash. Donations to the museum are tax-deductable.

Spencers Island Centenary

The Spencers Island Light is 100 years old. Read all about it on page 6!

Terence Bay Status Quo

Folks who care about the Tenant Point Lighthouse in Terence Bay are still waiting for word about divestiture of this little lighthouse. So far, DFO has made no move to hand the light over to the community or to fix up the tower, which requires re-shingling and painting.

Mary Thomas reports that 95 people attended Lighthouse Day on September 12th, to mark the tower's 101st birthday. Earlier in the summer there was a wedding at the light, and the site remains accessible to the general public.

Mary says the community would like to see the light restored to its original state and then left free of any other development so visitors can enjoy this pretty little tower in its almost pristine setting.

Walton Beckons The World

Reg Clark reports that Walton light has become a beacon for overseas tourists – this year from Germany, England, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Italy.

Walton's gift shop has been moved slightly and expanded to include souvenirs and a collection of fossils. The 1872 lighthouse is in mint condition after repairs and painting accomplished with the help of the Kaplan Fund last year.

THE CONDITION OF SOME NOVA SCOTIA LIGHTHOUSES

Kathy Brown

This summer, through NSLPS trips and some personal travels I've been lucky to see a number of lighthouses. The comparison of the condition of the buildings is interesting. Here's an outline and a few comments.

Georges Island: Lighthouse in good shape but the keeper's house is deteriorating fast, especially after damage to the roof and one chimney after Hurricane Juan last September.

Peggy's Point: In great condition, well-painted and looking



Georges Island. *Kathy Brown*

fine. Of course, thousands of people see it, so that's an incentive to DFO to keep it up.

Paddys Head, Indian Harbour: Looks great.

East Ironbound: In good condition.

Cross Island: Fibreglass lighthouse is OK, but the two houses, shed, garage and engine room are in poor shape.

Battery Point, Lunenburg: Needs paint

Peter Island, Digby Neck: Badly needs paint – weather has stripped shingles bare in some places.

Boars Head, Tiverton: I saw from afar because you can't get to it right now - breakwater construction in Tiverton Harbour is in the way. Looks like it needs paint.

Brier Island: This concrete lighthouse badly needs paint and the concrete of the gallery is starting to break up.

Seal Island: Newly shingled a few years ago, late in the fall. The paint is starting to peel. Local residents are concerned because the windows were taken out of the FHBRO-recognized building and they fear a lack of ventilation will destroy this important pre-confederation building.

Cape Sable: A FHBRO-classified building that badly, badly needs paint. The concrete on Nova Scotia's tallest lighthouse will deteriorate soon unless something is done.

Seal Island Light Museum: Not a lighthouse, but it is topped by our only installed second order Fresnel lens.

The building must be restored and the Cape Sable Historical Society is struggling to raise funds. A lighthouse artifact of incalculable worth is in danger.

I've been thinking about why the condition of our lighthouses is so bad. I don't think it's just that DFO is short of money. Maintenance is done differently now. An historic photo of Seal Island Lighthouse shows the lightkeepers on platform being lowered from the gallery. They are painting the light in a very comfortable and efficient manner.

Now, scaffolding is ferried out by boat and helicopter and assembled at great expense. Perhaps a return to older ways is in order!

☆☆☆

CHEBUCTO HEAD LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY UPDATE

Annelise Chapman

After the lightkeeper's house at Chebucto Head burned down at the end of May, the Chebucto Head Lighthouse Society is reappraising its role at the site and is discussing various suggestions for the future of Chebucto Head. Society members were present at the Head during the Tall Ships weekend at the end of July to inform visitors about the developments at Chebucto Head and to gather signatures for a petition in support of protecting the site. We produced an information display panel, which we will be able to use at other events.

Presently, the society still holds a lease to the property, which used to have the keeper's house on it. We were able to have the lease amended so that we no longer pay fire insurance -- there is literally nothing left to be burnt down -- and the property owner, DFO/Coast Guard is now paying the gatekeeper.

Discussions about the gate to the property (which has been closed at night) have been re-kindled by the most recent destruction of the gate (it was apparently smashed down by a vehicle -*Ed.*) during the night of Sept 12. Some of the questions raised are the following:

1) Are what we are observing — not only at CH, but in the whole area — random acts of violence? Or are certain sites, activities and initiatives being targeted?

2) What should be done? Do we need better protection and security? Or are we provoking more vandalism by increased measures of security, which will always remain somewhat ineffective given financial limitations?

In the case of Chebucto Head, we know that many local people found the gate to the site offensive, because it restricted public access after dark. Few members of the public realised that the alternative proposed by DFO last year would have been a complete closure of the site.

Our group would like to encourage further discussion on the vandalism issue, but is aware that in the long term, only a continued human presence at Chebucto Head will prevent further serious damage.

The CHLS is discussing several alternative scenarios, which range from simply protecting the present light and the surrounding land (which could possibly be added to the crown land designated for protection as a Nature Reserve) to reconstructing the keeper's house to the original 1940 specifications (including the roof-mounted lantern) and developing the building for a clearly new purpose, which would make it a unique project within HRM and beyond.

Any long-term involvement of the society would depend on who will become the new owner of the site.

At present, the federal government is still in discussion with the province about its potential interest. The CHLS would like to broaden its discussions about future developments at the Head to a wider community and therefore invites everyone interested to attend a meeting hosted by the NSLPS on Wednesday, October 27 at 7:30 at the Maritime Museum (see Programs on page 2).

SEAL ISLAND TRIP

Kathy Brown

We had a full group of 15, plus Dan Conlin and I as coordinators. The trip out was foggy - we saw the wharf at Clark's Harbour, then moored boats at Seal and almost immediately were at the West Side wharf.

As usual Charles Kenney did a great job of getting everyone on board at Clark's Harbour, navigating the trip and quickly unloading at the wharf. Charles' father Ronnie stayed on the island to watch over us and regale us with tales of the latest island happenings.

The cookhouse has been nicely improved with new "click" flooring, counter, sinks and stoves, but it still has the same homey feel. Dan did a great walk over to the lighthouse, telling people all about the interesting history of the island, wrecks and lighthouse. A light fog added to the atmosphere! The generator and foghorn were going all day Saturday.

Condition of buildings: The old radio operator's house is in reasonably good shape. It does need paint, especially on the weather side. Bird banders from Acadia University use the building seasonally.

The recent paint job on the lighthouse is already starting to peel. The lighthouse has a ventilator at the top, beneath the gallery but no windows. Ronnie Kenney said that the shingles were so wet when they were put on that the water squirted out of them when they were nailed. He is most concerned about the lack of windows to add ventilation and this is something that should be brought to the attention of the Coast Guard. He estimated the cost of windows at about \$1000.00.

We had the usual superb pot luck on Saturday evening and Ronnie came over to talk. Sunday was clearer and people enjoyed some hiking before an early departure at 12 noon, because of the tides. Charles took us close by Devil's Limb shoal on the way out, and then in very close to Cape Sable.

Ronnie Kenney reports that Nova Scotia's Department of Natural Resources is going to take the DFO land when it comes up for divestiture, to prevent more land purchases by offshore interests. DFO retains the lighthouse. Charles Kenney and Randy Goreham also have a proposal with DFO for preservation and development of this fascinating and historic site.

(Thanks to Dan Conlin for all his help with the trip!)

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.

Lighthouse Locator Map:

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

\$18.00 including packing and postage

**Order from: Cyndi MacPhee, 81 Radcliffe Drive,
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 4P2
e-mail: cyndi.macphee@ns.sympatico.ca**

**ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID. PLEASE MAKE
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LIGHTHOUSE LUMINARIES FROM CHESTER CANDLES

These are carved-in-relief replicas of lighthouses which have been lovingly painted by local artists. They each have a history on the back of the luminary.

The outer shell with the design and information is everlasting. Included with each is a candle and holder, a certificate of authenticity with the limited edition number and a guarantee.

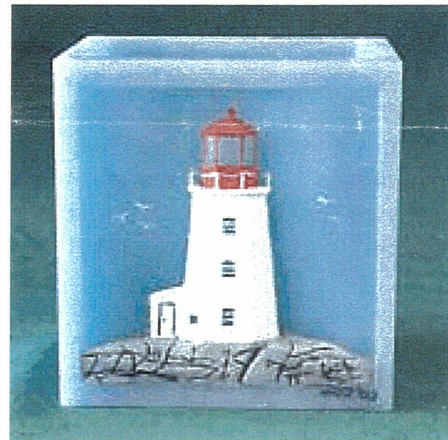
Nova Scotia lighthouses available are: Peggy's Point Light; Sambro Island Light; Henry Island Light; Cape Forchu (1962) and Cape Forchu (circa 1839); Louisbourg Light (circa 1734).

25 per cent of each sale is contributed to the work of the NSLPS.

Luminaries depicting other lighthouse are available from our website www.chestercandles.com.

They can be ordered through Lightshop for the same benefit of **25 per cent** to the NSLPS. If ordering directly from us, tell us you would like the donation to go to NSLPS.

Cost \$49.95 plus \$8.00 shipping



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 Chris Mills, 1121 Ketch Harbour Road, Ketch Harbour, Nova Scotia B3V 1K7, or e-mail ketch@ns.sympatico.ca. Deadline for Dec. issue: November 15, 2004

NSLPS MEMBERSHIP FORM - January 1 - December 31, 2004

NAME _____

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Single - \$15.00

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

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