

Sambro Island 1758

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society
Vol. 13, No. 1, April 2006

The Lightkeeper™

IN THIS ISSUE:

- PROGRAMS & TRIPS
- NEWS & VIEWS
- VOICES OF THE LIGHTS:
Life on Ile Haute
- FAREWELL
- McNEIL BEACH
LIGHTHOUSE
- LOST LIGHTS
- BULL POINT LIGHTHOUSE



Evolution of *The Lightkeeper* under the guidance of Kathy Brown and Chris Mills

THE LIGHTKEEPER

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Vol.1 • No.1 • December 1993

NOVA SCOTIA LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

We are a recently formed group of individuals interested in the preservation and protection of lighthouses and lighthouse sites along the coastline of Nova Scotia. Canada's first lighthouse was lit in 1734 at Louisbourg and North America's oldest extant lighthouse (begun 1758) continues to operate on Sambro Island, at the approaches to Halifax Harbour.

Until recent years these and countless other beacons along our rocky coastline played a major role in the development and sustenance of trade, commerce, and the fishing industry in the Maritime Provinces. Through modernization and automation we have already lost many historic and architecturally significant structures, as keepers are removed from lightstations and lighthouse functions are taken over by functional skeleton towers and electronic equipment.

The aim of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse

Preservation Society is to create an awareness of our province's lighthouse and marine heritage and to work with related groups to ensure the identification, documentation and preservation of coastal sites, beginning with Sambro Island. As the oldest operating lighthouse structure in North America it is a natural candidate for attention to its historic and architectural merit. The NSLPS wishes to ensure the restoration, protection and continued maintenance of the lighthouse and grounds, as well as opening the site to the public. The

NSLPS is also committed to ongoing lighthouse and related marine research, including the collection of artifacts, lore, photographs and oral history.

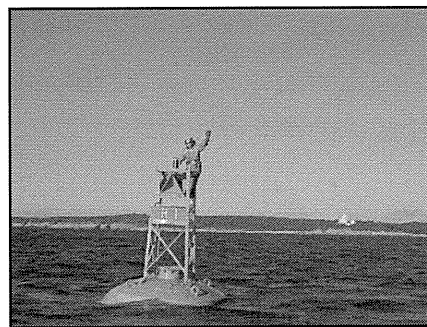
To do this we need your support. At present the NSLPS is in its beginning stages- we now need a general membership of individuals interested in helping save Sambro Island and other important lighthouses in Nova Scotia. For further information please contact:

Chris Mills
Membership
Secretary
Nova Scotia
Lighthouse

A WORD OF THANKS

Barry MacDonald

This edition of *The Lightkeeper* marks the last issue under editor Chris Mills. Anyone who has read this entertaining and informative newsletter since its inception has no doubt seen changes and many improvements in its format and content. Chris brought with him not only professional skills as a journalist, but also a first-hand knowledge and enthusiasm which is so evident in his writing. On behalf of everyone at NSLPS, I would like to thank Chris for his many hours of work and dedication and wish him success with his soon-to-be-released book, *Lighthouse Legacies*.



Chris Mills working on a buoy off Duncans Cove. Mike Pettipas

From the Editorial Staff

During the next year *The Lightkeeper* will be produced by an editorial team of Shawn Connors, Nancy Eisener and Ashley Lohnes. We hope to draw on the resources of you our members.

Do you have news and memories of NS lighthouses and keepers that you would like to share with readers of *The Lightkeeper*? If so, please let us know! *The Lightkeeper* staff is seeking your stories, articles, ideas or questions. Please submit material or contact nancy.eisener@nsc.ca or phone 1-902-868-1248

This is a reproduction of the first Nova Scotia Lighthouse Protection Society newsletter. It was written by Chris Mills in 1993 shortly after the society was formed. The newsletter describes the purpose of the newly formed society and emphasizes the need for education and advocacy about issues related to Nova Scotia Lighthouses. *The Lightkeeper* has become one of the society's main tools for achieving these goals.



The objectives of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society are: to promote and to support the 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, to initiate oral history research and to classify and monitor the status of historic lighthouse sites.

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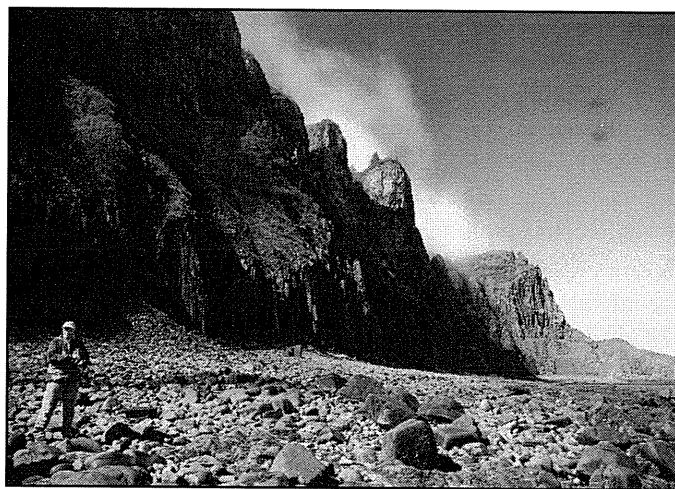
Director, Member-at-Large - Bryan Andrachuk

WELCOME ABOARD!

Rachael Summers, Bernice Moores, Donald F. MacLean, Debbie McCulloch

COMMUNICATION UPDATE

The NSLPS is trying to improve communications between the board and members. We would like to make better use of the fact that most of our members now have e-mail. We plan to send out our activities programme, regular event updates as well as special notices via email, in addition to publicizing these in *The Lightkeeper*. If you would like to receive information from the NSLPS and you have not already told us your e-mail, please contact Peter MacCulloch (peterm@twrsoft.com).



Ile Haute's rampart-like cliffs in 2004. *Chris Mills*

See the feature article - **Life on Ile Haute** - on page 7

PROGRAMS AND TRIPS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 25

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

7:00 PM - Annual Meeting with Reports and Presentations of the Craig Harding Award.

8:15 PM - Program: **CAPE FORCHU**

Cape Forchu is undoubtedly one of the best-known lighthouse in Nova Scotia, guarding the rocky approaches to Yarmouth Harbour since 1839. In 2002, the Canadian Coast Guard transferred ownership of the lighthouse to the Municipality of Yarmouth with the community group, the Friends of the Yarmouth Light as its manager. President Nancy Knowles will share with us the challenges and joys of maintaining this beautiful site with its museum, gift shop and café.

LIGHTHOUSES OF HALIFAX HARBOUR

NSLPS is planning a trip this summer past the lighthouses of Halifax Harbour, Georges Island, Maughers Beach, Devils Island and Chebucto Head and then land on Sambro Island at the harbour's outer entrance to see the oldest working lighthouse in The Northern Hemisphere and explore the island.

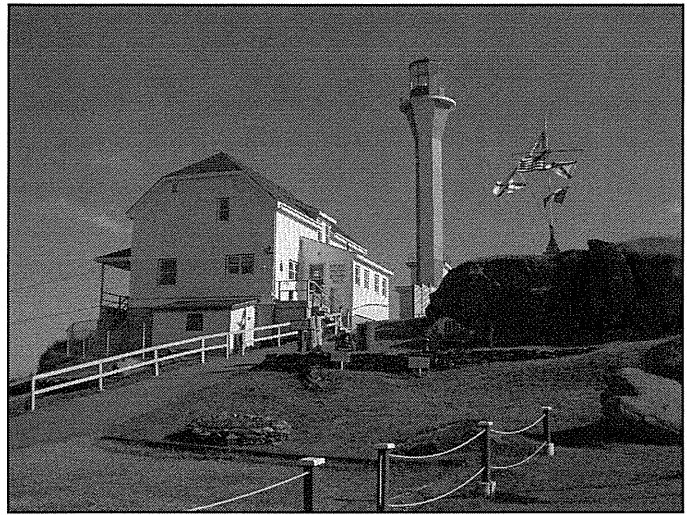
Date and other details of the trip have not been finalized at this time.

For more information, call Dorothy MacLeod 423-8034 after May 1.

CAPE NORTH LIGHTHOUSE TRIP

Join Barry MacDonald on September 3, 2006 for a guided tour to Nova Scotia's most northeasterly lighthouse. This is not a trip to be attempted by the faint of heart! The visit will showcase some of the most beautiful views Cape Breton has to offer. From the summit of Cape North (1,400 feet above sea level), participants will hike down the old trail once used by the lightkeepers to a beautiful meadow the ruins of the first lighthouse (built in 1876) can still be seen.

Saint Paul Island's brooding hump is visible in the distance, and although it is 13 miles offshore, the island looks so close, you'd think you could reach out and touch it! From the base of the mountain, the hike continues along the meadow to the present lighthouse which was built in 1980. This is the third lighthouse to be built here and the foundations of the second tower as well as those of the keeper's houses are clearly visible. (The lighthouse



Cape Forchu Lighthouse and visitors centre. *Ashley Lohnes*

was de-staffed in 1987). There are also remnants of part of the old fog steam whistle as well as the landing where supplies were taken ashore from the supply vessels.

The total (hiking) distance is approx 3.5 miles (5.6 km) over some very rugged terrain. To make this trip, participants should be in good physical condition and come prepared with appropriate footwear and clothing. It will also be necessary to bring along a hearty lunch as well as plenty of water! Due to the distance involved, there is no rain date. Participants will be notified in advance of cancellation due to an advance unfavourable weather report. Cost of this trip is \$10.00 per person. Please phone Dorothy MacLeod at 423-8034 to register.



Looking down the coastal meadows to the Cape North lighthouse. *Barry MacDonald*

MORE TRIPS TO COME

A third summer trip is in the planning stage. Contact Dorothy MacLeod, 423-8034 after May 1 for additional details.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Betty Island Light

The little wooden lighthouse at Betty Island has finally been repaired. The tower sustained damage from heavy seas during Hurricane Juan in September 2003. Temporary repairs did not hold up, and Coast Guard personnel reported that it was possible to enter the structure without using the main door! In late February



Betty Island repaired! *DFO/Canadian Coast Guard*

Coast Guard work crews flew to the island to remove water-damaged drywall and insulation and to replace rotten sheathing with $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood. Workers also repaired exterior siding and installed vents in the tower. This is good news given the federal government's current laissez-faire attitude towards most operational lighthouses.

Lighthouse at Risk

Anticosti Island's Southwest Point (Pointe Sud-Ouest) lighthouse has made Heritage Canada's "Top Ten" list of endangered places. The 2005 Heritage Report Card lists the country's worst losses as well as endangered structures. The stone lighthouse at Southwest Point was gutted by fire years ago, but the massive stone structure, built in 1831, still stands. In *Sentinels of the Saint Lawrence*, photographer and author Patrice Halley says the 24 metre-high tower is a twin to the restored light at Pointe de Monts in the Baie Trinité area of The gulf's north shore. The Southwest Point lighthouse is one of 6 on Anticosti.

Website

www.nslps.com continues to draw lighthouse fans surfing the net. The website received 1,980 visits between March 01-March 15. The site has averaged more than 3,000 visits per month every month for the past year.

Lighthouse Protection Act

Barry MacDonald

In a conversation with a worker in the Hon. Gerald Keddy's Ottawa office on March 25, 2006, it was learned that plans are currently underway to re-introduce the Heritage Lighthouses Bill in the House of Commons. It is not clear at this time whether it will begin as a Senate bill (from Senator Michael Forrestall) or since we now have a Conservative government, it will take the form of a "C" Bill. The latter is more likely and hopefully we will see some positive changes in the re-introduced bill. There is little chance of it making the Spring session however, since the new government is still adjusting to being in power and other legislation will take priority. LPA Chair Barry MacDonald plans to discuss the matter with Senator Forrestall before the Senate adjourns for summer break.

NSLPS meets with Heritage Canada

Tony Thompson

In early March 2 three members of the Board (President, Barry MacDonald, Vice president, John Langley and Past President, Tony Thompson) were invited to meet with Natalie Bull, Executive Director of the Heritage Canada Foundation. Peter Delefees, the Nova Scotia representative on Heritage Canada Foundation was also there.

There was a very productive discussion on a wide range of topics. We started off discussing the Lighthouse Protection Act and Ms. Bull commented that this Act had the full support of Heritage Canada. Because Gerald Keddy, the Conservative member for the South Shore, is a strong supporter the prospects for the Bill are much improved. It may be that he will reintroduce it in the House of Commons as a Government Bill.

We also talked about Sambro Island and our frustration at not being able to get any action on repairs to the gashouse. She thought this was not unusual and thought the only way to get action was to be as noisy and vociferous about it as possible -- likewise with our inability to get FHBRO to do a re-evaluation of the Seal Island light.

An important point that she raised was whether or not the Historic Sites and Monuments Board (within Parks Canada) has ever done a comprehensive review of lighthouses across the country. We thought not and she thought this might be something that would be well worth pursuing, especially if the Lighthouse Protection Act were to pass for then there would be a great need for a list of those lights of historical significance.

Perhaps the most important outcome of the meeting was the fact that through the Heritage Canada Foundation we can have support from folk across the country.

Spry Bay Lighthouse No Longer Alone

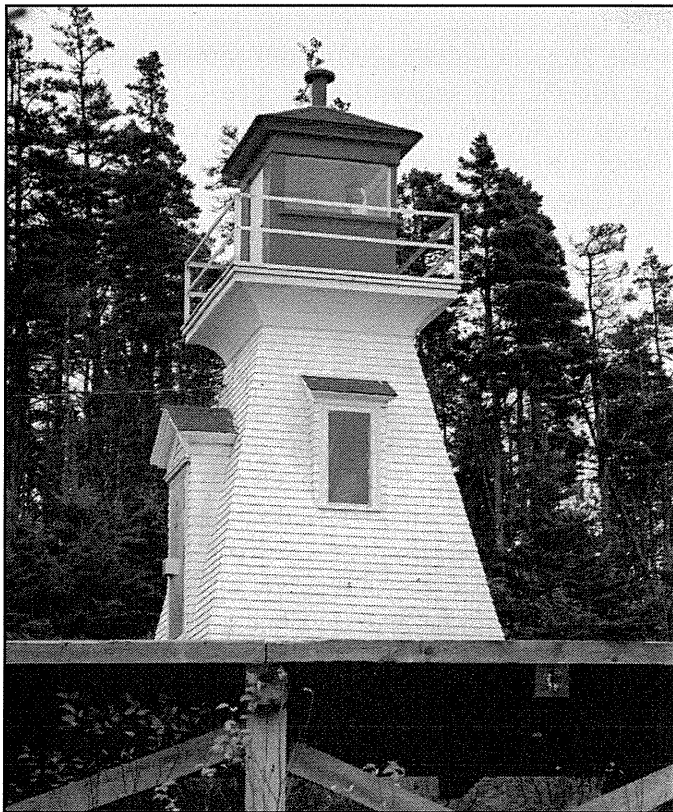
Chris Mills

The little sector light at Tomlees Head near Spry Bay looks as though it will soon have neighbours. The entire headland has been cleared, bulldozed and grassed, in many cases right to the water's edge. A formerly pristine and wild environment has been reduced to a series of barren mounds, with a gated gravel road running through the headland.

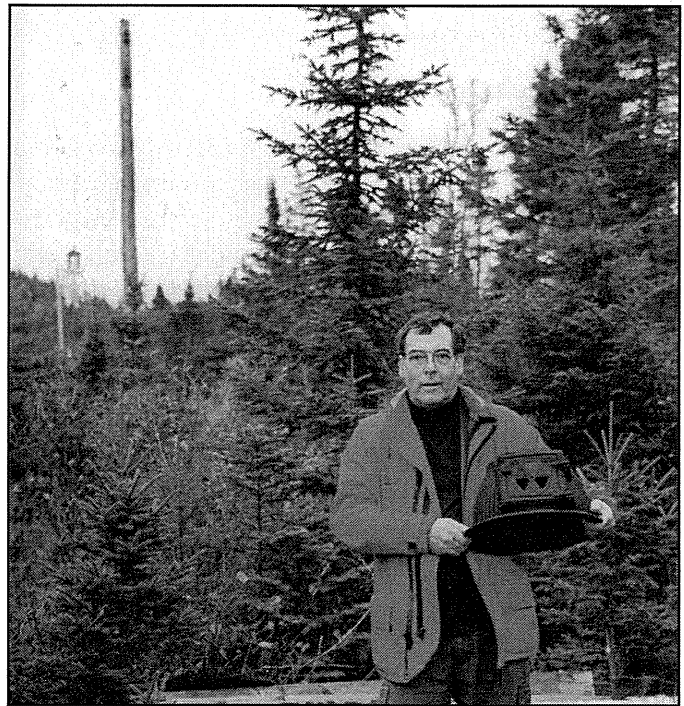
The 1916-vintage lighthouse now sits on its tiny DFO property at the edge of the barren plain, surrounded only by a few scraggly spruce trees. The narrow four-wheeler trail that led through the forest to the lighthouse has been largely obliterated. We have not been able to find out what plans are in the works for the headland, but it appears as though it will be developed for high-end seaside housing.

This devastation further underscores our provincial government's lack of interest in or ability to preserve wild Nova Scotia. The cleared land, big red gates and the "No Hunting" and "No Trespassing" signs at Tomlees Head tell the whole story.

Note: It appears that the developed land was not owned by DFO, but by another private interest. DFO owns a small parcel of land around the Spry Bay light and a right of way to the former rear range light property, about 300 metres inland.



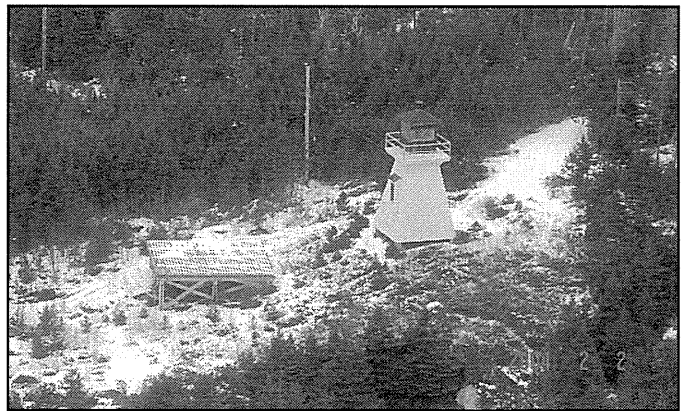
Spry Bay sector light in 2001. *Chris Mills*



Barry MacDonald holds remains from an old pot belly stove at the sight of the former rear range light at Spry Bay in 2001. The sector light is in the background. *Chris Mills*



Land cleared by developers at Tomlees Head. *Chris Mills*



Spry Bay sector light at Tomlees Head before development. *DFO/Canadian Coast Guard*

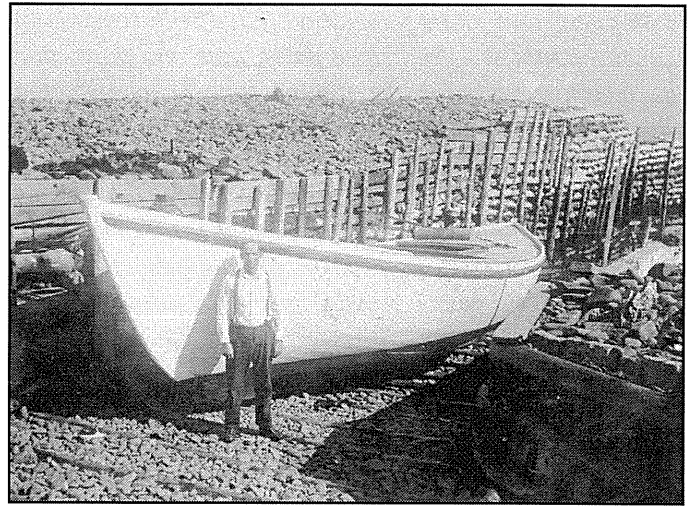
LIFE ON ILE HAUTE BY A LIGHT-KEEPER'S DAUGHTER

Stanley T. Spicer

September 30, 1956 will mark the 50th anniversary of the day the Ile Haute lighthouse burned to the ground. The loss of the tower and its attached house brought to an end almost 8 decades of human habitation on the island.

But human activity on this towering rock outcrop about 10 kilometres south west of Cape Chignecto in the Bay of Fundy, goes back thousands of years. There is evidence that the Mi'kmaq people used the island as a production site for stone tools more than 500 years ago. In 1604, explorer Samuel de Champlain charted and named the island for its lofty cliffs

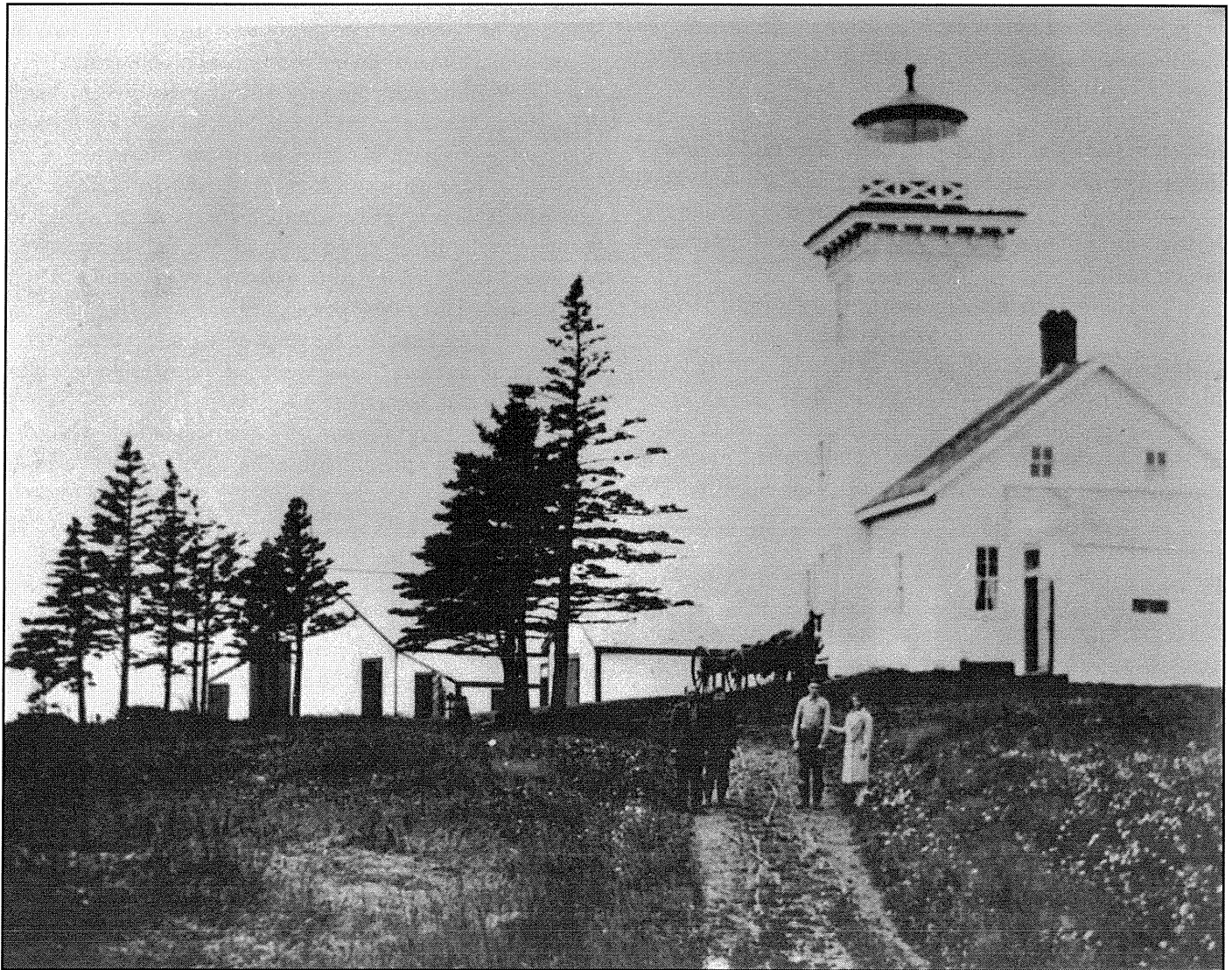
As early as 1840 the Nova Scotia legislature recommended that a lighthouse be built for the benefit of shipping in the area, but it wasn't until 1878 that workers constructed a guiding light on the island. The large



Percy Morris on Ile Haute. *Courtesy of Kerr Canning*

wooden tower and its attached dwelling was home to five lightkeepers and their families over the years.

Today, all that remains of the Ile Haute lighthouse



Fire destroyed the 1878 Ile Haute lighthouse in 1956. *Courtesy Stanley Spicer*

is an overgrown stone foundation, filled with remnants of human habitation – old stove parts, pots and pans, and the mercury bath for the lights's long-focus reflector, which crashed to the basement during the fire of '56.

More than a decade ago, lightkeeper's daughter Ella Morris Fraser (whose father Percy Morris kept the light from 1904 to 1941) recounted her memories of island life in a *Halifax Chronicle Herald* article. Thanks to historian and writer Stanley Spicer for allowing us to reproduce it here.

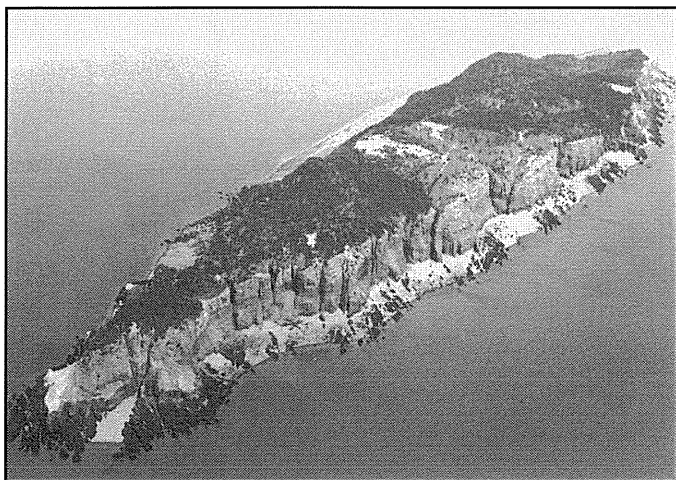
Ile Haute is a small island in the Bay of Fundy, about ten miles from Advocate, Nova Scotia. The island is one and a half miles long and one-half mile wide at the widest point. High bluffs surround much of the island. The lighthouse was built in 1878. The light consisted of six large, cone-shaped reflectors with an oil-filled lamp set in each one. Each day the lamps were filled, the chimneys cleaned and the reflectors polished.

It was a revolving-type light with a weight attached to a wire cable that slowly descended from the light to the basement inside a casing. The weight was brought up again by means of a hand crank. During the day the weight rested on a wedge inserted at top floor level.

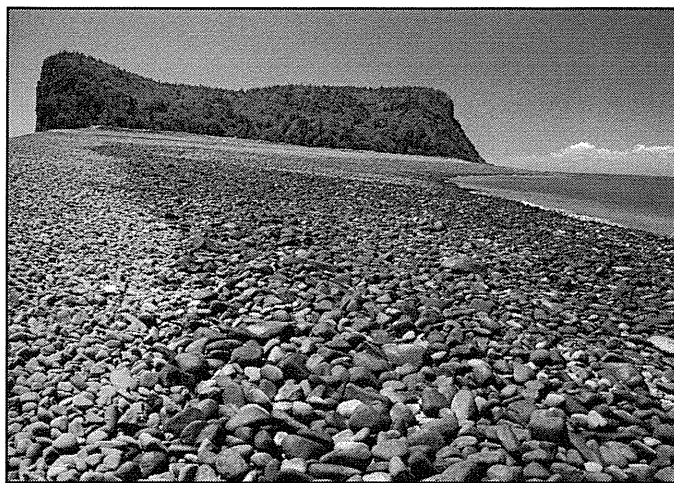
This light was later replaced by small three panel reflectors and a small tank which held fuel and air pumped into it. The first lightkeeper was Captain Card who lived on the island with his wife. Unfortunately, nothing is known about their family or where they went after leaving Ile Haute.

The next to take charge of the light were Mr. and Mrs. Judson Reid. He was from Advocate and after several years he left the island and worked in a shipyard in his home town.

Percy Morris, my father, took charge of the light in 1904. My mother, my brother Wilson and I moved to the island. A second daughter, Viola, was born in 1908



Ile Haute. Courtesy Kerr Canning



A long bar extends from the east end of Ile Haute. Chris Mills

and a son, Everett was born in 1914.

During the first few years we crossed the bay in a sailboat. Later my father had a motor put in the boat. It was the first motorboat to cross the bay. Father cleared a lot of land so we always wintered 360 or more sheep. We had lots of lambs in the spring. We usually had two or more pets who were lovingly brought up on a bottle.

Rabbits were the only wild animals on the island. They were numerous. We would pick up the baby ones in the field, getting badly scratched for our efforts.

A New Brunswick company put some foxes on the island, hoping they would increase in number and value, but the foxes failed to do so. We fed them cooked fish meal with lard added to make their pelts shine. Their arrival ended the rabbit population.

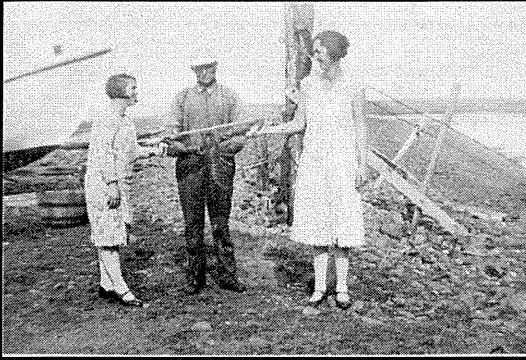
Wild strawberries, raspberries and gooseberries grew in abundance. They were nearly as large as cultivated ones and had a delicious flavour.

The only means of communication with the mainland was by making fires. One fire meant that all was well. Two meant illness, while three meant a doctor was needed. Four fires meant that somebody had died. During our stay on the island all were put to use.

Captain Kidd's treasure was said to have been buried on the island. Over the years, many people came to dig for it. They were superstitious and would only dig at night. They always moved a few feet away from the spot before they spoke.

One day, Father and a Mr. McGrath knew where the searchers would be digging that night. During the day, the two men buried an old iron kettle at the spot and returned that night to see the fun.

When the searchers' shovels struck iron, they dropped everything and rushed down the hill, shouting "We struck it! We struck it!" One can imagine their disappointment when they went back and dug up nothing but an old iron pot.



Lightkeeper Percy Morris with visitors on Ile Haute. *Courtesy Kerr Canning*

Lobster fishermen came to the island every spring from the South Shore. Line fishing was plentiful. Men would see pollock jumping near the east bar and launching a small boat, they would catch as many as they needed. There is no line fishing there now.

Before cars were plentiful, seldom a week went by during the summer without a boatload of people coming to the island sightseeing, fishing or picking berries. Sometimes the weather would be too rough for a return trip and the sightseers would have to spend the night. We always enjoyed having them.

One July 12, 300 people arrived at the island, coming by steamer and boats from all of the South Shore and Advocate. A boatload of people never seemed to be too many. Once, as we said goodbye to one group which had been with us a week, another arrived.

Mother made herself busy in the kitchen preparing a meal for the new arrivals. She sent one of the older children to wash the napkins and iron them dry with the flat iron which had to be heated on the wood stove. The younger children were sent to the fields to pick berries for the supper meal.

In the summer there were lots of ships, both large and small, sailing up and down the bay. One or two of the smaller ones went ashore on the bar during thick fog. They floated off at high tide with no damage done. We had a small hand foghorn but the sound didn't carry far.

Mother taught us the three Rs before we were old enough to start school. Later we four children went to school in Advocate. Some years Mother stayed on the mainland with us. Other times we boarded with different families but we were always eager to go back to the island the day school closed.

I recall one trip on the last day of school, when the weather was so rough we couldn't land and had to go back to Advocate, arriving there about two o'clock in the

morning. We stayed the night with Captain and Mrs. William Collins.

In those days there were no radios, televisions or stereos. We had to provide our own amusement. We would hitch a young calf to a sled and have wild rides. We also entertained ourselves by sliding down the long roof of the barn. This was great fun but rather hard on our clothes.

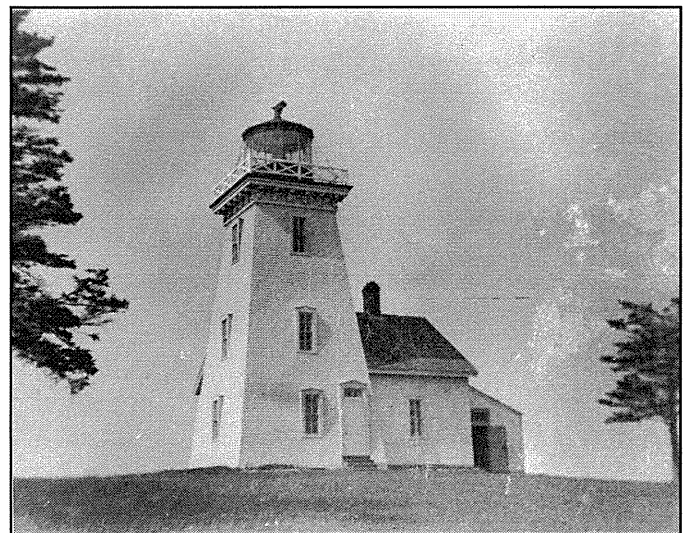
The older children helped in the hay field, in the garden and with other chores. We also tapped maple trees and boiled down the sap to make syrup.

I learned to crochet, knit, quilt and hook mats at an early age.

Father retired in 1941. Don and Viola Morris were the next lightkeepers. They stayed on Ile Haute until 1946. John Fullerton was the next to take over.

The lighthouse and all the buildings burned on September 30, 1956. There is a tower erected there now on the same location as the former building. The tower is serviced by a helicopter.

The road is grown up now and there are no build-

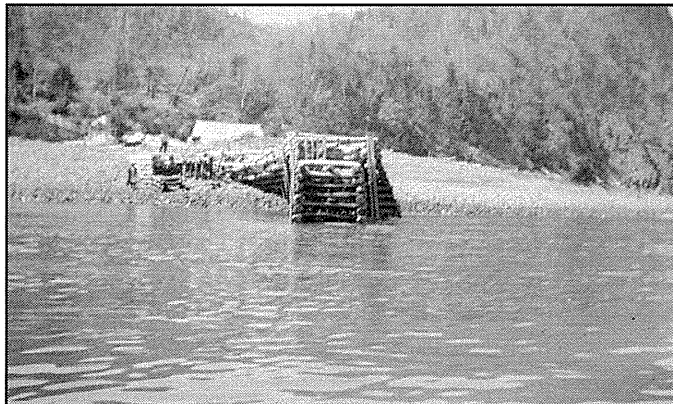
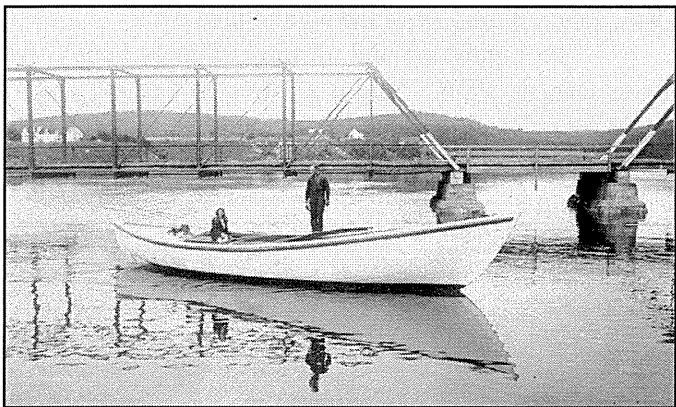


Original Ile Haute lighthouse. *Courtesy Stanley Spicer*

ings on the beach to welcome visitors stranded in bad weather. A few years ago, my brother and some young people were camping on Ile Haute. The weather became too rough for a boat to return for them. His wife called Search and Rescue and my brother and his friends were brought back to the mainland by helicopter.

There is little now to indicate that families once lived on the island but the childhood memories live on for those who were reared on Ile Haute.

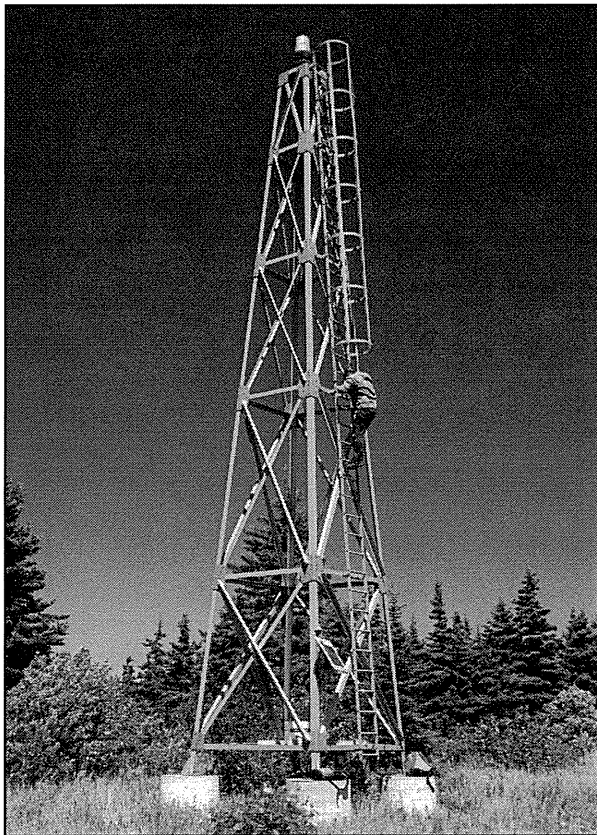
For more stories about life on Ile Haute, and around the Chignecto area, see:
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~canbrnep/kerrpics3.htm>



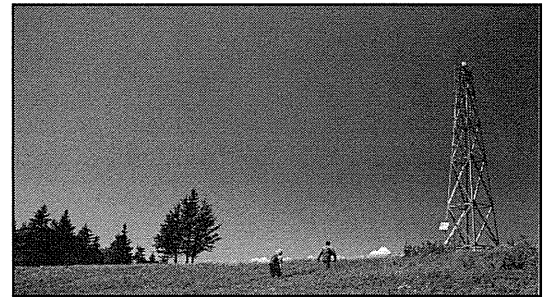
All photographs courtesy Kerr Canning



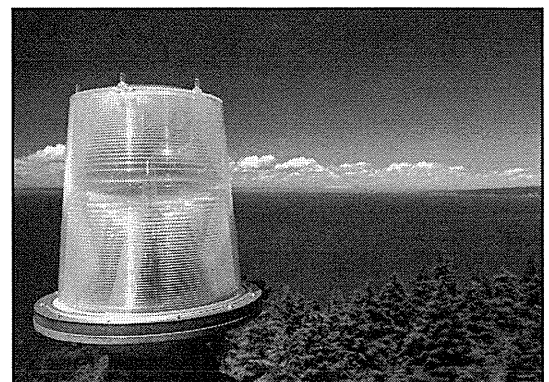
The black arrow shows the present Ile Haute lighthouse, 356 feet above sea level. *Chris Mills*



Ile Haute light today. *Chris Mills*



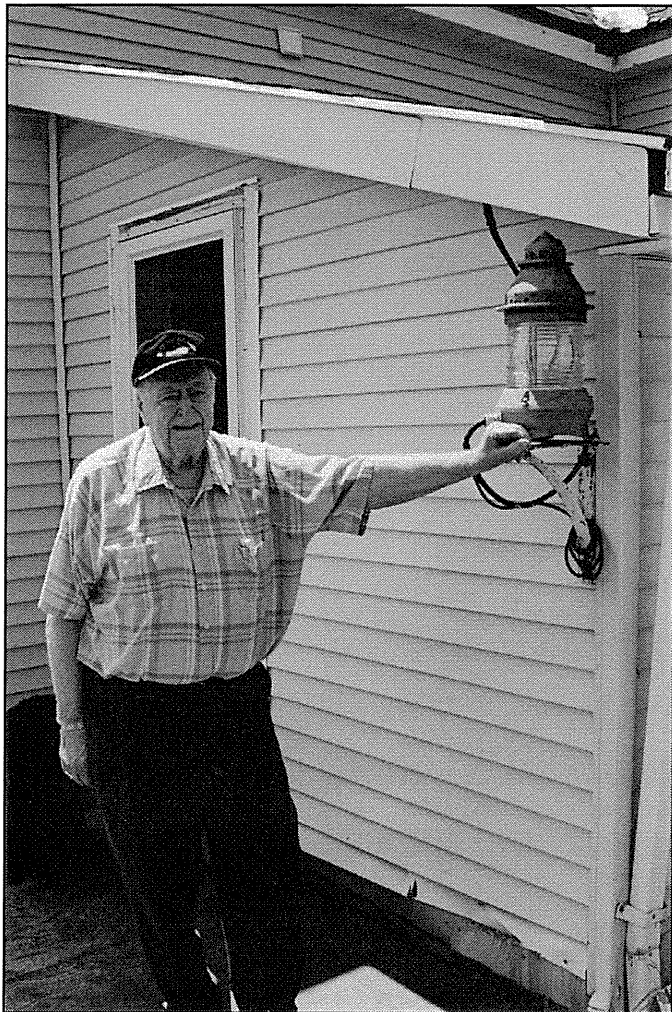
The current Ile Haute Light stands next to the foundation of the 1878 lighthouse. *Chris Mills*



Lens atop the present Ile Haute light in 2004. *Chris Mills*

FAREWELL Reginald Hubert MacKinnon (1919–2006)

Barry MacDonald



It was with sadness that I learned of the passing of long-time Coast Guard technician, Reginald Hubert MacKinnon, of Clyde River, P.E.I., on March 13, 2006. I first met Reg in November, 2002 at his home in Clyde River. I was on the trail of former Coast Guard employees who had worked during the era of staffed lightstations and had seen the changes in technology from acetelyne gas to solar power, the first helicopter arrive as a means of travel in the line of maintenance and who could tell me good “lighthouse life” stories. A tall order indeed! Not only did Reg MacKinnon see all of this in his career, but as I soon found out, he loved to talk about his experiences.

Over the course of two years and several visits to his home, I recorded stories of everything from installing a type “F” diaphone on Belle Isle, to a helicopter (crash) landing on St. Peter’s Island. There were also a few humorous stories thrown in, like the transfer of a side of pork (via helicopter) from *The lightkeeper* at Souris,

PEI to lightkeeper Pat LeFort at Cheticamp Island.

I recall listening intently as Reg explained the entire process of setting up and installing an AGA gas regulator/ flasher in a 200mm gas buoy lantern. What always rang through loud and clear was the love he had for his job and the pride he took in it. Over the course of his thirty-plus year career he serviced lighthouses and buoys all over PEI, the Northumberland shores of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as well as the western shore of Cape Breton, western Newfoundland and Labrador. Sadly, men like Reg MacKinnon are getting harder to find and I consider myself privileged to have known him and been able to record part of his story. I will greatly miss hearing his stories. On behalf of all of us at NSLPS, I would like to extend our condolences to his family. Rest in peace.

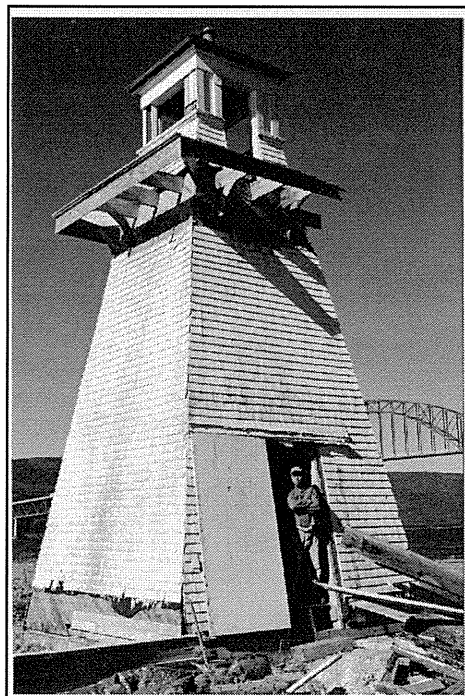
MCNEIL BEACH LIGHTHOUSE – A RESTORATION GONE AWRY?

Barry MacDonald

On a sand spit beneath the Seal Island bridge on Cape Breton Island’s Bras d’Or Lakes stands a small lighthouse known to many as the Seal Island lighthouse. A light was first established at this location (McNeil Beach) in 1884. It took the form of a pole light lit by kerosene, with a small shed at its base. This arrangement was replaced in 1909 by the structure that still stands today -- a traditional style ‘Pepper Shaker’ light tower which the 1914 List of Lights and Fog Signals describes as “White,

Square, Wood, 33’ in height – base to vane.”

The new light was equipped with a sixth order Fresnel lens lit by a double-wick, duplex (two-wick) style kerosene lamp. This arrangement remained until the light was decommissioned in the early 1960s. At the heart of the demise of this once important beacon was the



The McNeil Beach light on Boulardarie Island, Cape Breton in 2004. Barry MacDonald



Restoration work at the McNeil Beach light near the Seal Island bridge in Cape Breton, summer 2004.
Barry MacDonald

construction in the early 1960s of the nearby Seal Island Bridge which was equipped with modern-day navigation lights.

The Department of Transport declared the light surplus in 1965 and tenders were called for public sale. The only bidder paid a grand total of \$500.00 for the little tower. The new owner was reported to be a colourful character from the United States who, with his pet monkey, spent occasional summers at the lighthouse. This gentleman added a small section to the structure, the foundation of which can still be seen today. Over time lack of upkeep and a harsh environment took its toll on the building and it became a sorry sight. Positive change began in 1996 when the owner donated the property to Acadia University.

In early 2003, Dr. Ronald Stewart contacted the NSLPS with plans to restore the McNeil Beach lighthouse. This was coincidentally a good time for lighthouse restoration in the province with the announcement of a sizeable grant from the J.M. Kaplan organization in New York. In early 2003, NSLPS announced a total of ten grants for lighthouse groups across Nova Scotia. The society received an application from Dr. Stewart (who was representing the Boularderie Island Historical Society) for a grant to assist in the restoration work. This application was one of the ten approved under the funding scheme.

As part of the information provided to all applicants for funding under this grant, guidelines for heritage restoration practices were provided. These guidelines were drawn by NSLPS to protect the architectural integrity of any lighthouse to be restored or altered in any way. NSLPS board members discussed the importance of adhering to these guidelines with Dr. Stewart. The society was very pleased with the announcement that the project would be under the care of Mr. Josh MacDonald, a former resident of Baddeck and a trained heritage carpenter.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, work did not commence until late August, 2004 and early into the project Mr. MacDonald determined that years of neglect had resulted in much structural damage. The first two floors had to be completely removed (and replaced) and the sills, two corner posts and several studs followed suit. All the boards on the gallery floor and beneath (soffit flare) were also rotten and were stripped. However, time or budget did not allow for their immediate replacement.

This is the point at which the project came to a halt. Mr. MacDonald assumed that he would resume work at a later date, but repeated phone calls and emails to Dr. Stewart went unanswered. No work was done through the spring, summer/ fall of 2005 and NSLPS received several inquiries as to what had happened with the project.

In a recent conversation (Dec 2005) with Ms. Katie Grist of the Boularderie Island Historical Society, I learned that carpenters under the direction of a local contractor have installed VINYL windows and a STEEL door in the lighthouse as well as replacing exterior shingles. This work flies in the face of the original agreement made with Dr. Stewart and totally violates our heritage guidelines. This work was done without the knowledge of, or consultation with Ms. Grist and her Group. While the NSLPS has no way of intervening in this project, we are nevertheless very disappointed with this turn of events.

This project stands in sharp contrast to another Kaplan recipient, The Fieldwood Heritage Society, which restored a lighthouse very similar to the McNeil Beach light. This light is located in Canning, near Wolfville. The restoration involved the whole community, including school children in the area. Strict attention was paid to both materials used and workmanship, resulting in a final product closely resembling the original structure.

NSLPS prides itself in working with communities on projects such as this one. In the case of the Mc Neil Beach restoration, we feel that the community group has been left out of the decision-making process and that the original agreement must be honoured.

Bell Rock Lighthouse...

...is a rock station situated on a partially-submerged reef some 11 miles off the county of Angus on the east coast of Scotland. This is the URL for a truly wonderful website about this famous light: <http://www.bellrock.org.uk/>
It contains great images and a wealth of information.



The Cape Capstan lighthouse at Apple River, Nova Scotia. Courtesy *Dave Clarke*



Advocate Harbour Lighthouse. Courtesy *Dave Clarke*

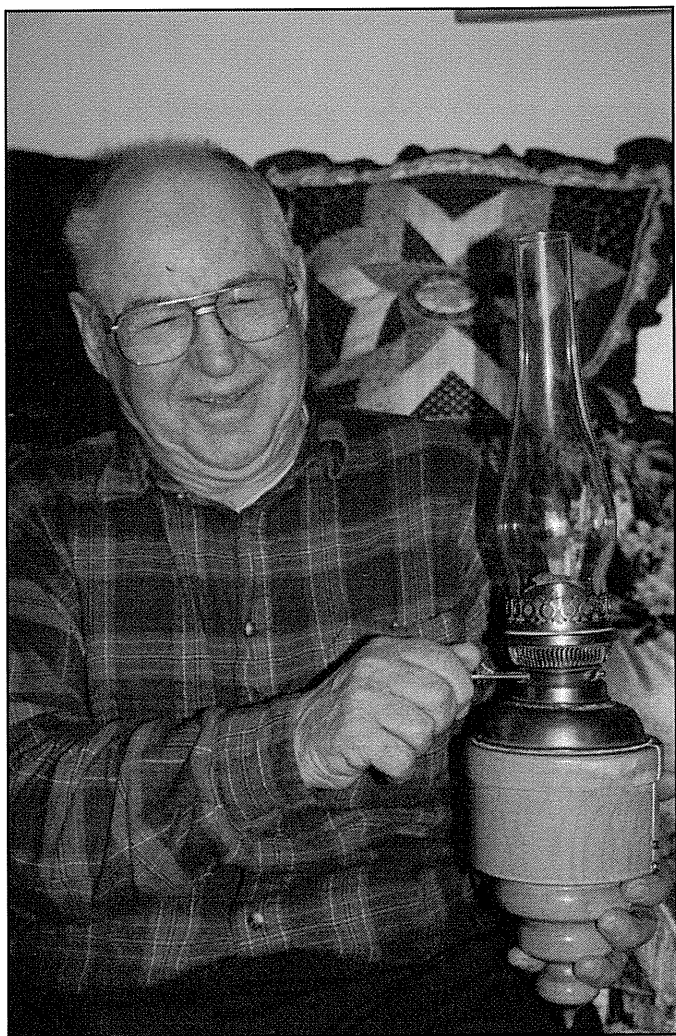
LOST LIGHTS

This charming tower at Apple River guided shipping in the head of the Bay of Fundy from 1870 until 1972, when the Coast Guard replaced it with a concrete tower. The last lightkeepers left in 1973.

We don't have much information about the Advocate Harbour light (built in 1884), although the 1930 edition of *The Nova Scotia Pilot* says it was "shown from a white square wooden lighthouse, 27 feet (8.2m) high, located at the southern side of the entrance to Advocate Harbour. The light has been gone for many years, but a square skeleton tower still shines from the south side of the harbour.

Thanks to Dave Clarke of Port Greville for providing us with these images of two of Nova Scotia's lost lights.

Bull Point Lighthouse, Sambro Harbour



Stewart Gilkie of Sambro holds part of a duplex lamp from the Bull Point light in Sambro Harbour. His father Albert kept the light from 1929 to 1961. *NSLPS/Chris Mills*



Bull Point, Sambro Harbour. *Chris Mills*

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Young Don Gallagher at the Chebucto Head light in the mid- 1930s. His father Edward kept the light from 1928 to 1950. *Courtesy Donald Gallagher*