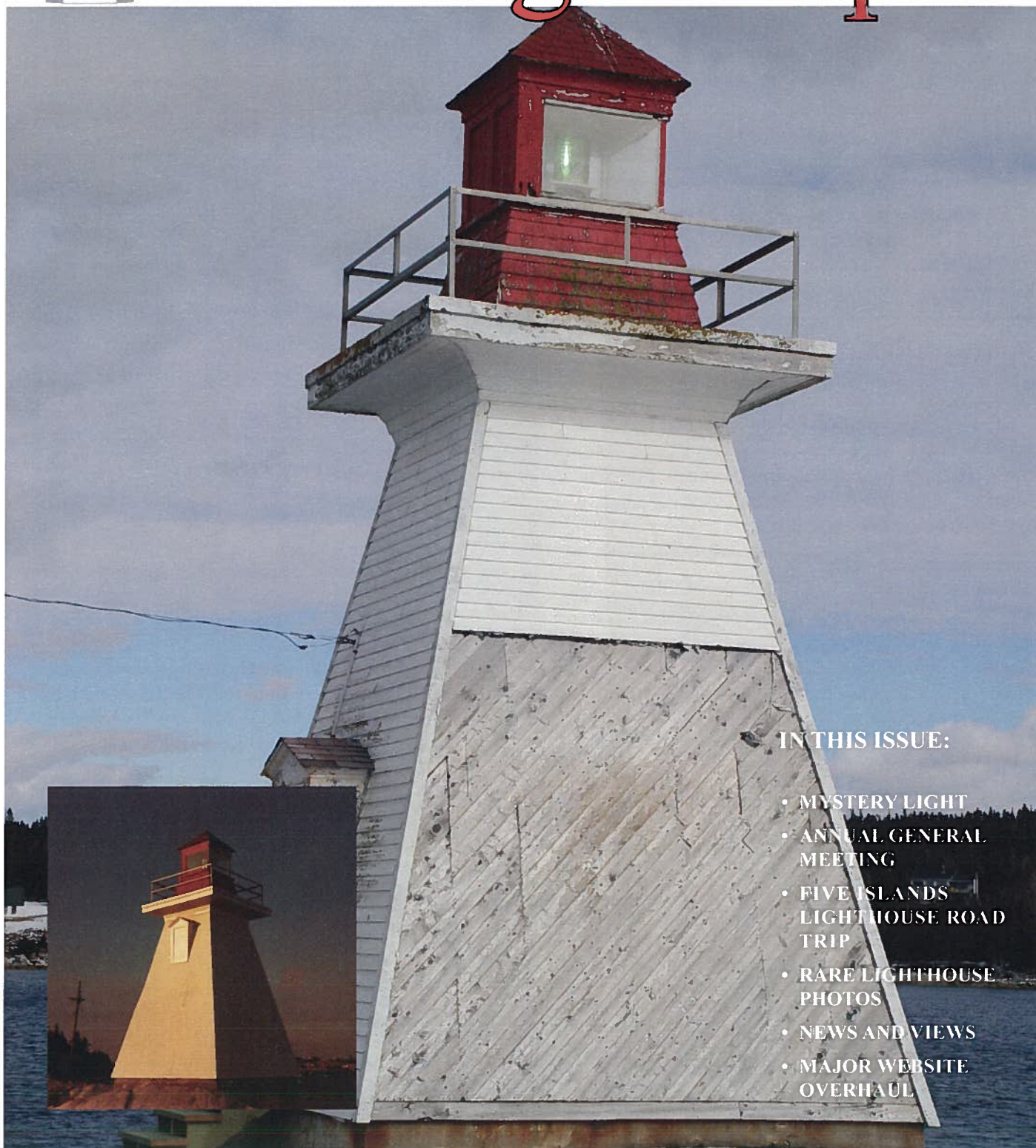




The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Vol. 16, No. 1, March / April 2009

The Lightkeeper™



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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.

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

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LAYOUT: Michael MacLellan, Graphic and Print Production program, NSCC

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NEW MEMBERS: Shelley McCallum, Central Onslow, NS; Bill Edwards, Lawrence, Kansas

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Member-at-Large: Denyse Contrasty

Member-at-Large: Janet Leigh Schaffner

Member-at-Large: Andrew Powter

Cover: Paddy's Head lighthouse shows major wear and tear in February, 2009. *Chris Mills*

Cover Inset: The Paddy's Head light was in much better shape in 1984. *Chris Mills*

MYSTERY LIGHT



COURTESY JEAN WALDRON

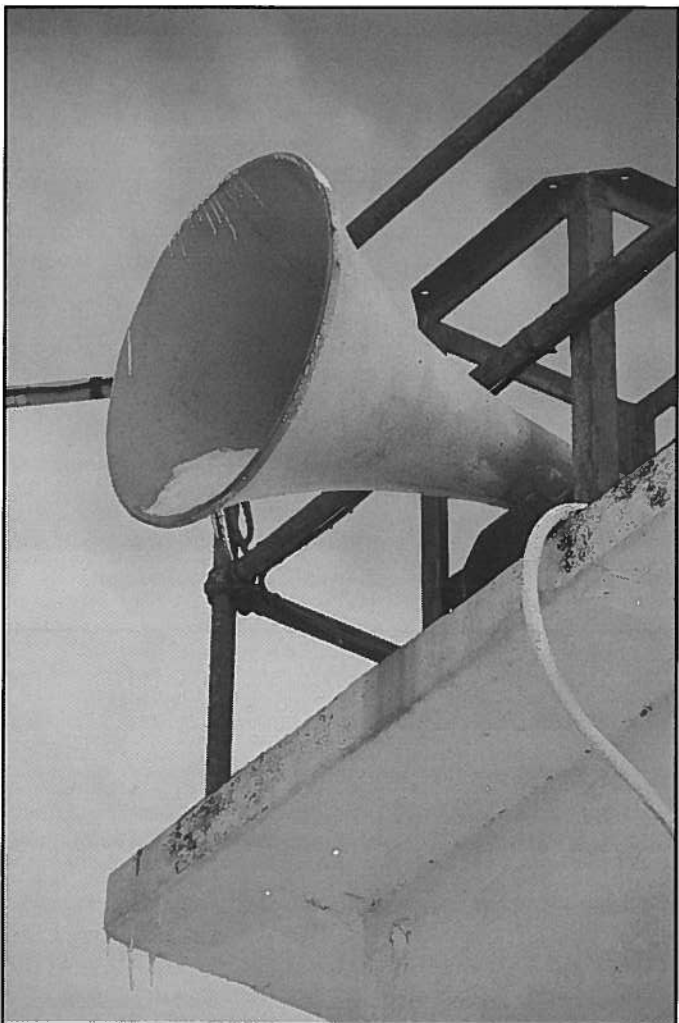
Kudos this month to Don Gallagher for correctly guessing that last issue's mystery light was the Ketch Harbour lighthouse (see *The Lightkeeper*, Vol 8, No. 1, March 2001). The Department of Transport decommissioned the 1905 lighthouse in 1962, and demolished it a few years later. Today, only two concrete support posts remain at the site. The other two now lie on the beach below, thanks to erosion.

Unless you know the Ketch Harbour area, this light was a bit of a stumper (Don Gallagher grew up at nearby Chebucto Head, where his father Edward was keeper from 1928 to 1950, so he had an insider's advantage!) We had several good guesses though, including Five Islands, Upper Cape Negro Harbour and Port Mouton (Spectacle Island).

Apologies to Josette d'Entremont, who also identified Pearl Island as our mystery light in the last issue of The Lightkeeper.



THE APRB 252 LENS AT THIS ISSUE'S MYSTERY LIGHT.



THIS ELECTRONIC AIRCHIME FOG HORN IS A CLUE AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THIS ISSUE'S MYSTERY LIGHT. SEND YOUR GUESSES TO: THE EDITOR, *The Lightkeeper*, NOVA SCOTIA LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY, C/O MARITIME MUSEUM OF THE ATLANTIC, 1675 LOWER WATER STREET, HALIFAX, NS B3J 1S3, OR E-MAIL KETCH1@EAST-LINK.CA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
Wednesday, April 22nd, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Please join us for the 15th NSLPS Annual General Meeting! We're pleased that Phil Pacey, President of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, will be our featured speaker. Phil will present "Saving Heritage Buildings in Nova Scotia," an illustrated talk dealing with many of the challenges faced by groups trying to save historic buildings across Nova Scotia and Canada.

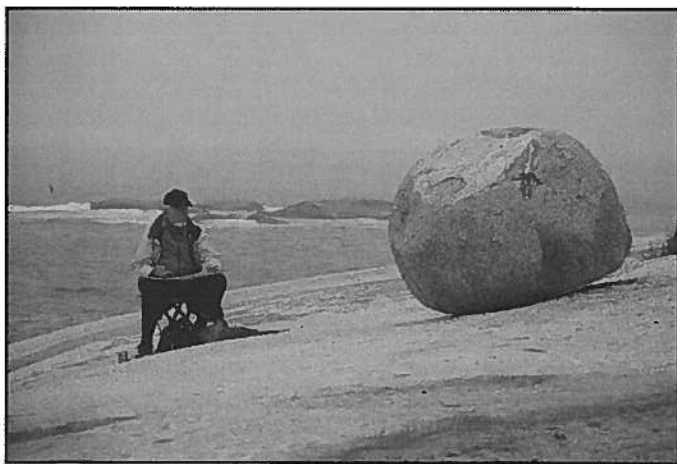
Phil Pacey is the voluntary president of the senior provincial heritage advocacy organization in the country. The Trust holds monthly lectures, publishes books and a newsletter, leads walking tours and workshops, owns a provincial heritage property in Windsor, and researches heritage buildings.

Phil co-owns a heritage home and has been involved in the struggles to save many more; most recently five buildings in the central block of Historic Properties in downtown Halifax. He will tell the stories of some historic buildings in Nova Scotia, and will talk about some challenges for the future.

The 2009 NSLPS Website will also be launched at the AGM, Wednesday, April 22. Be sure to come and get the first public look! See page 10 for more details.

We're also very pleased that artist Tom Forrestall will join us at the AGM to meet and greet guests. Tom has completed eight watercolours of Sambro lighthouse, four of which have already sold. The remaining watercolours will be on display and available for sale by cheque throughout the evening.

The NSLPS has made limited edition prints of two of the watercolours, and these will also be for sale. Tom is kindly donating half of the proceeds from these artworks to the NSLPS.



TOM FORRESTALL AT WORK ON SAMBRO ISLAND IN AUGUST 2008.
CHRIS MILLS

FIVE ISLANDS LIGHTHOUSE FINDS A PERMANENT HOME

Chris Mills

The sturdy Five Islands lighthouse now sits far enough back from the restless advance of the Bay of Fundy that it will likely never have to move again. Prior to its November 6, 2008 journey on the back of a flatbed trailer, the 1914 tower had already been moved three times as the bay wore away at its foundation.

Last year, the campground which had been home for the lighthouse since 1996, was sold, necessitating move number four. Fortunately, the Municipality of Colchester realized the importance of the light to the community, and to tourism in the area. Workers prepared a foundation on municipally-owned land on Broderick Lane, about seven kilometres from the campground.

As curious onlookers lined the road, a crew from Phil Leil Enterprises (house movers) lifted the 13 metre-tall wooden tower onto a large flatbed trailer. Gloria Lewis of the Five Islands Lighthouse Preservation Society took this series of photos detailing the historic move, which she says went like clockwork.

As the summer season approaches, there are a number of projects to complete, including wiring the tower and installing steps to the main door. Gloria says the society hopes to have the tower open to the public in season, but that will depend on the availability of funding for a summer student.

Gloria also says walking trails, benches and signage are part of the long-term plan. The NSLPS offers hearty congratulations to the community of Five Islands for a job well done in saving an important part of Five Islands history.

Anyone wishing to help out can contact Gloria at (902) 254-2968



WORKERS PREPARE TO LIFT THE FIVE ISLANDS LIGHTHOUSE ON NOVEMBER 6, 2008.



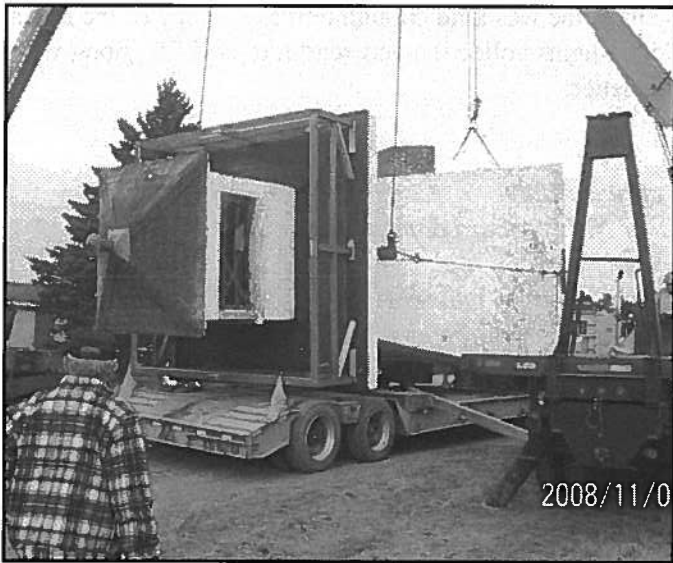
THE LIFTING BEGINS.



THE LIGHTHOUSE SAFELY OFF ITS CAMPGROUND FOUNDATION.



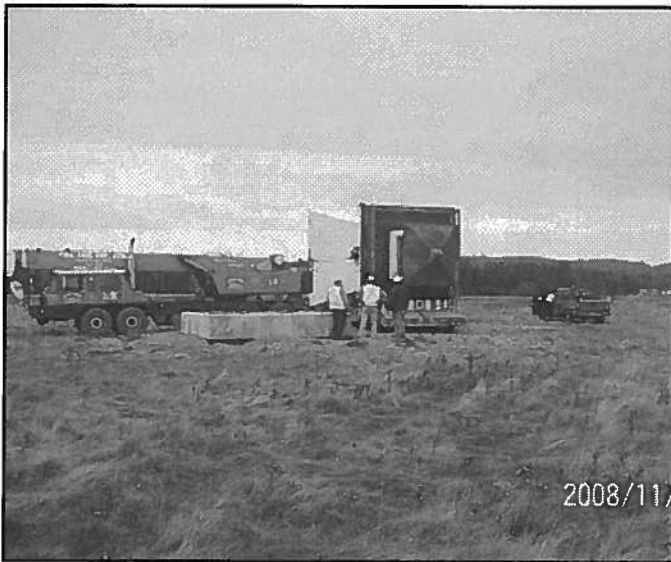
READY FOR THE FLATBED TRAILER.



ALMOST READY FOR THE ROAD



THE LIGHTHOUSE IS CAREFULLY LIFTED ON TO ITS NEW FOUNDATION.



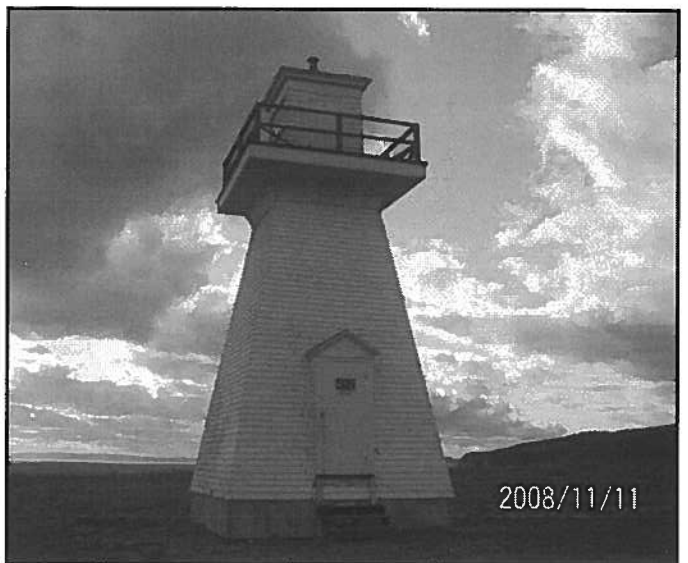
THE FIVE ISLANDS LIGHTHOUSE ARRIVES AT ITS NEW HOME.



ALMOST THERE



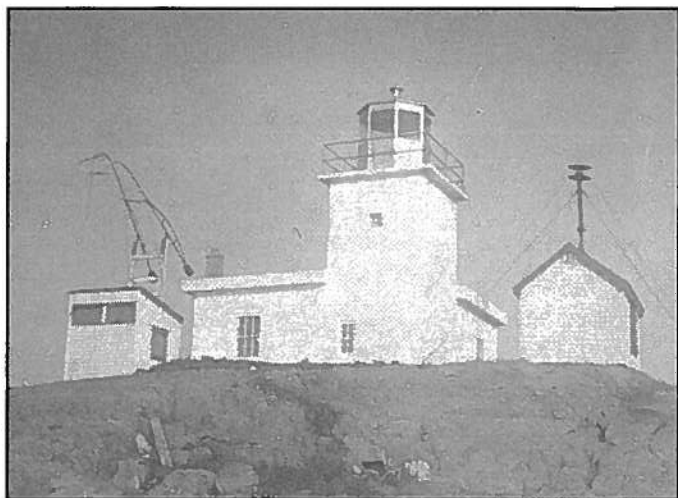
FOUNDATION OFF BRODERICK LANE.



FIRM AND FAST ON THE NEW FOUNDATION.

RARE COAST GUARD PHOTO COLLECTION SCANNED AND SAVED

Chris Mills



THIS RARE 1960S PHOTO OF THE NEW GREEN ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE, OFF YARMOUTH, SHOWS AN EXPLOSIVE FOG SIGNAL SYSTEM AT LEFT, AND AN ACETYLENE FOG GUN AT RIGHT. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD*

Kelly Anne Loughery deserves a hearty handshake and thanks from anyone interested in lighthouses. Kelly Anne is a long-time lighthouse researcher and preservationist -- she recently completed the lengthy process of scanning lighthouse photographs filed at the Saint John Coast Guard Base.



WASH DAY AT THE BUG LIGHT (BUNKER ISLAND) IN YARMOUTH HARBOUR, ON VALENTINE'S DAY, 1923. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD*

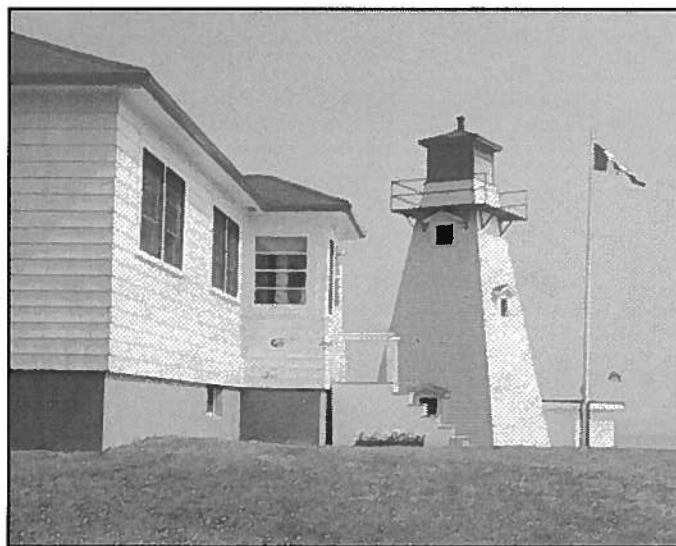
Kelly Anne was kind enough to make a copy of the Nova Scotia lights collection and send it to NSLPS, along with this letter:

February 2009

Dear NSLPS board & members

As you may or may not know The CCG base in Saint John is slated to be closed sometime in the foreseeable future. Having spent time at the base over the years I was aware of the large volume of photographic material in the archives and with the impending closure their future is questionable. Thanks to the trust and generosity of the NavAids staff I was given access to virtually anything I wanted to document. As a result I embarked on a fascinating photographic journey in the fall of 2008.

Each week I spent an entire day at the base going



CAPE SHARP LIGHTHOUSE ON THE BAY OF FUNDY IN 1978. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD*

thru the archives. I lugged numerous photo albums and file drawers home to work on. In the ensuing weeks I scanned, edited, identified, labeled and cataloged over 1,500 images, spending more than 130 hours on the project.

My initial intent was to document New Brunswick lighthouses but almost immediately I realized the importance of all the photos and included Nova Scotia as well. Historically the Saint John base has had the responsibility for the Bay of Fundy lighthouses. For Nova Scotia that is Apple River on the Minas Basin, down the west coast and around Yarmouth to Cape Sable.

In the years that I have been involved with lighthouses it has always been my belief that education and the sharing of knowledge are vitally important. Therefore I wish to present you with a CD containing the images of the Nova Scotia lighthouses, approx 750 images and

documents for your archives or to use for whatever non-commercial means you see fit to further the preservation of the lighthouses in your province.

Best of luck in all your endeavors!



DIGBY'S PRIM POINT LIGHTSTATION SHOWS RED AND WHITE PRIDE IN THIS 1978 VIEW. THE KEEPERS' HOUSES REMAIN ON SITE, BUT ARE NOW PRIVATELY OWNED. KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD

We are indebted to Kelly Anne for this generous offering. This collection represents the evolution of Canadian east coast lighthouses from the days of kerosene and diaphone fog horns, to the building boom of the 50s and 60s, to automation in the 1970s and further modernization and downsizing in the 1980s and 90s. In a future issue of *The Lightkeeper* we will publish an in-depth photo-essay dealing with this amazing collection.

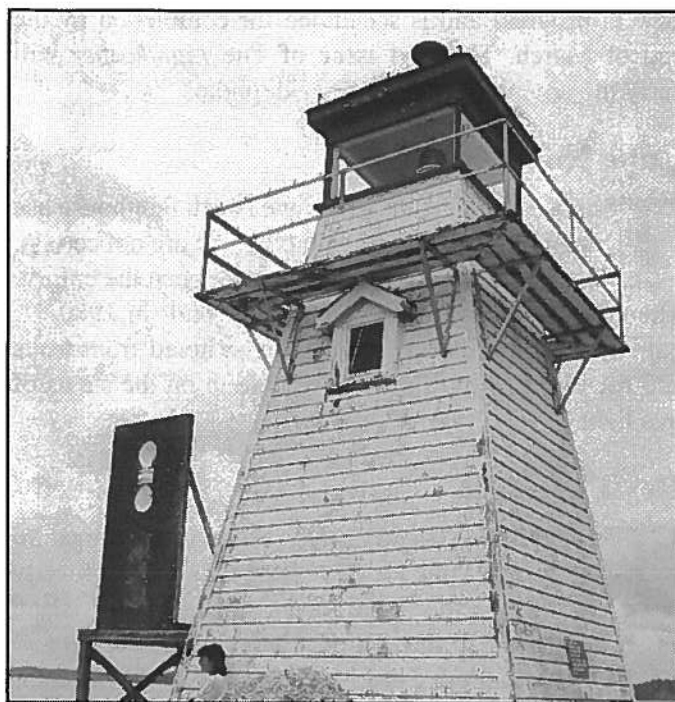
NEWS AND VIEWS

Battery Point

Lunenburg's Board of Trade, Waterfront Association, Heritage Society and Marine Museum Society are voicing their concerns over the state of the little lighthouse marking the entrance to Lunenburg Harbour. The groups say if the wooden tower at Battery Point is not painted and stabilized, "...its life will be shortened dramatically."

The groups are seeking to partner with the Coast Guard in an effort to maintain the site, which is highly visible to all marine traffic (including the world famous schooner *Bluenose II*) heading to and from Lunenburg, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Battery Point also has an operating fog signal. The lighthouse sits at the end of a deteriorating breakwater which protects the inner area of Lunenburg Harbour.



BATTERY POINT IN 2005. CHRIS MILLS

Boar's Head

Barry Buckman of the Tiverton and Central Grove Heritage Association says supporters of the Boar's Head light are still waiting for the feds to deal with "environmental remediation" at the site. The group has not been able to open the site to visitors since last year, and it has not been allowed to continue clean-up of the road leading to the station. Barry says he's heard that remediation may take place this spring. In the meantime, the society is looking for letters of support for their plan to refurbish the site and install interpretive panels.

Canso Range Lights Receive Much-Needed Repairs

Barry MacDonald

Built in 1905, the Canso Range towers are the typical 'pepper-pot' style found in many harbours across Canada. In his book *Lighthouses and Lights of Nova Scotia*, author Rip Irwin notes that both towers were built at a contract price of \$2590. Irwin also notes that unlike the rear tower, the front light's lantern room suffered from rot and was removed in 1968. The top was then decked over and the lighting device placed atop the deck.

The deteriorating condition of these lighthouses as well as the dangerous proximity of the front tower to the water's edge was noted in an inspection carried out by Coast Guard staff in the summer of 2008. As a result, plans were made to move the lighthouse back and carry out necessary repairs to both light towers. This work is

now in-progress and is scheduled for completion by the end of March. The next issue of *The Lightkeeper* will carry the complete story along with photos.

Cape North Damage

There are reports that the Cape North lighthouse has been badly damaged. Although we are not certain, it appears bad weather may have been the culprit. The current tower at Cape North was built in 1980-81, but since de-staffing in 1987, it has suffered from leaks and rot. We have no further information on the status of this light.

Devil's Island

The Devil's Island Light Society continues to explore options for this historic light. The society would like to see the tower remain on this island as an active aid to navigation. Sackville-Eastern Shore NDP MP Peter Stoffer has been approached for his support, with the request that he table a petition that the light remains active.

Lighthouse Protection Act Update

Barry MacDonald

Implementation of the "Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act" is still more than a year away (May 2010) but we should learn at least some of what Parks Canada has in mind by way of criteria for the legislation sometime in April of this year. Many lighthouse groups across the country are anxious to know when the application process will be announced and what steps can be taken in advance of the legislation coming into force.

The short answer is to sit tight and wait until the "slow-grinding wheels" of bureaucracy yield some answers. It took ten years to see the legislation come to fruition, so we need to exercise patience and let the lawmakers do their work.

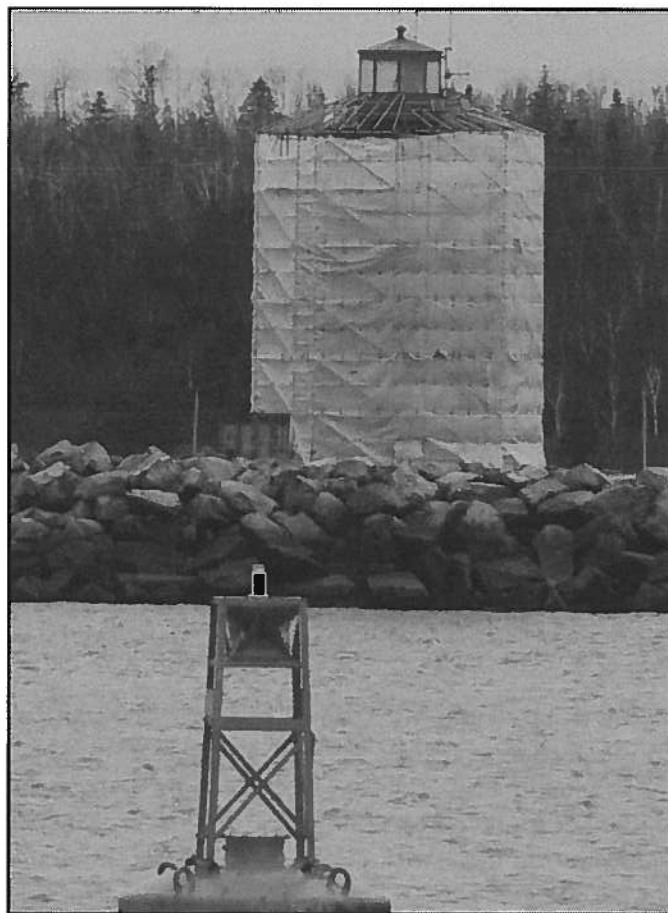
Louisbourg Lighthouse 275th

The weekend of August 22-23 marks a momentous anniversary in Canadian lighthouse history. Our first light, and the second to be built in North America, will be 275 years old. The Louisbourg Lighthouse first shone out over the waters of Louisbourg Harbour and the nearby French fortress, in 1734. We'll have further details about this exciting event in the next issue of *The Lightkeeper*.

Maugher's Beach Spruced Up

The lighthouse marking the notorious "Hangman's Beach" on McNabs Island has received a major facelift. Late last year a team of workers installed

scaffolding around the tower and began sandblasting the concrete structure. With a new coat of paint, the Maugher's Beach lighthouse now looks almost brand new.

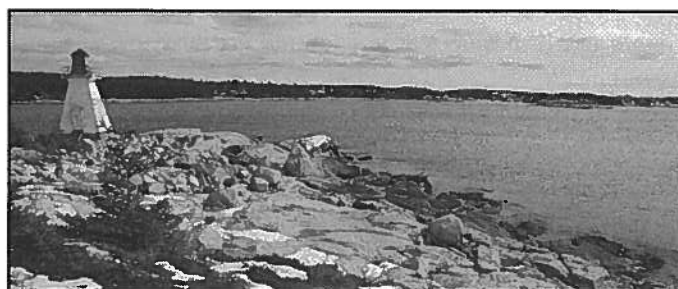


MAUGHER'S BEACH WRAPPED IN SCAFFOLDING IN LATE 2008, WHILE WORKERS SANDBLASTED AND PAINTED THE TOWER. *CHRIS MILLS*



THE FINISHED PRODUCT IN DECEMBER, 2008. *CHRIS MILLS*

Paddy's Head Rotting



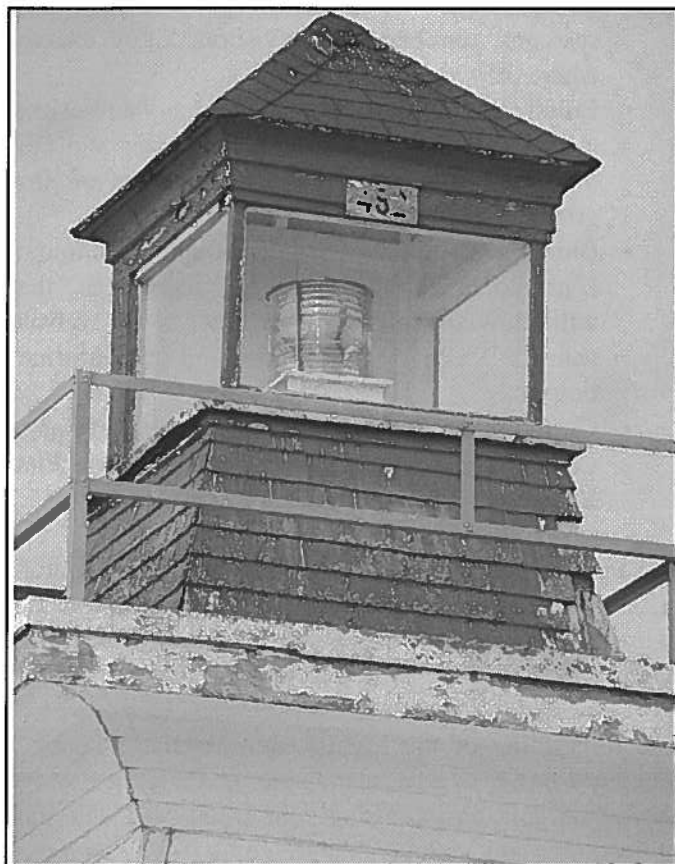
PADDY'S HEAD IN FEBRUARY, 2009. *CHRIS MILLS*

The fate of this picturesque lighthouse in Indian Harbour, near Peggy's Cove, continues to be uncertain. Although the 1901 light is still an active aid to navigation (complete with a now rare 5th order



HURRICANE JUAN DAMAGE AT PADDY'S HEAD. CHRIS MILLS

Fresnel drum lens), storm damage (likely from Hurricane Juan in 2003) has not been repaired. Much of the south-western face of the structure is down to bare sheathing, and the wooden lantern is badly rotten. Although there are a handful of concerned residents and other supporters of



THE WOODEN LANTERN AT PADDY'S HEAD IS DAMAGED AND ROTTING. CHRIS MILLS

this light, we are not aware of any firm plans to divest and or/revitalize this archetypal Nova Scotia harbour light.

Time is of the essence – Paddy's Head needs emergency repairs immediately before it passes the point of no return.

Sambro Horn

More complaints about the new AB 560 electronic fog horn on Sambro Island have led to more headaches for the Coast Guard, and the police. The same individual who has been complaining about the sound of the new horn continues to make her case against the signal, even going so far as to call Halifax Regional Police to complain about the noise. The Coast Guard has stated it will not remove the horn from service. This makes sense, given that there has only been ONE complaint about the horn. The signal provides a safety back-up for vessels working and traveling in the area, and continues the long tradition of sound signals from Sambro Island.

Spectacle Island Lighthouse, Port Mouton

Marg Millard of the Spectacle Light Society reports that there is now an active group devoted to taking over the Port Mouton lighthouse on Spectacle Island. In early March the society voted in board members – their plan now is to gather more information about ownership of the island, insurance and how members can start to maintain the site.

Marg is vice president of the group. She says local residents are concerned that the light has not been on for about a year now.

The society has an annual membership fee of \$10. For more information, contact:

President - Mel Cutler jacki.mel@eastlink.ca

Vice-President - Marg Millard mmillard@eastlink.ca 19 White Point 2 Rd, White Point, Queens Co., RR#1, Hunts Point, NS B0T 1G0

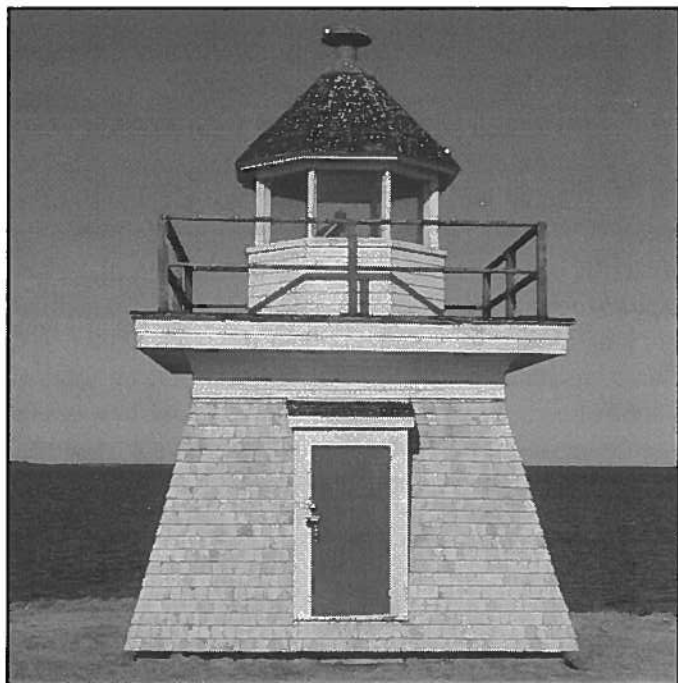
Secretary - Daniel St. Onge docstonge@hotmail.com

Treasurer - Leanora Fisher lfisher@eastlink.ca

Stoddart's Island

The new owner of Stoddart's Island (also known as Emerald Island – see *The Lightkeeper*, Vol.9, No.3, September/October, 2002) has restored the island's squat lighthouse. The structure sat derelict for a number of years after the Coast Guard decided it was no longer needed as an aid to navigation. Stephen Coady of Coady Marine now owns the island, and has placed a small LED light in the 1886 tower.

Author and lightkeeper Evelyn (Fox) Richardson was born on Stoddart's Island, where her maternal grandfather Ephraim Larkin kept the light for more than two decades.



THE NEWLY RESTORED STODDART'S ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE IN MARCH, 2009. *STEPHEN COADY*

Wood Islands, PEI, Moves Inland

Prince Edward Island's Wood Islands lighthouse is a familiar site to regular travelers on the ferry to PEI. The combined light-tower/keeper's house has guided vessel traffic in the area since 1876. In recent years, erosion of the soft red island sandstone meant the 133-year-old lighthouse was in danger of collapsing into the Northumberland Strait.

On March 10, workers prepared to move the tower back more than 70 metres to solid ground. The tower had already been jacked up and placed on steel beams. Those beams sat on wheels, and a tractor trailer pulled the whole affair away from the edge of the bank.

Wood Islands was one of the last lights on PEI to be staffed – keeper Leon Patton served there until 1989. A local group has operated the light as a museum and interpretive centre for about a decade.

LAUNCH OF THE UPDATED 2009 NSLPS WEBSITE

Even better than the original!

Come and see it on a BIG SCREEN!

Kathy Brown

There's lots going on with the website these days. Denyse Contrasty has added images to Canso Range lights, Ciboux Island, Gunning Point,

Mabou, and Sambro Harbour lighthouses. Thanks, Denyse! At the February meeting, the NSLPS board approved an upgrading and completion of the NSLPS Website, and a re-building of the Membership Database.

The original plan for the current website, launched in 2004, was never completed because funds ran out. This 2009 completion project includes the addition of:

- Latitude and Longitude on lighthouse pages to give info so GPS can be used to find lighthouses
- Enhanced searches, by dates built, building materials, type of architecture and more
- Searches for the distance to lighthouses from towns and cities in Nova Scotia so people will be able to obtain a list of lighthouses to visit within a certain distance from where they are

The upgrading includes:

- Widening the pages to take advantage of larger screens that most people now use
- Making sure the site runs well with various software
- Re-designing the Home Page to feature updates and news and highlight desired areas of the website
- Making the site easier to navigate
- Re-designing navigation menus, lighthouse searches, top banners so visitors know exactly where they are in the site
- Building an editing system so that any authorized member of the website team can enter and edit information and photographs regardless of programming knowledge or skills.
- Building an editing system for the Technology Database which provides "Lighthouse Specs," that will allow any authorized member of the website team or NSPS Board to enter and edit information
- Changing the Technology Database so that Range Lights appear as paired lights rather than "First Light" and "Second Light"

The upgraded website is going to give you even more information than it does now and be easier and more fun to use. NSLPS won't need specialized people to look after it. More photographs, more information, easier updating!

The re-building of the Membership Database includes making it easier to edit, searchable, and adding Pay Pal so you can join on-line using your credit card. The jobs of Treasurer and Membership are going to be easier as a result.

The work on the Website and the Membership Database is being done by Peter MacCulloch, our Webmaster, and Peter Eastwood of Eastwood Design. They designed the 2004 NSLPS Website. The NSLPS Committee is Kathy Brown, the Website Content Editor, Denyse Contrasty, a member of the Website Team, and Chris Mills.

LIGHTSHOP

Order from:

Kathy Brown,

5 Whimsical Lake Crescent

Halifax, NS, B3P 2P9.

Telephone: 479-3115

e-mail: kathy@fromthesea.ca

Please make cheques payable to the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society.

NSLPS MEMBERSHIP PINS:

NSLPS Lighthouse Logo on a blue background. \$7.50 including shipping.

PEWTER ORNAMENT, of Sambro Lighthouse:

\$12.00 including shipping.

LIGHTHOUSE LOCATOR MAP

Two copies of a map showing the location of lighthouses in Nova Scotia and their accessibility. One is suitable for framing and the other can be folded and take along with you on lighthouse trips.

\$18.00 including shipping.

LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTS OF NOVA SCOTIA

by Rip Irwin, founding president of NSLPS. Softcover. History and pictures of every lighthouse in the province! The definitive guide to Nova Scotia's lighthouses. \$25.00 including shipping

DOOMSDAY LIST

This is a partial list of Canadian lighthouses and lightstation buildings in danger of being lost through neglect and environmental conditions. Please contact the editor with any suggestions or comments.

Bear River, NS *Decommissioned wooden lighthouse*

Cape North, NS *1981 wooden lighthouse*

Cape Roseway, NS *Dwellings and old fog alarm building*

Country Island, NS *Keepers house (one house burned in 2005)*

Cross Island, NS *Keepers houses*

Devils Island, NS *Wooden lighthouse and keeper's house*

Fish Fluke Point, NB *Combined light and dwelling*

French Point, NS *Wooden lighthouse*

Gannet Rock, NB *1831 wooden tower and attached concrete keepers' house*

Georges Island, NS *Keeper's house*

Green Island, Richmond Co., NS *Keeper's house and old lighthouse (one house burned in 2005)*

Guyon Island, NS *Keepers' houses*

Ingonish Island, NS *Concrete lighthouse and keeper's house*

Isaac's Harbour, NS *Combined dwelling/lighthouse*

Keppel Island, NF *Lighthouse, keepers' houses, fog alarm building, boat house*

***Liscomb Island** *removed from list because keepers' houses are now gone.*

Margaree Island, NS *Lighthouse and dwelling*

Moshers Island, NS *Keepers' houses and small fog alarm building*

Peases Island, NS *Keepers' duplex*

Queensport (Rook Island), NS *Combined dwelling/light-house*

Sambro Island, NS *Assistant keeper's dwelling, Gas House and fog alarm building*

Seal Island, NS *Radio operator's house, barn*

The Lightkeeper is published by the NOVA SCOTIA LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY, c/o Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax, B3J 1S3, Editor: Send items for publication to *The Lightkeeper*, c/o Chris Mills, 1121 Ketch Harbour Road, Ketch Harbour, Nova Scotia, B3V 1K7, or e-mail ketch1@eastlink.ca. Deadline for June 2009 issue: May 20, 2009

NSLPS MEMBERSHIP FORM: January 1 - December 31, 2009 ☐ New ☐ Renewal: Membership # _____

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

Family/Group names for extra cards: _____

Single - \$20.00

Institutional/Group - \$30.00

Patron - \$100.00

Family - \$25.00

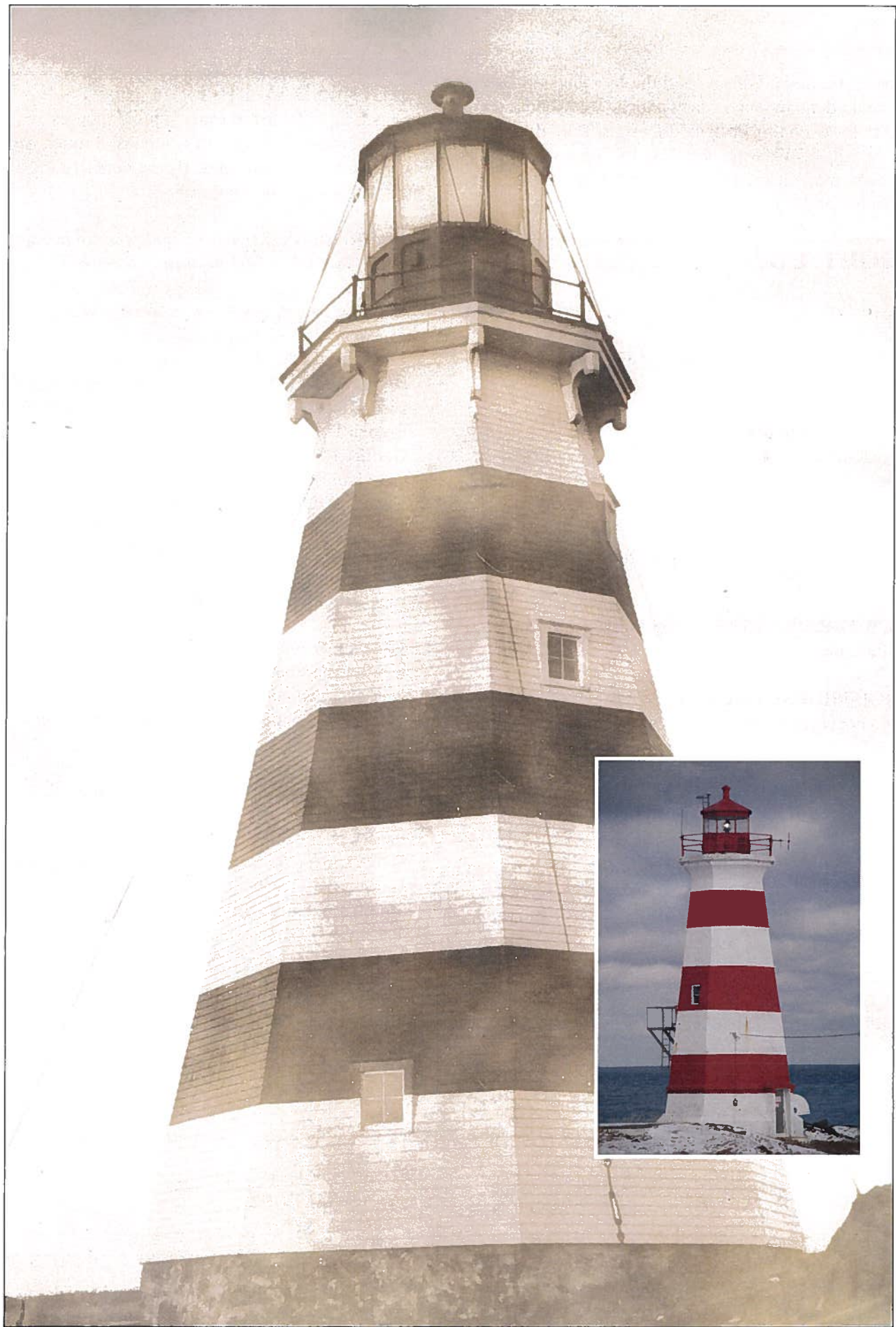
Sustaining - \$50.00

Foreign - \$15.00 U.S. Funds, or equivalent.

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Please make cheques payable to the 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, Nova Scotia, B3J 1S3



THE BRIER ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE IN MAY, 1938. SIX YEARS LATER, FIRE DESTROYED THIS MASSIVE WOODEN TOWER BUILT IN 1809. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD*
INSET: THE CURRENT BRIER ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE IN FEBRUARY, 2009. *CHRIS MILLS*