



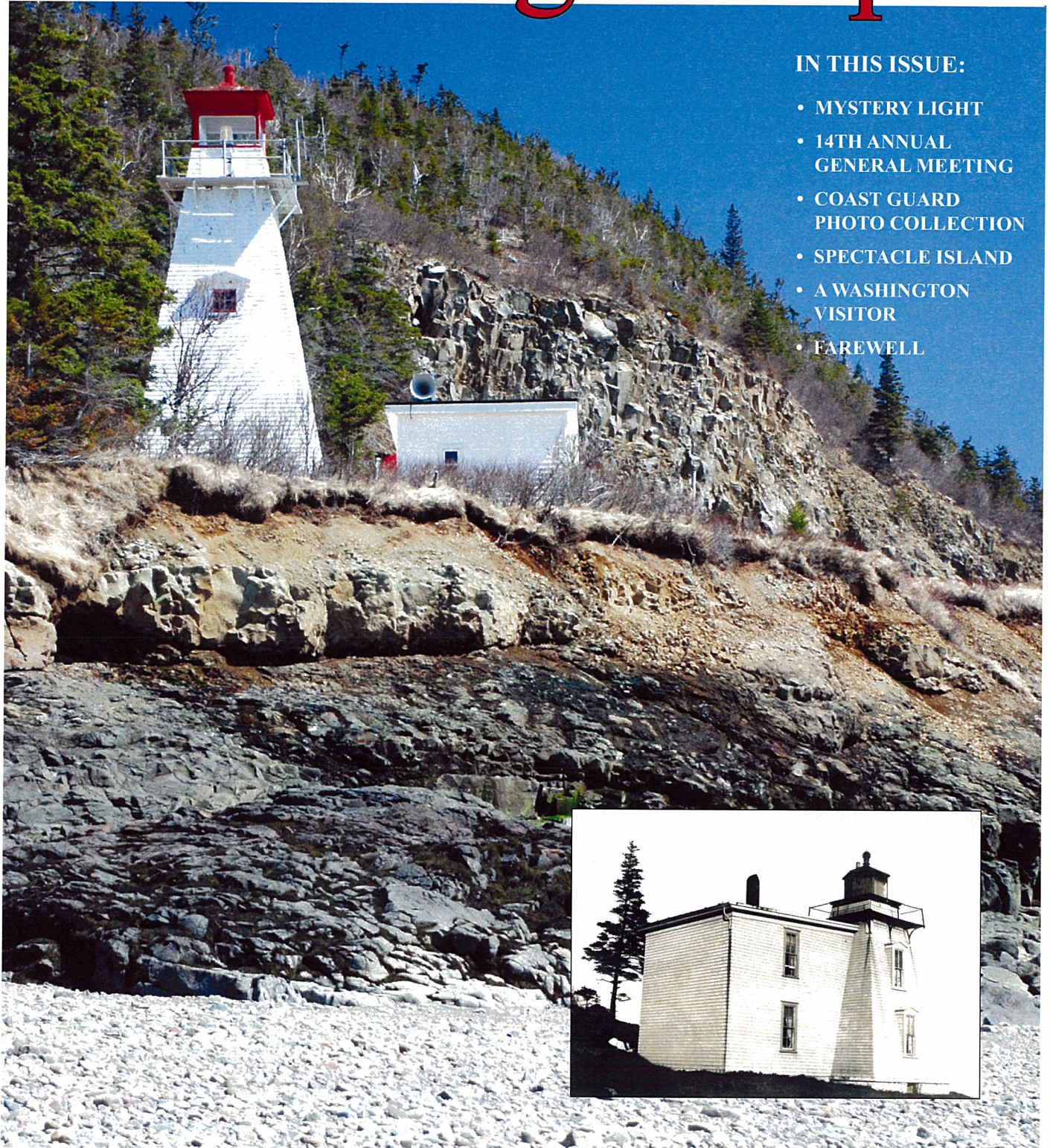
The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Vol. 16, No. 2, June / July 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.

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NSLPS EXECUTIVE 2009/2010

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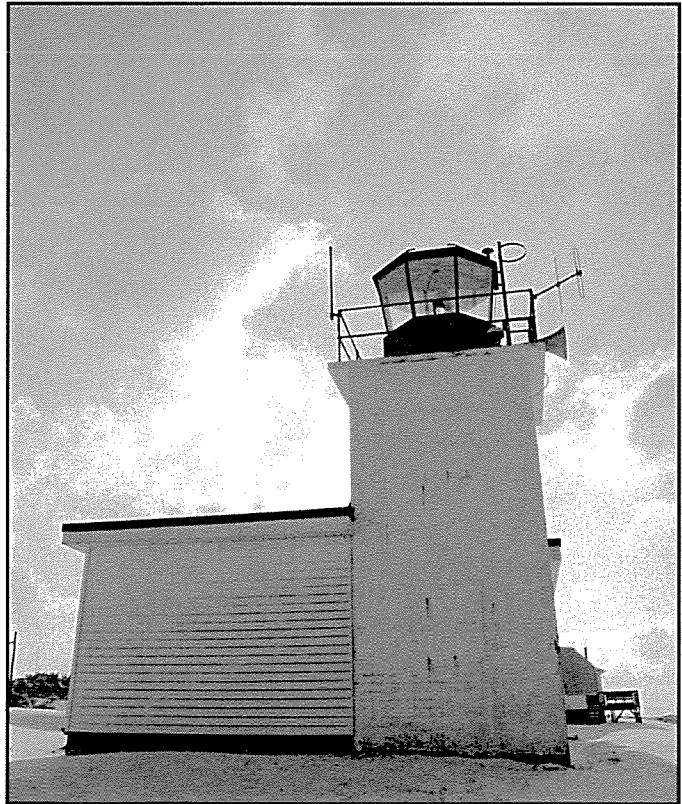
Member-at-Large: Andrew Powter

Cover: The Cape Sharp lighthouse from the beach at low tide in April. *Chris Mills*

Cover Inset: The original Cape Sharp lighthouse, built in 1886. *Kelly Anne Loughery/Canadian Coast Guard Collection*

MYSTERY LIGHT

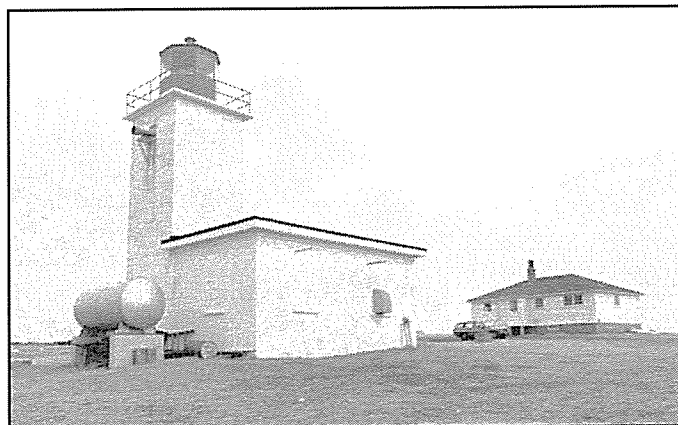
The March/April Mystery Light was a challenge –especially for our more distant members. Both James Schlecta and Josette d'Entremont gave it the old college try. Josette succeeded in narrowing it down to Bon Portage, Candlebox, Green Island (Yarmouth County) and a few of the other square concrete towers that also have Airchime fog horns, but in fact it was the Grand Passage lighthouse on Brier Island.



GRAND PASSAGE LIGHTHOUSE IN FEBRUARY, 2009. *CHRIS MILLS*



THIS ISSUE'S MYSTERY LIGHT WAS DEMOLISHED IN THE 1960S TO MAKE WAY FOR A NEW TOWER. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION*



THIS TOWER REPLACED THE ORIGINAL LIGHTHOUSE AT THE LOCATION OF THIS ISSUE'S MYSTERY LIGHT. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION*. SEND YOUR GUESSES TO THE EDITOR, C/O ADDRESS ON PAGE 15, OR E-MAIL [KETCH1@EASTLINK.CA](mailto:ketch1@eastlink.ca)

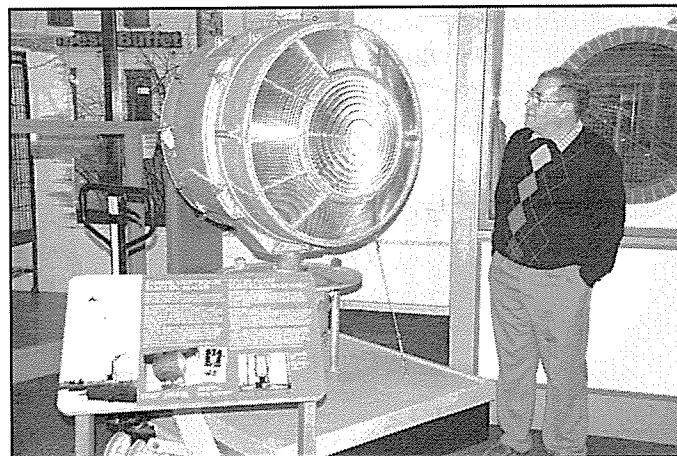
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chris Mills

Rain, drizzle and fog on the night of April 22nd made a fitting environment outside as NSLPS members gathered for the society's 14th annual general meeting. Although the event drew a modest crowd of die-hard lighthouse supporters, spirits were bright as we celebrated another year of battles and accomplishments.

In his address, society president Barry MacDonald summarized some of the highlights.

"Our major accomplishment over the past year was passage of Bill S-215, the Historic Lighthouse Protection Act. After eight attempts in the House of Commons



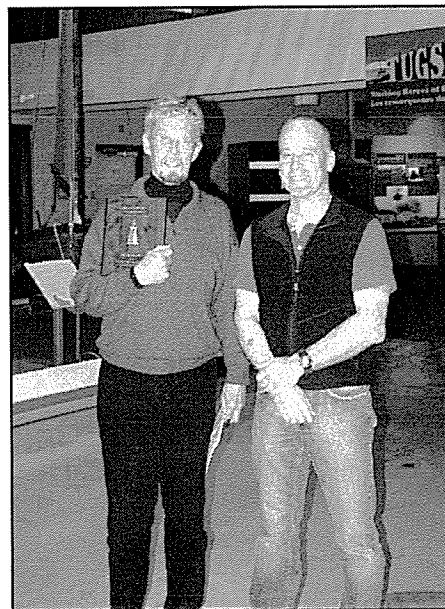
NSLPS PRESIDENT BARRY MACDONALD TAKES A LOOK AT SAMBRO ISLAND'S DCB 36 ON DISPLAY AT THE MARITIME MUSEUM OF THE ATLANTIC. *CHRIS MILLS*

and 10 years of work, the legislation became law on May 29, 2008 when it was given Royal Assent by Governor General Michaëlle Jean. The passage of this legislation has raised the profile of our lighthouses across the country and will guarantee that they will be there for future generations to enjoy. As Nova Scotians, we can be proud that the groundwork for this legislation was done here."

After the reading of annual reports, Dan Conlin and Chris Mills presented the eighth annual Craig Harding Award to the Hampton Lighthouse and Historical Society. In 2001, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans passed ownership of this beautiful wooden lighthouse over to the society, which maintains the tower (built in 1911) and the 6th order lens which shines each night from its lantern. John James of the Hampton society accepted the award

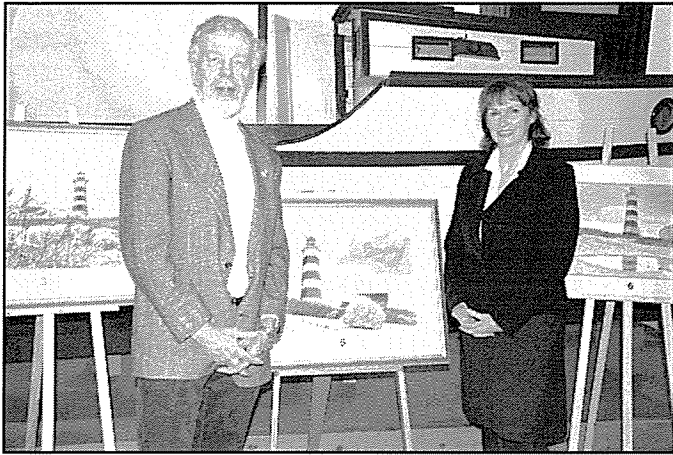
with thanks, noting the community's pride in its guiding light.

The NSLPS was also honoured to present renowned artist Tom Forrestall with a photographic plaque to recognize Tom for his efforts in helping preserve Canada's lighthouse history. Tom has very generously offered NSLPS half of the profits from the sale of Sambro Island lighthouse

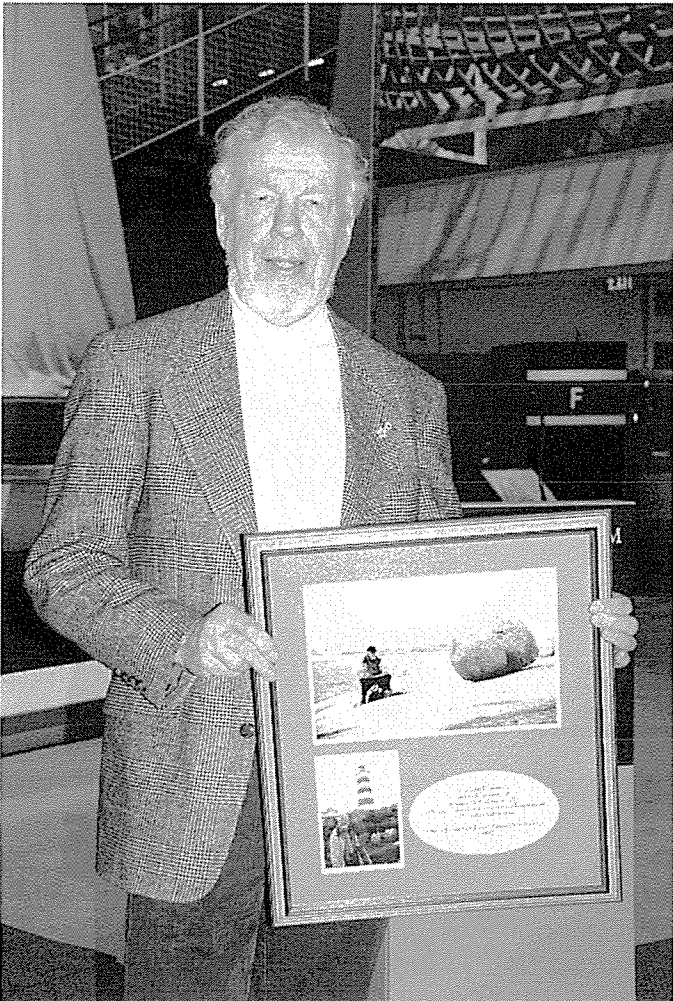


JOHN JAMES OF THE HAMPTON LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY AND CHRIS MILLS WITH THE CRAIG HARDING AWARD FOR 2009. *BARRY MACDONALD*

prints. Board member Joanne MacCormack, who worked closely with Tom on the painting/print project, presented Tom with the plaque. Tom also brought along four original paintings of Sambro Island, as well as prints for sale.



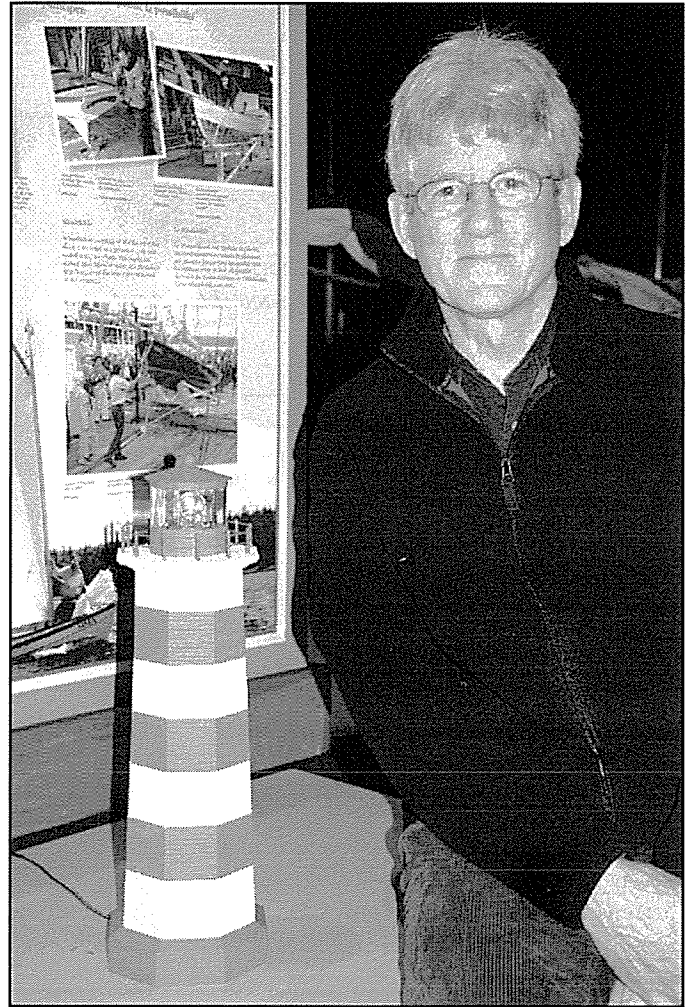
TOM FORRESTALL AND NSLPS BOARD MEMBER JOANNE MACCORMACK. *CHRIS MILLS*



TOM FORRESTALL WITH A FRAMED APPRECIATION FROM NSLPS FOR HIS WORK IN PRESERVING AND PROMOTING LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY. *CHRIS MILLS*

Kathy Brown and Peter MacCulloch brought members and guests up to speed on the extensive NSLPS website makeover, which will include a fresh design and user-friendly operations. Work continues on the upgrades, and the website will be on-line in the coming weeks.

Following annual reports and presentations, Nova Scotia Heritage Trust president Phil Pacey gave an excellent and comprehensive talk dealing with the challenges facing individuals and groups in saving Nova Scotia's historic buildings.



CARL ANDERSON WITH HIS SCALE MODEL OF THE SAMBRO ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE. *CHRIS MILLS*

Developers appear to rule the roost in downtown Halifax, where the city's heritage assets are under continual assault in the name of economic progress. In lighthouse spheres, economic constraints appear to contribute to the lack of care of many lightstation towers and buildings across the province. This dearth of maintenance leads to major structural problems (such as at Devil's Island in Halifax Harbour) and possible demolition of lighthouses.

NSLPS member and lighthouse model-maker extraordinaire Carl Anderson brought his latest creation to the meeting – a scale model of the Sambro lighthouse,

containing a working, rotating light! Carl's first effort, a two-foot tall scale model of the Cape Sable lighthouse, graces the cover of *The Lightkeeper*, Vol. 15, No. 4, December 2008/January 2009.

As an added treat, marine history curator Dan Conlin had Sambro Island's DCB 36 out from storage for public viewing at the museum. The Coast Guard has given the lens to the Maritime Museum and some time this year, the aluminum and pyrex unit will be permanently displayed near the first order lens removed from the lighthouse in the late 1960s.

Although it was good to see the usual crowd of lighthouse supporters, we are always in need of new blood and new ideas. The election of officers this year included a carbon copy of last year's slate, and marked the beginning of Barry MacDonald's seventh year as president. If you'd like to join our board, or help out in any way, please contact any current board member!

Thanks to NSLPS board members Lew Perry and Janet-Leigh Schafner for dealing with the logistics of the membership table and the food and coffee. Thanks also to Jasmine Marshall of the Maritime Museum for her assistance.

SNAPSHOTS IN TIME: NOVA SCOTIA'S LIGHTHOUSES THROUGH COAST GUARD EYES

Chris Mills

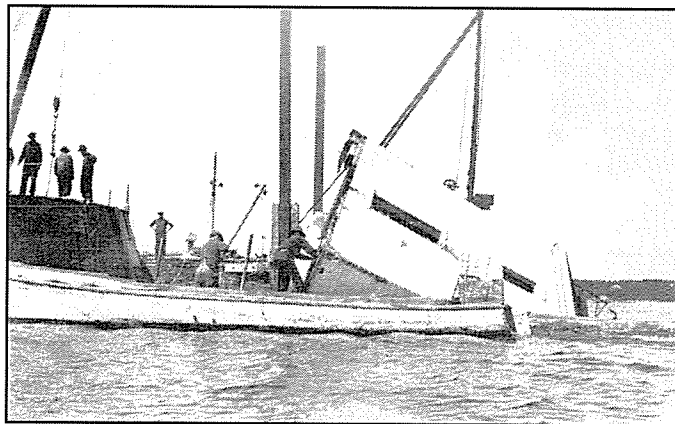
In the last issue of *The Lightkeeper*, we told you about lighthouse preservationist and researcher Kelly Anne Loughery, and her efforts to scan more than 1,500 photos stored at the Coast Guard Base in Saint John, New Brunswick. Kelly Anne spent dozens of hours over several months, methodically scanning and identifying photos of lighthouses, keepers and equipment in the Saint John District, which covers aids to navigation from the Maine/New Brunswick border, to Cape Sable in Nova Scotia.

Kelly Anne very generously made a CD of the Nova Scotia lighthouses in the collection, and sent it to the NSLPS. These photos are invaluable as a record of the progression of lighthouses from fully staffed sites crucial to navigation, to their automated, and secondary role today as aids to mariners.

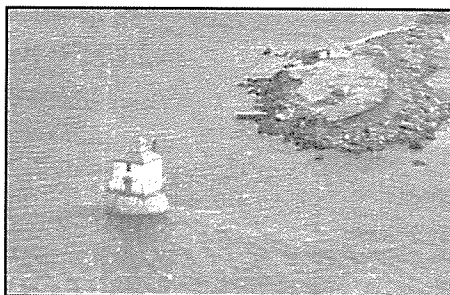
This selection of images gives some idea of the scope of the collection, and its contribution to lighthouse research, preservation and protection. Once again, we owe a debt of thanks to Kelly Anne Loughery and to the Canadian Coast Guard for making this collection accessible to the NSLPS and its members for research purposes.



THE BUNKER ISLAND, OR "BIG LIGHT" IN YARMOUTH HARBOUR ON A CHILLY FEBRUARY, 1923. NOTE THE LAUNDRY HANGING TO DRY, AND THE SMALL BOY ON THE DECK. KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION



DISMANTLING THE OLD "BIG LIGHT" IN JULY 1923. KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION



YARMOUTH'S BUNKER ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE IN 1944. KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION



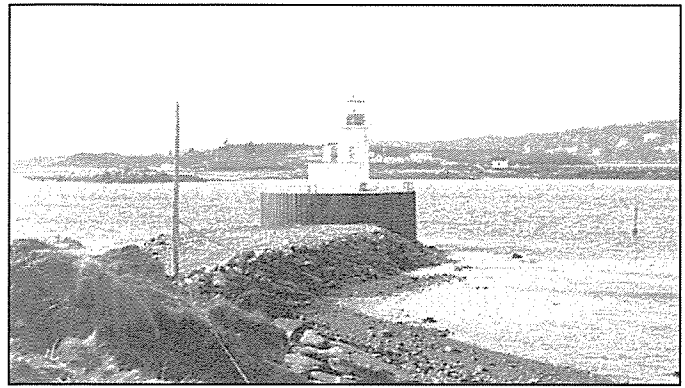
THE FOURTH BUNKER ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE FROM A POSTCARD CIRCA 1960S. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION*



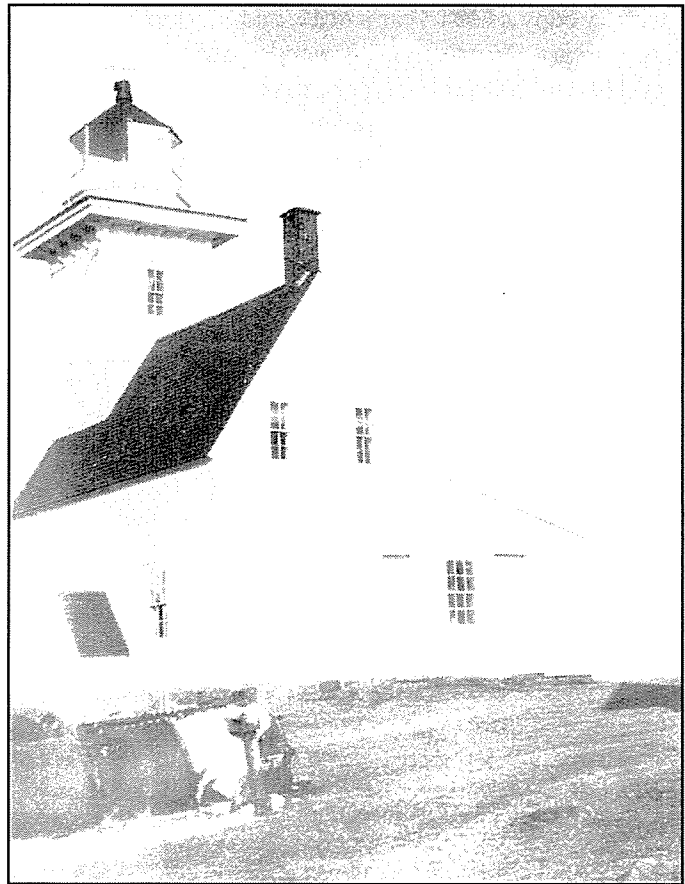
WORK PROGRESSES ON THE BUNKER ISLAND LIGHT IN OCTOBER, 1984. NOTE NEW LANTERN BEHIND POWER POLE. BUILDING AT RIGHT HOUSED THE KEEPER'S OFFICE, FOG DETECTOR AND EMERGENCY GENERATORS. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION*



OCTOBER 6, 1984. WITH THE NEW CAISSON COMPLETE, CREWS WORK ON THE TOWER. NOTE TEMPORARY NAVIGATION LIGHT ON SKELETON TOWER MOUNTED ON FOG HORN. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION*



THE BUG LIGHT AS IT APPEARED IN NOVEMBER 1984. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION*



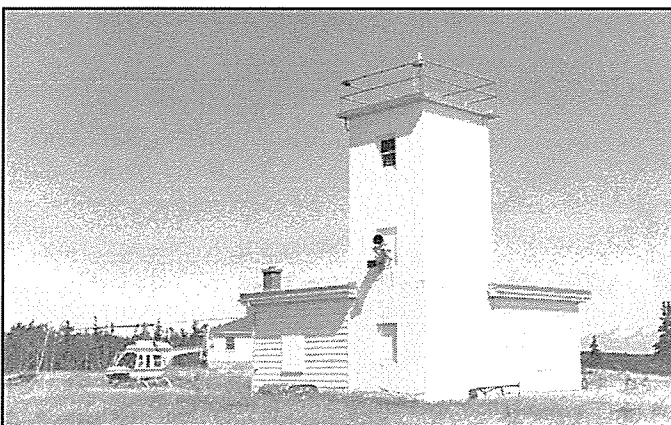
THE ORIGINAL APPLE RIVER LIGHTHOUSE, BUILT IN 1870 AT THE HEAD OF THE MINAS BASIN ON CAPE CAPSTAN, PICTURED IN 1927. IN THE LATE 1960S, THE COAST GUARD BUILT A NEW CONCRETE COMBINED LIGHTHOUSE/ENGINE ROOM AT APPLE RIVER, AND CONSTRUCTED TWO NEW DWELLINGS FOR THE HEAD AND ASSISTANT KEEPER. BY THE EARLY 1970S, THE STATION WAS DE-STAFFED AND ABANDONED. SOME TIME AFTER 1982, WORKERS DEMOLISHED THE ENGINE ROOM PORTION OF THE LIGHTHOUSE, LEAVING JUST THE SQUARE, LANTERNLESS TOWER. THAT TOWER STILL STANDS, WITH A SMALL FLASHING LIGHT ON TOP. THE HOUSES ARE GONE, AND THE STATION NO LONGER HAS A FOG HORN. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION*



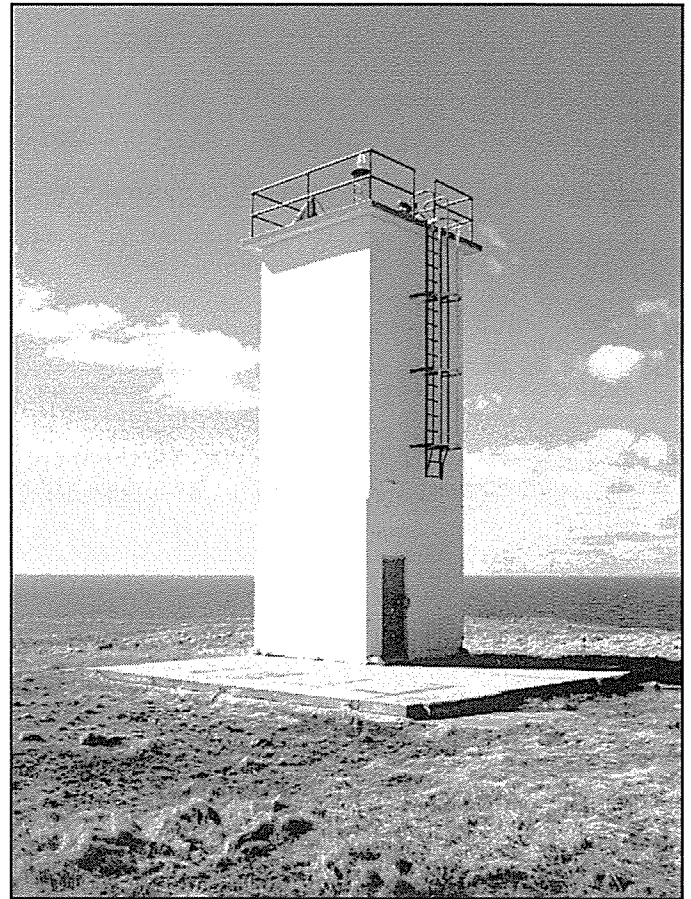
APPLE RIVER IN SUMMERTIME IN THE 1920s. FROM LEFT -MR & MRS ELDERKIN, KEEPERS; LH INSPECTOR, JOHN KELLY; AND MR. B? KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION



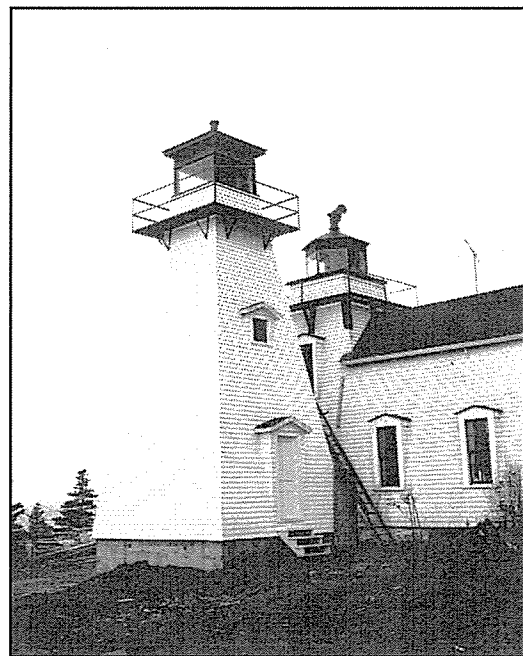
IN THE LATE 1960s, THE APPLE RIVER LIGHTSTATION UNDERWENT AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION, WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW LIGHTHOUSE AND TWO KEEPERS' HOUSES. BY 1973 THE COAST GUARD HAD AUTOMATED AND DE-STAFFED THE SITE. KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION



THE APPLE RIVER LIGHTHOUSE IN AUGUST 1982. NOTE DIAPHONE FOG HORN ON TOWER, WITH SMALL ELECTRIC FOG HORN JUST UNDER IT. KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION



BY 1990, ALL THAT REMAINED OF THE APPLE RIVER LIGHT WAS THIS CONCRETE TOWER SUPPORTING A SMALL SOLAR-POWERED LENS. IT REMAINS IN SERVICE TODAY. KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION



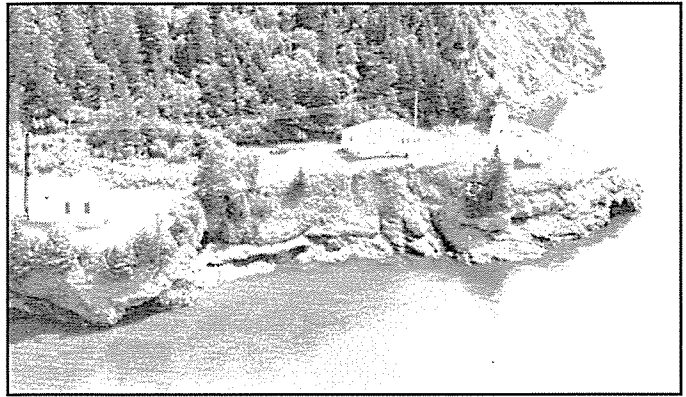
IN 1958, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT BUILT A NEW TOWER AND KEEPERS' HOUSES AT CAPE SHARP, NEAR PARRSBORO, TO REPLACE THE ORIGINAL LIGHTHOUSE/DWELLING BUILT IN 1886. KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION



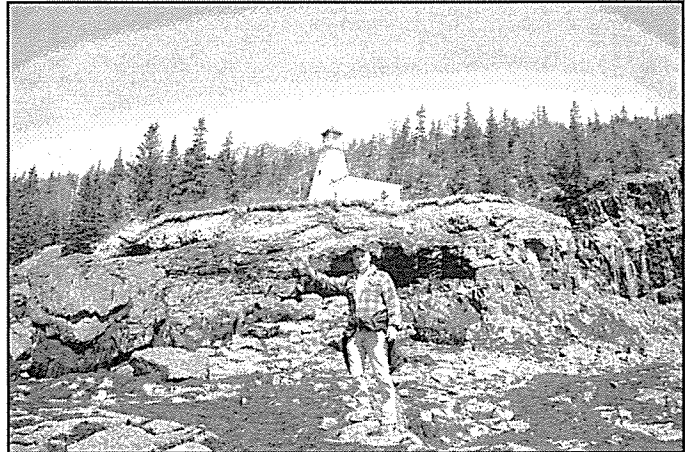
ONE OF TWO NEW KEEPER'S HOUSES UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT CAPE SHARP IN 1958. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION*



THE OLD AND THE NEW AT CAPE SHARP ON OCTOBER 29, 1958. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION*



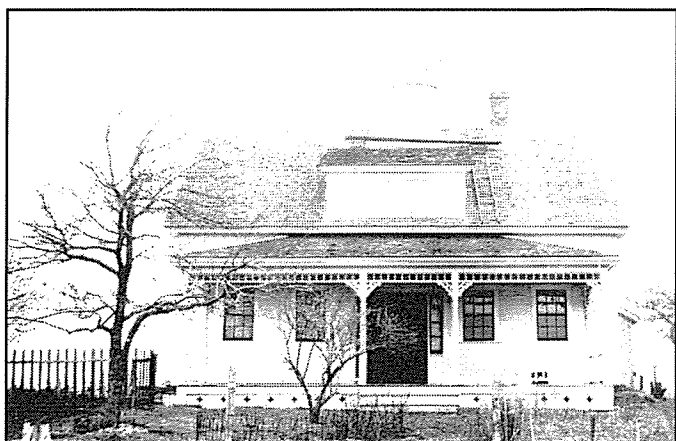
AN AERIAL VIEW OF CAPE SHARP FROM JULY 1974, SHOWING OLD FOG ALARM AT LEFT, KEEPER'S HOUSE AND LIGHTHOUSE AND NEW FOG ALARM. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION*



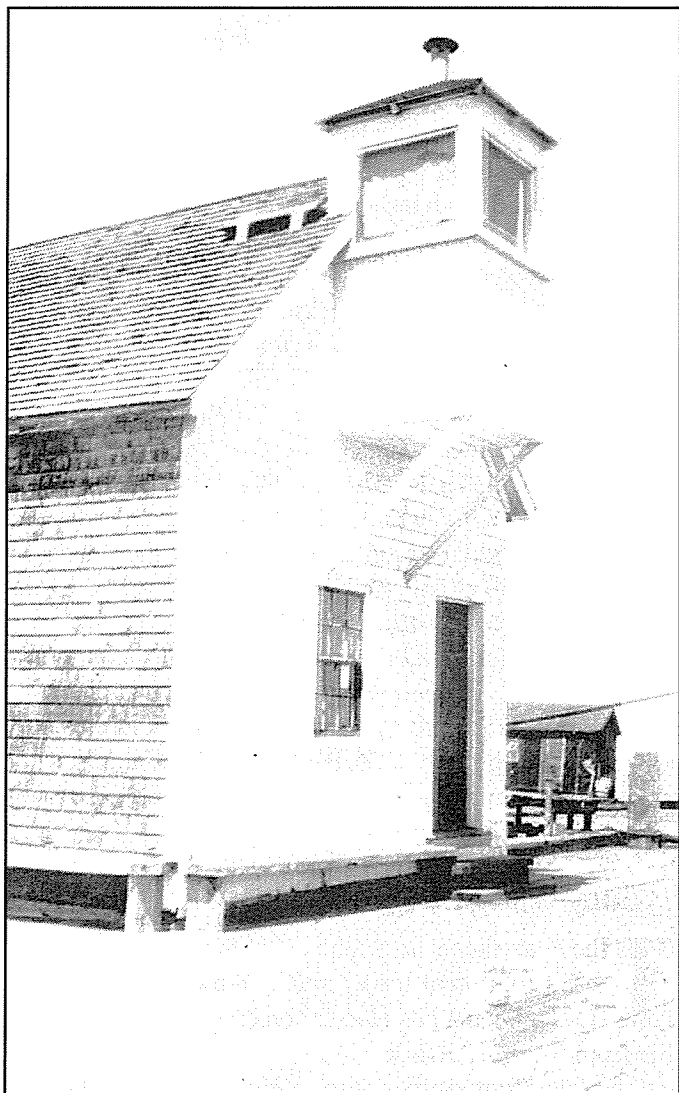
CHRIS MILLS AT CAPE SHARP IN APRIL, 2009. *CHRIS MILLS*



CAPE SHARP'S ML-300 LENS FLASHES 24-7. *CHRIS MILLS*



THE SINGULAR SPENCER'S POINT LIGHTHOUSE IN APRIL, 1935. ACCORDING TO THE 1930 NOVA SCOTIA PILOT, THIS LIGHT WAS "...SHOWN FROM AN OCTAGONAL LANTERN RISING FROM THE ROOF OF A RECTANGULAR, WHITE, WOODEN DWELLING, 20 FEET (6.4M) HIGH, ON THE SOUTHEASTERN EXTREMITY OF SPENCER POINT" ON THE MINAS BASIN. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION*



ANOTHER GEM FROM THE PAST: THE HANTSPORT LIGHT IN 1930. *KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY/CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLECTION*

Cape Forchu Lightstation

The Beacon to Canada

The Mug Up Tea Room
Opening Sunday May 30, 2009

Open daily
11 am – 5 pm

Try our signature cold lobster sandwich, our homemade desserts and more.
Picnic lunches now available. 19 acres of breathtaking views.
Two unique gift shops and museum.
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NEWS AND VIEWS

Five Islands Lighthouse Day

The Five Islands folks plan to hold their lighthouse day on July 25th - this year it's a celebration of the recent transfer of the lighthouse from a nearby campground to its current location on Broderick Lane. From 11 AM to 3 PM join the crowd at the lighthouse for a barbeque, live music, games and a ticket draw for a five-foot tall replica of the Five Islands lighthouse!

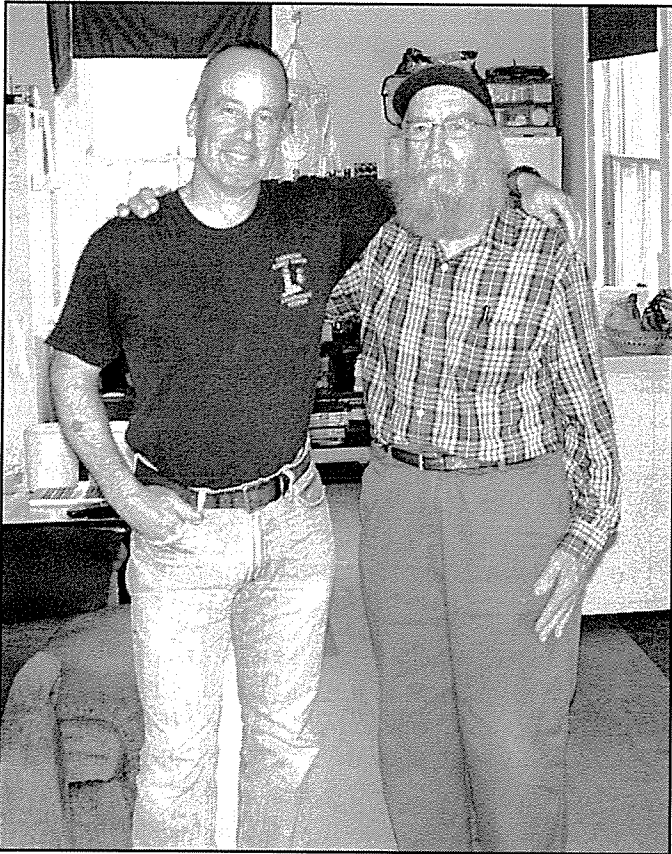
Gloria Lewis of the Five Islands Lighthouse Preservation Society says the lighthouse will be painted inside and out by July, and the society has been able to secure a grant to hire a student to staff site for eight weeks during the summer months. The lighthouse will be open to the public from Thursday to Monday.

Havre Boucher Range Lights

Both Havre Boucher range lights near Antigonish are in terrible condition. The Coast Guard plans to replace the front tower with a steel structure, while the rear will be completely rebuilt. NSLPS president Barry MacDonald has been in-touch with the local municipal councillor to gauge community support for the project.

Leonce Huskins

Longtime lightkeeper Leonce Huskins was a gracious host recently as Chris Mills stopped in at his Port Mouton home for a visit and a taped interview. Leonce began his lightkeeping career in 1942 on Little Hope Island in Queens County. He later moved on to Spectacle Island, and later to Battery Point in Lunenburg. We'll share some of Leonce's memories in the September *Lightkeeper*.



CHRIS MILLS AND LEONCE HUSKINS IN PORT MOUTON IN MAY, 2009. *REBECCA HUSKINS*

Louisbourg

Jean Bagnell of the Louisbourg Lighthouse Society says plans are underway for celebrations to mark the 275th birthday of Canada's first (and North America's second) lighthouse. Jean says the society will meet with Parks Canada in early June to map out a plan. At this point there are tentative plans for barbeque and music at the lighthouse site on August 22nd. According to Sandy Balcom of Parks Canada, the following events are scheduled:

- Cannon firings from Lighthouse Point - in the 18th century cannons were fired at the fortress on foggy days to caution ships that they were near land.

- A display of models of the lighthouse in a tent at Lighthouse Point.
- Display of the original lead plaque from the first lighthouse.
- Presentation on navigation into the harbour during the eighteenth century.

The date (August 22, 2009) chosen to commemorate this important anniversary has two levels of meaning. First, the year commemorates the 275 anniversary of the first lighting of the lighthouse in 1734. Second, the day (August 22nd) commemorates the date of the placing of a lead plaque in the original lighthouse during the beginning of construction in 1731.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries built the current concrete lighthouse in 1923. Back in 1998, the Coast Guard removed the powerful DCB 36 lens installed in the late 1980s, replacing it with a smaller APRB 252 (see the same lens pictured in the last issue's Mystery Light). Jean says the society would like to see the DCB re-installed, to replace the current "flashlight".

Saint Paul Island Southwest Light

Many people don't realize that a piece of Cape Breton marine history makes its home on the Dartmouth waterfront. Back in the early 1980s the Coast Guard dismantled the Saint Paul Island southwest light, and replaced it with a fiberglass tower. Workers then re-assembled the cast iron lighthouse on the grounds of the Canadian Coast Guard Base in Dartmouth.

The North Highlands Community Museum is now seeking to relocate the tower to the village of Cape North in Cape Breton. As president NSLPS Barry MacDonald says, "The Museum in Cape North has been in existence since 1979, and has a number of well-maintained facilities, and would appear to be in a good position to preserve and present this important artifact. Locating the lighthouse at this museum will clearly make it much more accessible to the public than is the current situation.

Cape North and its neighbouring small communities have a long association with St. Paul Island, and there are a number of people living there who worked on lighthouses including the two St. Paul Island lighthouses, so it makes sense for the lighthouse to be located at the museum in Cape North."

Sydney Range Lights

The rear range at Sydney has been replaced with a 30-foot steel tower and massive daymark. The Coast Guard has already received good marks on this from Marine Atlantic.

The front range is currently under assessment but initial inspection has turned up a lot of deterioration in the large wooden lighthouse, built in 1905. Stay tuned on this one.