



The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society
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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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Cover Photo: Cape Sable's iconic and crumbling 101-foot tower in 2009. Despite "full" heritage protection, the light is in bad shape and has not been painted in years. The town of Clark's Harbour is working towards restoration of this heritage structure, which continues to exhibit a powerful light and a fog horn. *Josette d'Entremont*

Cover Inset: Cape Sable in the 1950s. *Courtesy Sid and Betty June Smith.*

FROM THE EDITOR

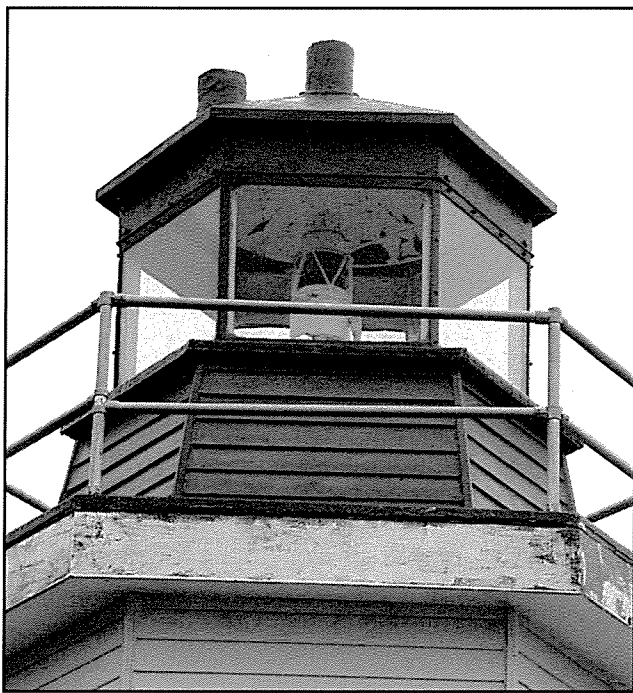
2010 has been an incredibly busy year for those involved in the lighthouse preservation "business". Unfortunately, not all of the activity has been positive. The momentous passing of the act to protect heritage lighthouses was quickly overshadowed by the federal government's wholesale dumping of close to 1,000 lighthouses across Canada.

Local groups, supportive politicians and others who care about our maritime history are still trying to come to grips with the announcement, which quietly revealed that 976 lighthouses are now surplus to government requirements. The announcement means our vigilance and continued support for community lights has never been more crucial. We simply cannot afford to lose the lights which form the very basis of safety at sea in Canada, and we must continue to fight for their legacy, history, and ongoing importance to the mariners who still use them.

At *The Lightkeeper*, we are always interested to hear from you - your stories and experiences in lighthouse preservation, your views, and your news! Together, we can work to keep *our* lights shining brightly from coast to coast.

Chris Mills

MYSTERY LIGHT



THE JULY 2010 MYSTERY LIGHT IS LOCATED AT GABARUS, CAPE BRETON. THE TOWER IS UNUSUAL IN THAT IT ONLY HAS SIX SIDES, INSTEAD OF THE MORE COMMON EIGHT. THIS IS THE FINAL MYSTERY LIGHT. FEEDBACK AND INTEREST IN THIS FEATURE HAVE BEEN MINIMAL, BUT WE CAN RE-INSTATE THE MYSTERY LIGHT, OR INTRODUCE ANOTHER FEATURE IF WE RECEIVE WORD FROM YOU! THIS IS YOUR LIGHTKEEPER, AND WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU - YOUR STORIES, SUGGESTIONS FOR STORIES, AND YOUR FEEDBACK! WRITE: EDITOR, *THE LIGHTKEEPER*, NOVA SCOTIA LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY, C/O MARITIME MUSEUM OF THE ATLANTIC, 1675 LOWER WATER STREET, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3J 1S3, OR EMAIL: KETCH1@EASTLINK.CA

FAREWELL

Carman Frankland

I first met Carman Frankland in the early 1980s at Prim Point lighthouse near Digby. It was a damp spring day, and Coast Guard technicians were repairing the station's fog horn. A little boy visiting at the time was outside when the fog horn blew and he ran into the lighthouse, saying "The horn's working now Carman!"

"That's good!" said Carman.

Within a few years Carman had retired, and the Coast Guard de-staffed Prim Point.

Born on White Head Island, off Grand Manan, New Brunswick, Carman fished for many years until he became a lightkeeper. He served at Prim Point for 35 years, witnessing the transition from the old wooden

lighthouse and dwelling to the new concrete tower, and finally, to full automation.

Carman passed away on July 10th in Thunder Bay, Ontario, at the age of 87. His obituary said "As a lighthouse keeper, his number one job was seeing to it that the light was shining for all boats passing by! But he ALWAYS had his light shining for all to see, planting so many seeds along the way!!!"

Carman Frankland is survived by his wife Muriel, a son, and a daughter and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Steve Bergh

Lightkeeper and fisherman Steve Bergh passed away in August after a brief battle with cancer. Steve and his wife Alice Woods lived for many years at the Chatham Point lighthouse, on the east side of Vancouver Island. Steve was a passionate supporter of staffed lighthouses, and served as president of the lightkeeper's local of UCTE until his death.

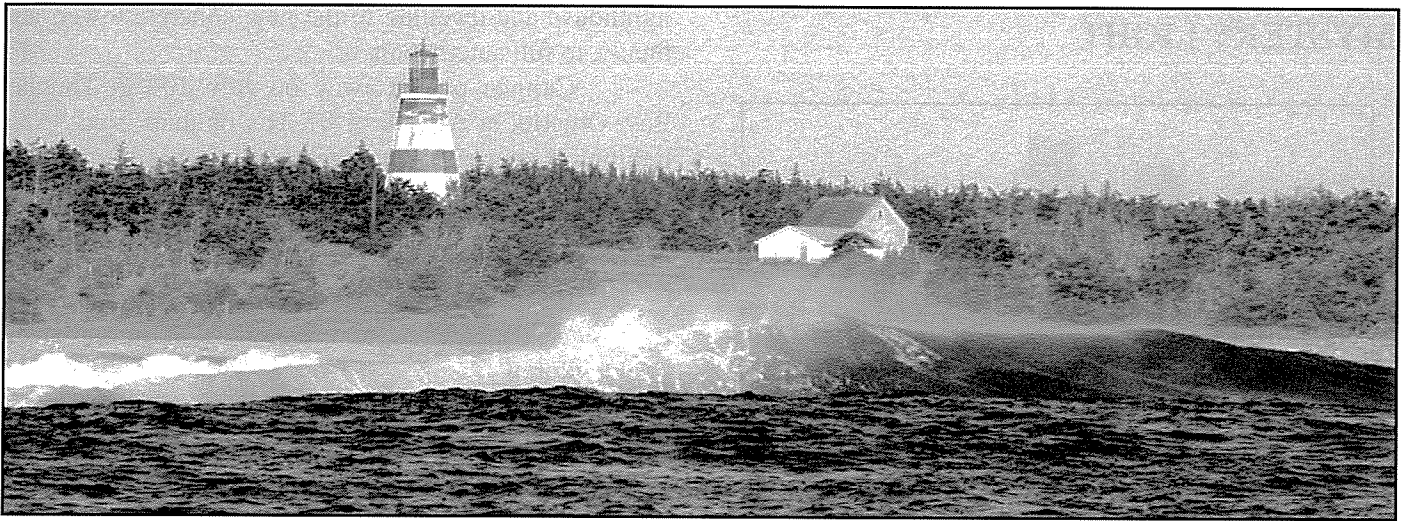
Lightkeepers are continuing the fight to keep west coast stations staffed, after an announcement last year that de-staffing would resume. That decision was put on hold after an outcry from lightkeepers, mariners and the general public.

GENEROUS DONATION

We'd like to thank David Scott for his generous donation to the NSLPS. David has published a book entitled *Nova Scotia Place Names*, which explains the origins of dozens of place names across the province. The book also includes Nova Scotia attractions, legends, humorous stories, and a dash or two of Nova Scotia characters. David tells us he will donate a portion of the proceeds "to help in some small way the admirable aims of the society." The book will be available in Chapters and Coles stores. For more information, call 1-866-471-4123, or e-mail despub@gmail.com



PRIM POINT IN 1978. KELLY ANNE LOUGHERY / CANADIAN COAST GUARD



SWELLS OFF THE SOUTH END OF SEAL ISLAND. *CHRIS MILLS*

THALASSA COMES TO NOVA SCOTIA

Chris Mills

In Greek mythology, Thalassa is a sea goddess. In France, Thalassa is a television documentary program shown on France 3. According to Wikipedia, the program is one of the oldest French TV series still running (since 1975) and one of the most prominent. The show focuses solely on the sea, covering a diverse range of subjects, including fishing, transportation, yachting, and now, lighthouses.



THE CREW FROM "THALASSA" ON THE WAY TO SEAL ISLAND. *CHRIS MILLS*

In late September a three-man crew from France Televisions arrived in Nova Scotia to film segments for an upcoming documentary on Canadian Lighthouses. Producer Jerome Laurent, cameraman Yvon Bodin and sound technician Michel Magnien arrived in Nova Scotia on September 18th after spending several days filming in Quebec. I met them in Shelburne, where we were to stay the night before heading out to Seal Island.

Jerome had heard that Sandy Point was located near Shelburne, so we drove out to the community centre adjacent to the lighthouse. As luck would have it, Sandy Point Recreation Group dynamo Bernice Goodick was there, along with a crew of ladies cleaning up after a lobster supper. The crew filmed a short interview with Bernice, and spent almost three hours shooting the light and surroundings as the sun went down.

All hands arose early on the morning of the 19th to catch the boat out to Seal Island. The 26 kilometre (16 mile) journey takes about two hours. The fishing vessel *Headed For Turf* belongs to Michael Ross, and he was waiting as we drove up with camera gear and supplies. Michael and his wife Chrisandra own a home on Seal Island's West Side, and they had invited along several family members for the day trip.



THE GANG AT SEAL ISLAND. LEFT TO RIGHT: CHRIS MILLS, JEROME LAURENT, YVON BODIN, MICHAEL AND CHRISANDRA ROSS, THELMA ROSS (BACK ROW), CHRISTA ROSS (WITH LOLA!), MICHEL MAGNIEN, CARTER NICKERSON, BRYDEN ROSS. *CHRIS MILLS*

Jerome, Ivan and Michel spent the trip filming and talking with Michael and his family, and before long we were unloading gear at West Side wharf. With the three French men in tow (literally), Michael brought us to the lighthouse with his four-wheeler and cart. We spent about two hours at the abandoned lightstation, while the crew interviewed me, and Michael, and shot footage of the station and surroundings.

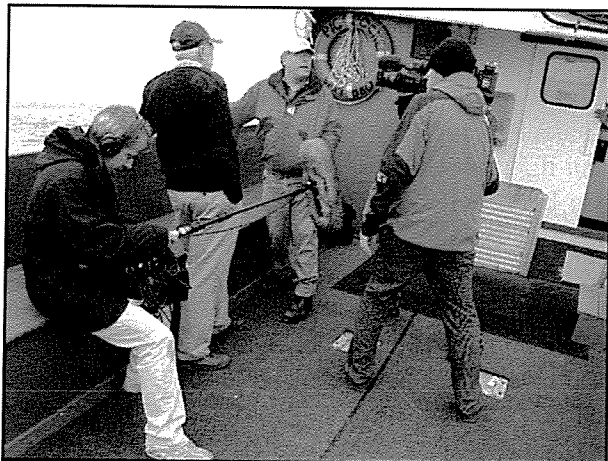
The wobbly fog horn tower, decrepit-looking lighthouse (built in 1831) and recently vandalized assistant keeper's house underscored the ongoing lack of care at this historic lightstation.

Following a fabulous meal at Chrisandra and Michael's, the crew trekked back to the wharf and we were off around the southern end of the island to film the lighthouse from the water. Jerome, Michel and Yvon all said they were struck by the beauty of Seal Island, and by the hospitality of the people.

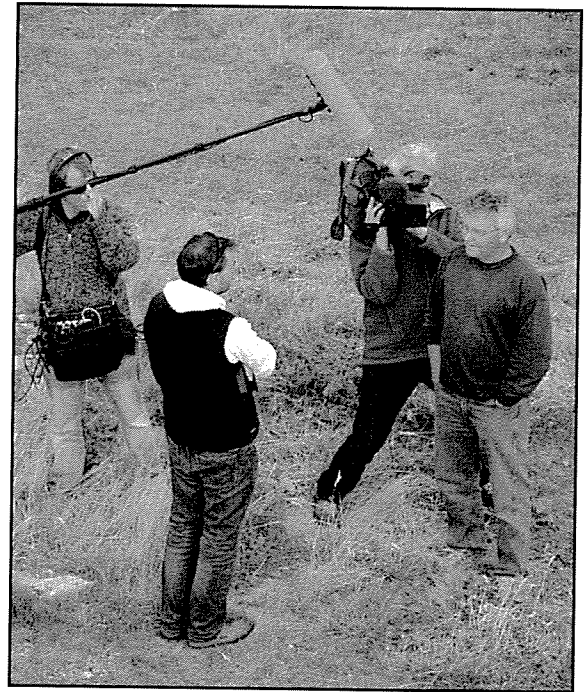
Returning to Halifax, we made plans to meet in Sambro the next morning, with a view to spending 4 hours on Sambro Island. Barry MacDonald and Graham McBride joined the throng aboard Patrick Gray's fishing boat *Pic! Pocket*. The day was windy and there was a good swell running, and as we'd feared, we weren't able to land on the Sambro. Instead, the crew interviewed Barry and Graham on the heaving deck of *Pic! Pocket*, as swells broke on the Sambro Ledges.

We returned to Sambro and then to Ketch Harbour, where the crew filmed me doing lighthouse-related things in my office. The next day they headed out along with south shore to film several lighthouses, and then took off for British Columbia, to film and interview there.

The lighthouse documentary will be broadcast on France 3 in January or February 2011. It will be available on satellite TV here, and we should have more information about broadcast times in the next issue of *The Lightkeeper*.



BARRY MACDONALD TALKS ABOUT THE NSLPS AND THE HISTORY OF SAMBRO ISLAND ON A ROUGH DAY ABOARD THE *PIC! POCKET*. CHRIS MILLS



THE CREW INTERVIEWS MICHAEL ROSS ON THE SHORE BELOW THE SEAL ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE. CHRIS MILLS

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS REUNION UNITES EAST AND WEST

Chris Mills

The west coast of the United States is a long way from the granite-bound shores of Nova Scotia, but the flame burns just as brightly among the lightkeeping families of Washington State. I found this out in person after I was invited to be part of the 2010 Washington Lightkeepers Association Lighthouse Keepers Reunion.

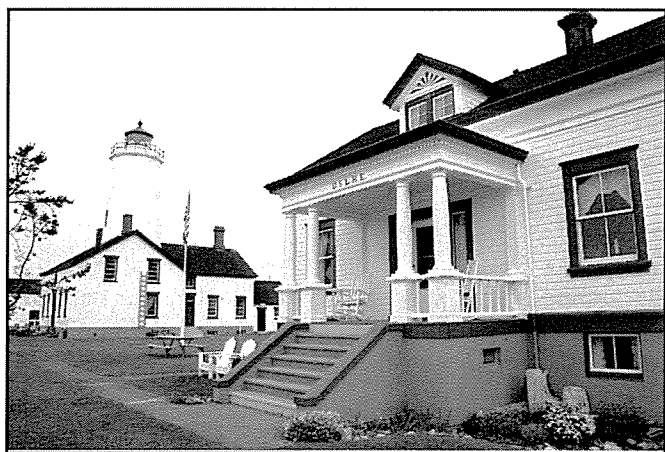
My invitation to attend and to speak at the event came about after a visit from society vice-president Bruce



THE GATHERING OF WASHINGTON LIGHTKEEPERS AND THEIR FAMILIES (AND ONE EAST COAST CANADIAN KEEPER!) AT THE LIGHTKEEPERS REUNION. BRUCE ROBIE



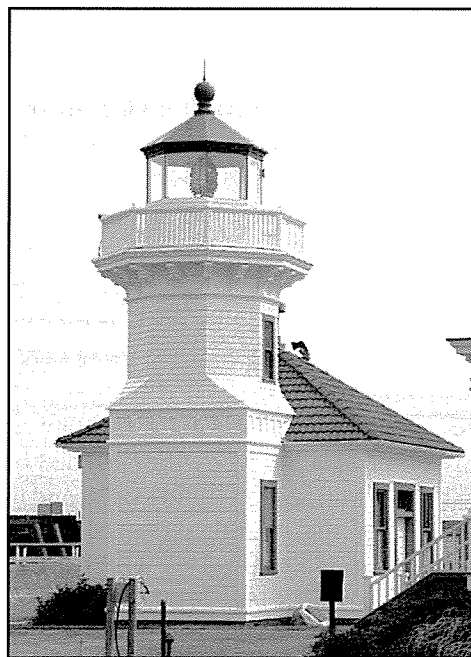
NEW DUNGENESS, NEAR SEQUIM (PRONOUNCED "SQUIM"), WASHINGTON. *CHRIS MILLS*



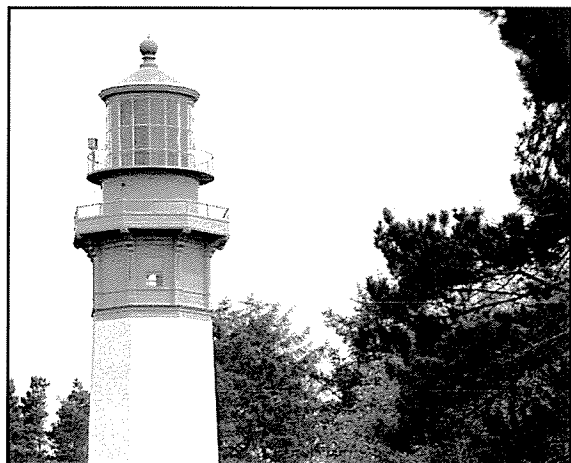
THE IMMACULATE KEEPER'S HOUSE AND GROUNDS AT NEW DUNGENESS. *CHRIS MILLS*



LAURIE RUST, ELINOR DEWIRE AND BRUCE ROBIE WITH THE DECOMMISSIONED GRAYS HARBOUR CLAMSHELL LENS. *CHRIS MILLS*



THE ORNATE MUKILTEO LIGHTHOUSE, WASHINGTON. *CHRIS MILLS*



GRAYS HARBOUR LIGHTHOUSE, WESTPORT, WASHINGTON. *CHRIS MILLS*

Robie (see *The Lightkeeper*, Vol.16, No.2, June/July 2009), and a long-standing correspondence with society president Elinor DeWire. I'd read several of Elinor's excellent lighthouse books and articles when I originally wrote to her from my posting on Green Island, British Columbia, in 1994.

Flash forward to the early months of 2010, with e-mails from Bruce and Elinor flying thick and fast. Would I be interested in speaking at the reunion? Would I like to tour some Washington lights? My answer was a resounding "Yes!"

On June 25th I found myself on my way to Seattle (by way of New York and Los Angeles) with airfare very generously taken care of by WLA board member Laurie Rust. Over the next five days I had the most incredible lighthouse experience, which included visits to a dozen

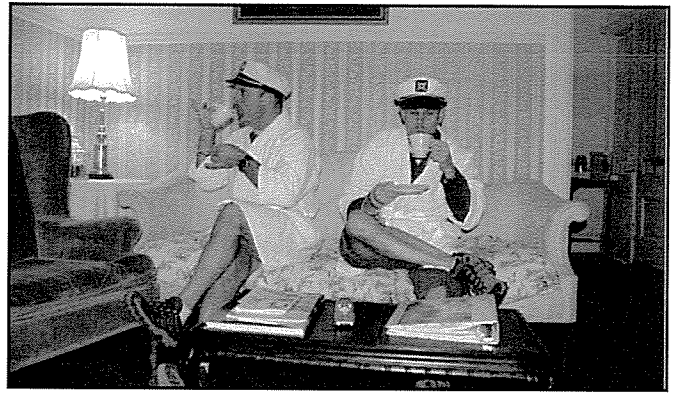
lights on the Olympic Peninsula. I also had the honour of meeting dozens of former lightkeepers, their families, and some of the many volunteers who help keep many Washington lights open to the public.

Highlights of the trip included visits to Cape Disappointment, Grays Harbor, and New Dungeness. Elinor and her husband Jon were gracious hosts at their home in Seabeck, and it was a pleasure to spend a night at the Rust home, overlooking the Grays Harbour lighthouse.

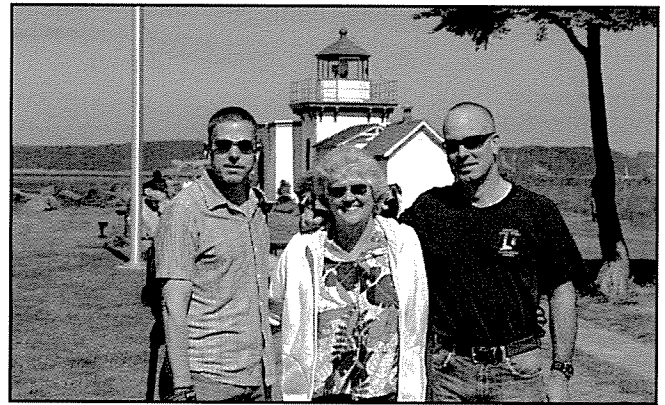
My friend Bruce Robie was there through it all as well, with his great company and passion for lighthouses. Bruce and I spent the final night of my trip at the Browns Point lighthouse near Tacoma – a fitting end to an amazing journey to Washington’s wonderful lighthouses.

Preservation groups in Washington State face many of the same challenges we deal with in Nova Scotia when it comes to saving and maintaining lighthouses. Although many of the state’s lights are in tip-top shape, I was reminded of many of our neglected offshore lights as I looked across the Pacific swells to Destruction Island... now decommissioned and likely too remote to be saved.

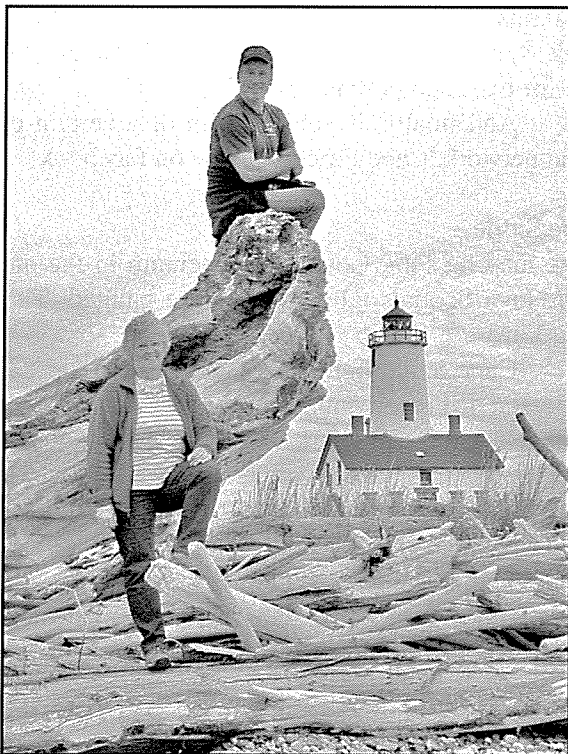
The good news is that many Washington lights *have* been saved, and the flame of care and concern burns bright among those of work to keep west coast lighthouses alive and well.



TEA ANYONE? KEEPERS MILLS AND ROBIE TAKE A BREAK AT BROWNS POINT LIGHTHOUSE, NEAR TACOMA. *CHRIS MILLS*



BRUCE ROBIE, ELINOR DEWIRE AND CHRIS MILLS AT POINT NO POINT, WASHINGTON.



ELINOR DEWIRE AND CHRIS MILLS AT NEW DUNGENESS. *BRUCE ROBIE*



THE LOVINGLY RESTORED LENS FROM THE NOW-DECOMMISSIONED DESTRUCTION ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE, ON DISPLAY IN GRAY’S HARBOUR. CHRIS, ELINOR, LAURIE AND BRUCE GIVE SCALE TO THIS FIRST ORDER BEAUTY.

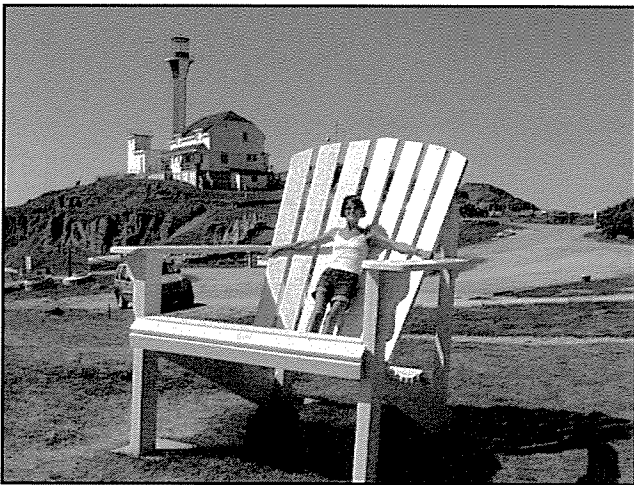
NEWS AND VIEWS

Boar's Head

Barry Buckman of the Tiverton and Central Grove Heritage Association says his group's plans for Boar's Head are "on hold right now". Barry adds, "I keep in touch with DFO and am told that the process is moving along in regard to property transferal but that they have no idea as to when we will receive title. Obviously, we wish to have matters settled before next spring but have been informed that we can enter into a license agreement with DFO such as before if need be. In any case, the addition of more parking spots will be a priority for our organization next year. In the meantime, quite a number of people have walked to the lighthouse this past summer and have enjoyed the spectacular view."

Cape Forchu

Operations manager Denise Nickerson reports a very busy and successful summer season at Yarmouth's premier tourist destination. The Cape Forchu lightstation has been bustling with lobster boils, picnics, Acadian breakfasts, and lots of renovations. In August, Denise wrote: "The construction crew is still hard at work. For those who haven't been to the Light lately, the lower parking lot has seen a big transformation. If you do come to the Light, immediately before you head up the driveway, there is a sign showing what the site will look like once completed!"



CAPE FORCHU'S "BIG CHAIR" WITH "LITTLE" JOSETTE D'ENTREMONT! JOHN BEER

"The museum interpretation project that was scheduled to be completed prior to the site opening, now has a completion date of mid to late fall. The project will see a new welcoming sign outside of the house, 10 large framed photos in the museum downstairs, two gallery

style benches/photo albums that you can sit on and read about the Light and an interactive touch screen TV featuring two 3 minute video presentations of the view of Cape Forchu from the deck of a boat entering and leaving the harbour and a view of the overall site from the top of the light. We'll be all new for 2011!"

In July CTV's *Live At Five* program featured the Cape Forchu lighthouse, with a special nod to the lightstation café's "Mug Up Special" (a cold lobster sandwich). Apparently the Mug Up was bustling the next day!

Denise has extended a big thanks to local residents for making the summer a successful one at the site.

"We are down about 40% in US visits for the month of July," she says, "which is better than May and June during which we saw a decrease of about 50% in US travel. But for local visitation, we have seen a 51% increase and a large percentage made up of people from the Yarmouth and Acadian Shores! So thank you! You can all call yourselves "Light Keepers!"

The society has also been successful in securing a \$10,000 grant, which will go towards a community garden, gazebo and picnic tables.

The Friends of the Yarmouth Light Society has a new president. Denise says "John Riddell has been on the "Friends" board almost since its inception. She adds "John comes with lots of knowledge and experience. Barb Nichol has taken the position of vice president and we all look forward to working with both! Nancy Knowles will remain on the board as our past president. We cannot thank Nancy enough for her hard work, dedication and love for the Cape Forchu Light!"

And finally, if you're a fan of a certain on-line social network, Cape Forchu is now on facebook!

Cape Sable

There may be some positive momentum in the move to have Nova Scotia's tallest lighthouse painted. The 101-foot (34m)

Cape Sable lighthouse has been de-staffed since 1985, and it's been more than a decade since it was painted. The town of Clark's Harbour has been trying for several years to have the concrete tower fixed up. Mayor Leigh Stoddart recently met with federal fisheries minister Gail Shea, and a letter from MP Gerald Keddy has confirmed that a capital funding application has received approval in principle. No one has confirmed just when work could begin on the Cape light, which is one of only two towers with full federal heritage protection in Nova Scotia.

Devil's Island

The old keepers house on Devil's Island has finally fallen. The landmark off Hartlen Point in Halifax Harbour stood

for more than 40 years after the last keeper left the island in 1967, but it was no match for years of neglect by the island's owner, combined with the pounding of the elements. Strong easterlies this spring tore one side off the building, and on September 4th, Hurricane Earl reduced the old residence to just a pile of broken timbers. Word in late October revealed the island is now up for tax sale (for the second time in a decade). It was recently on the market for \$1.6 million.

Five Islands

The little wooden lighthouse overlooking Five Islands in the Minas Basin is now in the middle of a beautiful day park. Gloria Lewis says the park now includes picnic tables, paths, a cook shelter, a parking lot, a flagpole, and a pirate ship playground! The pirate ship will be named the *Gertrude*, after the late Gertrude Jenkins, who donated the land on which the lighthouse sits.

Two summer students worked as guides at the lighthouse this summer and more than one thousand visitors enjoyed the Five Islands lighthouse and the incredible view from the park.

Lighthouse Day on July 24th drew a good crowd of people. A blacksmith set up a forge at the lighthouse, and there was music in a local hall.

The Five Islands Lighthouse park is located at the end of Broderick Lane in Five Islands.

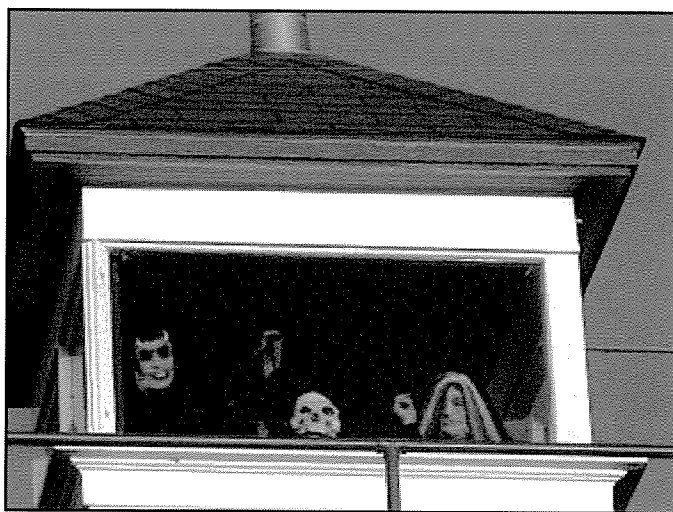
Gilbert's Cove

Allanah Langeland, vice president, Gilbert Cove District Historical Society

We had a beautiful summer at Gilbert's Cove Lighthouse! Although our visitor numbers were down slightly - about 10% under last year - we had 3,196 visitors from every corner of the globe and the comments were heart-warming: "God's Doorstop", "A lifetime dream come true", "Awesome that we could see the Light!" and "One of the prettiest lighthouses in Nova Scotia".

We had 38 crafters represented at our Gift Shop - with all hand-made crafts ranging from knitting to rug hooking, woodworking, quilting and sea glass jewelry and although sales were down a bit due to the economy, comments were once again very, very positive. We also had many visitors who came for the local genealogical and other historical documents that are kept at the lighthouse and were thrilled to be able to re-connect with their roots.

Our Annual Family Picnic - one of our major fundraisers - was held on July 18th and was well-attended. It is always a wonderful coming-together of the community of Gilbert's Cove and surrounding area, who enjoy the Rappie Pie, live music, children's activities and silent



GHOSTS AND GHOULS CONGREGATE IN THE LANTERN AT GILBERT'S COVE FOR HALLOWE'EN IN 2009. ALLANAH LANGELAND

auctions.

The lighthouse is currently in good repair. Future projects include a new gravel walking path from the parking lot to the lighthouse and an exterior interpretive panel, which will be developed and installed on the property to provide information for visitors when the lighthouse is closed.

Louisbourg

The tower at the site of Canada's first lighthouse, and the second to be built in North America, is crumbling. Workers completed the current Louisbourg in 1923, after its wooden predecessor burned to the ground. De-staffed since 1990, its concrete is deteriorating badly. Jean Bag-nell of the Louisbourg Lighthouse Heritage Society says members and locals are increasingly alarmed and "p***-ed off" that nothing has been done to repair the tower.

Jean says when senators toured the station as part of their review of lighthouses in June, they were amazed at the poor condition of "one of the top heritage lights in Canada."

In late August the society held a lighthouse day at the site, complete with music, costumed participants and cannon firings. Roy Forgeron, the last keeper, gave a talk about his lightkeeping experiences and Sandy Balcom of Parks Canada also spoke. Jean says the society is pleased to work with Parks Canada at the site, but she says the executive would like to see the federal department charge an extra two dollars for admission to the Fortress of Louisbourg (the federally-run national historic site across the harbour) to be used in a reserve fund to help preserve and maintain the lighthouse.

The society would also like to see the light's former DCB 36 lens returned to service, to replace what Jean describes as the current solar-powered "flashlight"



THE ALMOST 90-YEAR-OLD LOUISBOURG LIGHTHOUSE SHOWS MAJOR DETERIORATION IN 2009. *CHRIS MILLS*

(an APRB 252). The DCB is now in storage.

Jean also reports that society president Gerry Gartland, vice president Iris Stevens, and herself (secretary/treasurer) have recently stepped down from the executive, after many years of service. The society is now in the process of arranging for new members to fill these positions. Jean says she will remain a member of society, and a strong supporter of the historic Louisbourg lighthouse.

Margaretsville

John Freeman says it's status quo at Nova Scotia's only black and white traditional lighthouse. John reports the community has decided that it would like to take over the lighthouse if and when it is divested. The community would like to turn the 160 year-old tower into a museum. John says during the summer, about 50 people a day visit the lighthouse to enjoy the view of the Bay of Fundy from the deck surrounding the tower.

Pictou

Michelle Davey, Northumberland Fisheries Museum

The lighthouse experienced about the same number of visitors as in 2009 – however, a number of them were new visitors to the site since we were able to secure bookings with quite a number of American bus tour companies for the 2010 season. Many Americans are fascinated by the romance and nostalgia of lighthouse folklore. I even

received an email from a U.S. visitor who especially enjoyed the electronic lighthouse map in the lighthouse and cc'ed me a photo of his family with the map.

Having our visitation remain on par with last year is great news for us – considering the Town's decision to close the iconic Ship *Hector* site, one month prior to the beginning of the tourism season for the area.

In 2009 we had a joint admission fee for visitation to all three sites. However, realizing that not all visitors had the time to visit all three sites, which could often take an hour to visit, this year, we offered visits to the lighthouse for free (although we accepted donations inside). This again proved to be a wise decision, as some visitors had only time for one site visit and could quickly stroll through the photographs, artifacts and video in a short, but informative time frame.

This season we also expanded the product line at the gift shop in the lighthouse and incorporated sales into specific events and occasions. We [also] expanded the tool room in the upstairs of the lighthouse and laid out tools and items that the light keeper may have used to operate and maintain the light.

Tour guide Molly MacKenzie was fluently bilingual and offered French translations to our visitors who requested it. Visitors always appreciate the extra effort by staff to accommodate their visit in their own language.

The biggest event of the 2010 season was Pictou winning the Kraft TSN Celebration Tour and having TSN staff host their show live from the Pictou waterfront. The TSN Producers specifically requested that they use our fisheries wharf and our lighthouse as a backdrop for their anchor desk. It was extremely popular and provided us and the lighthouse with national attention and marketing. So many people have complimented the scenery that we were able to provide the crew with for their visit to Pictou.

Regarding future plans - we have been discussing have one day a week as a presentation day. The tour guide would provide visitors with a video and oral presentation about a specific Northumberland Strait lighthouse.

Port Bickerton

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Interpretive Centre at the Port Bickerton lightstation had a good year, despite a major intervention by Mother Nature. On January 2nd, a storm surge all but destroyed the low-lying access road to the station. The road has been repaired, but remains bumpy. Don Dodge of the Bickerton group says DFO/Coast Guard is now going through the legalities which will lead to an easement for access to the station, since the road passes through private property.

Don also reports the Port Bickerton group is getting ready to apply for heritage status for the old Port Bickerton lighthouse (there are two lighthouses at the

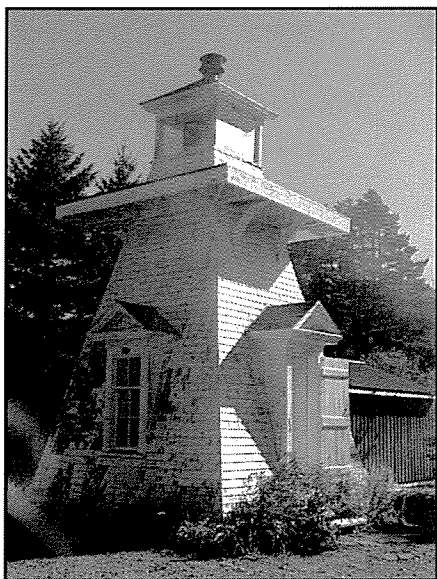
site, although only one is an active aid to navigation). The process could take several years, and Don is not sure how it will affect possible divestiture, which has been crawling along at a snail's pace in Bickerton for more than a decade.

Don says visitor numbers remained consistent with last year's, standing steady at about 3,000.

Port Greville

Oralee O'Byrne - Curator/Manager, Age of Sail Heritage Centre and Museum

Visitors in general were up this year at the museum complex by about 18% and of course the lighthouse is a major drawing card. Unfortunately our lighthouse is not looking its best. I have sent a photo of our lighthouse after the paint scraping. As you can tell it is in serious need of work. With grants from the municipality and Heritage Trust we are undertaking this job as we speak. A supporter is building a new railing for the top which will be more in keeping with the original. We intend to have the work finished before the snow flies and we have a group of great volunteers on hand to help out.



THE PORT GREVILLE LIGHTHOUSE, ON THE GROUNDS OF THE AGE OF SAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM. ORALEE O'BYRNE

Saint Paul Island Southwest

After much lobbying by local preservationists, the 1917 Saint Paul Southwest lighthouse will be moved from the Coast Guard Base in Dartmouth to Dingwall, Cape Breton. The cast iron tower will be re-assembled next to the Saint Paul Island Museum. Hamilton Carter of the Saint Paul Island Historical Society says "the community is so excited. We've always thought if we could get the lighthouse this would be such a boost...for local busi-

nesses...in northern Cape Breton."

The Coast Guard removed the lighthouse from Saint Paul Island in 1981, replacing it with a small fibre-glass tower.



SAINT PAUL SOUTHWEST LIGHT IN 1920, WITH KEEPER FRANK HUNTLEY AND HIS DAUGHTER KATHERINE. COURTESY CLAUDE MACLEOD

Sambro Island Fog Horn

The Sambro Island horn, which has been under fire for its high-pitch and occasional bouts of continuous sounding in clear weather, has been temporarily discontinued for more than a month. We do not know if or when the horn will be turned back on.

Sambro Rock and Roll Part Two

In March we reported on the large rock which a winter storm surge had moved more than 20 feet to lie across the rock formation on Sambro Island known as "The Devil's Staircase". (See *The Lightkeeper*. Vol 17, No.1, March 2010). Local fishermen estimate the rock weighed between 50-100 tonnes. This rock has now disappeared, and another, slightly smaller wedge of rock has appeared just above the water line near the bottom of the Devil's Staircase. It is likely that seas from Hurricane Earl moved this rock in early September, although we're not sure exactly where it came from!

Sambro Sou'wester Days

A successful Sou'wester Days in Sambro during mid-August allowed about 150 people to visit Sambro Island. Local vessels *Ryan and Erin* (skipper David Gray) and *Pic! Pocket* (skipper Patrick Gray) were busy throughout August 14th, as crowds of visitors took advantage of good weather and the opportunity to see North America's oldest operating lighthouse.

Seal Island Fog Horn

Seal Island has one of the few remaining large electric horns in Nova Scotia. Many sites now use the AB 560, a series of battery powered emitters which produce a piercing, high frequency blast. (This is the type used at Sambro Island). Last year, technicians installed an additional array of solar panels and more batteries on Seal Island to convert the large 2,000 watt horn to solar operation.

Local fisherman report that the horn did not work at all during the summer of 2010. During 4 days of continuous fog in late September, the horn did not come on at all. A concerned individual reported the outage to the Coast Guard's *Notices to Mariners* desk at Sydney Coast Guard Radio, but we do not know if the horn has been fixed.

Seal Island Vandalism

The assistant keeper's house on Seal Island is the only dwelling remaining on the lightstation grounds. Originally built as a home for the station's wireless operator, it has not been inhabited since the 1970s. Until recently, students from Acadia University used "Morris's House" as a base for bird banding operations. It remained largely intact and locked until the summer of 2010, when vandals smashed all windows and broke through interior walls. It has not been boarded up, and will likely be demolished, along the station's historic barn.

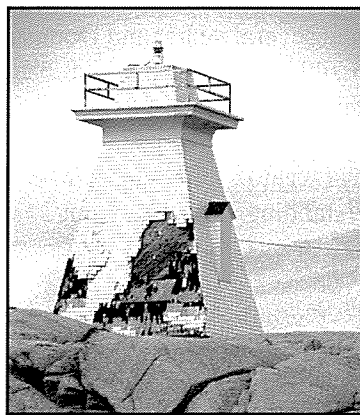
Terence Bay Damage

Following a second bout of serious damage resulting from storm surges, the Terence Bay Lighthouse Committee has made repairs to the 107-year-old lighthouse. Although the society does not maintain the tower (the Coast Guard hasn't divested it yet), members did not want to see further damage to the structure. Shortly before the arrival of Hurricane Earl in September, volunteers carried out tools and donated sheets of aspenite, working together to cover the tower's damaged sheathing. According to committee member Mary Thomas, the Coast Guard has said it could be up to two years before they make permanent repairs.

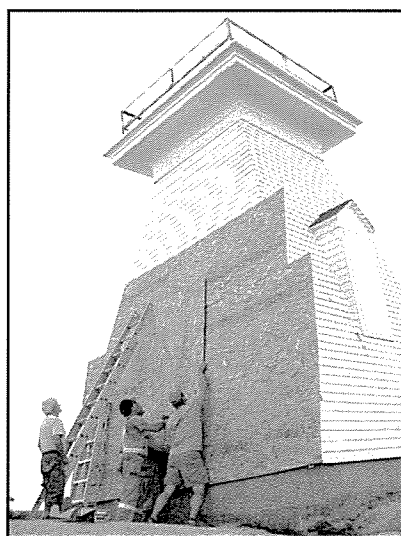
The society held Lighthouse Day on September 12th, with 87 visitors signing the guest book.

Walton

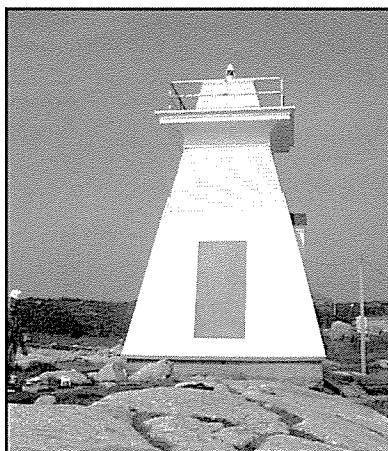
Gerda Hudson of the Walton and Area Development Association reports a successful season at the Walton lighthouse, where more than a thousand visitors stopped in to see the only original lighthouse remaining in Hants County.



THE DAMAGED TERENCE BAY LIGHTHOUSE IN AUGUST, 2010. CHRIS MILLS



VOLUNTEERS MAKE TEMPORARY REPAIRS AT THE DAMAGED TERENCE BAY LIGHTHOUSE IN PREPARATION FOR HURRICANE EARL IN SEPTEMBER, 2010. MICHELLE FORREST

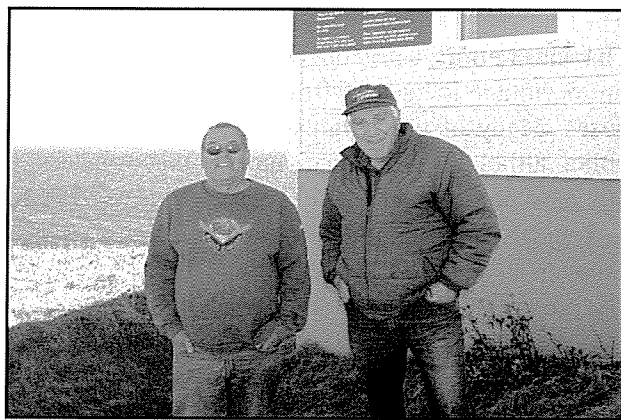


TEMPORARY REPAIRS COMPLETE. MICHELLE FORREST

HERITAGE CANADA CONFERENCE

Barry MacDonald, Chris Weibe, Heritage Canada Foundation

The Heritage Canada Foundation's (HCF) 2010 national conference "Revitalize! Economic Renewal; Quality of Life; Heritage Buildings" presented in cooperation with the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP) was a resounding success. More than 250 delegates from across the country came together at the Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland in St. John's from September 30 to October 2, to attend a variety of sessions, workshops and tours that focused on the pivotal role heritage buildings and districts play in community revitalization.



BARRY MACDONALD WITH RETIRED POWLES HEAD LIGHTKEEPER TOM CORRIGAN. TOM AND HIS WIFE RAISED 15 CHILDREN AT POWLES HEAD, NEAR TREPASSEY, AND HE STILL LIVES IN THE HOUSE HE MOVED INTO IN 1962. THE STATION IS STILL STAFFED.

Lighthouse preservation played a prominent role in the conference again this year. Norman Shields, manager of Parks Canada's heritage lighthouse program, gave an excellent presentation on the "nuts and bolts" of the implementation phase of the *Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act* (HLPa).

Robert Square, chair of the Cove Island Lighthouse Society in Ontario gave a presentation on the challenges faced by a small not-for-profit group in maintaining a large Imperial tower such as Cove Island.

Peter Noreau, Chair of the Quebec Maritime spoke of the challenges facing lighthouse groups along the Gaspesie and St. Lawrence River.

NSLPS President, Barry MacDonald gave a presentation on "before and after" lighthouse restorations across Atlantic Canada, highlighting ventures such as Ferryland Head and Rose Blanche, NL, as well as Port Medway, NS, to name a few. MacDonald also drew attention to the DFO decision to declare all but staffed light-stations surplus thus placing the future of large "iconic" lighthouses across the country in serious jeopardy. Presentations were followed by a lively question and answer period which proved beneficial for all present.

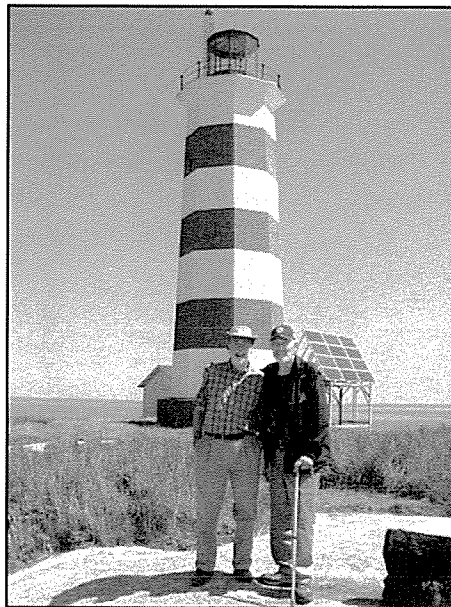
LIGHTHOUSE RAMBLES

As NSLPS member Josette d'Entremont knows, "A Nova Scotian lighthouse lover doesn't have to go far to enjoy the beauty of our lighthouses. There's a lot right in our back yard! Just make sure to bring your locator map, camera, good walking shoes and enthusiasm! All three maritime provinces have many lighthouses, some open to the public, some accessible by boat and others are simply a nice walk away! Most of our beacons offer panoramic views and gorgeous scenery! I never get tired of visiting our lighthouses - there's always something new and different at every visit."

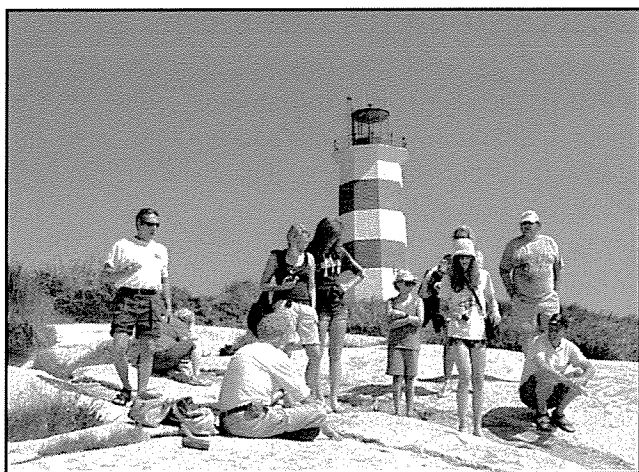
Here are a few of Josette's photos, taken as she explored the region's lights this summer with her husband John.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE ADVOCATE AND ENTREPRENEUR CAROL LIVINGSTONE AT WEST POINT, PEI. JOSETTE D'ENTREMONT



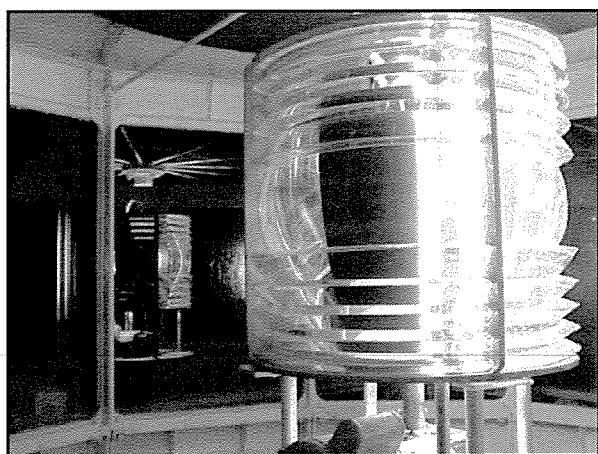
NSLPS FOUNDING MEMBERS GRAHAM MCBRIDE AND RIP IRWIN ON SAMBRO ISLAND. JOSETTE D'ENTREMONT



VISITORS ENJOY SPECTACULAR AND HISTORIC SAMBRO ISLAND DURING SOU'WESTER DAYS IN AUGUST. JOSETTE D'ENTREMONT



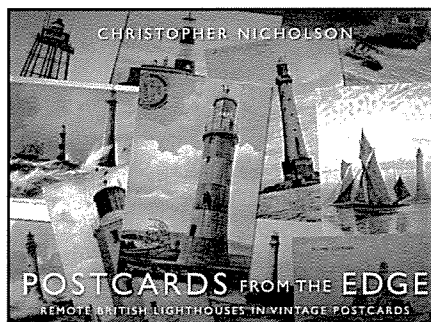
PUBNICO BEACH LIGHTHOUSE HAS BEEN RE-LIT IN RECENT YEARS, AFTER THE COAST GUARD DECOMMISSIONED IT. JOSETTE D'ENTREMONT



EAST POINT'S POWERFUL 4TH ORDER DRUM LENS SHINES INTO THE DARK. JOSETTE D'ENTREMONT

BOOK REVIEW

Postcards From The Edge: Remote British Lighthouses in Vintage Postcards. Christopher Nicholson. Whittles Publishing. Caithness, Scotland. 2010. 143 pp., b&w, colour photographs.



In his latest effort, Christopher Nicholson turns his attention to vintage images of Britain's out-of-the way lighthouses. Many of these lights are not often seen by the public, although a century ago, holiday-makers who purchased these cards, and the people they sent them to, would become familiar with such legendary lights as Bishop Rock, Eddystone, and the Flannan Isles.

Nicholson has already written two comprehensive books about Britain's offshore lighthouses (*Rock Lighthouses of Britain* and *Rock Lighthouses of Britain: The End of an Era?*). Now, *Postcards From The Edge* presents a broad variety of lighthouses throughout England, Wales, Scotland, and the Channel Islands. The book's five chapters deal with pillar lights (the archetypal rock lights such as Eddystone), island sites, keeper reliefs, rough weather, and curiosities.

Richly illustrated with black and white and hand-coloured vintage postcards, the book takes readers on a delightful tour of a broad variety of locations not normally accessible to the public. The images come from a time when postcard photographs captured not only the drama of lighthouses, but everyday life, such as landing oil and stores at South Stack (p.88) and "hauling a relief man into the Eddystone Lighthouse" (p.72).

The "Curiosities" chapter is a gem, with rare images, including one showing dozens of people in their Sunday best, walking around the base of the New Brighton lighthouse at low tide. There are also a couple of amazing photos of the Nab Tower, built in great secrecy during World War 1. Originally constructed as one of a series of towers to link submarine nets, it was later used to replace a lightship.

Postcards From The Edge is an important visual record of a service and a way of life now all-but-extinct around the world. Nicholson's insight into the sites and the images is impressive, with comments on various tech-

nical details, and discussion of the re-touching of some of the images to make them appear even more dramatic (Wolf Rock, p.111).

There are a few discrepancies between the text and insets containing tower stats, but aside from these minor points, *Postcards From The Edge* is a wonderful visual account of the lighthouses and keepers who worked for centuries to make the British coastline safe for those at sea. With a winning combination of archival images and informative text, it's a book to be enjoyed by a wide variety of lighthouse enthusiasts.

Chris Mills

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.

**Please note that as of the end of May, 2010, ALL Canadian lighthouses, aside from those staffed by resident keepers, or those maintained by Parks Canada, municipalities, or community groups, are now on the Doomsday List.*

Bear River, NS Decommissioned wooden lighthouse

Cape North, NS 1981 wooden lighthouse (*demolished in May 2010*)

Cape Roseway, NS Two dwellings and old fog alarm building

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

Cross Island, NS Keepers houses, fog alarm building, garage, shed

Devils Island, NS Wooden lighthouse and keeper's house

Fisherman's Harbour, NS Wooden lighthouse

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

Southwest Point, Anticosti Island, QC

Saint Paul's Island,NS Southwest lightkeeper's house, wireless operator's house at Atlantic Cove. Fog Alarm building at North East light.

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NSLPS MEMBERSHIP FORM: January 1 - December 31, 2010 ☐ New ☐ Renewal: Membership # _____

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LIGHTHOUSES AND SPORTS TELEVISION: TSN BROADCASTS LIVE FROM THE PICTOU WATERFRONT DURING THE SUMMER OF 2010.
COURTESY NORTHUMBERLAND FISHERIES MUSEUM AND HERITAGE ASSOCIATION