



Sambro Island 1758

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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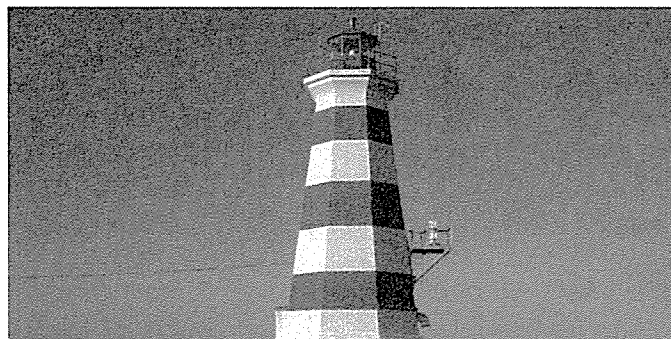
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COVER PHOTO: LOUISBOURG LIGHTHOUSE WITH A NEW COAT OF PAINT, MAY 2013. *CHRIS MILLS*

COVER INSET: LOUISBOURG LIGHT CIRCA 1740, FROM AN INTERPRETIVE PANEL NEAR FORTRESS LOUISBOURG. *CHRIS MILLS*



FRESHLY PAINTED: BRIER ISLAND'S "WESTERN LIGHT" IN MAY 2013. *CHRIS MILLS*

FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings from the NSLPS executive! We are well into 2013, and by the time you receive this issue, the June 1st deadline for submission of lighthouse business plans will have passed. However, it's not too late! (See p.11 for details). We're pleased to report that the NSLPS workshop video has been in popular demand with groups trying to save their community lights.

As the federal government continues to distance itself from traditional aids to navigation, challenges mount for communities and individuals striving to maintain their vital links with our maritime past.

There are some positive developments. Community interest is growing on Cape Sable Island, where concerned residents have formed a group to raise funds to repair and paint the ailing Cape Sable light (see NEWS AND VIEWS for details). However, dozens of lights remain in jeopardy.

It is important that you continue to make your voices heard. All levels of government need to know that many Canadians want lighthouses to remain as a tangible element of our marine history (to say nothing of their continued use as aids to navigation).

Canada's 279 year-old history of lighthouses and lightkeeping is not over. But it is facing its biggest challenge. Please contact NSLPS if you have any questions, or if you'd like to assist in the fight to preserve our guiding lights.

DEVIL'S ISLAND

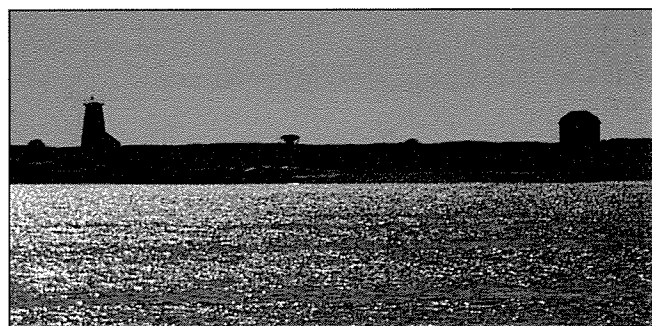
Chris Mills

The light on Devil's Island is one of five beacons that guide vessel traffic in and around Halifax harbour and approaches. Devil's sits just a few hundred metres off Hartlen Point, on the eastern side of the harbour. This flat, treeless island was once home to more than a dozen families, who fished, kept light, and maintained a lifeboat on the island. The last families departed in the 1940s and the last lightkeeper left in 1967.

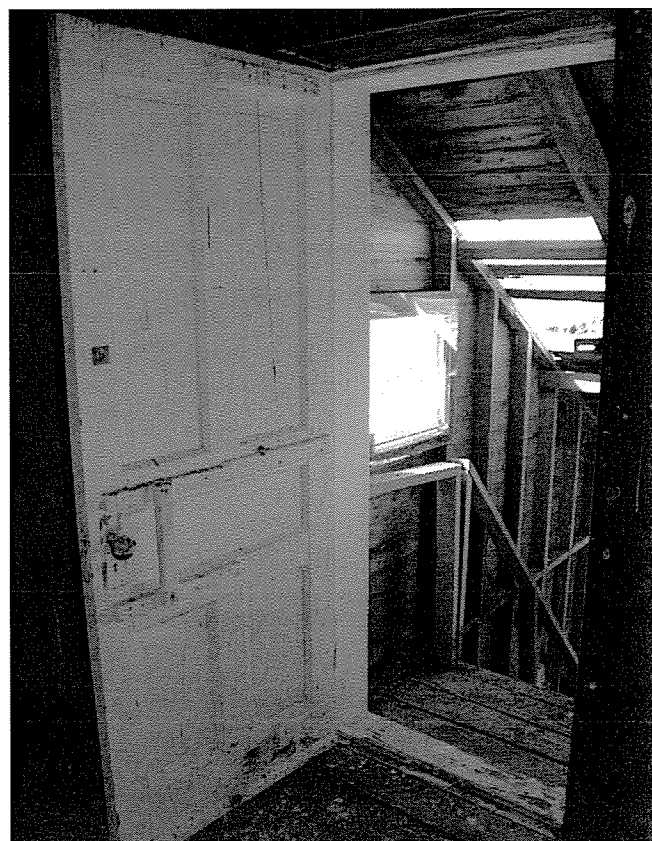
For many years, two lighthouses marked the island. The first tower was built in 1852, and replaced with the current tower in 1877. In the 1930s the federal government built a new home for the keeper. This



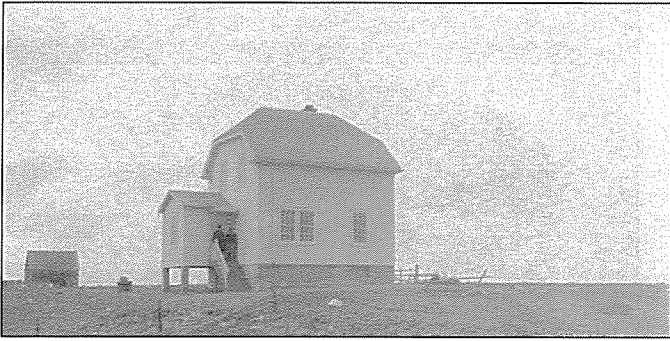
DEVIL'S ISLAND IN 2003. *CHRIS MILLS*



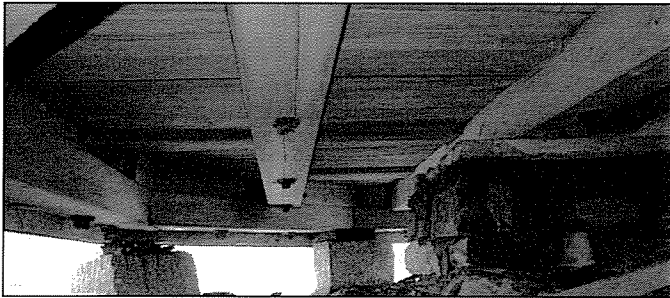
IT LOOKS LONELY, BUT DEVIL'S ISLAND IS JUST A FEW HUNDRED METRES OFF HARTLEN POINT. *CHRIS MILLS*



MAIN DOOR, DEVIL'S ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE. *CHRIS MILLS*



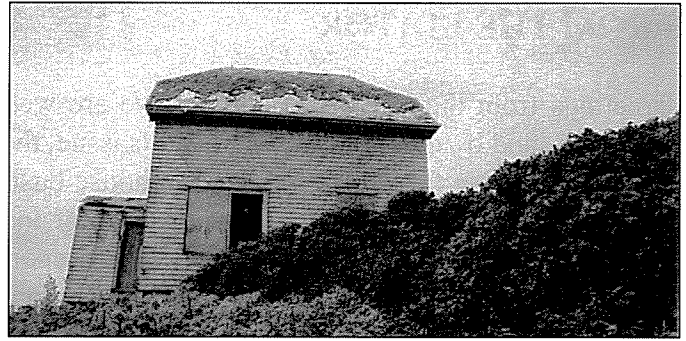
THE LIGHTKEEPER'S DWELLING ON DEVIL'S ISLAND IN THE 1930S. *DFO/CCG*



UNDERNEATH THE DEVIL'S ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE, SUPPORT TIMBERS ARE STILL IN EXCELLENT SHAPE. *CHRIS MILLS*



DEVIL'S ISLAND'S EASTERN LIGHT. THE LANTERNLESS TOWER STILL STANDS, BUT FOR HOW LONG? *NSLPS COLLECTION*



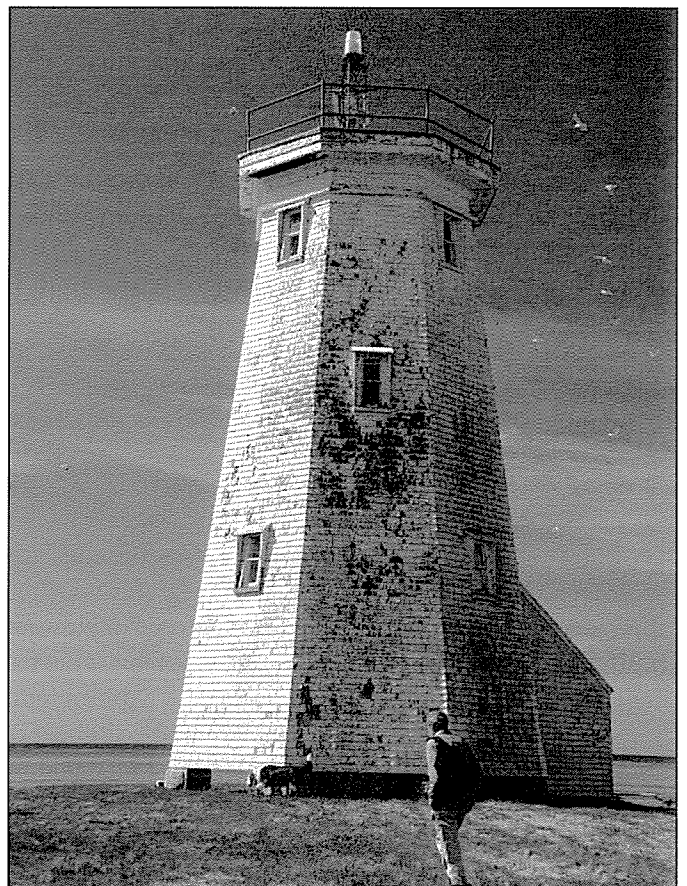
THE OLD KEEPER'S HOUSE IN 2003. *CHRIS MILLS*

house remained standing until 2012, when a storm finally flattened it.

In the mid-2000s the Coast Guard "temporarily discontinued" the lighthouse (or more properly, its light), citing concerns about the structural safety of lantern deck atop the octagonal wooden tower. The light's original iron lantern had been removed in the 1960s,



MAY 2010. *CHRIS MILLS*



THE 1877 DEVIL'S ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE SHOWS WEAR AND TEAR IN 2010. *CHRIS MILLS*



A FEW MONTHS AFTER THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN IN MAY 2010, THE KEEPER'S HOUSE BLEW DOWN IN A STORM. *CHRIS MILLS*

when technicians installed an exposed lens at the top of the tower.

Two years ago Coast Guard established a new skeletal light tower not far from the 1877 structure, more or less sealing its fate. Although a group of concerned residents in the Eastern Passage rallied to save the light in 2009, there have been no recent efforts to acquire or preserve the Devil's Island lighthouse.

The 136 year old tower is one of a dwindling number of octagonal wooden towers in Nova Scotia. Despite leaks and some rot, its massive timbers and stone supports are still in good condition. However, as in the case of the keeper's house, it won't last forever, unless interested and committed people can come forward with a plan to save it.

Once it's gone, it's gone forever.

2013 NSLPS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Barry MacDonald

Our AGM was held on April 17, 2013 at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. This year's meeting was one week earlier than previous years in order to accommodate our guest speakers. It was "business as usual" with reports and financial statements - the nuts and bolts of

what keeps NSLPS running smoothly. The all-important election of officers saw all last year's board members re-offer for the coming year. The only change sees member at large, Joanne McCormick assume the role as first Vice President. Joanne will also continue as Secretary. Graham McBride leaves his position of first Vice President to fill the spot left by Joanne.

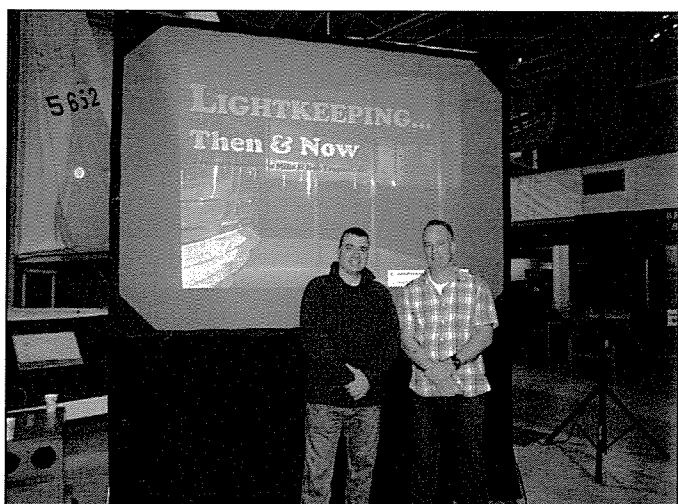
This year's AGM was well-attended with almost 60 people turning out. They were in for a couple of treats.



MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE 2013 NSLPS AGM. *ANN-MARIE TRAPANI*



THE NSLPS AGM OFFERED A CHANCE FOR FOLKS TO CHAT WITH OLD AND NEW FRIENDS. *GERT SWEENEY*



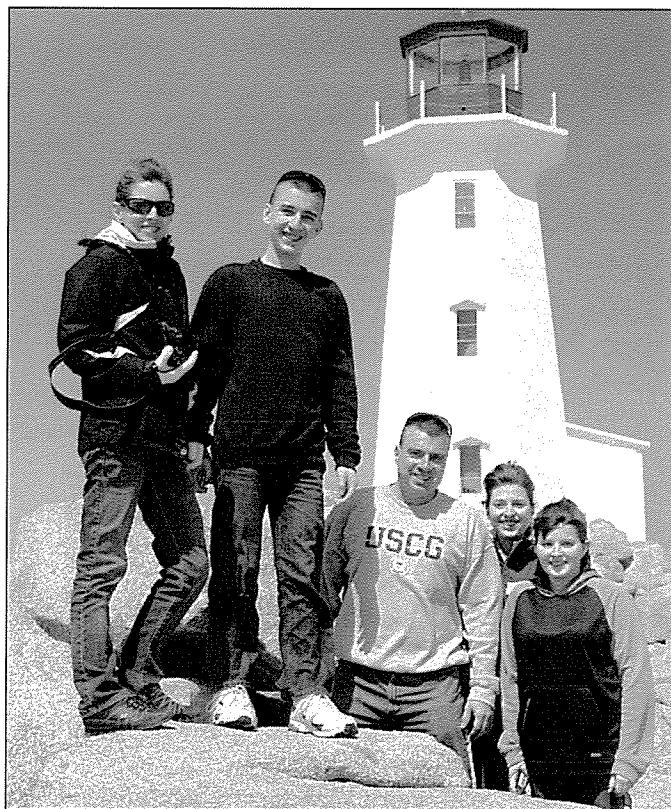
BOB TRAPANI JR. AND CHRIS MILLS AT THE AGM. *ANN-MARIE TRAPANI*

At the start of the meeting, NSLPS President Barry MacDonald introduced Madison Lewis, a Grade 6 student from Dartmouth. Madison chose lighthouses as a subject for her school heritage project and with a bit of help from NSLPS, put together an excellent presentation. We were pleased that she agreed to give AGM attendees a preview.

Many people who have heard Chris Mills speak know of his knowledge and passion for all things lighthouse. He is also well-known for the professional way in which he delivers his talks. Anyone who heard Bob Trapani Jr. speak in Lunenburg last September would have come away with much the same impression. So it was a very special treat to see Chris & Bob team-up at this year's AGM to give a "then and now" look at lightkeeping on both sides of the border.

The presentation was brought to life with a series of photos, both archival and recent. Both work for their respective Coast Guards and have opportunity

to take photos which the average person can only dream of. Photos depicting the challenges of getting to some of these remote and inhospitable locations showed that while technology made have the lightkeeping job easier, the challenges of dealing with Mother Nature can still be tricky business.



THE TRAPANI FAMILY AT PEGGY'S COVE. *CHRIS MILLS*

NSLPS thanks Chris & Bob for an entertaining and informative presentation. A special thanks to Bob Trapani Jr. and his family for making the long trip from Rockland, Maine.

2013 CRAIG HARDING AWARD

This year's recipient of the Craig Harding Award has been both a friend and a mentor since I joined NSLPS in 1997. Dan Conlin joined NSLPS shortly after its founding in 1993 and served a term as president. Dan has been a constant support for us. Whether it's a lighthouse research project, hosting an event, honouring one of our own, or many times in my own case, offering advice when a difficult decision has to made, he is always there.

In addition, Dan has greatly contributed to the positive relationship we have enjoyed with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

When NSLPS established the Craig Harding in 2002, Dan was an integral part of the process and he has

introduced the award every year since then. From the beginning, Dan has been responsible for the hand-crafted lighthouse carefully mounted on the plaque which accompanies the award.

It was our pleasure this year to honour Dan Conlin.

Thank you, Dan for your support and dedication through the years.

A VERY SPECIAL PROJECT

Barry MacDonald

On March 8 of this year NSLPS received this request through our website:

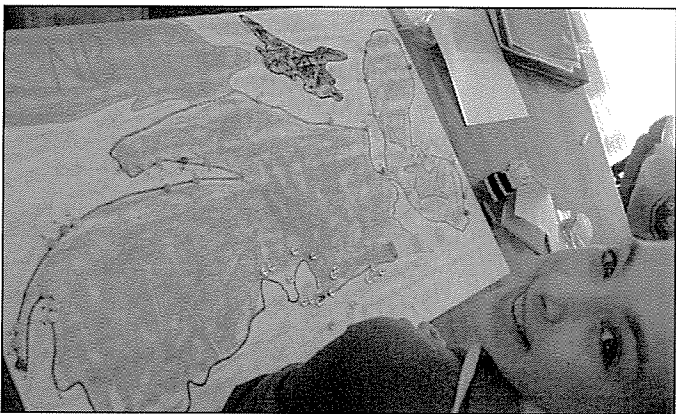
Hello,

My name is Madison. I am 12 yrs old. I am doing my heritage project for school on NS lighthouses.

I was wondering if you had any information, brochures or pictures that I could use for my project.

NSLPS is always delighted to receive a request like this. While at times we are very focused on the “here and now” of saving lighthouses, we are also looking to future generations to not only enjoy the fruits of our labours but also to continue the work of preservation.

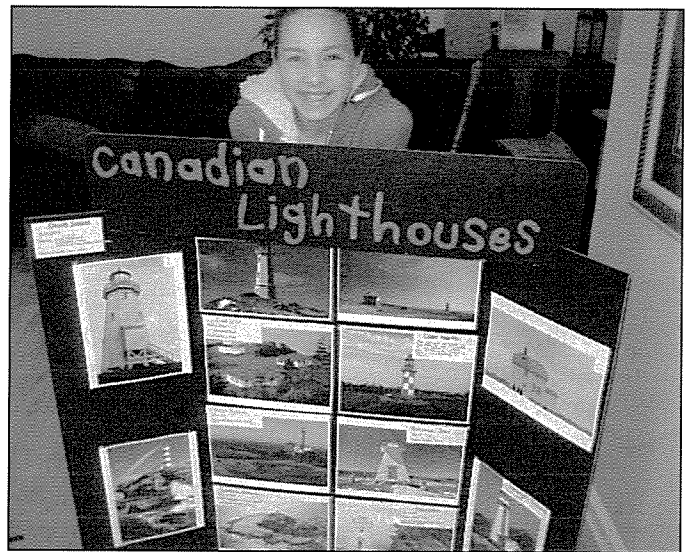
With this in mind, we got behind Madison and



MADISON'S LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT. *LOUISE AND MIKE LEWIS*



MADISON'S PROJECT! *LOUISE AND MIKE LEWIS*



MADISON WITH HER PROJECT. *LOUISE AND MIKE LEWIS*

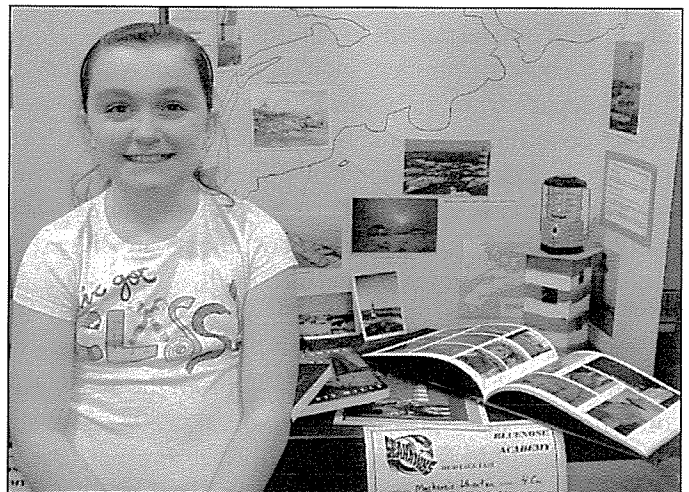
provided her with photos and historical information. Madison's enthusiasm for the project was the only other component required and the result was a presentation nothing short of first class. It documented the need for preservation as well as some present-day success stories. Included was a Nova Scotia lighthouse map, hand-drawn by Madison as well as a Power Point presentation.

We are proud to report that Madison's work was rewarded in both winning the competition at her school and with her being awarded the Built Heritage certificate at the regionals. Well done Madison!

It was a pleasure for me to meet Madison and her parents, Louise and Mike Lewis who are a great support for their daughter.

MACKENZIE WHEATON'S LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT SHINES!

Chris Mills



MACKENZIE WHEATON WITH HER LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT. *KAREN MILLS-CREWS*

It seems that interest in lighthouses might be catching on with some young students. Grade four student Mackenzie Wheaton chose lighthouses for her Winter Heritage Fair submission at Bluenose Academy in Lunenburg.

Her mother Karen says “Students were given choices of topics that dealt with historically important events and topics such as The Bluenose, Halifax Explosion, Titanic, sports, lighthouses, etc.

“They had to provide details of their project’s topic with regards to its purpose, heritage importance where they were located in Nova Scotia, numbers, examples of construction materials and if they still had relevance and importance in present times.”

Well done Mackenzie!

COLDSRING HEAD HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS DONATED

Barry MacDonald

Friendships forged over time with lighthouse contacts sometimes yield unexpected results. This was the case in the following letter:

April 8 – 13

Dear Barry,

I am so glad I could pass these lighthouse documents that Reg/John had. Please pass on to the appropriate persons.

Yours Sincerely,

Sharon Mullelly MacKinnon

I had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing Reg MacKinnon after his retirement from the Canadian Coast Guard in the early 1980s. I soon found him to be a man with respect for history and a willingness to preserve things that would that would have been otherwise discarded. These rare documents found after Reg’s passing in 2006 are testament to that fact.

These documents include a copy of a “Diary of Lightkeeper” from 1919 and several “Return of Stores” books covering the years 1906 to the mid-1950s. Other records include shipment of supplies invoices detailing what it took to keep a small coastal light operating in the early to mid-1900s. The earlier documents are signed by the second lightkeeper, Alfred Brownell.

Coldspring Head lighthouse is located on the Northumberland shore, north of Pugwash. It was constructed in 1899 and first lit in 1890. From the 1914 “List of Lights”: Coldspring Head (light no. 593) shows a fixed, white light from a D7 (7th order) Fresnel lens. It was described as “white, square, wood, red iron lantern, 36 feet from base to vane.”

DFO declared Coldspring Head “surplus” in 2008



COLDSRING HEAD CIRCA 1978. DFO/CCG

prior to the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act coming into force. A local community group has answered the call and petitioned the federal government to have the light protected under the Act. We hope the process will be successful and when completed NSLPS will be pleased to pass over these important historical documents to the “modern-day lightkeepers.”

I know Reg MacKinnon would be pleased.

A special thanks to Sharon MacKinnon for her consideration.

DATE June 1900				
SHIPPED FROM Coldspring Head Light, N.S.				
TO: Mr. J. H. MacKinnon, Coldspring Head Light, N.S.				
VIA: "C.C.G." "H.M.S." 593				
IN: STORES REC'D NO. 367				
STOCK NO.	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	VALUE
	1	Coke Kerosene Oil		
2-4	1	Burner Buxley		
2-4	2	Chainage		
2-4	1	Flask		
2-4	1	Boxed Matches		
2-4	1	Box		
2-4	10	Box Soap Laundry		
2-4	5	Yds Cotton for Curtains		
2-4	1	Box 7" Spikes		
2-4	1	Box Nails 3"		
2-4	2	" " "		
2-4	1	Box Paint Red Signal		
2-4	1	" " " Lighthouse White		
2-4	1	Box Whiting		
2-4	1	Boxed Lime		
2-4	1	Box Soap Laundry 1/2 lb.		
2-4	5	Yds. Rope Sipping		
2-4	1	Box Sand Paper Fine		
2-4	10	Box Plastic Cement		
2-4	1	Box Cement		
2-4	1	File Round Smooth 8"		
2-4	1	Axe Handle		

SUPPLIES LIST FROM COLDSRING HEAD. COURTESY BARRY MACDONALD

NEWS AND VIEWS

Cape Sable Light

There appears to be new hope for Cape Sable's beleaguered lighthouse. Following years of neglect, and battering by the elements, the Friends of the Cape Sable Lighthouse group is taking the bull by the horns with a plan to repair and paint the 101' tower.

According to the group's Facebook site, "From April 15 to July 15, 2013, the Friends of the Cape Sable Lighthouse are committed to raising \$118,750 to restore their beloved structure to its former glory!"

The group has gone so far as to submit a video to the Ellen deGeneres show, in the hopes that the variety show host will visit the Cape Light!

Cape Sable's lighthouse is one of only two lighthouses in Nova Scotia with full FHBRO recognition, although that designation has not resulted in increased protection for the Cape, or Sambro Island lighthouse.

For more information, see the Friends of the Cape Sable lighthouse on Facebook.

Lighthouse Awareness and Art Show

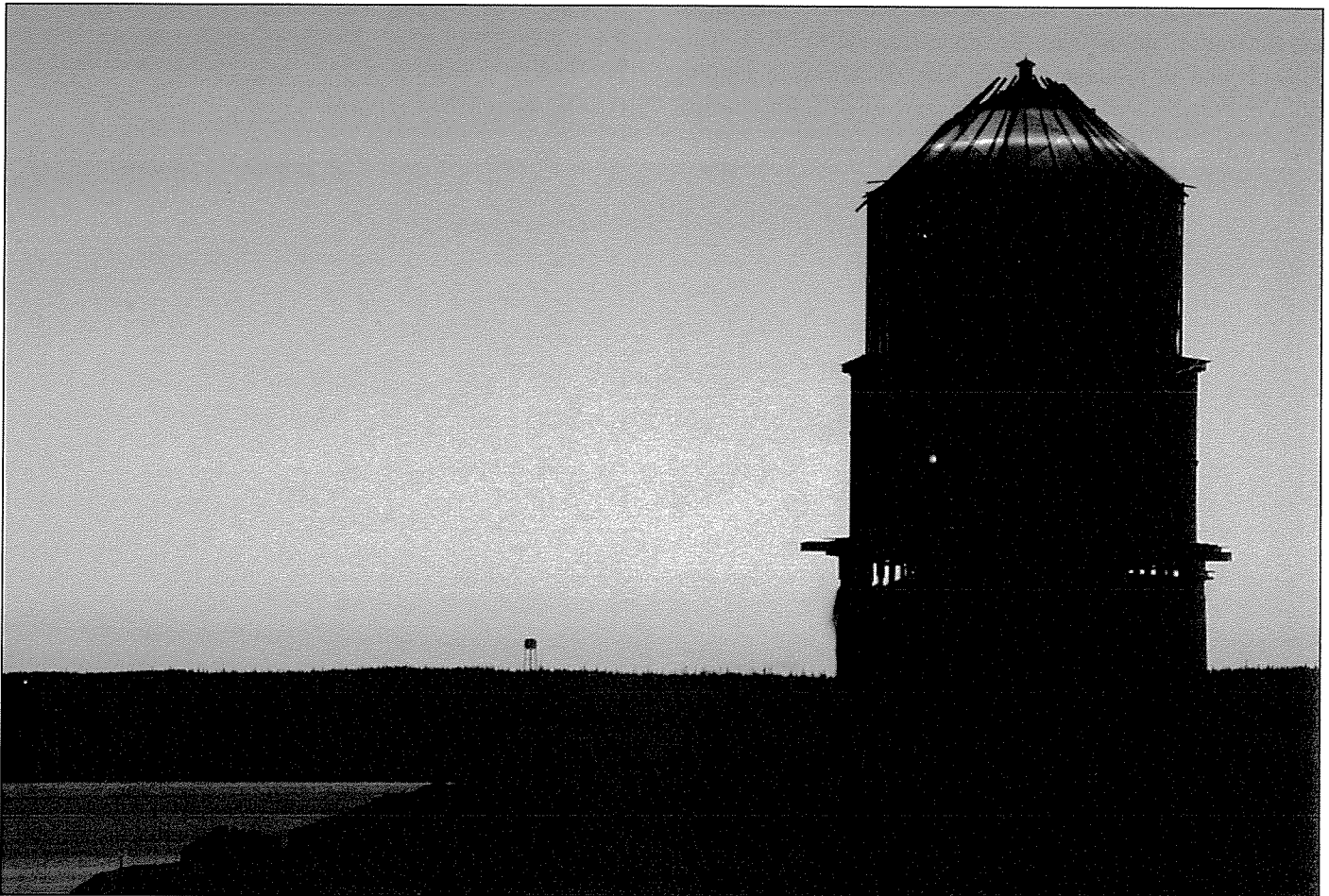
The Port Medway and Spectacle Island lighthouse groups are once again holding their art show and sale, in support of the lighthouses in each community. Public events will take place in Port Medway August 16 to 18 and in Port Mouton from August 23-25.

Louisbourg Light Shines Anew

We're talking about the new paint job, of course. As Parks Canada gears up for Louisbourg 300 celebrations this summer, last fall and winter's repairs and paint job at Canada's oldest lighthouse site have wrapped up. Workers have also landscaped some of the area adjacent to the tower and the ruins of the 1734 lighthouse.

Media Coverage

Lighthouses were on the media radar in April, with several interviews aired on CBC Radio. NSLPS president Barry Macdonald talked with the folks at CBC Mainstreet in Halifax, as did Bob Trapani and Chris Mills. Recently



THE SHROUDED LOUISBOURG LIGHTHOUSE LOOKED SOMETHING LIKE A CRAFT FROM OUTER SPACE WHILE WORKERS REPAIRED CRUMBLING CONCRETE AND PAINTED THE TOWER. *CHRIS MILLS*

CBC Radio featured an interview with Donald Kent, who helped save the French Point lighthouse near Musquodoboit Harbour.

PORT BICKERTON LIGHTHOUSE MARKS MILESTONE

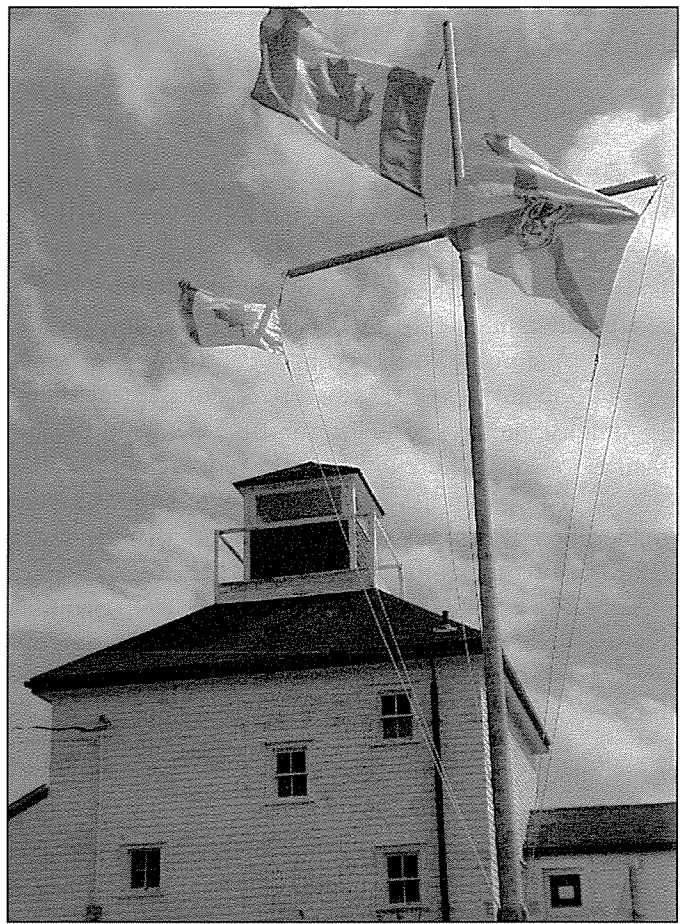
Ron Stansfield

A number of positive developments in 2012 suggest a rosy future for the Port Bickerton lighthouse.

After 15 years of patient effort by the Port Bickerton and Area Planning Association (PBAPA), ownership of the lighthouse property was finally divested by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's at the end of October, 2012.

This achievement means that the 39 acre bold oceanfront property, home to two lighthouses, separate lightkeeper's residence and 3.7 kms of nature trails, now belongs to the people of the municipality. The older of the two lighthouses contains the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, which offers a glimpse into the history of the Port Bickerton lighthouse and information on other lighthouses in the province.

In addition, the PBAPA received charitable organization status from Revenue Canada in 2012. This means that all monetary and in-kind donations in support of the Port Bickerton lighthouse now qualify for charita-



PORT BICKERTON. *RON STANSFIELD*



PORT BICKERTON'S TWO LIGHTHOUSES. *RON STANSFIELD*

ble donation receipts for Canadian income tax purposes.

The past year also saw the roll-out of a website (www.portbickertonlighthouse.com) and Facebook page ("Port Bickerton Lighthouse"). Recognition of the growing influence of social media made it imperative that the association move forward to embrace this new technology as a means of bringing the Port Bickerton lighthouse and its Nova Scotia Lighthouse Interpretive Centre to the world.

The coming year will see a major campaign to address the continuing deterioration of the buildings on site, beginning this summer with renovations to the light-keeper's residence which the PBAPA hopes to convert into an artists' retreat. Plans are also underway to refurbish the interpretive centre and build a new deck between the two lighthouses overlooking the harbour.

The association's annual "Friends of the Light" membership drive is currently under way. The campaign is a major part of the organization's yearly fund-raising efforts. The cost of membership is \$25 annually. In return, members receive a season family pass (2 adults + 2 children) for 2013, a lovely enamel lapel pin and an annual newsletter. For more information, e-mail pbns-lighthouse@gmail.com.

**SAVING A LIGHTHOUSE CAN BE FUN!!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO FORM A COMMUNITY GROUP!!
DON'T LET THE WORDS "BUSINESS PLAN" SCARE YOU OFF!!**

Even though the official deadline for sending in a proposal to save your light is June 1, 2013, that date is not written in stone. A period of grace will be allowed for a good proposal.

If your lighthouse is one of the small pepper-pot types, once these are brought up to a good standard, they are not difficult to maintain if kept in good painted condition.

Several communities have been energized and united by the effort of saving their lighthouses. It really can be fun, and the fund-raisers can be as simple as dinners, dances, strawberry festivals, bingo, flea markets, cake walks, and many other fun family activities.

Don't feel it's too late - it's NOT!!
Call Joanne McCormick
425-0350 ANYTIME

NOW – PAY MEMBERSHIPS ONLINE!

Renewing your membership or joining NSLPS just got easier. Save postage and get a receipt right away! You can now pay by PayPal in a secure section of the website (www.nslps.com). You don't have to have your own PayPal account. Just click on the fancy rectangle on the bottom left of the Home Page and follow instructions. You'll get a receipt by email. Your Charitable Tax Receipt and Membership Card will arrive later, by snail mail, from Treasurer Lew Perry.

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 Fall issue September 15, 2013

NSLPS MEMBERSHIP FORM: January 1 - December 31, 2013 ☐ New ☐ Renewal: Membership # _____

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____
E-MAIL: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

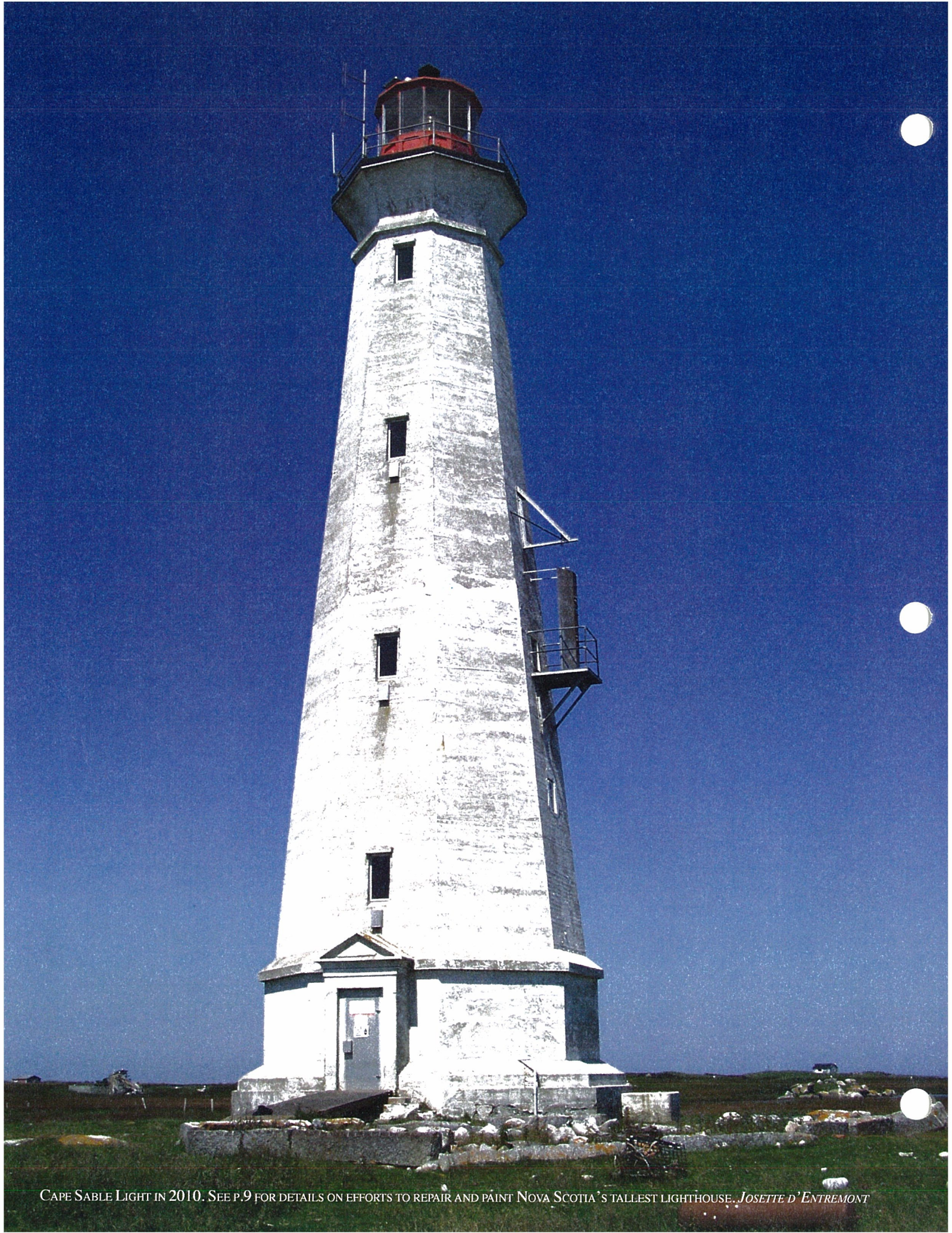
Family/Group names for extra cards: _____

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



CAPE SABLE LIGHT IN 2010. SEE P.9 FOR DETAILS ON EFFORTS TO REPAIR AND PAINT NOVA SCOTIA'S TALLEST LIGHTHOUSE. *JOSETTE D'ENTREMONT*