

THE LIGHTHOUSE NEWS

St. Peter's Harbour
Lighthouse Society



Hi folks, and Happy New Year!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Lighthouse News*, an annual newsletter to promote community ownership of our lighthouse at St. Peter's Harbour. This effort is being made under the federal Heritage Lighthouse Act, 2010.

So coming out of the blue as it were, a few questions come to mind...



the existing lighthouse at
St. Peter's Harbour

Why the Effort ?

Like most lighthouses in Canada, our lighthouse is now surplus to navigation needs. As you likely know, it was taken out of service in 2007 and has not been maintained by the Coast Guard since.

Simply put, should we not take action, demolition or auction are real possibilities... and as soon as 2015.

Records indicate the current lighthouse was constructed around 1888. It replaced an original installation dating back to 1865 (making it the third oldest on the Island). Many in our neighbourhood recall family who fished there, or playing and swimming at the wharf as children prior to its move to Red Head in 1944. But, did you know that St. Peter's Harbour (Le Havre St. Pierre) is considered the very first French settlement on the Island? And, as told in last year's Festival hit "Evangeline", the French were deported...many being lost at sea. There is so much history in our own backyard...and one gets the feeling...much more to learn!

We stand to lose a unique part of our local history, as well as seaside pleasure... what a depressing thought !!!



the lighthouse and wharf, circa 1920

What is the Heritage Lighthouse Act?

The Act was passed by Parliament to save lighthouses. Communities are encouraged to acquire these properties from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), while receiving historic designation from Parks Canada.

The program is well under way. You may have seen last fall's announcement that several Island lighthouses have been so approved, the first great news! Others remain at earlier stages in the approval mill, including our own lighthouse.

Carol Livingstone,
(second from left) president
of the
PEI Lighthouse Society,
at the recent announcement
of the designation of the
Brighton Beach Lighthouse.





What is our own approval status ?

On hold. Our DFO officer has asked for more definition with our Business Plan application and as soon as possible. The deadline for completion of approvals is May 29, 2015. Over 150 others nationwide are being reviewed, and, first come, first served.

these things take forever...time is of the essence!

What (who) is the St. Peter's Harbour Lighthouse Society ???

We are local volunteers. We are homeowners, cottagers and business folks from the lighthouse neighbourhood: Morell and St. Peter's Bay as well as the beach districts in the Harbour vicinity. Our interest is not complicated, simply to maintain and to preserve the lighthouse as it has been for decades...a nostalgic echo of Harbour history and friendly companion to our daily beach experience.

The St. Peter's Harbour Lighthouse Society was gathered together quickly in the fall of 2010 to submit a petition to the DFO for community transfer. This was a first stage deadline as defined by the Act. In 2012, the second stage was completed... submission of a preliminary Business Plan. So we are now mobilizing for the final push, the nitty gritty required for designation and transfer of the lighthouse.

We are an ad hoc committee, an "acting executive". Over the winter we will further submissions to the DFO, i.e: keep our lighthouse alive and kicking in the approval line. Next June, a public gathering will be called to update the status of things to all those interested (hopefully many!!). At that time, the objectives, Business Plan and the executive are to be confirmed. Final arrangements with the DFO, non-profit incorporation and fundraising will commence.

Acting Executive:

Chair	: Tom Moore	St. Peter's Harbour
Past Chair	: Gail Rice	St. Peter's Harbour
Secretary	: Tim Phelan	St. Peter's Lake
Treasurer	: George Morrison	Morell
Property Manager	: Doug Milligan	St. Peter's Bay
Historian	: Randy Byrne	Green Meadows

Next Steps-

The Business Plan

While a bit behind in the submission process, we have the advantage of learning from other communities that have been successful. We are consulting these groups. And Carol Livingstone, long time champion of the PEI Lighthouse Society, is providing valuable advice.

(cont'd.)



As we see things to date :

a. Operating Cost:

Annual costs will include insurance, miscellaneous repairs, financials, as well as a contingency. Most importantly, every five years the lighthouse will require painting.

Insurance is important for a non-profit. Cookes Insurance of Charlottetown now specializes in lighthouse policies. The premium for a closed lighthouse is \$800, which provides generous coverage for both third party and executive liability (5 million /2 million respectively).

In summary, we expect operating costs to be in the range of \$ 2,500. a year.

b. Revenue :

Various annual revenue streams have been suggested. A combination of Society membership fees, corporate sponsors, fundraisers, and retail sales (historical pamphlets, artwork, t-shirts etc.) will likely be required. We know it is very doable, and we look forward to fun and cheer in the undertaking !!!!

c. Start Up Costs :

i. Lighthouse Restoration:

The lighthouse has not been maintained since 2007, requiring a one time restoration cost. So prior to transfer, the building needs to be checked thoroughly, with work and costs identified.**

*** we expect the DFO to bear restoration costs and provide us with a lighthouse in good condition prior to transfer of ownership*

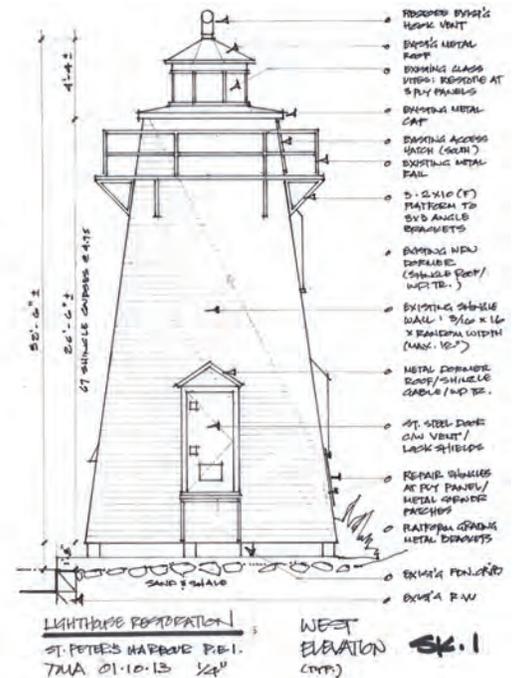
Minor contaminants will need clean up (remains of lead paint and creosote at timber foundations were identified in an environmental report back in 2000. These are not anticipated to be anything heroic). The structure appears basically sound, so painting will likely form the majority of work.

Our lighthouse is of the simpler variety, closed to the public and without attached house, i.e. interior fit-up not required. And of course, the environmental regulations protecting the dunes mean that no work will be permitted to its' surroundings (or would otherwise be necessary).

As part of our own due diligence, Doug Milligan will be inspecting the lighthouse and will complete an evaluation. As many of you know, Doug is an experienced contractor from our area. Happily, he has volunteered to be our Property Manager.

Sketches and a repair outline were given to Doug for his assistance.

Of additional interest, several folks have asked about restoring the rotating beacon, a novel idea. As this requires a separate review by the Coast Guard, and may be of some debate within the community, it is not part of specs at this time. (Restoration of glass panes at the cap is included: currently several are cheap plywood.)





ii. Incorporation Fees

Incorporation of the non-profit Society is a given. It enables the DFO to sell the building for the nominal charge of one dollar (market rates otherwise prevail). In addition, all donations and sales will be tax deductible, a nice benefit.

Lawyer Ewan Clark is advising us on the requirements of this registration.

“Harbour Night”: summer 2014

Early in the summer of next year we look forward to hosting “Harbour Night”... our first annual gathering and fundraiser. In advance of festivities we will have an official Society meeting to update the status of our application and confirm the organization’s charter and executive. (Date, time and place TBA)

We hope this to be a fun event... an annual celebration of our lighthouse and summer!

In the meantime, we are assembling a contact list of all those interested. So feel free to spread the word... and flip this newsletter to others you may think of! (please copy us as well, so we can do the honours next time, thanks!)

If you were not reached as part of the first transmission, please do not be offended- sorry we missed you ...as time and available addresses are a limitation.

We are excited to preserve the lighthouse for our community and children...and to enjoy ourselves doing it. We look forward to your comments and ideas, and please don’t hesitate to join in!

Later this spring we will forward the particulars for “Harbour Night”. Looking forward to seeing you there!

For more information about the lighthouse and the Society, contact:

stpetersharbourlighthouse@gmail.com



life on the wharf: circa 1920

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Historical Photos: collection of Terry and Carol Drake