



Spring 2010

Special points of interest:

• **Help us Save Our Swallowtail.**

Donations, volunteering, in kind are all appreciated.

• Want to be on our organizing committee? Have a great idea? Old photographs? Information about the former lightkeepers and their family life at Swallowtail? Let us know.

• Love Swallowtail? So do we. Keep up-to-date by reading our blog: www.Swallowtailkeepers.com

Swallowtail Keepers Society

Remembering our Lightkeeping Traditions

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(Laurie Murison)



OBSERVATION DECK

Visions are funny things. They appear like a good idea at the time but they sometimes can change quickly. Not so with the great cedar deck that was constructed in the spring of 2009 by carpenter Terry Davidson and some of our volunteers. Working only on weekends, the deck came together quickly and completely changed the look of the former boathouse from the discontinued Ross Island lighthouse, Fish Fluke Point or Grand Harbour Light and provided a wonderful lookout, particularly for those unable to make it out onto the peninsula. The building was moved to the current location by the former lightkeeper, Grimmer Ingersoll and his brother. They towed the building using two Jeeps and took two days to get it off Ross Island and to Swallowtail. Grimmer used the building for repairing his vehicles and included a hatch in the floor for working under vehicles without a lift. In recent years it was used as storage for the Swallowtail Bed and Breakfast. The building had definitely seen better times before work began.

The first task was cleaning out the building which happened in the spring of 2008. The next step was replacing the roof shingles which were missing in many places, and then building the deck. Locks were placed on the windows in the summer when the ham radio operators used the building for a weekend in August and a new electrical panel was donated and installed. The building was painted in the fall of 2009 in a joint project with the Grand Manan and Seminole Florida Rotary Clubs. More work needs to be done but the building has come a long way. The portable toilet provided by Roger and Regan Kinghorne several times during work parties was greatly appreciated.

Additional work was done on the handrail on the stairs with netting replacing the chain link on one side and re-enforcing bolts were added on the northern side of the hand rail on the footbridge to strength the structure.



Terry Davidson sculpting decking around rocks. Two views of the finished deck and painted buildings, pump house on right.

ANNUAL FLAG RAISING

July 1 saw a dedicated group of individuals hike out to the keepers house in thick fog to witness the Canadian flag raised on the flag pole we installed in 2008. Special guests in 2009 were RCMP officer Mitch King and Claire Foster representing the Foster family. Elodie Foster (44) died accidentally in 1936 when she overfilled the alcohol burner for the light and caught her clothes on fire. Her husband, Thomas Foster was working at the Southwest Head Light at the time. She is the only lightkeeper to die accidentally on the job at any of the Grand Manan lighthouses.

LEAD PAINT CLEANUP

The Canadian Coast Guard/Fisheries and Oceans Canada have been doing remediation work at a number of lighthouse sites for lead paint. Until the 1970s lead was added to paint and because the lighthouses were scraped and painted regularly, the soil became contaminated with the paint chips which were seldom picked up. The worry at lighthouses is that the lead can slowly leech into the marine system since most lighthouses are perched on prominent outcroppings or cliffs that afford excellent water views. CleanEarth Technologies, a Nova Scotia based company, was contracted to remove the contaminated soil around the base of the lighthouse and where the old keepers house was situated. All of the contaminated soil was lifted off the site by helicopter.



CleanEarth Technologies crew sieving lead paint contaminated soil at Swallowtail. Bags of contaminated soil were removed by helicopter.

We were thankfully able to have several loads of material (construction waste, old furnaces, oil tanks, water heater, duct work, staging) also lifted off the point by helicopter rather than having to carry it all by hand along the trail and up the stairs.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Funding was made available from Enterprise Charlotte and the Department of Culture and Heritage, Built Heritage Grant to develop a strategic plan for the operation and functioning of Swallowtail Keepers Society. Elaine Borland and Cleve Pendleton from the Business Development Commission were the consultants. Dave Stevens from Silk Stevens Ltd. was contracted for the engineering report. Strategic planning including a business plan is an important step to help fledgling organizations to realize their strengths and weaknesses. We have a lot of work ahead of us both in restoration and fund-raising.



Fund-raising Events April 2009– April 2010

- Hotdog and Hamburger Sales
- Farmers Market
- Lobster Roll Kitchen Party
- Valentines Day Chocolate Delight
- Ditch cleanup (Village sponsored)
- Donation boxes

Work Parties

- Roofing pump house and former Ross Island boathouse; scraping buildings, grounds cleanup
- Bridge railing repair
- Netting installation on stair railing
- Deck Building
- Painting buildings
- Removal of old furnaces, debris by Canadian Coast Guard helicopter
- Boathouse repair

Parking is very limited at the top of the hill at Swallowtail. Our neighbours and supporters, Paul Bakke and Carol Green, have generously expanded an area on their property to three parking spaces. The road down to the steps remained washed out in 2009 so only large vehicles risked the drive down and therefore, further restricted parking opportunities. Hopefully the Village will fill in the large rut before the 150th anniversary celebrations this summer. Our other neighbours Dwight and Charmaine Taylor have dealt with summer parking jams since they built their house and we try to keep the turnaround open for them. It is also a great aerobic walk, rather than driving, if you are in North Head.

BOATHOUSE EMERGENCY REPAIRS

In the fall, we made emergency repairs to the southern wall of the boathouse beside the keepers house because the wall and doors had either fallen away or were flapping in the breeze. The salt air and constant winter wind had eaten away the nails and the entire southern wall was in danger of collapsing. This building survived the modernization in 1958 when the new keepers house was built and the old keepers house and other buildings were torn down. The building needs more work—new doors, windows, wiring, carrying beam, sills, replacement cedar shingles, roof, paint.....A lengthy list but once completed the building will be hopefully restored to a working replica of a boathouse with winch, skiff and rails. A davit arm on a flat section more than half-way down the cliff would also be returned. This system was critical to getting all the supplies such as coal, fuel oil, groceries, building supplies, etc. on and off the point before the use of helicopters. For many years, the lightkeepers were also responsible for bringing all their own belongings to the light stations, including pianos and pool tables on occasion.



Boathouse south wall in the process of being repaired. Harsh weather and no maintenance in recent years left this building in jeopardy.

ROTARIANS PITCH IN PAINTING



The Rotary Club of Grand Manan were responsible for getting the Swallowtail lighthouse painted in 2004. The lighthouse is also prominent on their webpage www.grandmananrotary.com. so it was important when Sandra Lilo, a member of the Seminole Rotary Club, who visited Grand Manan in 2008 to talk about her work repairing cleft palates in South America, to see Swallowtail. Fellow Rotarian Burton Small, who spends part of the year in Florida where he attends the Seminole Rotary Club meetings, showed her around and she noticed the signs we had put up about restoring the property. She took it upon herself when she went home to interest 15 members of her club to come to Grand Manan in September 2009 to paint the keepers buildings at Swallowtail. We arranged for free accommodations and a gourmet meal while they were here. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and it still astounds everyone that they paid their own way to come to Grand Manan to help.

Several Grand Manan Rotarians, SKS members and the Floridians worked for two days, completely finishing the small pump house, the former Ross Island boathouse and three-quarters of the keepers house. The boathouse was not painted because of the major reconstruction work that is required to the structure. All of the paint was donated and the Rotarians and volunteers came armed with paint brushes, rollers, disposable coveralls, gloves, extension poles, paint trays, ladders, etc. which they then donated to SKS. Scaffolding was borrowed. The weather cooperated for the most part but deteriorated in the afternoon of the second day. High winds prevented painting of some of the upper areas with the long poles.



IN KIND DONATIONS: APRIL 2009-2010 (FOOD, BUILDING MATERIALS, ETC.)

Island Home Hardware	Grand Manan Rotary Club	Martha Ballantyne & Richard Rice	Marilyn Cronk	June Greenlaw
Grand Manan SaveEasy	Sailor's Landing	Anonymous lobster fisherman	Pam Cronk	Beulah Griffin
Great Canadian Dollar Store	Grand Manan Whale & Sea-bird Research Station	Brian Haynes	Treena Mersereau	Judy Gaskill
Inn at Whale Cove Cottages	Island Truck Repair	Frank Longstaff	Jason Toll	Sandra Ingersoll
Pettes Cove Arts	Canadian Coast Guard	Ken Keirstead	Diane Jaillet	Duane Griffin
Grand Isle Drug Store	CleanEarth Teachnology	Cheryl Brown	Sarah Wormell	Allan Huckins
Manan Island Inn	Sysco (Walter Wilson)	Artje Ingalls	Bud Dean	Pam Charters
Marathon Inn	Benjamin Moore Paints		Holly Cheney	Burton Small
North Head Baptist Church			Terry Lynn Bainbridge	

DONATIONS: APRIL 2008-2010

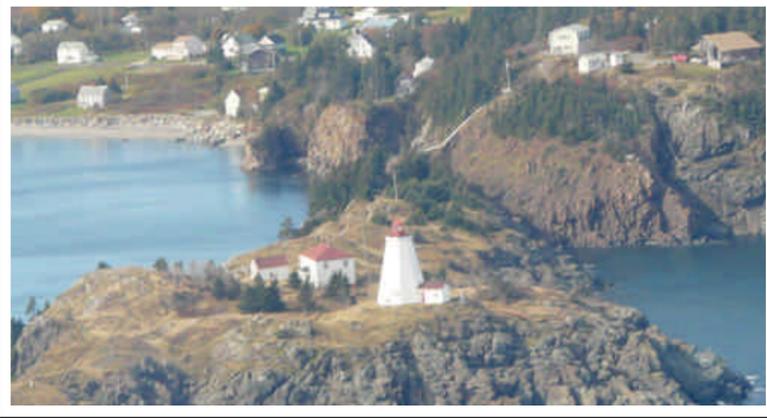
Susan Price, Norwich, CT	Amber Phillips, Summerside, PE	Jan Vertefeville, Arlington, VA
Mike Strong, L'Etete, NB	Nancy Campbell, Kensington, PE	Barbara Schnoor, New York, NY
Sharon Greenlaw, Grand Manan, NB	Barbara & Eugene Ingersoll, Grand Manan, NB	Janet Blakely, Stouffville, ON
Art MacKay, Chamcook, NB	Lynne & James Smyth, Newmarket, ON	Kathy Post, Toronto, ON
Laverne Zwicker, Ottawa, ON	Kaye & Basil Small, Grand Manan, NB	Ed Corey, New Maryland, NB
Simon & Pamela Potter, CT	Valerie McFawn, Saint John, NB	Pamela Anderson, Brockville, ON
Karl & Jacqueline Epper, Wells, ME	Ruth Weslyn Miller, Peterborough, ON	Carol Hinds, Ottawa, ON
Sharon Lamazer, Brooklyn, NY	Jane Miller, Coquitlam, BC	Sue Stymest, Grand Manan, NB
Eric Earle Aubanel, Fredericton, NB	John & Ieva Neimanis, Hamilton, ON	Joyce McCavour, Quispamsis, NB
Laurie Campbell, Fredericton, NB	Paul Follett, Lakefield, ON	Harry & Evelyn Deroian, Groveland, MA
Andy Silber, Toronto, ON	Trudy & Neil Morse, Grand Manan, NB	Paul Bakke & Carol Green, Wilmington, NC
Mary Lou Campbell, Grand Manan, NB	John Peacock, Grand Manan, NB	Denny Ferguson, Pakenham, ON
Roy & Kathy Wheeler, Nepean, ON	Bryant & Martha Eaton, Grand Manan, NB	Laura Buckley, Grand Manan, NB
Benjamin Abramson, Arlington, VA	Kirk & Holly Cheney, Grand Manan, NB	Kathy Sessamen, Saint John, NB
	Edward Whelpdale, Ottawa, ON	Molson Canada, Toronto, ON
	Nancy Gilmore, Lawrencetown, NS	Joel Frantzman, Sullivan, ME

**April 2008-2010
Committee Members (also
volunteer time for projects):**

Laurie Murison & Ken Ingersoll
Kevin Sampson
Bryant & Martha Eaton
Sue & Mike Stymest
Theresa & Lloyd MacFarland
Laura Buckley
Pam Charters
Sue & Clyde McCulley
Paul Bakke & Carole Green
Claire Foster
Burton & Rowena Small
Cara Greenlaw
John Edwards
Kirk Cheney
Fredonna Dean
Marie Thomas
Frank Longstaff, Legal advisor

Check out our blog:
Swallowtailkeepers.
blogspot.com

Swallowtail
Keepers Society
is a registered
non-profit
dedicated to the
protection and
restoration of the
Swallowtail light
station and subsequent development of public education and promotion of the site.



Our funding levels are still very low and we appreciate any donation (monetary or in kind) or volunteer labour. All monetary donations and in kind donation of materials can be tax receipted for Canadian income tax purposes. Fill out the enclosed form and send it back to us or donate online through Canada Helps (www.canadahelps.org).

Volunteers 2008-2010:

(may have donated in
kind items as well)

Melvin Baker	Zoe Ingalls
James Bates	Cory Ingersoll
Ce Bowden	Joe Ingersoll
Marie Charpentier	Andrew Jones
Daniel Clinch	Andrea Kelter
Christine Clinch	Gordon Kinghorne
Liz Crompton	Linda Kling
Peter Cronk	Nils Kling
Claude Daggett	Grant Linton
Terry Davidson	Dawn Locke
Michael Duern	Jasmine MacFarland
Glenn Foster	Kevin Maker
Jana Gatta	Brandon Mason
Sony Gatta	Allan McDonald
Jonathon Graves	Sarah McDonald
Elton Greene	Nick Noel
Joe Greenlaw	John Palmer
Sam Greenlaw	Pat Perrin
Murray Guptill	Kathy Post
Joanne Ingalls	Cortland Raymond
Mike Ingalls	Don Ritchie
Olivia Ingalls	Bradley Small
	Carvell Turner
	Andrew Westgate
	Lexie Wilcox

150TH ANNIVERSARY

The light tower and original keeper's house were built in the fall of 1859 but the lantern had to be shipped from England and didn't arrive until the next year. July 7, 1860 was the first evening the glow of the light at Swallowtail appeared in Pettes Cove and 2010



Alma Naves and Doris Moses. 1959

marks the 150th anniversary of this event. Swallowtail is one of the few lighthouses in the Maritimes that still has many of the keepers buildings on the property. All too often these buildings were moved, torn down or burned to reduce maintenance costs for buildings that were no longer required when the light houses were destaffed.

We are planning a number of events for this year including a flag raising on July 7 at 2 PM followed by a reception and our Annual General Meeting. at the Grand Manan Museum. On July 10 at 2 PM, there will be a sail past and kite flying at and around Swallowtail, followed by a family nature walk behind the Curling Club property, and a lobster roll dinner and musical entertainment at the same venue

(Tickets for the dinner will be \$20).

The Grand Manan Museum will be hosting 150 Views of Swallowtail in their Elmer Wilcox Room and the former Visitor Information Room for the entire summer.

We have a grant for a summer student for eight weeks this year and hope to greet many visitors to Swallowtail. While we would also like to have some commemorative items for sale, we will have to see what we can manage to purchase.

We will also have the second annual ham radio International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend the third weekend in August (August 20-22). Sterling Carpenter and Art Gunn set up last summer in the former Ross Island Boat house and had over 160 visitors that weekend.

We are hoping to work on both the keepers house and boat house this summer and fall and funding looks promising. If you are interested in volunteering, contact any of our committee members.

? The Village of Grand Manan agreed to a 20 year lease with us. We are currently waiting for a ruling from the province about a property tax exemption.

? Special thanks to Frank Longstaff for drafting various legal documents and Drew Speight for getting SKS registered as a charity.

? We have had numerous media articles about our efforts over the last two years in the Telegraph Journal, St. Croix Courier, Quoddy Tides, and Island Times.

? Many thanks to everyone who have offered advice during this process. We apologize if we have missed anyone.