



LIGHTHOUSE NEWS

Summary of June 2010-
May 2011

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 or LIKE our Facebook Page: [Save our Swallowtail](#)

Swallowtail Keepers Society

*Remembering our
Lightkeeping Traditions*

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(Laurie Murison)



150TH ANNIVERSARY

As the fading light of the day disappeared, a new one appeared as the lamp in the lantern at Swallow Tail was lit for the first time, July 7, 1860. It shone out to sea, providing the first beacon for mariners on the northern end of the Grand Manan archipelago. It had been 28 years since a navigation beacon had been constructed in the archipelago (Machias Seal Island) but the tragedy of the wreck of the Lord Ashburton in 1857 on the northern end of Grand Manan spurred the erection of a lighthouse at Swallow Tail. The first keeper, Jonathon Kent, spent 13 years tending the light, passing the job on to his son and many other keepers after that until 1986 when the lighthouse was destaffed.

To commemorate this anniversary we planned a number of events, including a flag raising on July 7 at 2 PM at Swallowtail with the Fishermen's Friends Community Choir singing *O Canada*, followed by a reception and our Annual General Meeting. at the Grand Manan Museum. At this event, there was an official announcement from Built Heritage and the Regional Development Corporation of \$55,000 in funding for restoration to the keepers buildings to be matched with \$10,000 from SKS. On July 10 at 2 PM, we had planned a sail past, but this had to be postponed until August because of foggy weather. A family nature walk behind the Curling Club property before the lobster roll dinner and musical entertainment was cancelled because of wet conditions but the lobster roll supper went ahead and proved to be a great success with local musicians and Before the Mast, an *a capella* group singing sea shanties and other maritime flavoured songs, entertaining the audience well into the evening.

The Grand Manan Museum hosted 150 Views of Swallowtail in their Elmer Wilcox Room and the former Visitor Information Room for the entire summer. We also gave a talk on Swallowtail as part of the Grand Manan Museum Tuesday and Thursday evening presentations. Our summer student worked at the Museum, helping with the various events and promoting Swallowtail. To raise funds a commemorative cotton bag proved to be a solid seller at the Farmers Market and at a number of other businesses with all proceeds going to SKS. Special thanks for a grant from Fundy Community Foundation.



Top to bottom: 150th Anniversary cake; Bill Hicks (Department of Culture, Sports and Heritage) and Terry Cunningham (Department of Tourism) with the 150 Views of Swallowtail at the Grand Manan Museum; Lobster rolls in preparation before delivery; Boats participating in Sail Past. **Left:** The Honourable Albert Hebert, Theresa MacFarland and the Honourable Rick Doucet.



ANNUAL FLAG RAISING

As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations we moved our annual flag raising to the anniversary date of July 7. We also now hold the event in the afternoon to give time for the frequent July fogs to lift. Theresa MacFarland stood in for our chairperson who was working aboard a whale watching vessel. The *Fishermen Friends* sang *O Canada* from the former Ross Island boathouse as the flag was broken with the RCMP and other dignitaries present. The flag pole was also moved to the Boathouse because the iron rusted on the support on the concrete base. A flag pole had been present on the Boathouse in the past for signal flags. The concrete base of the former flag pole will become the base for the bronze fog bell when it is returned to the property.



Theresa MacFarland and Corporal St. Laurent at the Annual Flag Raising, July 7, 2010.

Fund-raising Events April 2010– April 2011

- Farmers Market
- Lobster Roll Supper & Musical Extravaganza
- Royal Tea
- Ditch cleanup (Village sponsored)
- Donation boxes & Yard Sale

Work Parties

- Painting touch-ups on boathouse and keepers house for 150th Anniversary
- Paint and wallpaper stripping in the keepers house
- Roofing boathouse
- Earth Day cleanup of restoration debris

GRANTS Funding was made available from provincial sources, the Regional Development Corporation through Enterprise Charlotte (\$25,000) and the Department of Culture and Heritage, Built Heritage Grant (\$30,000) to restore the keepers buildings. Funds and in kind labour from SKS amounted to \$10,000. Despite everyone being very busy in the summer, work began in earnest in the fall and continued through the winter. We also received a grant from Fundy Community Foundation for the 150th celebrations. We were also awarded a grant for 2011 from the Canadian Heritage Legacy Fund for a tribute to the lightkeepers and will include restoration of the paths, installation of a winch on the stairs, returning the bronze bell from the Grand Manan Museum and other landscaping, signage and benches. Matching funds from SKS and the Village of Grand Manan will round out the grant.

1860 - 2010
150 YEARS
Swallowtail Light



GRAND MANAN ISLAND, NB, CANADA

RESTORATION WORK

Priorities identified in a business plan developed for the SKS in 2010 were used to develop a restoration plan for the keepers buildings. This project was the first phase of the five year plan. Weather conditions, availability of contractors and volunteers, and materials dictated when some work could or could not be done. The schedule of contractors also had to be accommodated and to reduce some of the reluctance of contractors and others to work on site and to increase the efficiency of doing the repairs, a tool kit was purchased for the site including ladders, scaffolding, and basic carpentry and painting tools. Some tools and paint were donated and volunteers contributed over 508 hours during the project.

The oldest building, the boat house, suffered from the ravages of time in a marine environment and little or no maintenance since the light station was de-staffed in 1986. The southern wall was completely rebuilt including windows, double doors, sheathing and cedar shingles. The nails had rusted off and the entire wall was loose and easily removed in 2009 when emergency repairs were made. New replicated wooden windows were installed in three windows, two windows were refurbished and an additional low window still needs to be glazed. Two original doors that had been boarded up were restored with new tongue and groove doors built on site. One existing door was fixed and painted. Posts and sills were repaired or replaced where necessary and sod was removed from around the skirting. An attic hatch was built and a support chain in the attic was re-installed. The building was painted and cedar shingles repaired where necessary, except for the southern wall which will be painted when the weather warms up and the cedar shingles have had time to dry out. The roof was re-shingled, a door step and a ramp rebuilt, and the building was rewired. An antique wood burning stove was donated for the building. A chimney will be installed once the weather improves. The building was made as tidy as possible but also needed



Boathouse and keepers house seen from the helicopter pad in April 2011, after major restoration work but still more to do.

to store the scaffolding and planks, burnable material, old windows and some building supplies to be used in following phases.

The garage or former building from the decommissioned Ross Island lighthouse, Fish Fluke Point, needed the least work because of previous efforts by SKS volunteers who had painted the walls, re-shingled the roof and built a large observation deck on three sides of the building. The knee wall was straightened and boards replaced where necessary. The knee wall and access door still need to be fixed. The wiring except for the new entrance panel (donated in 2009) was replaced. Removable security shutters will be built for the four windows. The building was also tidied to prepare it for use in the summer as a gift shop and reception area.

The keepers house had suffered from water damage and mould and had seen significant modifications during a period when it was leased for a bed and breakfast. Extensive work was undertaken to remediate the mould issue with every wall and ceiling cleaned with a bleach solution, and wall paper and peeling latex paint removed. Ceilings were repaired where damaged by water. The southern porch needed major repairs including drywall, window trim, and floor. Partitions on the main floor, not original to the house, were removed, reusing building materials elsewhere where possible. The tub surrounds were removed in the two bathrooms and replaced with Barker board more similar to the original including built-in soap dishes after the mould was removed. Interior walls and ceilings were prepped for painting with the paint colours that were original to the house when it was built in 1958. These colours were found in closets or under wall paper or other paint and were matched to paint chips. The interior paint is being donated. Electrical issues were addressed. The kitchen cupboards were repaired and doors manufactured to replace those that were missing in the eastern kitchen. Doors were also replicated for a built-in cupboard in the eastern living room. The western kitchen cupboards, and window and door trim on the first floor were scraped of paint to the original varnished surface. Countertops were fabricated similar to the original 1958 style using a grey laminate, separate back splash and chrome edging. Missing chrome handles were purchased where necessary for the kitchens and hall cabinets. Every window was removed, reglazed and returned, five vinyl inserts were removed and replaced with the original wooden windows, seven wooden storm windows were refurbished and installed, and two wooden storm doors and the original exterior southern door were re-installed. Additional wooden storm windows need to be built before the plywood coverings can be removed because of the possibility of continued leaking without storms. The roof, flashing and cedar shingles above the southern porch were replaced. The former furnace ducts were sealed in the basement and wooden slats and/or plastic were installed in the floor and wall registers in the rest of the house. The furnaces, duct work and oil tanks had been removed previously. The exterior was painted where necessary, having been partially painted in the fall of 2009. The chimneys were wrapped for the winter and will be restored as soon as possible. The southern deck was modified after winter gales destroyed the railing facing the lighthouse, to more closely resemble the walkway system that had been present up until the mid 1960s, used by the light keepers to safely come and go from their residence to the light tower. The railing was fixed on the northern porch. The northern side of the roof was re-shingled. The rusted eaves trough was removed and will be replaced in the spring with seamless eaves trough. The insulation in the attic was replaced. Ventilation was purchased and will be installed in the attic in the spring.

The well house interior was scraped and painted, and a new electrical cable was run from the garage. A missing pane of glass will be replaced in the one window and a shutter built. The pump was tested for the well and was found operational, however, there was a leak somewhere in the above ground pipe running from the well to the keepers house which prevented any pressure being maintained in the line. This will be fixed in the spring since the pipe needed to be uncovered in places where it had become overgrown. The building had already received a new roof after years of no shingles and been painted outside.

A copy of the restoration report is available upon request.



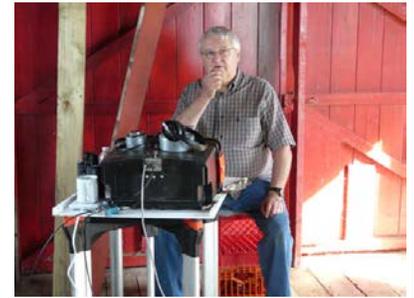
Some of the restoration work to remove partitions, rebuild the boathouse wall, return the original door, reglaze windows and return windows, and repair kitchen cabinets.

**June 2010-May 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
Frank Longstaff, Legal advisor



Rick MacMillan
and Sterling
Carpenter during
the International
Lighthouse &
Lightship
Weekend in
August 2010 using
their ham radios.



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.

Despite grants, 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).

Check out our blog:
Swallowtailkeepers.blogspot.com

**Restoration Volunteers,
June 2010-May 2011:**

Ken Ingersoll	Brian Haynes
Laurie Murison	Nils & Linda Kling
Laura Buckley	Kirk Cheney
Linda L'Aventure	Kevin Sampson
John Edwards	Dave Thomas
Alexis Phillips	Brent Ingalls
Charlie Savedoff	Tyler Guptill
James Bates	Landon McKenzie
John Patterson	Chris Tucker
Tom Murison	Brian Tate
Bryant Eaton	Mike & Sue Stymest
Justin Small	Sharon Ingalls
Glenn Foster	Lloyd & Theresa MacFarland
	Sue & Clyde McCulley
	Carol Green

Thanks to the Businesses who kept donation boxes or sold cotton bags:

Grand Manan Museum **Marathon Inn**
Sailor's Landing **Pettes Cove Arts**
Surfside Motel **North Head Bakery**
Grand Manan Whale & Seabird Research Stn.

Thanks to **Fundy Community Foundation, Built Heritage and Enterprise Charlotte/Regional Development Corporation** for grants in the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Thanks also to those who donated material, worked or were otherwise involved in the fund raising activities (teas, yard sale, reception, lobster roll supper, music, ditch cleanup) and, of course, those who attended the events. They would not have been successful without everyone's support.

DONATIONS & IN KIND: JUNE 2010-MAY 2011

Andy Silber, Toronto, ON	Harry & Evelyn Deroian, Groveland, MA	Nancy McHone, Grand Manan, NB
Ann Chudleigh, Grand Manan, NB	Hilda Shaffelburg, Scarborough, ON	Nancy Sears, St. Martins, NB
Annie Greenlaw, Fredericton, NB	Ieva & John Neimanis, Hamilton, ON	Neil Morse, Grand Manan, NB
Artje Ingalls, Grand Manan, NB	Jan Vertefeuille & Benjamin Abramson, Arlington, VA	Nick Green, Grand Manan, NB
Barbara & Eugene Ingersoll, Grand Manan, NB	Joanne Ingalls, Grand Manan, NB	Nora & Ed Parker, Grand Manan, NB
Brenda McLaughlin, Grand Manan, NB	John & Adele Peacock, Grand Manan, NB	Norah & Rod Davidson-Wright, Grand Manan, NB
Burton & Rowena Small, Grand Manan, NB	John & Paddy Duford, Rochester, NY	Norma & Lester Neves, Grand Manan, NB
Cecilia Bowden, Grand Manan, NB	John Edwards & Alexis Phillips, Grand Manan, NB	Pam & Ron Cronk, Grand Manan, NB
Charles LeBlanc, Gdieppe, NB	Kathleen Small, Grand Manan, NB	Pam Charters, Grand Manan, NB
Davey & Val MacFawn, Saint John, NB	Kathy Sessamen, Saint John, NB	Patricia Cove, Mallorytown, ON
Deane Griffin, Grand Manan, NB	Katie & Larry Seiden, Sea Cliff, NY	Patricia Gosselin, Wellington, ON
Debbie & Charlie Savedoff, Grand Manan, NB	Ken Ingersoll, Grand Manan, NB	Paul Follett, Lakefield, ON
Dr. Alan Marcus, St. Catherines, ON	Kenneth Dean, Halifax, NS	Peter Cunningham, Grand Manan, NB
Ed Corey, New Maryland, NB	Kevin Sampson, Grand Manan, NB	Roy & Kathy Wheeler, Nepean, ON
Elaine Maker, Grand Manan, NB	Laura Buckley, Grand Manan, NB	Sandra Ingersoll, Grand Manan, NB
Elizabeth Bass, Grand Manan, NB	Linda L'Aventure, Grand Manan, NB	Sara Wormell, Grand Manan, NB
Eric Aubanel, Fredericton, NB	Lucy Straw, Grand Manan, NB	Sharon Lamazor Thornton, Brooklyn, NY
Evelynn Vannier, Grand Manan, NB	Lynne & Gerry Smyth, Newmarket, ON	Sue & Jeremy Rickards, Lower Queensbury, NB
Frances Hodge, Grand Manan, NB	Marilyn & Peter Cronk, Grand Manan, NB	Sue Stymest, Grand Manan, NB
Gene & Karen Brewer, Grand Manan, NB	Mary Hawkins, Grand Manan, NB	The Quoddy Tides, Eastport, ME
Ginny Riseborough, Grand Manan, NB	Mary Lou Campbell, Grand Manan, NB	Thisbe Schenk, Toronto, ON
Gladys Leighton, Grand Manan, NB	Merrill & Beulah Griffin, Grand Manan, NB	Tracy Douglas, Wellington, ON
Glenn Foster, Grand Manan, NB	Mike & Joanne Ingalls, Grand Manan, NB	Trish & Randy Toll, Grand Manan, NB
Hallie Bass, Grand Manan, NB		Walter Wilson, Grand Manan, NB