



LIGHTHOUSE NEWS

Summary of June 2011-
May 2012

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.blogspot.com or LIKE our Facebook Page: **Save our Swallowtail**

Swallowtail Keepers Society

*Remembering our
Lightkeeping Traditions*

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Manan, NB Canada E5G 2A2

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(Laurie Murison)



Lobster Roll Supper, July 9,
2011

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC DEATH OF ELODIE INGALLS FOSTER, LIGHTKEEPER

2011 marked the 75th anniversary of the tragic death of Elodie Foster. Family members, including a granddaughter, great granddaughter and great, great grandchildren, attended the annual flag raising ceremony on July 7, during which a commemorative plaque was unveiled. The plaque was then mounted on the lighthouse. The memorial plaque reads:

In Memory Of Elodie Ingalls Foster
19 February 1892 - 8 August 1936

In the early evening of August 7, 1936, Elodie Ingalls Foster, in her capacity as second keeper at Swallowtail, attempted to light the lamp in the lighthouse tower. She had carried out these duties previously and for unknown reasons the flammable liquid used soon engulfed her in flames. She was able to get out of the tower and reached the living quarters of Swallowtail. She was quickly found by family members and medical attention was called. Despite their best efforts Mrs. Foster died from her injuries the following day.

The following is from her death notice: *“Mrs. Foster was born at Ingalls’ Head, the daughter of the late Capt. and Mrs. Loran Ingalls and when her husband took over the appointment as keeper at the Southern Head Light, entered zealously into the work with him. She was considered as able and efficient second keeper in her own right and when changes in appointments came and they transferred to Swallow Tail she was made assistant keeper until Mr. Foster would be enabled to leave the light at Southern Head when that would be taken over by his successor. Their son, Leonard, has been acting as keeper at Swallow Tail.”*

They had three children, Leonard, Ruth and Dorothy. Tom remained at Swallowtail for many more years after Elodie’s tragic death, and remarried. After retiring, he worked in his mill on Lighthouse Road, living across the street at #17.



Top to bottom:

- A. Tom and Elodie Foster.
- B. Stuart & Raima Green, Jean Ingalls, Oliver “Smiles” Green, Turner Green
- C. Andrea Van Dyke, Claire Foster, Glenn Foster, Pat Gosselin, Graydon Van Dyke, Tracy Douglas

GRANTS

We received a Canadian Heritage Building Communities through Art and History (Legacy Fund) grant for a tribute to the light keepers. This included 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 rounded out the grant.

We were also awarded two student grants for our Welcome Centre, the building moved in the 1960s from the decommissioned Ross Island lighthouse. Eight weeks were funded by the provincial SEED program and ten weeks were funded from the federal Summer Placement program. Thanks to students Robyn Guptill and Geoffrey Hadaway and volunteers who worked in the fall including Linda L'Aventure, Carol Green, Mary McClintock, Elaine Brown, Frances Hodge, Mara Burns and Ken Ingersoll.



Fund-raising Events June 2011– May 2012

- Farmers Market
- Lobster Roll Supper & Musical Extravaganza
- Titanic Tea & Diamond Jubilee
- Ditch cleanup (Village sponsored)
- Donation boxes
- T-shirt, button, postcard, etc. sales in the newly opened Welcome Centre, staffed by students and volunteers

RESTORATION WORK

A wet spring prevented much of the work being done and it was June before any major work was started including finishing the deck extension on the keepers house to restore the flow to the lighthouse. When the deck was built, access to the lighthouse was only by back tracking around the house. A bench was added for seating. Three picnic tables have been added to the keepers deck for general use.

The final work on the chimneys and flashing to put them back in good repair was completed. Although historically, the western chimney with its double flue, was used both for a wood stove and the furnace, the chimney pots could not be easily removed to add a chimney liner so the chimney remains cosmetic rather than useable. The furnaces are no longer in the house. A liner was installed in the eastern chimney for an oil stove in the kitchen, similar to what would have been in the house in 1958. Despite having a welded cap, the welds were destroyed in one of our wind storms and the cap removed! The wind shear on the peninsula never ceases to amaze.

The lower cedar shingles on the western side of the boathouse had to be replaced and the sills repaired because the soil level had built up over the years and rotted out the boards. The soil level was lowered to prevent this from happening again and this area has also been given a top treatment of crushed rock that extends to the northern side and around the newly replaced ramp. The old door step from the keepers house was reused on the western side of the boathouse for the door that was returned to that side of the building. The shingles that were removed and replaced on the keepers house to fix leaks in the sun porch and the new shingles on the boathouse were painted. Paint is always an issue, including trying to get the appropriate weather, and ensuring that there isn't a layer of salt spray on the buildings. Despite painting the boathouse only a year before it need another coat. Priming bare spots were accomplished on all except the northern wall which happened this spring.

Custom wooden shutters were made for the Welcome Centre (former Fish Fluke Light building) to protect the windows during the winter (Figure A). The skirting was replaced on the southern side and all the skirting was painted white with red trim to match the building. A salvaged window was installed in the frame in the skirting facing east and a wooden shutter was constructed for this window as well. Shutters were used on the Fish Fluke Point Light when it was operational so these shutters are not out of context historically.

The interior paint has been donated, and the walls prepared to receive the historic colours. Fortunately, the original 1958 colours could be found in closets and under layers of paint and were matched to paint chips. The interior walls had to be primed because of the high gloss enamel paint that had been used at one point. Once the walls are painted, the floors can be sanded and re-varnished. It will then be time for furniture. We do have a bedroom suite, an armoire, a desk, two chairs, and a metal bed frame but more older style furniture would be welcomed.

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Six beautiful wooden lobster trap-style benches were built and put in place at scenic lookouts beginning at the top of the hill and extending to the lighthouse (Figure B). The pattern of the bench is one that is used at the Anchorage Provincial Park, sturdy and heavy enough not to be blown off the peninsula, but comfortable. They were well used during the summer as indicated by the new footpaths leading to and from the benches. Unfortunately, the one near the lighthouse and furthest away went missing (we don't how) but it was replaced, this time firmly attached to the rocks.

The major, labour-intensive work began with moving two dump truck loads of crushed rock (a donation). A winch and cart that runs on a track were installed on the stairs to make it a bit easier to take things down the stairs, as well as the



reverse (Figure C). Some of the material for the winch and cart system and digging the trench for the electrical hook-up were donated. It came in handy moving the gravel. Pails were filled from the pile and emptied into a tote tub in the cart. The cart was lowered down the stairs and the tote tub emptied in wheelbarrows, which were then wheeled along the footpath (Figure D). It was only at the very end that we got the use of an ATV and cart to finish the path from the keepers house to the lighthouse. We have now purchased a dump cart for the peninsula.

The trail stanchions were repaired and those missing replaced, primed and painted red. A rope handrail (the rope was donated) was strung the length of the footpath from the bridge to the keepers house on both sides of the trail. Many of the dead trees, killed in the grass fire in 2007, were cut down, and general trimming occurred along the footpath. The brush and construction debris (mostly old shingles) were burned one rainy evening, carefully watched by volunteers so no sparks started the dead grass on fire.

Safety railings, removed from the hockey rink when the Mars company paid to have a heated mezzanine built in the rink, were attached to the handrail on the stairs and stretched across to warn people of the steep drop-off to the Saw Pit, and afford some security to the new picnic area (Figure E). The railings were a donation. Other sections were used on the retaining wall to protect users, and the last section has become a bicycle rack. The retaining wall is below the Welcome Centre and is a vast improvement over a dirt path on a sloping hillside. It has been landscaped, has a beautiful walkway through it, and is part of the picnic area (Figure F).

The parking area has also been upgraded with new gravel and expanded parking below the Welcome Centre. There is a new trail system extending from the lower parking area to the new picnic table pads that loops back to the parking lot. Part of the historic footpath leading toward Pettes Cove has been marked. This path was used extensively by the light keepers, reducing the length of the trip and avoiding some of the hills.

The most exciting event was the return of the bronze fog bell. The Grand Manan Museum graciously agreed to return the bell. It had been at the Museum since 1980 sitting outside the Deep Cove School House. A lovely wooden deck was built around the concrete base of the flag pole to accommodate the bell. The bell was modified so it could accommodate an eye and shackle (for ease of lifting). It was then transported to the Welcome Centre by boom truck where it awaited lift-off. The Canadian Coast Guard were able to work the lift of the bell into their schedule, but we had to wait until they had their heavy lift helicopter because the bell weighs 900 kg (2000 lbs). Once everything had been assessed, the pilot picked up the bell and took it on a long circuit toward Fish Head so he could approach from the south to avoid the power lines. Our hearts were in our throats as we watched the bell being carried out over the water, hoping everything would go as planned and it wouldn't become a recovery mission had the bell dropped into the water. The pilot skilfully landed the bell, slightly off centre but, nevertheless, in place (Figure G). A couple of jacks and some blocks got the bell centred. In the key of "F", the bell, despite its crack and divots, sounds great. The clapper still needs to be refurbished after it was found during the lead paint cleanup around the lighthouse. It will be on display but will not be used.

Interpretative signage has been designed for the property and will be installed shortly. It will hopefully answer many common questions about the lighthouse and property, geology, wildlife, fishing, etc., but will, no doubt, stimulate additional questions. Many other hand painted directional signs and identification signs for the buildings were donated.

The helicopter pad will receive a coat of grey paint soon, painted according to Transport Canada specifications. It has been so long that it has been painted, no paint remains on the concrete. The paint on the stairs will also be returned after the stairs are cleaned of accumulated debris. The steps will alternate red and grey, the same pattern found on the stairs in both basements in the keepers house.



**June 2011-May 2012
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, Sterling Carpenter, and Art Gunn set up in the keepers house for the International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend in August, 2011, using their ham radios to communicate with other lighthouses around the world.



**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.

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).

Volunteers (restoration, fund-raising), June 2011-May 2012:

Ken Ingersoll	Lloyd MacFarland	Burton Small
Laurie Murison	Theresa Noel	Weldon Zwicker
Linda L'Aventure	Sue McCulley	Bailey & Renee Desjardins
John Edwards	Carol Green	Owen Leslie
Alexis Phillips	Aelita, Ieva & John	Elaine Brown
James Bates	Neimanis	Frances Hodge
John Pattison	Karen McDonald	Mary McClintock
Bryant & Martha Eaton	Charmaine	Charlene Hamly
Glenn Foster	Kathy Post	Laura Buckley
Nils Kling	Marie Charpentier	Dinah Romig
Kirk Cheney	Dave Burgess	Diane Jaillet
Kevin Sampson	Stephen Hettrick	Emmy, Megan & Jana
Mike & Sue Stymest	Phillip Brown	Greenlaw
Sharon Ingalls	Dave Parks	Mara Burns

Thanks to the Businesses who kept donation boxes: **Grand Manan Museum, Pettes Cove Arts, Sailor's Landing, Island Arts Cafe, Ferry Wharf Takeout**

Thanks also to those who donated material, worked or were otherwise involved in the fund raising activities (tea, lobster roll supper, music, ditch cleanup), and, of course, those who attended the events. They would not have been successful without everyone's support. We also appreciate our neighbours for their support.

We also appreciate the dedication of the paid contractors and their assistants who worked on our projects.

JUNE 2011-MAY 2012: DONATIONS

Pamela Anderson, Brockville, ON
Elizabeth Bass, Grand Manan, NB
Hallie Bass, Grand Manan, NB
James Bates, Grand Manan, NB
Gene Brewer, New York, NY
Mary Lou Campbell, Grand Manan, NB
Sterling Carpenter, New Maryland, NB
Kirk Cheney, Grand Manan, NB
Ann Chudleigh, Grand Manan, NB
Patricia Cove, Mallorytown, ON
Harry & Evelyn Deroian, Groveland, MA
Elizabeth Duford, Rochester, NY
Mary Joan Edwards, Grand Manan, NB
Karl & Jacqueline Epper, Wells, ME
Patricia Gosselin, Wellington, ON
Grand Manan Trails, Grand Manan, NB
Beulah & Merrill Griffin, Grand Manan, NB
Doris Griffin, Grand Manan, NB
Pam Harrison, River Hebert, NS
Frances Hodge, Grand Manan, NB
Artje Ingalls, Grand Manan, NB
Eugene & Barbara Ingersoll, Grand Manan, NB

Ken Ingersoll, Grand Manan, NB
Gladys Leighton, Grand Manan, NB
Valerie MacFawn, Saint John, NB
Rodger & Elaine Maker, Grand Manan, NB
Molson Coors Canada, Toronto, ON
Dr. Ieva Neimanis, Hamilton, ON
Lester & Norma Neves, Grand Manan, NB
New Brunswick Lighthouse Society, Saint John, NB
Shelley O'Connor, Palmyra, VA
John & Adele Peacock, Grand Manan, NB
Barabara Schnoor, New York, NY
Kathy Sessamen, Saint John, NB
Hilda Shaffelburg, Scarborough, ON
C. Anderson Silber, Toronto, ON
Kathleen Small, Fredericton, NB
Lynn Smyth, Newmarket, ON
Trish and Randy Toll, Grand Manan, NB
Jan Vertefeulle, Arlington, VA
Doreen G. Wallace, Fredericton, NB
Roy & Kathy Wheeler, Nepean, ON
Edward Whelpdale, Ottawa, ON

IN KIND

Doug Stafford, Island Propeller & Welding
Laura Buckley, Inn at Whale Cove
Dutchmen Contracting
Helshiron Fisheries
Cara Greenlaw, Islescapes Garden Concepts
Basil & Kaye Small, Hole-in-the-Wall
MG Fisheries
Clary & Flemming Associates
James Bates, Castalia Marsh Retreat
Sue Stymest, Pettes Cove Arts
Grand Manan Atlantic Save Easy
Martha & Bryant Eaton
Ken Ingersoll & Laurie Murison
Theresa Noel, Ferry Wharf Takeout
Nick Green Deane Griffin
Glenn Foster Linda L'Aventure
Carol Guptill Cecilia Bowdoin
Walter Wilson Charlie Savedoff
Peter Cronk Wayne Miller
Diane Jaillet

YES! I am a FRIEND of the SWALLOWTAIL KEEPERS SOCIETY for 20__
and wish to donate (tax-deductible):

- \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100
 \$250 \$500 I prefer to give \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Prov. _____ Postal Code _____



Please make cheques payable to: Swallowtail Keepers Society or SKS.

Mail to: Swallowtail Keepers Society, 50 Lighthouse Road, Grand Manan, NB, Canada, E5G 2A2

If this is a gift or a memoriam, please let us know to whom we should notify

- Please send future newsletters via email: _____
 Please remove my name from your mailing list

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- \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100
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 Please remove my name from your mailing list

Charitable reg. #80352 7019 RR001