

## LIGHTHOUSES AND FOG ALARM STATIONS:

It was quickly realized that lighthouses and fog stations were essential to protect shipping in the Bay of Fundy because of the treacherous shoals, tidal action and thick fog.

As a result, southwestern New Brunswick has one of the largest number of lighthouses in the world. The Saint John Board of Trade built the first lighthouse at Gannet Rock in 1831.

In addition to the lights below, several others can be seen from the ferry or from vantage points on Grand Manan or White Head islands.

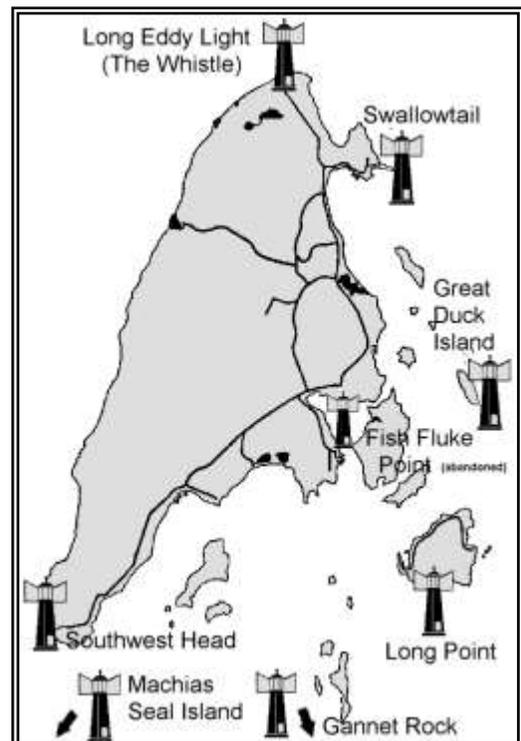
As you leave the ferry terminal at Blacks Harbour, Pea Point (1878, rebuilt 1965) is visible on the left. Pea Point is now also part of the Connor's Bros. Nature Preserve, part of a series of nature preserves established by the New Brunswick Nature Trust.

About half way through the ferry ride you may also view Southwest Wolf Light (1871, rebuilt 1982) to the east and East Quoddy Light (1829) on Campobello Island to the west.

Once on Grand Manan from any western vantage points such as Dark Harbour or Long Eddy Point you may also view West Quoddy Light (1808) in Lubec, Maine, the second oldest lighthouse in the western Bay of Fundy - the light house at Partridge Island in Saint John harbour is the oldest, built in 1791, Bliss Island Light (1871, rebuilt in 1965) and Green Point Light (1903, now an inter-pretation centre) both near Deer Island, Drew's Head Light, Beaver Harbour (1875) and Point LePreau Light (1831, rebuilt in 1959). From Southern Head additional lights may be seen including Machias Seal Island (MSI), Gannet Rock, and along the Maine coast Cutler and Machias. On particularly clear nights with the proper refraction over the Bay of Fundy even the light from Boar's Head near Tiverton, N.S. can be seen.

Dates established:

- 1831: **GANNET ROCK**, automated, original tower had 30' added to it in 1905 (see also Outer Islands). Both tower and keepers house are Recognized Federal Historic Buildings.
- 1832: **MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND**, current tower built in 1914, still staffed, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) seabird sanctuary. Twin towers were built in 1832 to distinguish it from Gannet Rock. One tower was replaced 1869. In 1914 all three towers were still on the island, but the two older towers, no longer active lights, were soon demolished (see also Outer Islands). Light tower is a Recognized Federal Historic Building.
- 1860: **SWALLOW TAIL**, original tower; automated. Crumbling foundations for the fog bell can still be seen at the furthest point of the peninsula. The bell shed was moved and attached to the light tower in 1916. The original windows in the tower were removed in 1980 to reduce maintenance. The local Rotary Club arranged for the light to be painted in 2004 (see also North Head). The property is now owned by the Village of Grand Manan. In 2008, a local group, Swallowtail Keepers Society, was





organized to assume management and restoration of the buildings. They have included interpretative panels, a Welcome Centre and have returned the bronze fog bell from where it sat at the Grand Manan Museum after being removed. Light tower is a Recognized Federal Historic Building.

- 1873: **LONG EDDY POINT** started as fog station then converted to a lighthouse in 1971 and the location moved up the cliff from the shore; automated. Foundations and one of the boilers for the whistle can still be seen along the shore immediately below the light tower. Both of the light keepers' houses are now privately owned (see also North Head).
- 1879: **FISH FLUKE POINT (GRAND HARBOUR LIGHT)** abandoned in 1964. Damaged in several winter storms it continued to crumble until November 2013 when the tower collapsed.
- 1880: **SOUTHWEST HEAD**, concrete tower replaced original wooden tower in 1960; automated. The three light keepers' houses were removed, a fuel/storage shed has been added. A tall radio relay tower for the Canadian Coast Guard sits beside the lighthouse.
- 1887: **GREAT DUCK ISLAND**, fog station converted to light house in 1965; automated. Keepers' houses demolished after destaffing. Primarily solar powered, only the concrete tower section remains.
- 1902: **GULL COVE**, discontinued; dismantled in early 1980's.
- 1908-1909: Not to be confuse as a lighthouse, the **Life Saving Service**, an arm of Marine and Fisheries, built a boat house in Seal Cove and in 1909-1910 a Life Saving Station at Shag Head, Outer Wood Island. Between 1912 and 1931 a rescue boat operated from Shag Head.
- 1929: **LONG POINT** fog station, converted to lighthouse in 1966; automated. Light keepers' house removed.

## LIGHTHOUSE TRAIL

Lighthouses abound in the archipelago and whether travelling on foot, by bicycle or vehicle it is possible to see them all, albeit some can only be seen in the distance unless you have a boat or fly over them. An official "Lighthouse Trail" does not exist since it would encompass several islands but it is possible to develop your own. This route can be done in any direction, easiest by vehicle, most challenging by foot or kayak. You can plan your own route but remember to begin looking as you come to the island by ferry.

By Vehicle from Blacks Harbour:

1. Pea Point Light - on the left side of the ferry when leaving Blacks Harbour.
2. Southern Wolf Light - on the left side of the ferry coming to Grand Manan about midway through the journey.
3. Swallowtail Light - northeast end of island and closest to the ferry. From ferry turn right at stop sign off Ferry Wharf Road onto Pettes Cove Road, left onto Old Airport Road, right onto Lighthouse Road. Follow until lighthouse is in view. To get to the lighthouse itself, continue past the Welcome Centre to the head of stairs. Follow down the stairs and across a wooden footbridge. A gravel path will take you to the lighthouse and the keepers buildings.
4. Long Eddy Light - northern end of the island. Route 776 onto the Whistle Road. Follow Whistle Road until the lighthouse is in view. If you are at Long Eddy at night you may also see three other lights - East Quoddy (Campobello Island), West Quoddy (Lubec, Maine), Southern Wolf (The Wolves, also visible from the ferry) and perhaps more distant lights along the coast such as Cutler, ME, or Bliss Island, NB. There is a wooden helicopter beside the lighthouse that is a great spot to view wildlife or the sunset. A wooden bench is further along the road past the lighthouse. This road will also take you to the rocky shore where seaweeds such as dulse and periwinkles are picked. Dorries may be on the shore.
5. Great Duck Island Light - Route 776 to Woodward's Cove turn onto Shore Road. Follow Shore Road until lobster pounds are in view. Keep a lookout for the lighthouse in the distance on Great Duck Island. The lighthouse can also be seen through binoculars from other locations such as Swallow Tail.
6. Fish Fluke Point (Grand Harbour) Light - This lighthouse collapsed during a storm in November, 2013 after defying gravity for many years. The light was decommissioned in 1963 and suffered damage in the Groundhog Gale in 1976. From Route 776, drive down Ingalls Head Road to the boat haul-up. You may see the remains the lighthouse on the shore of Ross Island. Alternatively, make a left onto Thoroughfare Road just as you enter Grand Harbour from the north or just as you are leaving Grand Harbour from the south. Follow to the end of the road, park your vehicle and hike along Ross Island to the remains of the lighthouse. Make sure you have checked the tide tables and can get across to Ross Island and back.
7. Long Point Light - Follow Ingalls Head Road off Route 776 in Grand Harbour to the ferry to White Head Island at the end of the road. Turn right just after leaving ferry upon arrival at White Head and follow the road to Long Point Road, which will be on the left. Drive to the end of the pavement. The road to the lighthouse along the shore on the left is not always passable by cars so check before you venture onto it. Gannet Rock Light may be visible on a clear day to the south.
8. Southwest Head Light - Route 776 south to the end. From this vantage on a clear day you should be able to see two other lighthouses, Machias Seal Island Light directly south and

Gannet Rock Light to the southeast.

9. Machias Seal Island Light - arrange a boat tour with Sea Watch Tours to the island.

10. Gannet Rock Light - visible on a clear day from most vantage points from Ingalls Head to Southwest Head and White Head Island.

