



# SHINING BRIGHT

For hundreds of years, lighthouses have helped keep ships and their passengers, crew and cargo safe.

Lighthouses built from wood take a beating from wind, rain and salt water, and have to be repainted often. Stone or brick buildings were harder to build, but last longer. Later lighthouses were made from concrete, iron or a combination of materials.



Pointe-à-la-Renommée, Que.



Wood Islands  
Provincial Park,  
P.E.I.



Puffin Island  
lighthouse,  
Greenspond, N.L.

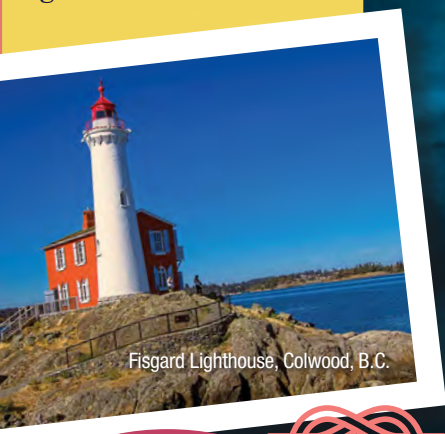


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Newfoundland's Cape Spear Lighthouse National Historic Site is as far east as you can go in North America.




Fisgard Lighthouse, Colwood, B.C.



Cape Forchu, N.S.



For generations, Inuit have used kayaks and umiaks – light boats covered in stretched animal skins. And First Nations and Métis have long used canoes dug out of wood or using bent wooden ribs and birch bark. These watercraft were light and easy to steer. Paddlers could usually see dangerous rocks to avoid them. Even in heavy fog or drifting snow, Indigenous people found their way on the water because they knew the look and smell of their surroundings so well. They didn't need big beacons to show them where to go.



Lighthouses and their keepers have always done many things: sound fog alarms, keep track of weather, help search for ships in trouble, rescue those in need and much more.



A **lightship** is exactly what it sounds like — a vessel that acts like a lighthouse in a spot where it would be impossible to build. From 1876 to 1925, a schooner with a light guided ships in and out of Barrington Passage on the very southern tip of Nova Scotia.



The vertical stripes on the lighthouse at Bonavista, N.L., (above) match the colours of the lights it first flashed in 1843. The Race Rocks lighthouse (right), built in 1860 on an island near Victoria, B.C., has horizontal black and white stripes. And there's a big red cross on the 1829 tower at the Head Harbour light station on New Brunswick's Campobello Island.







The famous lighthouse at Peggy's Cove, N.S., stands on a lot of very uneven rocks. Thanks to a boardwalk and viewing deck opened in 2021, everyone can now get a good look at this beautiful spot.

Yes, Saskatchewan DOES have a working lighthouse! It's on Jackfish Lake, just north of Battleford. It was built in 1988.

Historic lighthouses were often simple round towers. Another style was known as skeleton steel because they didn't have much of a building at all. Others were built low and square, while still others had six or eight sides.

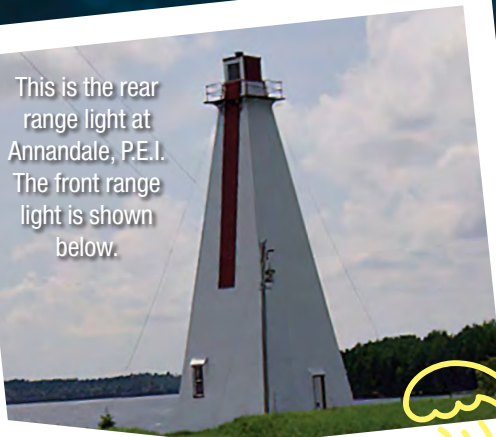


Smaller wooden lighthouses or range lights (like the McNab Point lighthouse shown here, on Lake Huron) were known as **pepper pots** because they look like giant pepper shakers. The rear range light is a tower.



**Range lights** come in pairs at the entrance to a harbour. The front one is shorter than the back one. That's so sailors can line them up to make sure their route is safe.

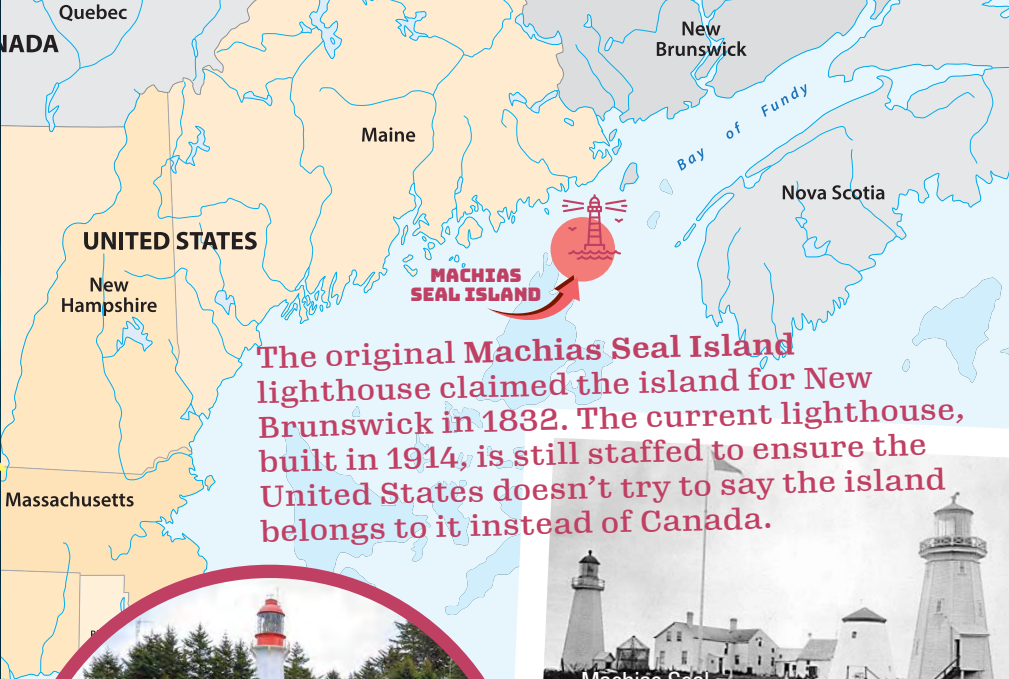
This is the rear range light at Annandale, P.E.I. The front range light is shown below.



Some of the first beacons to light the way in the Arctic Ocean were put up in Churchill, Man., in the 1930s. Most of the province's lighthouses are on Lake Winnipeg, like this one at Gull Harbour.

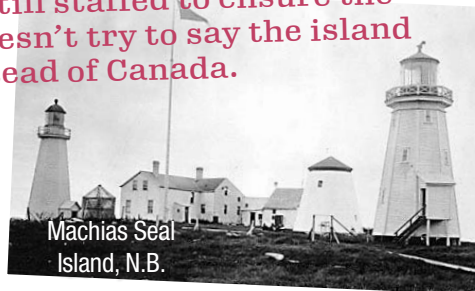






**MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND**

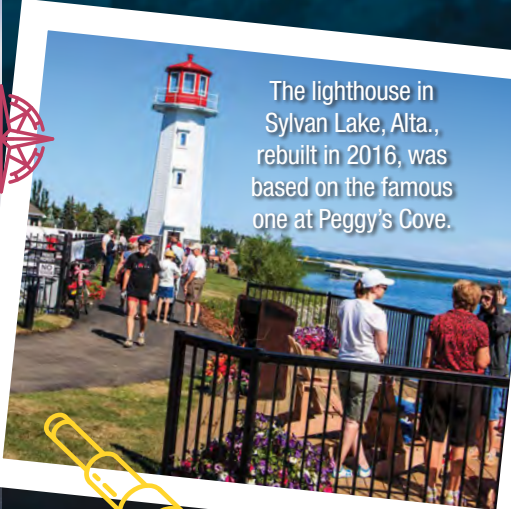
The original Machias Seal Island lighthouse claimed the island for New Brunswick in 1832. The current lighthouse, built in 1914, is still staffed to ensure the United States doesn't try to say the island belongs to it instead of Canada.



Machias Seal Island, N.B.



A **light station** has a lighthouse as well as other structures that might include offices, a house, a fog signal, boathouse and weather station. The light station shown at left is at Langara Point, near Masset, B.C.



The lighthouse in Sylvan Lake, Alta., rebuilt in 2016, was based on the famous one at Peggy's Cove.

At 34.1 metres, the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse in Gaspé, Que., is Canada's tallest. It started guiding ships in 1858.

istockphoto, Alamy, Sylvan Lake Tourism