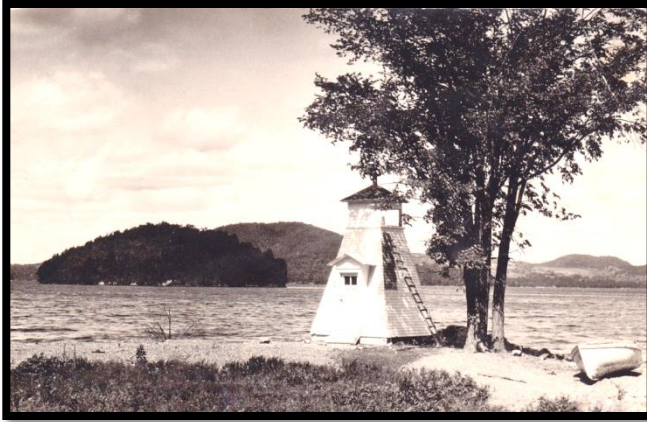


Lighthouses on Memphremagog by Sandra Jewett



Lead Mine Lighthouse – postcard collection APPHA

Intense navigation on Lake Memphremagog from the 1850's gave rise to the establishment of wharves from Magog to Newport, and at Georgeville, Knowlton's Landing, Perkins' Landing and Molson's Landing, among others. With shallow water at each extremity and rocky shoals dispersed along the shoreline, navigation requires knowledge, skill and prudence, for the risk of running aground these, or worse yet, capsizing, are ever present.

From 1878, lighthouses were installed to help with navigation on the big lake. Seven were built along the Quebec shoreline while three were established on the American. In 1878, the Eleventh report from the Department of Marine and Fisheries of Canada reads as follows: *"An appropriation was made by Parliament at its last session of \$1,000 for the erection of five small beacon light towers on Lake Memphremagog; and tenders were invited and the contract for the construction of these lights was awarded to Mr. Nathan A. Beach, of Georgeville, for \$975. The towers have been built to the satisfaction of the Dept. and the lights were shown for the first time in September last."*

According to Barbara Malloy, of Newport, in *Around Lake Memphremagog*, it was in 1879 that Congress voted \$5,000 to construct the three on the American side: at the wharf in Newport; the Stake lighthouse on Whipple Point and the other at Maxfield Point.

The American Lighthouses

The Newport Wharf Light was a tower that was built in the Newport section of Lake Memphremagog in 1879. The lighthouse was a steel skeleton tower, painted red, that was fixed on a concrete foundation. The tower showed a fixed red light that was visible for up to 12 miles (19 km), with the height of the focal plane being 37 feet (11.2 m). (Wikipedia)



Maxfield Point Light – Postcard Davis & Livingston

The Maxfield Point Light was a small lighthouse constructed on the Vermont side of Lake Memphremagog in 1879. A conical, cast iron structure, it was 25 feet (7.6 m) tall, with a focal plane 40 feet (12.2 m) above sea level. It showed a fixed white light, visible for 10 miles (16 km). The lighthouse no longer exists; it is unknown what happened to it, or when it was deactivated. (Wikipedia)

Whipple Point Light, also known as the Stake Lighthouse, was a tower that was built on the end of a pier on Whipple Point in Lake Memphremagog. Built in 1879, the tower was constructed of wood in a hexagonal shape and stood 13 feet (4 m). The light was fixed white

and was visible from up to 10 miles (16 km) away, with a focal plane of 25 feet (7.6 m). The lighthouse was deactivated around 1906 and was demolished at an unknown date. (Wikipedia)



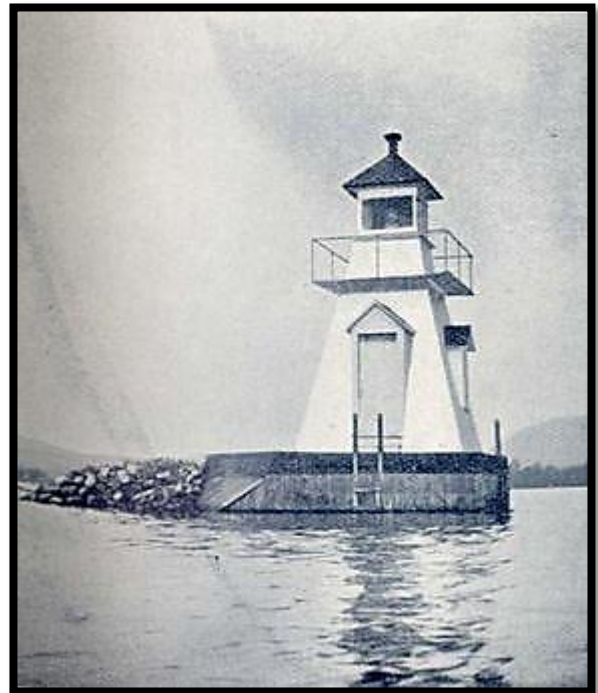
Stake Lighthouse

The Quebec Lighthouses

As we said earlier, Nathan A. Beach, from Georgeville, was awarded the contract from the Federal government for the construction of five lighthouses on the Quebec side of the Lake. According to Maurice Langlois, these were the Witch Shoal light, Green Point Light, Wadleigh's Point, later replaced by that of Bryant's Landing, Molson's Island and Lead Mine. John Douglas Cowan from Pottton was instrumental in the erection of at least two lighthouses on Lake Memphremagog. One, in particular, was the Lead Mine Light, in Leadville, at the end of Chemin Giroux. Another was on Molson's Island, according to information provided by life-long resident Mary Cowan Bailey.

Magog Lighthouse was located on a freight shed and had a fixed red light with a range of 8 miles (13 km). It was built in 1910 and located near Magog. It was demolished on an unknown date. (Wikipedia)

Witch Shoal Lighthouse was located about 0.5 miles (0.80 km) southwest of Magog. The original lighthouse was built in 1878 as a 21 feet (6.4 m) white square wooden tower on a pier. It had a fixed white dioptric light located at a height of 19 feet (5.8 m) above the high water mark and with a range of 9 miles (14 km). It was rebuilt in 1900. In April 1933, it was destroyed by pressure from the ice caused by the rising level of the lake. It was rebuilt in 1960 as a small metal tower, which was swept away by spring ice in 1978. Since 1980, the mast that replaced it is left in place only from May to October each year. The tower is 23 feet (7.0 m) high with a fixed white light that has a range of 9 miles (14 km) and a focal plane of 28 feet (8.5 m). The aid is owned by the Coast Guard and maintained by a private contractor. (Wikipedia)



Magog Lighthouse

Photo from Beautiful Memphremagog

Black Point Lighthouse was located on the western side of the lake, about 3 miles (4.8 km) southwest from Witch Shoal lighthouse. It was also known as the Green Point Lighthouse. It was built in 1878 as a 22-foot (6.7 m) white square wooden tower. It had a fixed white catoptric light located at a height of 24 feet (7.3 m) above the high water mark and with a range of 8 miles (13 km). It had a focal plane of 22 feet (6.7 m). It was rebuilt in 1914 and demolished on an unknown date. (Wikipedia)

Wadleigh's Point Lighthouse was located on the western side of the lake, about 4 miles (6.4 km) southwest of Black Point lighthouse. It was also known as the Bryant Landing Light and was near Austin. The original lighthouse was built in 1878 as a 22-foot white square wooden tower with a fixed white catoptric light located at a height of 30 feet (9.1 m) above the high water mark and with a range of 8 miles (13 km). In approximately 1914, that was replaced by a square pyramidal skeletal tower with enclosed lantern. In 1939, that was replaced by an 18 foot (5.5 m) square skeletal tower with enclosed lantern. In 1980, that was replaced by a modern 22 feet (6.7 m) steel tower with a fixed white light that has a range of 8 miles (13 km). The still-active light is installed from May to October each year. (Wikipedia)

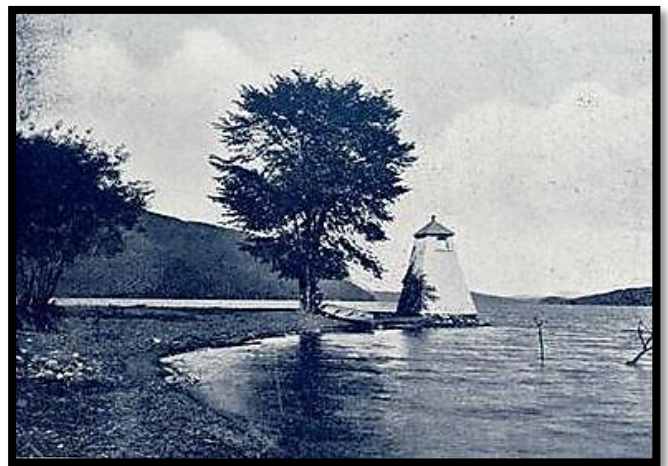
Chateau de Silva Lighthouse was located on the western side of the lake at the Revere House (formerly the Chateau de Silva) hotel wharf, approximately 5 miles (8.0 km) southwest of the Wadleigh's Point lighthouse. It was built in 1878 as a 22 feet (6.7 m) white square wooden tower with a fixed white catoptric light located at a height of 20 feet (6.1 m) above the high water mark and with a range of 8 miles (13 km). The light had a focal plane of 20 feet (6.1 m). It was demolished on an unknown date. (Wikipedia)

Revere House was located in the Bay now known as Chateau Ruisseau.



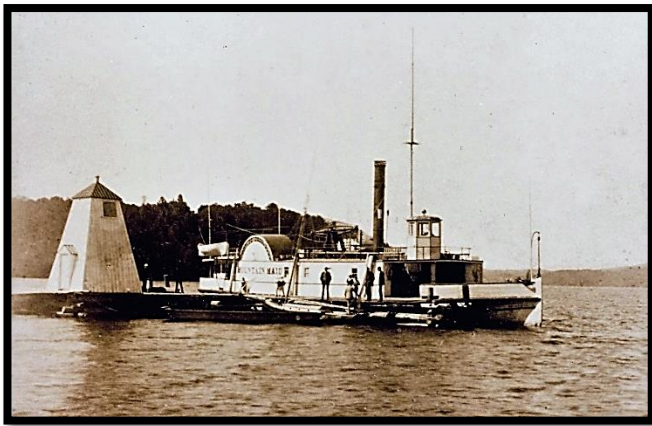
Molson's Island Lighthouse – photo of unknown origin

Molson's Island Lighthouse was located on the southwest point of Molson's Island, approximately 2 miles (3.2 km) southeast of the Chateau de Silva lighthouse. This was on the eastern side of the lake, near Georgeville. It was built in 1878 as a 22 feet (6.7 m) white square wooden tower with a fixed white catoptric light located at a height of 28 feet (8.5 m) above the high water mark and with a range of 8 miles (13 km). The light had a focal plane of 28 feet (8.5 m). It was rebuilt in 1914 and demolished on an unknown date. The light was replaced with a lighted buoy. (Wikipedia)



Lead Mine Lighthouse – postcard collection APPHA

Lead Mine Lighthouse was located on the western side of the lake, approximately 4 miles (6.4 km) southwest of the Molson's Island lighthouse. This was near Leadville, at the foot of Mount Owl's Head. It was built in 1878 as a 22 feet (6.7 m) white square wooden tower with a fixed white catoptric light located at a height of 20 feet above the high water mark and with a range of 8 miles (13 km). The light had a focal plane of 22 feet (6.7 m). It was rebuilt in 1914 and demolished on an unknown date. (Wikipedia)



**The Mountain Maid moored
at the Georgeville wharf and lighthouse
Fonds studio RC, La Société d'histoire de Magog**

This photo seems to suggest proof of an eighth light on the Quebec side, which is not catalogued in the Wikipedia article. Although the characteristics of this beacon are not known, we note the near perfect resemblance to the Lead Mine Lighthouse shown immediately preceding.

The lighthouses, which guided early navigators, were replaced over time with fixed, lighted buoys. A non-functioning replica of a lighthouse is shown below on the MacPherson Wharf at Magog.



**MacPherson Wharf – Magog
Photo Ville de Magog**

Insofar as the Township of Pottton is concerned, it is the Lead Mine lighthouse which is the best known. Why not build a replica of it? ... with the landowner's permission, of course!!

Sources

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