

# **THE PORTSMOUTH HARBOR BEACON**

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE FRIENDS OF PORTSMOUTH HARBOR  
LIGHTHOUSE**

**A Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation**

**MARCH 2004**



**One of our Open Houses**

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## CONTACT US

**FRIENDS OF PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE**

**P.O. BOX 5092**

**PORTSMOUTH, NH 03802-5092**

**EMAIL: [FPHL@lighthouse.cc](mailto:FPHL@lighthouse.cc)**

**WEBSITE: [www.portsmouthharborlighthouse.org](http://www.portsmouthharborlighthouse.org)**

## 2004 Open Houses and Events

We've got a full slate of open houses and other events planned for this season. Our monthly open houses will once again take place from May through October, all on Sundays and all from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **This year's dates are May 30, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19 and October 17.**

Visitors to our open houses get to climb to the top of the tower to get a magnificent view of Portsmouth Harbor and the surrounding area. There is a suggested donation of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Flat shoes are strongly recommended. Children under 36 inches tall are not permitted to climb to the top, and adults are not permitted to carry children up the stairs.

**We're also having an early spring fundraising event on Saturday, March 27 at the Anchorage Inn, 417 Woodbury Ave., Room 153, Portsmouth (at the traffic circle).** Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse President Jeremy D'Entremont will present a multimedia lecture called "**New England Lighthouse Storm Stories,**" featuring dramatic tales from famous storms like the Hurricane of 1938 and the Blizzard of 1978. We'll also have a raffle and auction including Harbour Lights collectibles. Refreshments will be served.

The money raised from this event will go the preservation of the light station. Tickets are only \$10, \$8 for members. Reservations recommended -- call 603-431-9155 or email [FPHL@lighthouse.cc](mailto:FPHL@lighthouse.cc)

**And this year we're planning two cruises.** On June 25 we'll be holding a Sunset Lighthouse Cruise on board the M/V *Granite State* leaving Rye Harbor State Marina in Rye, NH at 7 pm, returning at 9 pm. This cruise will provide close views of the Isles of Shoals and White Island Lighthouse, Whaleback Light, and Portsmouth Harbor Light, with historic narration by Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse President Jeremy D'Entremont. We'll also have raffles and door prizes, and snacks and refreshments will

be available. Tickets are \$20, \$18 for members of Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse.

And on September 17 we'll have another cruise from Rye Harbor State Marina, leaving at 4 p.m. and returning at 7 p.m. On this one, besides viewing the lighthouses we'll travel farther on the Piscataqua River for views of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the Portsmouth waterfront. There will be a "Lighthouse Mystery" theme on this one, too – keep an eye on our website at [www.portsmouthharborlighthouse.org](http://www.portsmouthharborlighthouse.org) for more details. We'll have raffles and door prizes on this one too, and snacks and refreshments will be available. Tickets for this cruise will be \$22, \$20 for members of Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse.

**If you'd like to make a reservation for either cruise, please call 603-431-9155 or email [FPHL@lighthouse.cc](mailto:FPHL@lighthouse.cc). If you'd like to know more about the M/V *Granite State* or if you need directions to Rye Harbor State Marina, check the Granite State Whale Watch website at [www.whales-rye.com](http://www.whales-rye.com).**



**The Granite State**



**A beautiful view of Portsmouth Harbor Light taken by Ross Tracy during our 2003 Sunset Cruise.**





[Sea Smoke on the Piscataqua](#)

## [Lighthouses of the Seacoast Ghost Walks](#)

**By Roxie Zwicker**

. I was thinking of a fun fall fundraiser, so I came up with the Haunted Lighthouses of The Seacoast Ghostwalk. It was to be a walk at night around the Great Island Common in New Castle. I was going to be the guide on this journey into mysterious past of the Seacoast. Where the lighthouse beacons of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse and Whaleback beckoned to all in attendance to hear their ghostly tales. After obtaining permission from the Board of Selectmen in New Castle, it was set. The town was kind enough to let us use the recreation hall for the start of the event. We had lighthouse souvenirs for sale along with refreshments. Candles and glowsticks are also available for those who really want to participate. We had a dozen carved and glowing pumpkins and a few interesting ghostly scenes, including some tombstones set up. The lighthouses put on their own magical display and were the perfect backdrop to the telling of tales.

The first walk on October 22, 2003 was rather cold and a bit windy! But it was booked solid. Foster's newspaper showed up for complete coverage of the event. I nervously took my first walk with 46 people! They were enthusiastic, attentive and accepting of all the pictures the photographer was taking. We made our walk, I told my haunted tales of Pirates, Shipwrecks, Buried Treasure, Light Keepers and Isle of Shoals, Boon Island, Portsmouth Harbor, Whaleback, and Nubble Lighthouses. It was about an hour walk with poetry, epitaphs and a lot of ghostly lore. Portsmouth's fog horn made a pleasant background sound for the evening. The second walk that night was a bit smaller, but went just as well. The comments that night were great and everyone enjoyed the walks. A fierce storm just moved out in time for the walks on the 29th. Both of these walks were filled

to capacity. The ocean put on a great show with waves crashing in the background on this night. After the final applause and thank you's were given, I reviewed some of the feedback forms I had put out for this walk. Comments ranged from "Very Educational", to "had a lot of fun and I will recommend it to everyone". I had heard from many people on the walks that they have never seen their local lighthouses at night, and some folks had not even seen them at all. We raised just over \$700 for both walks, and we got some wonderful press. With the walks being one of the featured Halloween themed events on the cover of Showcase Magazine, put out by Foster's Daily Democrat. **The walks will be back again this year, don't miss out and come along ~ if you dare!**



## **Connie Small Named Honorary Chairperson**

### **Of the Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse**

On March 23, 2003, members of the Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse (NH) gave recognition to their "guiding light," Connie Small. Connie, who was born on June 4, 1901, is the author of the book *The Lighthouse Keeper's Wife*. She and her husband, Keeper Elson Small, lived at several Maine light stations beginning in 1920. They finished their lightkeeping career at Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse, where they were the last regular keepers, in 1948. Since then Connie has given nearly 600 lectures about lighthouses to groups around New England.



The citation presented to Connie in March read as follows:

"The Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse, a chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation, do hereby name Constance Scovill Small our Honorary Chairperson in recognition of her many years of exemplary service at light stations, including Portsmouth Harbor Light, with her husband Elson Small.

"We also thank her for the inspiration she has given so many through her book *The Lighthouse Keeper's Wife* and her lectures.

"Connie is a light for us all to follow."



Left to right, Joanne Yeaton, vice president of the Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse; Paul Conlin, publicity chair for the Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse; Connie Small; and Jeremy D'Entremont, president of the Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse.

**The Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse is a Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation of Wells, Maine**

**The Primary Mission of the American Lighthouse Foundation:**

- 1. To encourage the historic preservation and restoration of lighthouse, lightship and lifesaving station artifacts and documents throughout America.**
- 2. To foster and support local lighthouse initiatives and organizations through public information and advisory services.**
- 3. To improve public awareness and appreciation of and access to all of America's lighthouses.**

**ALF operates with volunteers only and has no paid employees.**



**The American Lighthouse Foundation**

**[www.lighthousefoundation.org](http://www.lighthousefoundation.org)**



