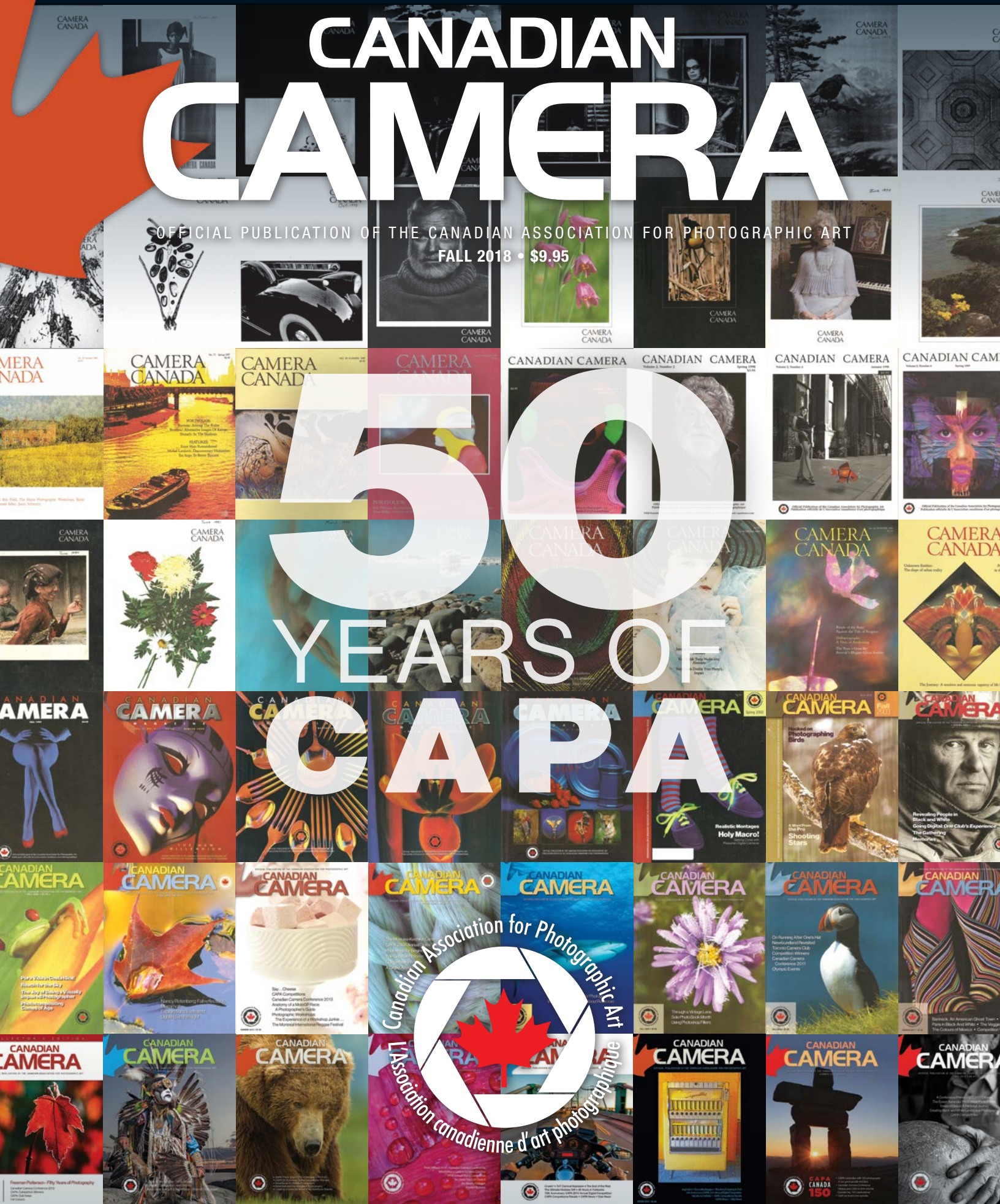


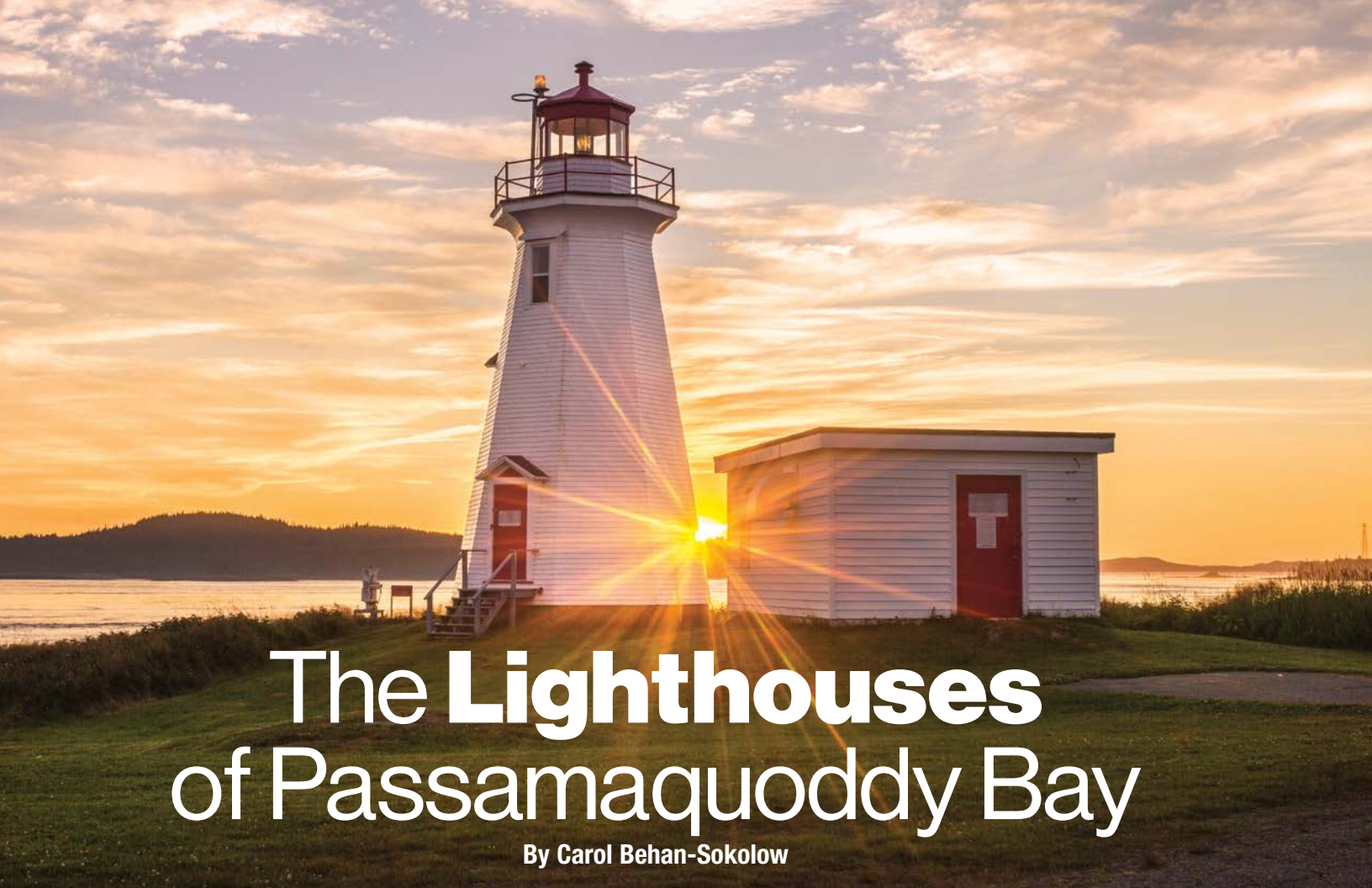
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The Lighthouses of Passamaquoddy Bay

By Carol Behan-Sokolow

Located at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy and forming part of the international border between Maine and New Brunswick, Passamaquoddy Bay has some of the most spectacular scenery in the region.

With its rugged shorelines, forested inlets, sleepy fishing villages and lighthouses on rocky headlands, the bay is a photographer's delight.

Here are my eight favourite lighthouses – seven in New Brunswick and one in Maine.

Swallowtail lighthouse on Grand Manan island is first seen from the ferry as it approaches the island. You can get some lovely shots from the ferry, but the best views are from the top of the steep staircase that leads to the lighthouse itself. Arrive on the island the day before to be here, facing east, for a sunrise shot. Don't worry if it's foggy – just wait for a while and the fog will lift! The ferry leaves New Brunswick from the terminal at Black's Harbour.

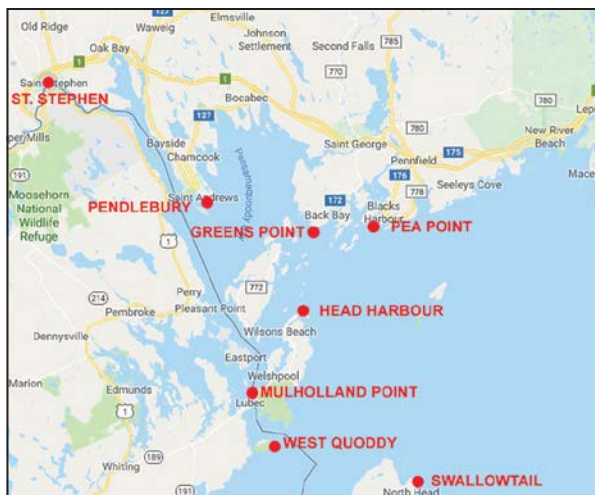
Take exit 60 off Highway 1 and follow the signs for about 10 kilometres to the port.

West Quoddy Head Lighthouse is located at the most easterly point of the mainland U.S., its candy-cane red and white stripes making it a popular destination for photographers. The lighthouse and its museum building make a compact grouping from more than one angle for a lovely shot. Sunrise would be an ideal time to take a photo, with the sun rising over Grand Manan to the east. To get there from Canada, cross the border at St. Stephen, take Maine Coastal Route 1 toward Machias, turning onto Road 189 at Whiting. About one mile before reaching Lubec, turn right at the lighthouse sign onto S.

Lubec Road and travel about four miles to the parking lot in Quoddy State Park. A short walk downhill takes you to the lighthouse.

To return to Canada, cross the bridge from Lubec, Me., to Campobello Island, where you can see Mulholland Point Lighthouse overlooking the Lubec Channel. Turn left on Narrows Road, which takes you to the lighthouse. An interesting feature is the flight of steps leading down to a lower level walkway, from which you can shoot upward to the lighthouse. Against a brilliant blue or partially cloudy sky, this unusual angle makes for a lovely shot, especially during the summer when the grassy banks are covered in wildflowers.

Continue along Campobello's main road for 16 kilometres to Head Harbour Light Station at the northern end of the island. This lovely lighthouse, with its distinctive red cross, is situated on a rocky islet off the tip of Campobello. Some planning is needed to get close



to it as it is only accessible at low tide and requires clambering over slippery rocks and walking across a sandbar that's uncovered for just a few hours. Timing is crucial if you want to line up the tides with the hours of sunrise or sunset. I've never been there at those times, but partly cloudy conditions can give atmosphere and a bright blue sky reflected in the waters around the lighthouse is beautiful.

St. Stephen Lighthouse is non-functioning, but forms a well-known landmark in the town of St. Stephen. Situated on the wharf at the bottom of King Street, it makes for a good photo at any time of day.

Newly refurbished Pendlebury Lighthouse in St. Andrews is well situated for either morning or evening photos. For a sunrise shot, stand at the top of the steps to the beach, facing east. At sunset, from the same position, the lighthouse is well lit and the eastern sky often reflects the colours of the





sunset behind you. You could also try a shot looking upward from the beach. The lighthouse is located at the end of Patrick Street, south of the downtown.

Greens Point Lighthouse is situated at the end of a narrow peninsula, about 12 kilometres from the town of St. George. It stands on a grassy hilltop with a tiny museum and rental cottage nearby. Midsummer sunset is the ideal time to frame the setting sun between the lighthouse and the building beside it. Move around the location to get the best shot – try the view from the museum balcony or from the helicopter pad. Climb down to the rocks to get a low-level shot looking up at the lighthouse with the long grasses as foreground or go back to the approach road and take your photos from the beach, with the distant islands as backdrops. To get there, take exit 56 off Highway 1 in St.

George, then take NB 172 south for 16 kilometres toward the Deer Island ferry terminal. Before the final turn to the ferry, take Greens Point Road on your left for one kilometre.

Pea Point Lighthouse is located on an island that can only be reached at low tide, so check tide times before your trip. There's about a four-hour window to walk across the seabed to the island. Look for a paved pathway on the island, which is the easiest route up to the lighthouse. The lighthouse is on a high point, overlooking the entrance to Passamaquoddy Bay. Walk around and try various angles, positioning yourself to view it from the rocky outcroppings below it or from the higher ground behind it, with the sheer cliffs to your left. If the tide is in and you can't cross, explore the trails through the Nature Preserve, which

lead to the rocky outcroppings at the shore. To get to Pea Point, take Exit 60 from Route 1 and travel south on Route 176 for 10 kilometres through Blacks Harbour to the entrance to Connors Brothers Nature Preserve, about 400 metres before the Grand Manan ferry terminal. Park at the red gate and walk the short route to the beach, where the island is directly opposite you.

To visit all eight lighthouses, plan on spending about three days in this lovely region. Enjoy the trip! ✱

Originally from Dublin, Ireland, Carol Behan-Sokolow lives in St. Stephen, NB. She loves the beautiful maritime landscapes of the region around Passamaquoddy Bay, which reminds her of the coastal scenery of Ireland. She enjoys taking water-related landscape photos, such as seashores, lighthouses and waterfalls.





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