

**LEON'S CHARITIES EVENTS!**

**Leon's** SINCE 1989

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# THE MOHAWK ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

By Rob Smith

The original upper entrance to the Welland Canal was at Port Maitland at the mouth of the Grand River. The Mohawk Island Lighthouse was built on a small rocky island in 1848 as a guide to the canal. It is located one and a half miles off shore near Lowbanks, Ontario. It's a very unique looking structure, being made from Queenston blue shale and limestone. It was automated in 1934 and deactivated in 1969.

While sitting there in our kayaks, I was imagining what it would have been like back then for the keepers. The island itself can't be more than 5 or 6 feet above water level. The wild November storms must have been terrifying for these people. I would think that the waves must have come half way up the walls of the house part.

Today the tenants are birds. The island is a rookery for many species of gulls, terns, cormorants and other sea birds and is designated as a National Wildlife Area. It is off limits to the public between April 1 and August 1.

One can easily lose sight of the fact that you are quite a hike from shore and Lake Erie can become real nasty very fast, so take extra



caution when venturing out there.

Our next trip will be to the Point Abino Light-

house, which is the other side of the Welland Canal.

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**Congratulations to Scouts Canada, Girl Guides of Canada and H-N R.E.A.C.H on being this month's recipients!**



Photo, left to right: John Doomernik (Scouts Canada, Lynn Valley Area), Brian MacCormack (5th Simcoe Scout Troop), Karyn Kemp (Greenfield & Associates), Leo Massi (Executive Director, H-N R.E.A.C.H.), Deborah Madill (Girl Guides of Canada), Gary Garcia (Leon's), Jeff Keegan (McKiee & Farrar Ltd.)

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