

Dear Friends,

We welcome you to Sohier Park and Cape Neddick Light Station. The Town of York has spent the last several years working in conjunction with federal and state agencies to preserve and restore the lighthouse. We have made great progress in a short amount of time, however, our work continues.

In recent years, the exterior of the lighthouse has been restored to the original splendor of an earlier period. All of the outbuildings have been renovated and the grounds manicured and maintained. In 1991, the Sohier Park Welcome Center was finished and welcomes visitors from all over the world.

To celebrate this exciting period in our development, we are offering you an opportunity to participate by becoming one of our "Friends of Nubble Light". Your contribution will allow you to support the preservation of Nubble Light and Sohier Park.

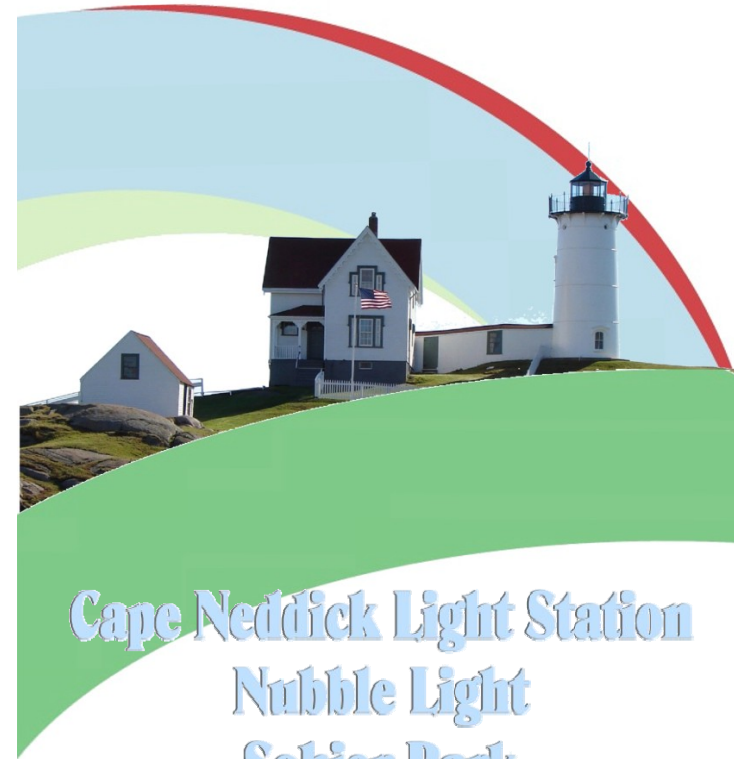
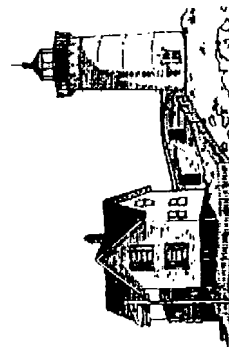
Your contribution will be deposited directly into the Nubble Light Endowment. All proceeds from this endowment will be used to preserve the physical and historical integrity of the island and park. Your gift will allow you to take pride in knowing that you helped preserve a valuable piece of our maritime heritage. We urge you to become a Friend of Nubble Light!

Sincerely,

The Sohier Park Committee

www.nubblelight.org

**Friends of Nubble Light
186 York Street
York, ME 03909**



Cape Neddick Light Station Nubble Light Sohier Park

**"Where the land meets the sea,
and the past meets the future."**

**Friends of Nubble Light
186 York Street
York, ME 03909**

www.nubblelight.org

Friends of Nubble Light
186 York Street
York, ME 03909

Yes, we'd like to be "Friends of Nubble Light"

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

Contribution Amount \$ _____

A Brief History

In 1874 Congress appropriated \$15,000 to build a light station at the Nubble and in 1879 construction began. Cape Neddick Light Station was dedicated by the US Lighthouse Service on July 1st of that year.

The keeper's house is two stories and includes a family room, dining room, pantry, laundry room and a kitchen. A covered walkway connects the keeper's house to the tower. The light is located in a 41 foot tower, 88 feet above the high water mark. The tower is 13' in diameter, built of brick, about 18" thick and reinforced by an outer shell of iron sheeting. There are several outbuildings of interest on the Nubble. The red brick structure stored the fuel oil used to power the lamp and the small white buildings served as a storage shed and workshop for the lighthouse keeper. The white building, located at the base of the island and facing Sohier Park, is the boat house.

There is a cable trolley which stretches from Sohier Park to the island. This was used by the Coast Guard to transport supplies from the mainland to the lighthouse station.

In 1939, the lighthouse service was disbanded and the responsibility for the lighthouse system was charged to the United States Coast Guard. By the 1980's the lighthouse automation program had begun and it became no longer necessary for the Coast Guard to man the island. The lighthouse keeper left the island in 1987.

In 1989, the Town of York entered into a lease program with the United States Government. The intent was to secure the historical and architectural integrity of the buildings and ensure the safe keeping of this community treasure.

In July 1998, "Nubble Light" ownership was officially turned over to the Town of York. It is York's landmark.



Sohier Park

In 1929, William Davies Sohier, (a successful Boston lawyer), sold two parcels of Nubble land totaling four (4) acres, to the York Beach Village Corporation, for the sum of one US dollar.

The land transferred to the municipal organization under the "express condition that it was to be kept as a public park and used for ordinary and usual park purposes and for no other uses, and was not to be leased, sold, assigned or used for any other purpose whatsoever".

Following World War II, Nubble Light became a popular attraction to travelers visiting the Town of York. Tourists search for the best view of Cape Neddick Light Station and are naturally drawn to Sohier Park. This popularity continues to grow and a vacation in York would not be complete without visiting "the Nubble". Today, Sohier Park attracts visitors from all over the world.

In 1990, the Sohier Park Committee began a fundraising campaign to build a new welcome center at the park. Through donations from individuals, local businesses and public service organizations, the committee completed the \$80,000 project in just one year. In July of 1991, the Sohier Park Welcome Center was dedicated and now serves as a great addition to the park.

Present and Future

The Town of York now owns the island and all buildings except the beacon, which is still maintained by the US Coast Guard. The York Parks and Recreation Department and the Sohier Park Committee are charged with the responsibility of managing the island and park and are committed to preserving the history and natural beauty of one of the most scenic lighthouse parks in the country.

Through the auspices of the Friends of Nubble Light volunteers are working together to raise funds necessary for the operation and maintenance of the park.

York support will help to assure the beauty of this area.

