



GUARDIAN PHOTO BY NANCY WILLIS

Saskatoon, Sask., visitors Rhonda Cronk and Glen Barrington were married by Rev. Barry King in a unique ceremony on top of the East Point Lighthouse Thursday afternoon. This was the first wedding ever performed in the light which has guided mariners home since 1867.

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*Saskatoon couple
comes to P.E.I.
to exchange
their vows*

BY NANCY WILLIS
THE GUARDIAN

EAST POINT — A visiting Saskatchewan couple was on top of the world here Thursday afternoon when they tied the knot high up in the East Point Lighthouse.

With a vista of land and the sea stretching out beyond, and seagulls wheeling in the air behind them, Rhonda Cronk and Glen Barrington exchanged vows atop the eastern Prince Edward Island beacon that has brought mariners home safely for the last 130 years.

The couple brought their best man, Berne Larson, maid of honour, Janice Jones, and flower girl Chantel Larson with them from Saskatoon,

but local Islanders so delighted in the idea of someone marrying at the historic lighthouse that they joined the wedding party with gusto.

The winding stairs leading up to the top were strung with fairy lights and flowers and colourful buoys dangled from the banisters.

"This is a special wedding after all, and a first for the East Point Light as far as any of us knows," said Nadine Cheverie, who operates the lighthouse site, and handled all the decorations.

Fellow campers at Red Point Park also climbed to the top for the ceremony, stuffing into the tiny light chamber and adding to the wedding party.

"This is fantastic," said Sandra Jennings of Souris, who first met up with the visitors in the shower room at Red Point.

Even lighthouse keeper Mary Harris joined the party. Harris and her husband, Harry, kept the light for more

than 40 years.

The marriage atop the light was the highlight of a 20-year courtship for Cronk and Barrington. After several engagement rings, and the collection of a saved up stash of loonies, they decided to take a trip and get married here.

The long association between the two did nothing to decrease the special nature of the event. Cronk wept as they exchanged rings and Barrington's face was creased with smiles.

Cronk is the supervisor of the Red Willow Centre, a children's shelter in Saskatoon. Barrington is a mechanic there with High-Mac Heavy Duty.

The couple was married by Rev. Barry King, who leads the P.E.I. Interfaith Ministry in Charlottetown. King's ministry embraces all religions from Buddhist to Hindu and Christian. He conducted the first same-sex marriage on Prince Edward Island last year.