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**LOUIS BRANDON IS
MICHIPICOTEN'S HARBOUR
LIGHT KEEPER**

Donald E. Pugh

Every Wawa citizen has heard the mournful wail of the Michipicoten fog horn, or watched the periodic flash of its light. Few however have taken a boat to the isolated light house located on the tip of Grosse Point. Approaching one sees the helicopter landing pad, boat house and ramps, two picturesque white frame dwellings, radio shack, and steel frame light house. Warmly welcomed by Louis Brandon, chief light house keeper, assisted by Wawa student Dale Mann, during the summer, the visitor is shown the operation. The fog horn is automatic, and blasts two second blasts every 30 seconds, whenever visibility drops. The light is also automatic with one flash every 30 seconds. In the radio shack, the visitor views wall to wall panels of knobs and gauges. Here the light house sends out a continuous carrier radio wave, which broadcasts its signal, 'R' for one minute, every five minutes. This automatic navigation aid is an important addition to Great Lake shipping. Duties for the keeper include: time check every three hours, and a high frequency and ultra high frequency radio check with light houses at the Sault, East End, Caribou Island, Otter Head, and Davieux. Although power and telephone service is maintained with Wawa, a large stand-by generator will continue the station's operation when electricity is cut of.

Asked wether he found the summer lonely at the station, where he is employed 12 hours a day, seven days a week, Dale Mann replied that you "find out about yourself." He entertains himself with reading, T.V. and painting. Louis Brandon on the other hand, gardens, and designs driftwood creatures to guard his flowers. A light house keeper for 20 years, Louis is impressed by the strength of Superior's 70 foot large waves. A large storm this winter, broke up the station's concrete breakwater, and destroyed the boathouse wall. Louis keeps a log of all his visitors and offers a warm welcome to local citizens.

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