



2016 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

“The word is out. The Harbor Beach Lighthouse is a ‘must see!’”

In 2016 hundreds of guests toured our lighthouse which has stood at the entrance to the Harbor Beach harbor of refuge for 131 years. Almost every Saturday morning throughout the summer and fall we hosted guests in double digit numbers! The word is out that the Harbor Beach Lighthouse is a “must see” for lighthouse enthusiasts. Guests from all over Michigan and from several other states travel to Harbor Beach just to tour the lighthouse.

The popularity of the lighthouse is a result of the efforts of many great people. There are the gift shop volunteers who are the first to meet our guests, the boat captains who transport them across the harbor, the docents who convey historical knowledge of the lighthouse, the restoration crew who have worked countless hours to bring the lighthouse back to a condition that is historically accurate, and the maintenance crew who make sure we have the materials and equipment

to accomplish our goals. Behind the scenes we have more volunteers who keep track of funds, write articles, and make presentations to area civic groups. There are people who put together this newsletter, those who maintain our online presence and people who administer the overall operation. The dedication of these volunteers who provide their time, efforts, knowledge and skills has resulted in making our lighthouse a popular destination for lighthouse lovers.

The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society is never one to settle for status quo.

Among other 2016 accomplishments, the Society has this year installed web cameras at the lighthouse so everyone can have a lighthouse view 365 days a year. We thank the Harbor Beach Library for working with us on this project. Your Society is taking on the

project of rebuilding the fog signal building which stood next to the light tower from 1885 until it was removed in the late 1960's. The new fog signal building will be built from blueprints obtained from the National Archives in Washington D.C. by Harbor Beach native Tony Lang. When completed

the building will house additional historical displays, storage and a much needed restroom.

The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society is a group that is respected statewide and the lighthouse is a desired stop for lighthouse enthusiasts, we have gained this level of adoration through our volunteers and for this we are thankful. But, as in any volunteer organization we

are in need of more people to come forward and assist. If you, or anyone you know, would like to volunteer in any capacity, please contact us.

Thanks to all who have made and continue to make the Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society.



**Skip Kadar,
President**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 1: Letter From President - Skip Kadar, President
- Page 2: Marketing Committee Report - Heather Legatz
- Page 2: Tour Update and News from the World's Smallest Gift Shop - Shelley Boehmer, Marketing Director
- Page 3: Tour Program Update - Annette Sweet, Tour Director
- Page 4: Maintenance/Projects Report - Ron Kociba, Maintenance/Project Director
- Page 5: Preservation/Restoration Report - Ron Klebba, Preservation/Restoration Director
- Page 7: Upcoming Projects



MARKETING COMMITTEE REPORT

BY HEATHER LEGATZ

The Lighthouse tours continued to be promoted and marketed through the summer of 2016. An article was published in the Port Austin paper, ads were recorded in the spring to be aired just prior to the June opening of the tour schedule, and an interactive radio talk show on our local WLEW was done. Lighthouse tours are also promoted in various Harbor Beach ads on the local radio station. A presentation was also given at the Light House Alliance conference in Traverse City in the spring to

promote all our accomplishments over the recent years and success of the tours.

The Lighthouse has a prominent place in the new Michigan Lighthouse Guide which is circulated all over the state and a popular guide for lighthouse aficionados. It was our intention to run a media tour this past June but time just got away from us. Future planning will include finalizing a media tour for June 2017 and expanding our radio talk shows to out of county radio stations.

TOUR UPDATE AND NEWS FROM THE WORLD'S SMALLEST GIFT SHOP

BY SHELLEY BOEHMER, MARKETING DIRECTOR

The Gift Shop had another wonderful year! First I'd like to thank the Gift Shop workers: **Pam Semp, Karen Kadar, Tammy Holdwick, Dawn Pleiness, Judy Grigg, Jackie Gainor, Curtis Boehmer, Debbie Brandow, and Heather Legatz.** If I've missed



Shelley Boehmer,
Marketing
Director

someone, a big thanks to you as well! You were the first to greet our guests and the last to assist them as they went on their way. That first impression set the tone for their experience.

ONLINE BOOKING

We had a great mix of online and walkup bookings for tours this year and I would like to thank Steve Schwab for setting up and managing the online bookings.

Every group of guests received a phone call from me 2-3 days prior to their tour to remind them of their tour time and give them pertinent information as to where to park and when to arrive at the Marina for their tour. Many had questions about their tours as well, so their experience began

long before they even arrived for the boat ride. Everyone positively commented on the personal service of this call.

CHECKING IN

Upon check in guests received their tickets and more information about the original lens;

then away they went on the boat guided by **Captains Janice and Ken Deaton**, who gracefully maneuver their vessel around the harbor.

RETURNING TO SHORE

Upon returning to the dock all guests received more information in the way of written literature about our lighthouse and other Michigan lights and

have the opportunity to shop in the "World's Smallest Gift Shop." We even had some special stickers made for the children who returned their

questionnaires. With the assistance of **Thumb Cellular** we had on loan an Android tablet to process our charges. A big thanks to them for

their generosity! It has been wiped clear of our transactions and will be returned to them, in hopes that we can "borrow" another tablet next year.

SALES

Sales in the shop were about 30% less than last year. The novelties category continues to be our biggest seller. This category does so well because everyone seems to love collecting a souvenir from their experience. Online merchandise sales continue throughout the year with the assistance of **Pam Semp** and **Steve Schwab**. A huge thanks to **Glen Townley** for his guidance as we worked throughout the spring, summer and fall.

TOURS

Our final count for tours was 460. 300 booked online, 146 were walk-ups, with an additional 12 using gift certificates and 2 complimentary tours for our special entertainers

the last tour day.

I'd like to thank **Buzz Hoerr, Steve Schwab, and Matt Ferriss** for

continued on page 3



2016 TOUR PROGRAM UPDATE

BY ANNETTE SWEET, TOUR DIRECTOR

You can see it from the shore, that beautiful beacon of light that beckoned mariners from the early days of sailing ships. It is the jewel of Lake Huron, the Harbor Beach Lighthouse. We had 460 guests this year during the 14-week season. We averaged 32.7 guests per week. Our guests came from 21 different states plus Michigan of course. They were from California and Washington, Texas, Florida, West Virginia, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota and the central states. The guests this season came out on the JLYN Charter boat, a comfortably equipped boat with Captains Janice and Ken Deaton at the helm and ready to assist their passengers. Once on the break wall, you are greeted by a docent to welcome you. They will share with you the history and construction of the break wall, while you envision the thousands of sailing ships that once anchored in the harbor. On each level, from the galley to gallery, a docent will share with you a the history of the lighthouse. Their knowledge and enthusiasm make the lighthouse come alive. Ah! But there on the gallery is a breathtaking panoramic view of the shoreline, and the harbor. The freighters going north about five miles out are easily visible and on a clear day the ships headed south

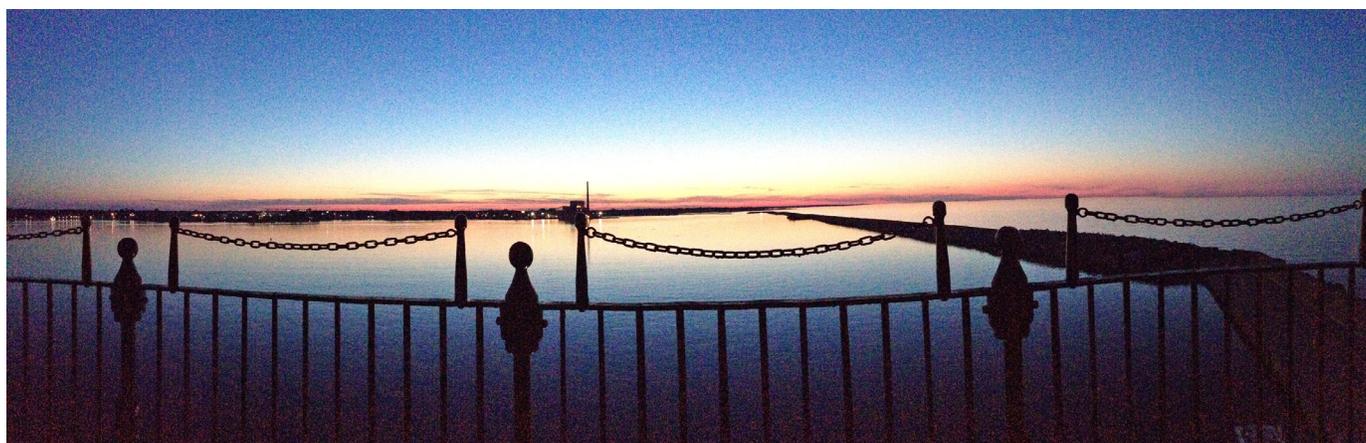
about 10 miles out can also be seen. Join the hundreds of guests who have visited the Harbor Beach Lighthouse and left so very glad that they came. Come and see the world's largest man made "fresh water" harbor and the jewel of Harbor Beach, the Harbor Beach Lighthouse. We will be open every Saturday morning (weather permitting) from late June to late September 2017.



**Annette Sweet,
Tour Director**

Finally, thank you to our 2016 docents! The best part of tours are our amazing docents and how knowledgeable they are about the lighthouse. When guests return from their tour they are amazed at how much they have learned about the lighthouse, breakwall, and harbor.

For additional information about the 2017 Lighthouse Season, please visit harborbeachlighthouse.org. Also if you would like to be a 2017 docent, email me at sweetannette6829@yahoo.com.



continued from page 2

all the online help. Social media is very important and these gentlemen did an amazing job getting the word out. When I travel to other lighthouses around the United States I can see how lucky we are to have such a dedicated and devoted group of

volunteers maintaining, preserving, and marketing our lighthouse.

Our goal is to continue this forward momentum into the 2017 season in both gift shop sales and tour bookings. Feel free to contact me at shelley@airadvantage.net if you'd like to work the gift shop next season!



2016 MAINTENANCE/PROJECTS REPORT

BY RON KOCIBA, MAINTENANCE/PROJECT DIRECTOR

Our season started late in Mid-April, when we began with work on the floating dock with modifications to accommodate the new brackets that we mounted on the break wall. These modifications were done to accommodate the water level fluctuations so that the brackets won't have to be moved every time the lake level changes.



Ron Kociba,
Maintenance/Project
Director

We purchased a new (used) pontoon boat this year, which was a great purchase. It has more than three times the load carrying capacity of our old Pontoon Boat. We needed more capacity to transport all of our material, tools, and equipment out to the lighthouse. Including, my mysteriously heavy tool bag, affectionately called the boat anchor.

We installed the dock at the lighthouse on May 11, 2017.

A new lift was fabricated, to lift equipment and supplies from the boat up to the lighthouse deck.

In May, we completed the replacement of the lantern room windows so now we have

windows that the light can shine through that are clear and free of cracks.

One of our major projects was installing wiring conduit and wiring for the new security camera system. This required installing conduit from the lighthouse, all the way to our solar tower. Then we had to get the wiring into the basement and finally all the way up to the lantern room deck. After some difficulty we succeeded in getting all six wires up to where they needed to be.

Late September and October were spent installing the security cameras and transmitters to the lighthouse. The receivers were installed on the roof of the community center so the wiring and connections for that were made there. The security cameras are now in place and ready to use.

The dock was removed on October 14th. We did go out on October 15th to finish up some security camera work and to close up for the season. We removed the boats from the water on October 19th, making this our longest work season ever.

As usual the maintenance and restoration crew worked together on most of the projects this year. More than 740 hours were spent on projects this year. Thanks to **Stu Haskell, Len Gajewski, Jim Brancheau, Pat Lapine, Bob Bodis, Doug Howard, Gary Erb, Skip Kadar, and Ron Klebba** for all the help this year!

2016 PRESERVATION/RESTORATION REPORT

BY RON KLEBBA, PRESERVATION/RESTORATION DIRECTOR

Our summer of 2016 Preservation / Maintenance schedule was once again a very busy one. As Ron Kociba mentioned in his report the combined efforts from the maintenance and preservation volunteers set a record for on-site work hours.

The main focus of the preservation volunteer group was preparation for the re-building of the fog signal building. This meant boring holes in the old foundation and epoxy gluing threaded rod in place in order to anchor the newly poured foundation and fog signal building down to the original foundation. Plywood forms were then erected and the new concrete foundation

was poured. We used our new pontoon to haul 60, 80# bags of concrete out to the lighthouse as well as a portable concrete mixer. Thanks to **Stu Haskell** and **Ron Kociba** we now have a davit in place on the lighthouse crib, which made all of the heavy hauling possible.

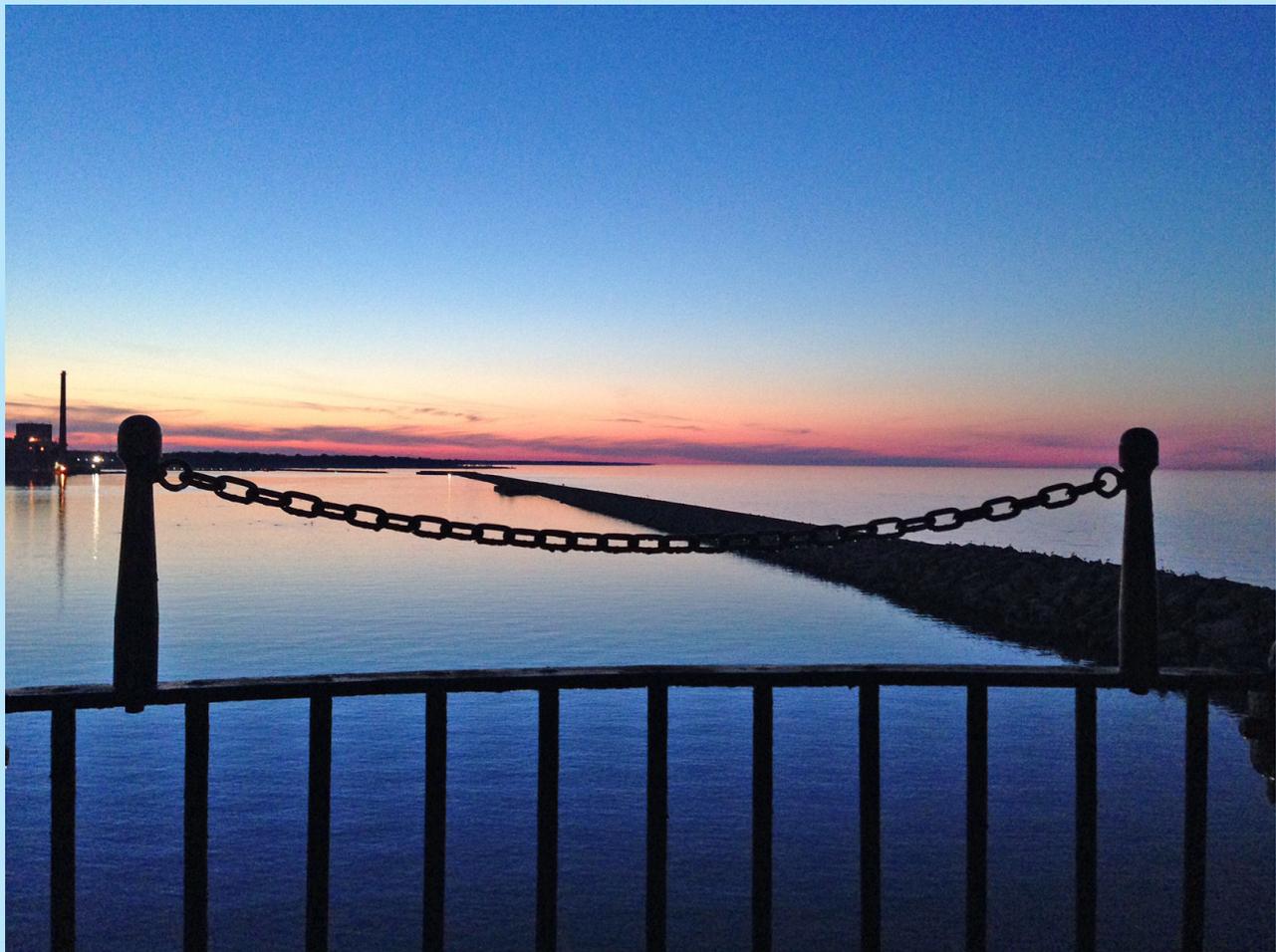
The framing lumber for this project arrived in late August from a sawmill in central Michigan. By early summer 2017 it will be seasoned enough to be put to use on our new fog signal

building. We are tentatively planning to begin framing the building the first week in June.

Unfortunately, we lost one of our most reliable and dedicated volunteers this past summer, **Dale Bauer**. Dale passed away in August but did leave behind some great memories, shared by all those who worked with him on our volunteer crew. He will be greatly missed not only as a co-worker but also as a good friend.



**Ron Klebba,
Preservation/
Restoration Director**





2016 Memories





Be on the lookout for the fog signal building fund-raiser!

We accomplished a great victory last year by putting the beautiful sweeping beam back in the Harbor Beach Lighthouse! Now one final part remains to recapture what our Lighthouse was: the full-throated fog horn that we all remember will be a replica exhibit along with other aspects of the maritime history of Harbor Beach on display inside.

2017 TOUR DATES

Saturdays -
June 24 through
September 23

First tour departs at
9:20 a.m.
and last tour
departs at noon.

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