



Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.

November 2010

Message from President Buzz Hoerr:

As I write you, I am remembering what a momentous year it has been for the Society! After years of wrangling with the state of Michigan over the bottomlands issue, we finally broke through on our legal argument and prevailed. The lighthouse was transferred to the City of Harbor Beach in late July. We had set as our goal many years ago when this project started, 28 years to be exact!

In addition, so many other projects have been completed or are now just getting underway. We had a new dock built for the breakwall and a great new pontoon boat donated. Ron, Skip, and their outstanding crew refurbished the pontoon boat. The crew did a fantastic job getting the lighthouse in pinnacle shape for the transfer ceremony. The hard work especially paid off when the Great Lakes Light Keepers Association brought 65 people in for a tour last August. A large number of them said the highlight of their trip was going out to the lighthouse. They could not believe how everything was so meticulously restored. The great deal of maritime history our harbor has seen really opened their eyes to how important the lighthouse is for the community.

Looking forward, we have formed the Thumb Three Lights working group consisting of Port Austin Reef Light, Pointe Aux Barques, and Harbor Beach. We will jointly produce rack cards for Michigan tourism centers and MDOT rest areas. It is hard to believe, but Pointe Aux Barques has about 3,000 visitors a month and packaging the lights as a weekend destination could really help all the local economies.

Finally, the Society has submitted a grant request for an exact replica of the original Fresnel 4th order lens to be installed in the lighthouse in time for next summer; keep your fingers crossed!

Thanks to all our generous donors, members and friends for helping us out over so many years!

Buzz Hoerr, President; Skip Kadar, Vice President; Dixon Kuhn, Glen Townley, Treasurers; Bob Letts, Secretary, Ron Klebba, Restoration Director



Transfer Ceremony: Left to right: Ron Kociba: Society Electrician, Reid Charles: City Manager, Glen Townley: Society Co Treasurer, Mayor Tom Wood, Buzz Hoerr: Society President, Al Kleinecht, Sam Capling: City Council, and Dixon Kuhn: Society Co Treasurer.

2010 Lighthouse Preservation Society Summer Maintenance Program

By Ron Klebba, Maintenance and Restoration Supervisor

The 2010 maintenance season kicked off with the re-building of the Society's pontoon boat donated to us by John and Beverly Daniels in 2009. We started by replacing the deck with new marine plywood. Thanks to Skip Kadar's help, we purchased a pontoon deck kit consisting of new fasteners, carpet, a new helm, and seats that include deck boxes. We also equipped the pontoon to meet Coastguard safe boating regulations. Ron Kociba, one of our members, dedicated his time last winter servicing the engine. Needless to say, the pontoon boat has become a real asset to our organization.

Our on-site work schedule at the lighthouse consisted of 22 work sessions and went as follows:

1. We completed painting the exterior windows sashes and casings. Big thanks to Kerry Whipple for donating the safety harness!
2. Concrete divots were patched in the breakwall surface in the area leading to the stairway.
3. The old transformer that was originally located on the crib near the tower was removed and transported to the shore (yes it was extremely heavy). In order to do this we only needed some rope, chains, a few 2x4's, a prybar, and five volunteers.
4. The seam between the tower and the crib was filled with concrete and caulked to prevent water penetrating in that area.
5. The first, second, and fourth deck floors were re-painted.
6. The ceilings in those areas were also re-painted.

In addition, some of our time was spent preparing the lighthouse for the two organized public tours conducted during the summer. The maintenance crew also volunteered during both public tours and seemed to enjoy their new roles.

Harbor Beach Lighthouse Virtual Tour

Members, when you have a second take some time and visit www.bluewater.org and click on the "Virtual Tour" icon in the lower right of the screen. Then scroll down to the Lighthouses section and click on "Harbor Beach Lighthouse". This will take you to a virtual tour of the lighthouse. So cool!



http://www.bwtours.info/HarborBeachLighthouse/TourWeaver_HarborBeachLighthouse.html

Please help the **Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.** by renewing/joining as a member. **Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.** is a registered 501 c 3 corporation, and all donations are deductible to the full extent allowed by the law.

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