

The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. 2014 Newsletter

harborbeachlighthouse.org



The New Light is Coming! Skip Kadar, President

The year 2014 proved to be a year of success for the Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society. We once again set a record for the number of guests touring the lighthouse. We hosted over 340 guests on the ten Saturdays we provided tours, surpassing the old record of 286. We look forward to next season to again showcase how the Society strives to preserve this unique piece of history.

The Society also ran a very successful fundraiser to purchase and install a replica of the Fourth Order Fresnel Lens that was removed from the lighthouse in the 1960's and is on display at the Grice House Museum in Harbor Beach. The new lens will be installed in spring 2015. Representatives of our organization have been working with the Army Corps of Engineers on the placement of additional solar panels to power the new light and motor to rotate it.

The severe winter weather of 2014 and the closure of the Detroit Edison Electric Plant that used to pump warm water into the harbor allowed the harbor to completely freeze over which permitted people to walk out on the ice to the lighthouse. Photographs of groups at the lighthouse, arriving by cross county skis, snowmobiles and four wheelers, were highlighted on Facebook and other media. It's great that people can enjoy the Lighthouse year round but it also brought to our attention the need for better off-season security at the lighthouse.

In 2014, there were several displays set up at the workroom deck in the lighthouse. They featured a tool bench with tools from the correct time period (many of which were donated by the family of lighthouse Keeper Loren Trescott), a wall of photographs of lighthouse keepers, a large pendulum clock that was once in the fog signal building, and other displays about the lighthouse and lifesaving service.

Along with the many successes of the 2014 tour seasons we did experience one incident. We had our first occurrence of vandalism at the lighthouse. Someone punched out the east ground level window. The person did not gain entrance to the tower but it alerted us for the need to increase the security of the structure. In response to this incident two of our maintenance volunteer's custom built and installed security bars on the two lower windows. The security measure is hardly noticeable but will prevent someone from entering the lighthouse by breaking a window.

We look forward to celebrating the 130th birthday of the lighthouse this summer with you and plans are in the works to make it a festive weekend filled with entertainment and history during the weekend of July 17-18th. Mark your Calendar!

The success of the Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society would not be possible if we didn't have so many individuals volunteering their time and talents. Our organization is made up of tour guides, maintenance personnel, the 130th birthday celebration committee, media team, souvenir sales people, and those in an administrative position. Without all of these people working harmoniously together the Harbor beach Lighthouse Preservation Society would not be one of the must see lighthouses of Michigan.

Replica Lens Project on Track!

Buzz Hoerr, Society Board Chair and President of Michigan Lighthouse Alliance

We would like to extend our thanks to the more than 80 people, businesses, and families who sponsored prisms and other components of the Replica 4th Order Fresnel Lens. The process to fabricate it has begun! I've been frequently in touch with Dan Spinella of [Artworks Florida](#), the company that designs and builds these exact replica lenses. As you are reading this newsletter, the brass support pieces have been returned from the water jet cutting process, the creation of the various prisms in a 3D printer will begin shortly, and the base and motor assembly are underway.



4th order 3-panel lens for Tarrytown, NY

We anticipate completion of the lens late this winter. There is a lot of handwork in polishing the prisms and all the other components until it's time to fit it all together. Dan tells me because we have a 10-panel 4th order lens, the eventual weight of the completed lens will be about 250 pounds! It will be brought to the lighthouse and taken up to the lantern room panel-by-panel and assembled in place.

Once it starts to really take shape, we will be getting regular updates and photos. Watch for them to be posted on our [Facebook page](#). I plan on at least one visit to Orlando with Bill Rands, our fundraising co chair to get a look at how things are coming along. Here is a picture Dan took of his most recently completed 4th order 3-panel lens for Tarrytown, NY. Note the LED light source inside.

And if you are reading this electronically you can click on this link and see a beautiful video of the lens and how it works by Artworks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyvPgIBaT5Y>

We're all very excited about seeing the "Jewel of Harbor Beach" rotating in the lantern room next summer as we celebrate the 130th anniversary of our lighthouse's original commissioning!

The World's Smallest Gift Shop at the World's Largest Man-Made Fresh Water Harbor "The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Gift Shop"

Shelley Boehmer, Marketing Director

This year we added a new gift shop at the marina! After many hours of restoration of an old kiosk the city had just hanging out in a field, the new refurbished gift shop landed at its permanent location, the marina. Renovated to resemble the Lighthouse, the gift shop was met with enthusiasm by the guests and docents. Moving the gift sales from the lighthouse was a priority of the Marketing Committee, allowing the Lighthouse to shine on its own.

Sales were amazing! Within the four-foot square location, we had the merchandise displayed in a way to welcome the shoppers. The addition of the ability to charge items added to sales. Novelties and shirts were the top sellers. Many new novelties were added, custom-made HB Lighthouse cutting boards, etched glasses, as well as other items. The passport idea caught on this year with multiple sales in passports and stamps, for the passports, of the HB Lighthouse. We look forward to adding new items next season as we prepare for the birthday celebration.

For special lighthouse gift items, visit the gift shop online at <http://harborbeachlighthouse.org/store/> to order. A sincere thanks to all the helpers who worked at the gift shop as well as those that helped with the restoration of it; and of course the City for delivering it for restoration and to its final resting place.

2014 Tour Program

Annette Sweet, Tour Director

The tour guides for the Harbor Beach Lighthouse had the privilege of showing our beautiful light to many wonderful guests. The numbers go up each year and the pride of the guide's just gets better and better. The guides strive to make our guests feel comfortable during their tour, while continuing to keep them informed and interested. Because most of our guides are long time residents of the area, they are able to add personal anecdotes of the lighthouse. Some items have been added to the display such as a crazy quilt circa 1890's. One of the wonderful things about being a guide is meeting new people. Our guests are coming from all over the US and Canada. Some are lighthouse enthusiasts and for some this is their first trip to a lighthouse. We hope we have given them a new perspective of these magnificent structures. The best part of all of this is the smiles and gratitude extended to the guides.

Our guests board the [J Lynn Boat](#) at the marina where the lighthouse experience begins. The 15-minute boat ride is comfortable with Captain Janice Lyn Deaton at the helm and captain Ken Deaton lending a helping hand.



New Gift Shop at Harbor Beach Marina

Having a different guide at the breakwall and at each level gives our guests a more informative and interesting tour. The view from the gallery is breathtaking. As the boat circles for their return trip to shore, our guests can see the beautiful view of this awesome part of history. We look forward to next season with excitement as we prepare to celebrate the 130th birthday of the Harbor Beach Lighthouse.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a lighthouse guide for the 2015 season, please contact me at sweetannette6829@yahoo.com. Also, to enhance the authenticity of the tours we are looking for the following items for the 2015 season. All items must be from the 1900 – 1915 time period and we would greatly appreciate you helping us find the items or donating them. We are looking for a small table for the second deck, and men's clothing from the period plus any personal men's accessories from the time period. If you are able to help find or donate any of these items please reach out to karenkadar@hotmail.com.

For additional information about the 2015 Lighthouse Tour Season and tickets, please call 989-479-9707 or visit harborbeachlighthouse.org. Remember a 2015 tour ticket makes the perfect gift for someone special!

2014 Maintenance/ Projects Report

Ron Kociba, Maintenance/Project Director

The Lighthouse dock was reinstalled in May for the season and was removed again in October when the lighthouse was closed up for the season. The pontoon boat has been removed from the water and will be stored inside for the winter thanks to Ron Wruble. During the season the following tasks were undertaken:

1. The floating dock was re-installed in May of 2014. This year we had to move mounting brackets up higher on the break wall, because of the higher water levels. We also removed two steps from the movable stairs.
 2. We started the process of replacing cracked windows in the lantern room. Like most lighthouse projects, removing fasteners that have been in place for 130 years has been a challenge. So far two panes have been replaced.
 3. Security bars have been fabricated for the first floor windows. This was deemed necessary after an attempted break-in. The bars are removable, so as not to affect the appearance during tours.
 4. Lifting support structure has been fabricated to facilitate scraping and painting of the underside of the gallery deck.
 5. Our boats have required continuing maintenance. We have been having problems with water contamination in our fuel tanks. One tank was replaced; we will need to replace the other one next season.
 6. Design work for mounting our solar panel array has been started. This array will provide the electrical power for the new Fresnel lens replica. This will be a major project for 2015.
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2014 Preservation/Restoration Report

Ron Klebba, Preservation/Restoration Director

The summer of 2014 will be remembered as a difficult weather summer for preservation work at the Harbor Beach Lighthouse. Many scheduled tasks were completed but not without encountering some severe weather conditions along the way. We were forced to postpone our weekly scheduled trip to the lighthouse four times this summer and were only able to make up one of those times. This was all due to heavy rain and or unsafe boating conditions causing heavy seas. Nonetheless, here is a list of the tasks that were completed:

1. We constructed and installed vent screens, which were used to cover the unsightly ductwork holes in the ceilings of the first and second floor.
2. The main level floor and workroom floor were both painted
3. The benches that were built for the second and third floors were painted. The benches are for tourist use when and if they need to take a break from climbing the lighthouse stairs during tours. Two additional benches will be built this winter.
4. We Scraped and painted the interior walls of the gallery deck.
5. Then we scraped and painted the floor and walls of the entry foyer.
6. Finally we scraped and painted the stairs from the break wall to the lighthouse crib.
7. We rigged and then re-rigged the new haul-up equipment used to haul up a worker to a level below the gallery deck. We have started the scraping process to remove flaking and peeling paint from the

bottom side of the gallery deck to prepare for new paint. This process has worked very well considering the working conditions and the obvious safety factor involved. The volunteer worker is “hailed up” in a workman’s bosuns chair a distance of about 30 ft. When in position the workman uses a battery operated multi tool to scrape the underside of the deck as well as the cast iron brackets used to support the deck structure. The scraping job is just beginning. Painting will begin in the spring.

8. Lastly, we installed grab bars on the floating dock that were designed to provide a secure hold for tourists and tour guides as they enter or leave our tourist charter boat.

In closing I would like to once again send out a big thank you to our group of maintenance/preservation volunteers. Our group has consistently shown a high level of dedication to this volunteer job and they are also a great bunch of people to work with. We work hard but we also have fun, which continues to make this a pleasurable experience for everyone involved.

Young People Help “Bring Back the Light” Project

Pam Semp

Fundraising efforts to purchase and install an exact working replica of the original Fourth Order Fresnel Lens brought in donations from all over the U.S. With these efforts we will be able to install the lens in time for the 130th anniversary of the commissioning of the Harbor Beach Lighthouse. Of course, local residents and former residents donated to the cause, many of whom remember the flashing red and white sweeping beam that graced the landscape for years. Mariners who spend time in and around the harbor and on the waters of Lake Huron donated as well as members of the Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society donated.



From left, Charlotte McNair, Molly Caguin, Carson Cultler, Madeline Pelletier, & Lily Burks

There was also a donation made by a very special group of young people that call Harbor Beach “home” during their visit each summer. These individuals are young enough to have never seen the red and white flashing light shine along our shore. The yearly 4th of July lemonade stand tradition, by the McNair family from Cincinnati, Ohio, always benefits a local, worthwhile cause. Over the years 14-year-old Eloise, 11-year-old Charlotte, and 10-year-old Webber 10 have been assisted by neighbors and one special family friend, Ashley Wehner Palmer, to make this event possible.

Previous years donations have been made to the Harbor Beach Fire Department, a local child with cancer and the Harbor Beach Theatre.

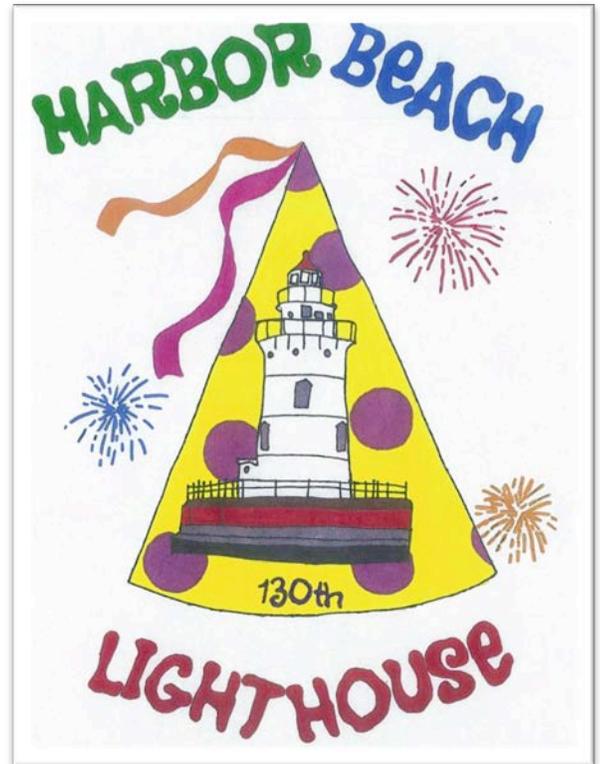
This year Charlotte did most of the organizing and, with help of friends chose to donate \$100 to the “Bring Back the Lens” project. Their donation will sponsor a portion of the lens and the recognition plaque, but bigger than that is their spirit of community and the example they set for others at such a young age!

The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society gratefully accepts the donation from Charlotte and friends and also commends the McNair family and friends for their efforts to make a difference in Harbor Beach. We are excited that you and future generations will enjoy the flashing beacon for years to come.

Students Submit Harbor Beach Lighthouse Birthday Logo Designs

Heather Legatz & Shelley Boehmer

A logo design contest was held to commemorate the 130th Birthday Celebration of the Harbor Beach Lighthouse. Students from all schools in Huron County were invited to submit designs to be used by the Marketing Committee of the Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society in advertising associated with the 130th Anniversary to be celebrated on July 18th, 2015 in Harbor Beach. There were two divisions of entries: Division One which included grades 9th through 12th and Division Two which included grades 4th through 8th. Designs were judged on creativity, neatness, and use of the Harbor Beach Lighthouse image, originality, and birthday theme. First place winners in each division were awarded four tickets for the personalized tours of the Harbor Beach Lighthouse; second place winners in the each division were awarded two tickets for personalized tours of the lighthouse. The Grand Prize winner received \$100 cash and four tickets for personalized tours of the Lighthouse. The Marketing Committee received over 125 entries. The Grand Prize winner was Stephanie Lackowski. First winner in Division 1 was MacKenzie Lackowski and second place winner was Whitney Liebeskind. Lucas Stein was the first place winner in Division 2 and Caden Boynton was the second place winner.



Grand Prize Winner by Stephanie Lackowski

All winners were students in the Harbor Beach School District. The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society would like to thank all students who took the time to enter and a special thanks to those Huron County art teachers who encouraged their art classes to submit entries. Look for the winning entries on the advertising associated with the 130th Birthday Celebration of the Harbor Beach Lighthouse in 2015. The birthday celebration is scheduled for July 18 and 19, 2015. Mark your calendars!

Marketing Committee Report

Heather Legatz

The Marketing Committee has been meeting on a regular basis since its creation. This year is the 130th birthday of the Harbor Beach Lighthouse and the Marketing Committee is deep in preparation for a wonderful celebration on July 18th. It will be a day full of activities for both young and old beginning with a children's parade along the bike path and continuing with speakers, special activities taking place at Lincoln Park with that gorgeous view of the Light, and culminating with dinner activities under the tent at the park. Decorated wooden cutouts of the lighthouse will be seen all around the Harbor Beach area during the month of July. Cutouts are still available by calling Heather at 989-414-0495. The cost of the cutout is \$50.00 and can be decorated in any theme the purchaser would like to do. There will also be a quilt show at the Community House on Saturday, showcasing lighthouse themed quilts. Two lighthouse quilts have been donated for a raffle. We look forward to a very exciting time celebrating the 130th birthday of Harbor Beach's greatest treasure. Please join us!

2015 Annual Membership Request

Thank you for your previous support of The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society. We ask that you continue your support by renewing/joining as a 2015 member of The Society. By becoming a member you will directly help with the upkeep and preservation of our lighthouse. Donations beyond the membership level are also accepted and greatly appreciated. They will go directly to the restoration and upkeep of the lighthouse.

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

****Please Copy/Paste the link to your web browser to join/renew as a member or mail in your membership payment or donation via the included envelope.*

<http://harborbeachlighthouse.org/join/>
<http://harborbeachlighthouse.org/donate/>

2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM: PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN

Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. 2015 Membership
Dues: \$25.00
Please enclose your check made payable to HBLPS, Inc.



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Mail to: HBLPS, c/o The Harbor Beach Agency, 128 State Street, Harbor Beach MI 48441

2015 DONATION FORM: PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN

Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. 2015 Donation
Amount: _____
Please enclose your check made payable to HBLPS, Inc.



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