

The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. 2013 Newsletter

harborbeachlighthouse.org



Changing of the Guard

Skip Kadar, President

2013 has proven to be a significant year in the long history of the Harbor Beach Lighthouse. September 22, 2013 was the last night the Harbor Beach Lighthouse broadcasted a welcoming beam over Lake Huron. The day after the Coast Guard removed all their equipment from the tower including solar panels, fog signal, and the lens. After almost 128 years, there is no longer a light shining in the Harbor Beach Lighthouse.

During the 128 years, the lighthouse witnessed ships progress from sail to steam, from wood to steel, and in recent years the 1,000-foot mammoth freighters that sail the Great Lakes. The lighthouse lamp originally was powered with pork oil, then by kerosene, next electricity, and finally to solar energy. During that time the lighthouse was under the authority of the United States Lighthouse Service, the United States Coast Guard, and now the City of Harbor Beach.

The harbor entrance is still marked by the green light on the south side plus a red blinking light and fog signal mounted on a galvanized pole on the north side.

The Harbor Beach Lighthouse has not been extinguished forever; The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society is in the process of obtaining a replica of the original Fourth Order Fresnel lens that is currently displayed at the Grice House Museum in Harbor Beach. If all goes as planned, the familiar white and red beam will be sweeping across the harbor by the end of next summer.

September 23, 2013

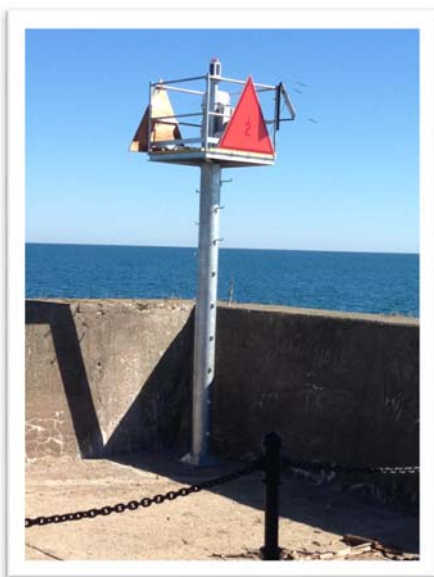
U.S. Coast Guard Station Saginaw River

Decom.

To the Keepers we appreciate your hard work keeping up the traditions the USCG long forgot. The members of station Saginaw River were humbled when we removed the lamp from this wonderful lighthouse.

Very respectfully,

BMI Andrew Tetralt, USCG and Crew



The Society had another successful year thanks to our fantastic group of volunteers. The Wednesday morning crew continued their maintenance and restoration efforts to make sure the Lighthouse was in the best shape possible as it greeted hundreds of guests that visited during the summer and received tours from our tour guides. Our devoted volunteers that spend countless hours at the Lighthouse working behind the scenes are what make the Society the successful organization it has become.



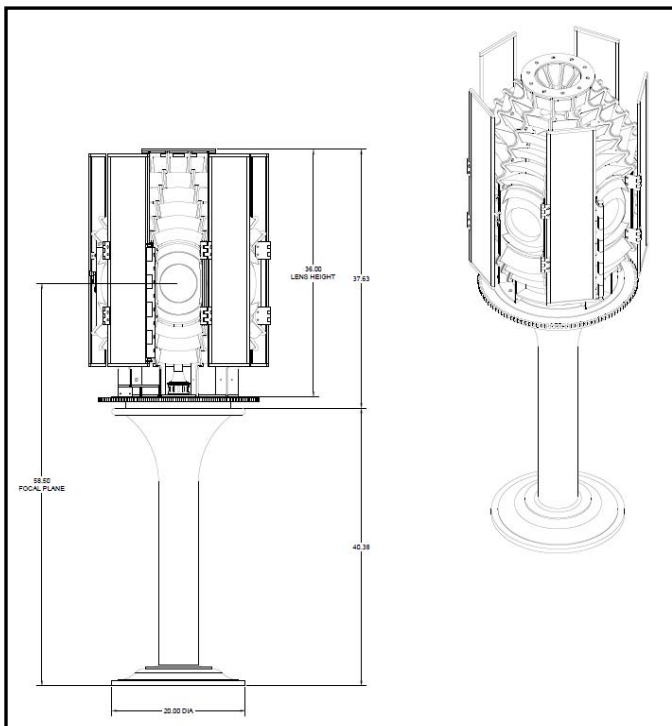
2013 Replica Lens Project Update

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

Replica Lens Project Moving Forward!

There are a lot of changes to report on this front. Those of you in the local area noticed a surge of Coast Guard activity at the end of the summer out at the lighthouse. They installed a pole behind the lighthouse on the breakwall and then mounted the red blinker from the inside of the lantern room on that pole, and moved all of their solar panels and battery bank from the gallery deck rail and room to the break wall. They also moved the fog signal, affectionately known as R2D2, so all of the CG assets were taken out of the lighthouse.

This was entirely expected and part of an overall plan to replace the Coast Guard's red blinker in the lantern room with a full size, fully functional replica of the original Fresnel Fourth Order lens. This would be consistent with our stated objective to restore the lighthouse to early 20th century status, and have the rotating, flashing red and white light be seen at night. It would also be an added draw for our tours in the 2015 season.



Scale Drawing of the Replica Lens and Base

In order to accomplish this, we spent two years with the Coast Guard exploring options including us managing the replica light on their behalf. In the end, the easiest way to do this legally was to move the assets out of the lighthouse and reinstall them on the "deck", and turn the lighthouse over to the City completely as a Private Aid to Navigation, or PATON. They could still have their light available as their obligation to provide a nighttime channel marker on the end of the north wall to frame the gap for boat traffic. This would also provide a Coast Guard operated long distance light to the shipping traffic that could be used to mark the course correction that you see on the charts that takes place off Harbor Beach, for both north/up bound and south/down bound channels.

In the pictures throughout the newsletter, you can see the light removed from the lantern room and the new CG aid, as provided by President Skip Kadar, who was out there when it was removed and was accompanied by Mel Trescott, great grandson of Loren Trescott, who was Keeper for 34 years.

We have preliminary approval on a grant from the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program that is proceeding through state channels for ultimate approval, and have received funding from anonymous donors in the amount of \$15,000 of a \$21,000 match needed for this \$65,000 project. We would appreciate any consideration members could offer to this specific project to help close the match gap of \$6,000. Rest assured that through your generosity over the years we do have the funds to do this ourselves if needed, but we would like to preserve our capital as much as possible!

The vendor for the replica lens is highly respected and has several other installations. For those of you who have seen the original lens in the Grice House, you would notice no difference in size, appearance or function. The difference is acrylic, rather than glass prisms would fill the brass framework. The acrylic prisms won't discolor over time and we will receive several replacement prisms as part of the purchase just in case anything ever goes wrong with them. They are also relatively easy to replace, especially because they are not nearly as fragile as the original glass prisms.

We'll keep you informed about this process as it goes forward, and the anticipated installation would be next summer or fall, depending on the grant process timelines. Once again, the original light will shine!

2013 Marketing and Souvenir Sales

Pam Semp, Vice-President

Amazingly, our third season of tours at the Harbor Beach Lighthouse is now in the history books. We had good attendance, the tours ran smoothly and the compliments were at a record high! A great lighthouse experience...up close and personal...is our goal. Have we arrived? In some ways, thinking of how far we've come, one might say enthusiastically, "YES!" But as we all know, resting on ones laurels is a sure way to stymie the efforts!

Our souvenir sales were kept at a pace similar to the 2012 season. While wanting to offer souvenirs for sale to enhance the experience, the limited space is a continuing challenge. We have a few items out at the lighthouse, but many times our guests aren't prepared for shopping. The visitors travel light with sometimes only a camera, leaving purses back on shore. It isn't always convenient to be carrying a shopping bag while boarding the charter boat for the trip back to shore. We also stock just a few basic souvenir items...mugs, glasses, ornaments, puzzles, magnets, keychain, tack pin, and design tee shirts in various colors. We continue to search out unique items, but I think the availability of souvenirs "on land" will also give us a better chance of selling to more of our visitors.

A marketing group was formed after our annual meeting this summer and has met twice a month since. One of our ideas to improve sales is to have a permanent location for the gift shop/souvenir items. We have decided to refurbish the kiosk that was originally used at the Community House over the years as an information booth. It needs some work and a little paint, but with the addition of a cement pad at the marina, we will have a spot to offer our items, sell tickets and provide additional tourist information. At this time, we are hopeful it will be manned and open each day we have tours operating. Look for more information and a sneak preview of the "new" kiosk in the spring email.

Tour Program Visit: August 17, 2013

Terry and Connie from East Tawas:

When Connie and I had the opportunity to visit The Harbor Beach Lighthouse on a postcard perfect Saturday morning, we were both in for a surprise from the wonderful group giving the tour. We had the pleasure of riding the first boat out with the volunteer lighthouse keepers. The start of learning the history was given in such a professional way, it was an enjoyment to experience lighthouse life as it was told by the group. I had the opportunity to spend my career in the United States Coast Guard, and although never stationed at a lighthouse I always thought it would be a great experience!

We have also added a gift shop online at <http://harborbeachlighthouse.org/store/>. There are some great gift ideas, especially with the fast approaching holidays. Surprise those on your shopping list with a great memory of Harbor Beach.

We had a great surge of guests toward the end of the tour season. We were also using radio advertising compliments of the Huron County Historical Society, which offers its partners 10 free radio spots. While we can't be sure whether it was the ads or just the fine weather and the end of the season, some serious and consistent advertising is necessary. We have discussed the possibility of partnering with the city of Harbor Beach in a yearlong radio campaign, using weekly ads about the happenings of Harbor Beach which would involve not only city events, but school, church and civic groups, all of which would share in the cost to drive the price down. There will be more information on this next spring, too. Facebook and Twitter continue to be huge in promoting Harbor Beach. Please consider adding our Lighthouse to your posts tweets and chatter!

We will continue to promote and search for the most unique advertising and souvenirs for the Harbor Beach Lighthouse. If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me at pamsemp@gmail.com or directly at **989-315-1121** anytime. We look forward to growing the retail aspect of our wonderful lighthouse and to be able to provide exciting souvenirs and remembrances.

For additional information about the 2014 Light House tour season and tickets, please call **989-479-9707** or visit harborbeachlighthouse.org. Remember a 2014 tour ticket makes the perfect gift for someone special!

2013 Tour Program

Toni O'Neil, Tour Director

As the leaves change colors and the temperature drops, the 2013 tour season of the Harbor Beach Lighthouse is just a memory. It was a successful season with **over 250 people visiting the Lighthouse**. We hosted visitors from 18 states and 67 Michigan cities. New this year was the participation of the Light in the United States Lighthouse Society Passport Program. Many visitors came with their passports eager to have them stamped. Purchase of the passports helps support the restoration and preservation of lighthouses.

By looking on the USLHS website you can find the list of lights around the country that are a part of this program. The Grice House Museum is also a part of this program since it houses the original Fourth Order Fresnel lens from our light. Many thanks to our knowledgeable and personable crew of docents including **Annette Sweet, Art Crueger, Laura Henderson, Sue O Neil, Scott Richardson, Heather Legatz, Curtis Boehmer, Brian O Connor, Shelley Boehmer, Diane O Connor, Jeff Richardson, Marilee Schock, and Toni O Neil.**

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a lighthouse guide for the 2014 season, please contact me at tntoneil@speednetllc.com. Also, to enhance the authenticity of the tours we are looking for the following items for the 2014 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 karekadar@hotmail.com.

2013 Maintenance/ Projects Report

Ron Kociba, Maintenance/Project Director

The Lighthouse dock was reinstalled at the lighthouse 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 Wrubel. During the season the following tasks were undertaken:

- The concealed wiring system was updated to make work and maintenance easier on all levels of the lighthouse.
- The old large wiring, conduit, and electrical connection boxes that went all the way up to the workroom level were removed. The holes have been plugged and repainted.
- Work has been started to restore the original flue pipe as it is shown in early pictures of the lighthouse. Materials for this project were procured through a donation from the DTE Power Plant. This has been a major undertaking including the removal of some of the old piping that had been revised or remodeled several times. This effort will restore the flue to the original appearance and configuration.

For next year we need to come up with a means of ventilating the basement of the old fog signal building. There is a serious moisture problem down there that causes deterioration of the brick and concrete over the winter months. Now that the Coast Guard has removed their solar panels, our panels which provide power for exterior lighting, will need to be relocated to a less conspicuous location. The back up battery for the lighting system is getting weak and will need to be replaced next year.

2013 Preservation/Restoration Report

Ron Klebba, Preservation/Restoration Director

I would like to begin my annual preservation and restoration report with an apology. I have been writing this report for many years now. My 2012 report was written and successfully submitted by e-mail but was overlooked on its way to the publisher and didn't make it to Matt Ferriss. So if any of our members would like a copy of my 2012 preservation/restoration report you can e-mail me at klebba@gmail.com. I will be glad to get a copy out to you.

Our volunteer crew made 14 trips out to the lighthouse during the summer of 2013. We were weathered out 3 times and had to cancel or reschedule. We started the summer work schedule by re-glazing and painting the exterior sash and casing of the tower windows. We completed five of the eight windows and will complete the job summer of 2014. The task of wiring and hiding a receptacle on each floor was completed by **Ron Kociba** and **Stu Haskel**. Ron and Stu also tackled a very nasty job in replacing the smokestack used to vent the original wood and coal stoves. A 12-inch square hole on the second floor exterior wall was patched with brick and mortar and then painted. Back in the day the hole was originally made to pass electrical wires out to the fog shed. Several 1½ inch diameter holes in the cast iron ceilings were patched with epoxy filler and painted. The holes were originally bored to run conduit through for electrical circuits. Closets on the second and third floor received new clothes hooks as well as shelving that was missing. All the shelves were primed and painted. The entrance door to the lighthouse was given a much needed fresh coat of gray paint. A ¾ inch diameter, 3 strand safety rope was strung from dock post to dock post on the floating dock to provide a more secure space for tourists and guides as they disembark and board the lighthouse tour boat. Decorative rope work was continued on the stairway handrails inside the lighthouse and those overlooked pictures and framed posters were finally hung. Lastly, the wood picnic table located on the break wall received a well-deserved fresh coat of varnish.

Winter projects are to include the building of three benches for our tourists and tour guides to occasionally take that much needed rest when climbing the tower steps on their way up to view the gallery deck. The second winter project is to construct wood framed bronze vent screens to cover those unsightly holes in the ceilings that were once used for heating ducts when the lighthouse actually had a furnace located in the basement. The final winter job will be to research and purchase the necessary “haul up” rigging to safely raise and lower our volunteer painter as he paints the underside of the gallery deck. I can't overemphasize the importance of comfort and safety as we take on that task this coming summer.

Again, big thanks for all of our hard working and dedicated preservation and maintenance volunteers. We have a great group and it's obvious when you see the high quality of work that they do.

2014 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 2014 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. **Remember it makes a great holiday gift!***

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

Thank you,

Skip Kadar, President; Pam Semp, Vice-President; Glen Townley, Treasurer; Bob Letts, Secretary; Ron Kociba, Maintenance/Projects Director; Ron Klebba, Preservation/Restoration Director; Toni O'Neil, Tours Director; Steve Schwab, Website Director