



Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society

P.O. Box 962, Brighton, ON K0K 1H0

www.PresquilePointLighthouse.ca



KOPPLA Update as of November 20, 2013

Season's Greetings & Greetings from Chair Norman Bastin:

Welcome to our second newsletter informing you of activities your Board of Directors have done since our first newsletter back in July. It certainly has been a busy time since then and very exciting for us and those associated with the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society.

As you will read shortly, we have finally attained our "Not For Profit" charitable registration which was a long time coming. This allows us to move forward and open more doors such as the Municipality of Brighton and Ontario Parks (Presqu'ile Provincial Park)

You and our Directors, as members of our Society, are the driving force, working towards our common goal of preserving our lighthouse for future generations to come. We acknowledge we need to do more fundraising and that will come. What we really need now from the public is both more new members and more involvement from existing members to bring new ideas on board to help all achieve success on this endeavor.

Please look for our replicas of the Lighthouse Keepers' cottage around town in the coming weeks and feel free to drop a donation or two in them. We will be displaying them in various businesses so keep your eyes open for them. And, if you have any ideas for future fundraisers, we would be glad to welcome additional ideas.



Of course, later in this newsletter, we are also doing a membership drive in late January and so, hope a few of you will step forward and offer some time to help us out. It is truly needed.

Thank you

Chairperson Norman

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LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION**



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Director Status

This past few months, we have gladly accepted the help from a new Director, Spencer Dennis but unfortunately, we have lost Director, Amit Tamrakar as he and his family have moved to the East coast and we wish them well.

Here is a list of your Directors as of October 31, 2013

- Norman Bastin - Chair
- John Warner - Secretary
- Michael Nicholson - Finance
- Dave Sharp - Marketing
- Dan Buchanan - Historian
- Spencer Dennis - Director

Our Plea:

Our Society will not be successful without the volunteer time of the Directors and we are hoping that we can obtain another 2-4 new Directors in the immediate future. We meet monthly for a couple of hours to help steer our Society in the right direction. Please give it some thought as we really need more help at the Director level.

Applefest Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013

Your Directors were quite active on Saturday with over 15,000 going by their Booth promoting our Society.... Gee.. if we could have only convinced 1% of them to become a member. But, we all had a great time selling raffle tickets and memberships.

Overall, we raised in excess of \$1,500 for a few hours of selling raffle tickets



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Raffle Winners at Applefest, 2013



Chair Norman presenting 1st Place Winner, Kathryn Corbett with her signed copy of our Lighthouse!



Treasurer Michael presenting 2nd Place Winner with his framed print of our Lighthouse to Bob Burke

(photo of lighthouse donated by David Lawler)

Just a reminder, for a short video on our very successful Gala evening of June 1, 2103; please go to our website at www.presquilepointlighthouse.ca and let us know your thoughts on the video. A big thanks also goes out to Mani of Toronto Film Company for making this video for us.

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What is the Status of our Lighthouse

It is very important to ensure the general public understands our priorities in the future of the lighthouse. Here is where we are at:

- We are working with Ontario Parks to develop a written Memorandum of Understanding which is basically an agreement of partnership that will allow us to proceed working on the various contracts and fundraising required for the necessary repair work on the lighthouse. We are not expecting this to be a fast process but given that it is the slower months of winter, we should be able to progress quite well in establishing this document.



In the meantime, we will work with Ontario Parks to resolve the dampness (humidity) problems in the lighthouse. It may be as simple as installing more ventilation openings (*they are already in place but have been "shingled" over and so the openings could be simply cutout*) or it may involve expensive and extensive humidification system. Unfortunately, it is not as simple as it sounds as we work with Ontario Parks. Much of the delay thus far, was the lack of an official Letter of Incorporation that finally materialized in late October. So, now, we expect to see activity in these areas over the winter and early spring months.

- As noted in our initial newsletter, once the Memorandum of Understanding is finalized, the next step is to source out a qualified engineering firm that understands heritage buildings. Their role will be to give us a report on the actual physical status of the lighthouse. What is the degree of wood rot? What is the degree of deterioration of the stone structure that supports the external shell of shingles? Can the lighthouse be saved? Can our lighthouse be restored? And of course, what will it cost to bring it back to the condition that will make us proud of our efforts?
- It continues to be premature to throw around costs on the actual final repair bills and even when we start the process, who knows what unexpected curveballs we or the engineers will find. At this time, we are only hoping to have enough to cover the costs of the engineering study, but until we get some firm quotes in, we are not sure. Time will tell.

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Charity Registration Status

Many of you have inquired about the status of our Charitable registration. We are pleased to advise you that as of late October, *we have achieved our Not-For-Profit incorporation papers* and have submitted our last bit of paperwork for the actual CRA Charitable Registration status number. We expect this to take another few weeks.

Membership Status

Since our last newsletter, our membership continues to grow at a reasonable rate but, we fear it is not large enough at this point of time to garnish the attention of our politicians when it comes time to approach them for support – financial or otherwise.

We know we have great community support.... What we need is more of the community to become official members of our Society. Thus, we need your help in a few ways... spread the word... get more involved and hopefully you will help us in our upcoming membership recruitment drive at Sobey's.

Volunteers Needed – Membership Recruitment

We have been given permission to promote our Society through a membership drive that will be held at Sobey's on January 30, 31 & Feb. 1 and again, Feb. 6, 7 & 8

We need two volunteers per three hour shift

(1st shift is from 10:00am -1:00pm and the 2nd shift is from 1:00-4:00pm)

Please contact John Warner at 613-475-1619 or email at JWarner@koppla.ca to offer your services.

We ask that you also spread the word and encourage others to visit our website and see the value in preserving our wonderful lighthouse. It is worth every effort.

Sometime in late spring, 2014, we will be looking at a full Membership **Annual Meeting** at which time, we will be voting on directorships and other issues as they may arise at that time.

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Ontario's Lighthouses

Ontario has a tremendous width east to west, including the entire Canadian side of the Great Lakes. Across this vast area there were once about 250 lighthouses. More than 130 remain, a large percentage of them active. Here is only a partial listing.

- Beausoleile Island Light
- Big Tub Light
- Brebeuf Island Light
- Burlington Canal Front Range Light
- Burlington Canal Rear Range Light
- Byng Inlet Range Lights
- Cabot Head Light
- Cape Crocker Light
- Caribou Island Light
- Chantry Island Light
- Christian Island Light
- Cove Island Light
- Erieau East Pier Light
- Fleet Street Lighthouse in Toronto, aka Queen's Wharf
- Gibraltar Point Lighthouse on the Toronto Islands
- Ile Parisienne Light, Whitefish Bay, Lake Superior
- Kincardine Lighthouse,
- Long Point Lighthouse, Long Point, Ontario (re-built in 1917, first was in 1843 and then in 1830)
- Mohawk Island Light, on Mohawk Island,(formerly called Gull Island)
- Nine Mile Point on Simcoe Island
- Old Cut Lighthouse on Long Point (inactive)
- Port Burwell Lighthouse, Port Burwell- Canada's ***oldest wooden lighthouse***
- Prescott Breakwater Light in Prescott, Ontario
- Presqu'ile Lighthouse
- Prince Edward Point in Prince Edward County, Ontario
- Queen's Wharf, *see* Fleet Street Lighthouse
- Toronto Harbour Light at Tommy Thompson Park in Toronto
- Windmill Point Light (best known because of the Battle of the Windmill)

Oldest Active Lighthouse – Port Burwell

The Port Burwell lighthouse was constructed in 1840. (***Hey.. so was ours!!***) It was part of a national network of light stations equipped with beacon lights to warn or guide ships at sea. The Port Burwell light was used to aid navigation and commercial shipping of local timber on Lake Erie. The octagonal, tapered tower is 13.7 metres high (***ours is 20.9 metres!***) but, because of its location on a hilltop, the lantern is 29.3 metres above the water. Its fixed, white light was visible for 19 km. For over 100 years; the Sutherland family kept the light, until it closed in 1962 when the Canadian Coast Guard began decommissioning light stations. In 1965, the Village of Port Burwell acquired the structure. It is the oldest wooden lighthouse on the Canadian shore of Lake Erie and one of the oldest surviving lights in Canada.

Oldest In-Active & Surviving Lighthouse – Gibraltar Point Lighthouse

John Ford designed Gibraltar Point Lighthouse on what is now known as the Toronto Islands in 1829. [3] It was decommissioned in 1907, but remains as the oldest existing lighthouse on the Great Lakes, since the one built in 1804 at the mouth of the Niagara River was demolished to make room for Fort Mississauga during the War of 1812. Other early lighthouses on Lake Ontario included False Ducks Island in 1828, (it was demolished in 1966); Point Petre in 1831, (also destroyed in the early '60's); Nine Mile Point in 1833,(appears to be still there but not active!) and Presqu'ile Point in 1840.

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"Show & Tell" Presentations

In the past few months, we have done numerous "Show & Tell" presentations to various organizations such as Probus Clubs of Trenton, Brighton and Colborne and the Brighton Arts Council to name a few.

If you belong to an organization or society, and would like us to attend and inform your group, please let us know. We would be glad to.



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society, we thank you for becoming a member. We ask three things...

- 1. Spread the word about our work and encourage others to become a member and make a donation. Ask them to also spread the word.*
- 2. Be involved in our Society and become a Director or other volunteer supporter.*
- 3. Have faith that we can succeed in the months and years ahead.*

Regards and thank you again.

*Dave Sharp
Volunteer Director of Marketing
613-475-5109*

History Buffs – read on

As you know from our first edition, we plan to tell you the story about our Lighthouse and thanks to our local historian, Dan Buchanan, we will continue on with Chapter 2 which tells you a bit about the local history and geography prior to the construction of the lighthouse.

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Canals and Lighthouses – Column 2 in our ongoing series

The population of Upper Canada grew from 70,718 in 1806 to 432,159 in 1840. Settlement had stalled during the War of 1812 but when the war was over; the lots and concessions north of Presqu'ile Bay, filled up with settlers. Many were children of United Empire Loyalists who had been early settlers in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties. Large families and the common desire to own land resulted in most of the arable land being quickly occupied.

The dramatic increase in shipping traffic on the lake reflected the growing population and Presqu'ile Bay came into its own as an efficient harbour and commercial port. Not only did the number of ships coming into Presqu'ile Bay increase during the first half of the 1800s but the technology changed as well. The first steam powered ship to ply the waters of Lake Ontario was the Frontenac; built in the Finkle Shipyard near Bath in 1816. Even though the first steam ship came into Presqu'ile Bay in 1824, it was several decades before steam ships made any kind of regular visits to the Bay. In the middle of the 1800s, the schooner was still king on the lakes.

We need to remember that all through these early decades of the 1800s; beacon fires on the shore remained the best option for showing sailors the way into Presqu'ile Bay. As the traffic increased and more people depended more and more on the safe and effective transportation of goods; expectations in the public would have grown to include the obvious need for a proper lighthouse at the mouth of the bay. As it turned out, the folks around Presqu'ile Bay were not alone with their desire for a lighthouse.

The government of the day realized that water traffic was the lifeblood of the growing economy and the key to effective defence of Upper Canada from American incursion. Therefore, the 1820s to the 1840s saw major civil engineering projects which in today's parlance would be called "infrastructure". The Rideau Canal was opened in 1832 as a route to quickly transport troops and military supplies from Ottawa to Kingston, avoiding the St. Lawrence River; which, in a military crisis, would be too close to the American border. The Welland Canal opened in 1829 to facilitate traffic between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

Several lighthouses were also built during this time to provide safe passage for the increased lake traffic. The Gibraltar Point Lighthouse on Toronto Island was built in 1829 and is the oldest surviving and active lighthouse on the Great lakes. In 1828 a

lighthouse was built on False Duck Island off the treacherous south east point of Prince Edward County. The Point Petre lighthouse was built in 1833 on the south west point of Prince Edward County. The year 1840 saw the building of lighthouses at Port Burwell and our own Presqu'ile Point.



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