



Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society

P.O. Box 962, Brighton, ON K0K 1H0
www.PresquilePointLighthouse.ca



Welcome to our 2017-01-01 Newsletter #8

A Word From Chair Spencer Dennis

Greetings to everyone from all of us at the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society. We would like to take this time to wish everyone all the best in happiness and health in 2017.

2016 was another busy and exciting year for us all. We had numerous fundraisers and awareness campaigns throughout the year, which were very successful. For this, we thank all of our members who so generously contributed and assisted with these events. You supported us in our membership drives; our first Fashion Show (*and look out for another show this spring on May 28th!!*); our second annual Fun Run; our annual raffle ticket sales; and our very successful Nov, 2016 Gala evening (*more details to follow in this newsletter!*)



The 2017 Pilot Project is moving forward, with some items to still work out, but we are confident it will proceed as planned. (*more to follow in this newsletter*)

We have applied for our heritage designation to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, so this lengthy process has begun. There are currently two lighthouses in Canada designated as heritage structures, and we are hoping ours will be the third

Last, but not least, I would like to welcome our two newest Director's, Ruth Kerr and Peter Ware. Both Ruth and Peter have a keen interest in preserving Brighton's iconic lighthouse, and we are excited to have them in our group. Ruth is busy putting together an exciting evening of enjoyment and dance later this summer (July 15th) so stay tuned for more announcements on this.



Congratulations to our 2016 Raffle Winner of \$1,000 of Sobeys Gift Cards Don Venn as presented by our Chair, Spencer Dennis

We now have the written endorsements from our local Municipality, our MP Kim Rudd and MPP Lou Rinaldi. All have committed to supporting our cause of restoring the lighthouse. If you are talking to them in the near future, please be sure to remind them that now, more than ever, we need their support.

Thank you again for your support, and please don't forget to spread the word to your friends and neighbours; of our society and what we do.

Regards
Spencer Dennis, Chair

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A Word From Ontario Parks Supt. Rob Cunningham

I would like to thank all the members of the local community who have donated their time and money towards the restoration of the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse.

Ontario Parks is very supportive of your work and we are looking forward to implementing a restoration strategy with the PPLPS. I am continually amazed at the passion and care the PPLPS has for the lighthouse and their commitment to improve its condition. The PPLPS has made great strides in increasing the knowledge base and the awareness of the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse within the local community.

Ontario Parks understands the importance of the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse to the park and the local community. Both Ontario Parks and PPLPS want to work together to improve the condition of the Lighthouse in order for future generations to appreciate and enjoy it. Ontario Parks is working towards the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding with the PPLPS to achieve this goal. I am looking forward to moving the project forward during 2017, and continuing the excellent relationship that the park has with the PPLPS.

Rob Cunningham
Park Superintendent

Engineering Update

We are now at a critical "timing" decision point in our efforts to achieve our goal of restoring the lighthouse. On one hand, we are gearing up for the proposed Pilot Conservation Project (tentatively scheduled for April, 2017 with completion in late 2017).

Just to recap, this project entails erecting the scaffolding to the top of the lighthouse, (69 feet in height); removing some of the shingles and the nearby wood girdle; and confirming earlier inspections of the overall structure itself. It would also include some grouting of the walls, both from the inside and the outside. The grouting that will be added at this time would be continued with the Phase 3 restoration. This pilot project is necessary from the standpoint of contractors tendering accurate quotes for the restoration (i.e. So they don't build in large contingency costs for the unknowns as there should be none after we do this 2017 evaluations).

And, on the other hand, we are also looking ahead to the final Phase 3 restoration process. The concern here is the cost of the scaffolding and more so, the duplication of the costs of such.... If we "continue" to start Phase 3 shortly after the Pilot Project (e.g. spring, 2018); we can save considerable costs by not needing to remove the scaffolding at the end of the 2017 Pilot Project and re-erecting it for the Phase 3 restoration contract. The savings amounts to over \$80k which is a substantial amount of both the Pilot Project and Phase 3.

We believe we have sufficient funds (assuming financial support from Ontario Parks) to proceed with the Spring, 2017 Pilot Project and the Municipality of Brighton. What we will need to be actively promoting with MP Rudd and MPP Rinaldi; is to obtain substantially full funding for the final Phase 3 of the project during 2017.

As we have stated earlier, the Pilot Project and subsequent Phase 3 cannot proceed without written approval from Ontario Parks and a successful fund raising campaign. We continue to believe in the support shown by MP Rudd and MPP Rinaldi and will be addressing this more so in the coming months.

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Financial Update:

We have a very healthy bank account thanks to a successful 2016 fund raising programs by your Board of Directors. As at the end of December, our assets are well over \$80,000. On top of this, we have a \$25k commitment from the Rotary Club of Brighton which can be used to help us in Phase 3. In addition, further to our late 2016 Budget request to the Municipality, we have tentative support from Brighton of \$12.5k over each of the next two years; subject to Council approval in final budget deliberations in late February – ***so please talk to your councilors and tell them we need their support.***

As some of you know, we have been using Pay Pal as a means of on-line payments. And, we certainly have had some hiccups with this approach. In the near future, for online donations we will be going with CanadaHelps. CanadaHelps is a registered charity and nonprofit social enterprise whose mission is to promote – and ultimately increase – charitable giving in Canada. They do this servicing Canadian donors, charities and corporations for a small fee.. we feel this approach will yield better results, better monitoring and improve the timely distribution of the necessary charitable tax receipts.

We will continue to use PayPal for online purchases of items, etc. where Charitable Tax Receipts are not required.

Stay tuned for our 2017 upcoming events....
Spring Time Fashion Show (Sunday, May 28th);
Summer Dance (Saturday July 15th); our September Fun Run / Walk
and of course, ongoing membership drives

Gala Evening, November 8, 2016

Wow... what a successful evening... and we have to say just one word.. THANKS.. The community's support was overwhelming... we had great sponsors, great donors and equally important, great attendees that certainly opened up their wallets that evening. The night would not have been successful without the help of so many volunteers.... And we certainly appreciate their efforts.

When the expenses were disbursed, our final profit came in at over \$30,000 And, that was just fantastic.

Again... thank you, thank you and thank you.



The 31" pine bench is made from 100% hardwood taken from a Springbrook farm and was handcrafted by A. Vardley. © Vardley (a retired lighthouse keeper!) Lighthouse painted by Jean Sharp

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Thank you Peter and Linda for purchasing the stained glass lighthouse work of art donated by Dave & Jean Sharp of Lighthouse Wealth Management and created by Barb Wright.

We think it looks absolutely beautiful in their window facing the sunny morning rays.

What is next.... We are not planning a gala for 2017... but, we can tell you to mark your calendars for June 23, 2018 for our next Gala.... The date has been officially set.... And we look forward to an even better event with your continued cooperation.

AND, as noted in Chair Spencer's comments, stay tuned for all of our future fund raising events in 2017... we are still very active and need your support!

Membership Update:

2016 had some great points and some not so great on the membership side... we had a few members move away and have declined to renew (a total of 6) ... but of some concern; there were several local members (68) that have still to pay your 2016 membership and that is sad. But, on the other hand, we did get 54 new members in 2016 including a few business sponsors (be sure to look up our list of sponsors later in this newsletter). This past 2016 summer, we were successful in getting a summer student, Emma G; who assisted us in the membership and promotional development and we hope to have another student this summer (as we have already made application for one). Thus, as of now, we have 166 paid Members (including 6 Honorary members) plus of course, the 68 members above who still have not paid. ***When you do your Income tax shortly, if you don't have a charitable tax receipt from PPLPS, it is a good chance you have not renewed your 2016 membership so if you would consider either mailing us a cheque for your 2017 membership or pay on line, that would be really appreciated.*** We know you still support our efforts and perhaps have just neglected to make that payment/donation.

We thank our members for showing your support to our worthy cause. Please continue to spread the word by asking your friends, your business associates and anyone else you talk to, to consider becoming a member. Your annual membership now lasts for the full twelve months from when the date you paid your annual fees.

If someone you know would like to become a member, please contact our Membership Director, Ernie Sharp, or join online at www.pplps.ca. The individual or family membership fee is \$20.00 per year. Corporate memberships of \$100.00 or \$500.00 or more, may also be purchased. As noted in our last newsletter, we are now seeing families showing substantial financial ongoing annual support through extra donations and becoming at least "Bronze" sponsors of our cause. (refer to the Sponsorship section at the end of this newsletter). By purchasing a membership and making donations, it not only allows us to raise a few dollars, but more importantly, it is an expression of your support to our cause of preserving the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse.

And of course, donations of any amount will be graciously accepted. A charitable tax receipt will be issued for all monies received.

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AGM Info - September 19th, 2016

For full details on the AGM minutes, please refer to our website www.pplps.ca and look under the tab "About" and you can review these minutes plus previous annual minutes.

At this annual meeting, we were brought up to speed on major topics such as finances; fundraising; membership; engineering and we elected the 2016-17 Board of Directors. After the formal portion of the meeting, Mr. Mark Shoalts, P. Eng.; made a presentation on the engineering aspects of the proposed Spring, 2017 Pilot Project.

Director Update

We welcome our two newest Board Members:

Ruth Kerr was born and raised in Prince Edward County and spent time elsewhere completing her studies. She returned to Brighton in 1990 with her husband Craig and became a well-known and very active volunteer in many areas of the community. Ruth and Craig have three children who live in the area and seven grandchildren who are winding their way through various universities and beginning careers.

Ruth specializes in organizing and assisting with various fundraising efforts. Her work in recent years resulted in her receiving the Outstanding Achievement Award from Rotary, a Paul Harris Fellowship, a Senior of The Year award from the Provincial Government, and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Ruth recognizes the importance of the Presqu'ile Lighthouse as an iconic historic asset for Brighton and area and as a much needed contributor to the vital tourism industry. She is committed to the Presqu'ile Lighthouse Preservation Society because she believes that the restoration project is achievable due to the careful research underlying it and to the demonstrated efforts from the community.

Starting with a water loving family; **Peter Ware** was almost born on the bay at Stony Point but due to a heat wave, his mother returned to Scarborough where the family home was. He never knew a summer in the city, as they were all spent here in Brighton. On graduating from Dunbarton High School; he joined the military as a Meteorological Technician. He served across Canada from coast to coast to coast (CFS Alert) & even West Germany over the course of his lengthy career. Now that he has retired; Brighton is his home once again. Peter also volunteers his time at Community Care Northumberland Hospice division.

The lighthouse has always been a beacon across the bay for all these years. He'd like to see it restored to its former glory, lasting for many more decades. He is more than happy to help in this restoration project.

Be involved in our Society and offer to help as a volunteer supporter.

Send us an email to volunteer.

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Red Stone Clothing Co. has collaborated with the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society to celebrate 175 years of history.



Lighthouse Souvenir apparel will be available to purchase at Red Stone; with partial proceeds from the sale of each item going towards the Lighthouse Restoration project.



46 Prince Edward St.
Brighton, 613.439.9000

Once again, Connie Howell of Red Stone Clothing Co. has volunteered to arrange a 2017 Fashion Show. *It is scheduled for Sunday, May 28, 2017 at the Masonic Hall*

After a very successful inaugural event in 2016, we suspect it will once again, be a sell-out so stay tuned and get your tickets quickly once they come on sale.

We really appreciate the work that Connie and her friends put together to make this a fun filled fundraiser on our behalf.

Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Promotional Items for sale

Did you know, we now have numerous items for sale....

- Hoselton lighthouse sculptures on a marble base (\$25 each)
- Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse coffee mugs – four colours (\$10 each of set of 4 for \$35)
- Embroidered PPLPS T-shirts of different sizes and different colours (\$25 each)
- Embroidered PPLPS Golf shirts of different sizes and different colours (\$30 each)
- Embroidered PPLPS Pull-over sweaters (\$40 each)



These can be seen at Dave Sharp's office – Lighthouse Wealth Management (143 Main Street) but please call ahead (613-475-5109) as they are in storage. Just let Angela or Priya know you are coming to view... if we don't have your size or colour for any of the clothing wear in stock, you can also order them directly from Red Stone Clothing Co – just let Connie know your needs.

Be sure to come visit us at History Weekend

Saturday, Feb 18 from 10:00-4:00pm

Stop by and see our items and considering paying your 2017 Membership Dues

We Need You To Volunteer!

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Meet Your Board

Chairperson Spencer Dennis
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SDennis@PPLPS.ca

Vice-Chair Dave Sharp
(613) 475-5109

Dsharp@PPLPS.ca

Secretary John Warner
(613) 475-1619

JWarner@PPLPS.ca

Treasurer Mike Nicholson
(613) 475-3646

MNicholson@PPLPS.ca

Director Ernie Sharp
(613)475-5215

ESharp@PPLPS.ca

Director Dave Brummell
(613)475-1659

DBrummell@PPLPS.ca

Director Ruth Kerr
(613)475-3018

RKerr@PPLPS.ca

Director Peter Ware
(613)661-5036

PWare@PPLPS.ca

*We can always use another
Director(s) so please consider!*

Raffle Ticket Sales

- We will be announcing more details about the 2017 Applefest Raffle Ticket Sales in early spring. Please consider contacting Dave Sharp at 613-475-5109 (DSharp@PPLPS.ca) or Michael Nicholson (613-475-3646) (MNicholson@PPLPS.ca) to get a few books to sell and raise some funds!
- Sell them over the summer to your neighbours, friends, service people, etc.

Applefest Booth – Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017

- Please volunteer to assist us on Saturday, September 23, 2017 – Main Street Booth, Brighton
- We need help in both raffle ticket sales and/or selling of memberships

Fund Raising Committee

- Ruth Kerr is looking for helpers for her dance on Sat. July 15th...
- Connie Howell is looking for helpers for her Fashion Show also on Sunday, May 28th
- We are also now at that point of time when we need help sourcing out and applying for major grants from large organizations, etc.
- Would you like to help... let us know...

Soft Sell Memberships Sales

- How many of your friends are aware that you are a Member of the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society. Do you know how easy it is to ask a friend or neighbour to join our cause to protect our local icon? All you probably have to do is to ask them – many of you have already done so. Just visit our website at www.presquilepointlighthouse.ca (www.pplps.ca) and register on line or download an application form; have them sign it and either mail it in to us at P.O. Box 962 or give Ernie Sharp, our Membership Chair a call and he will pick it (them??) up (with of course, the membership cheque or donation!)

Let's all help and "Let Our Light Shine!"

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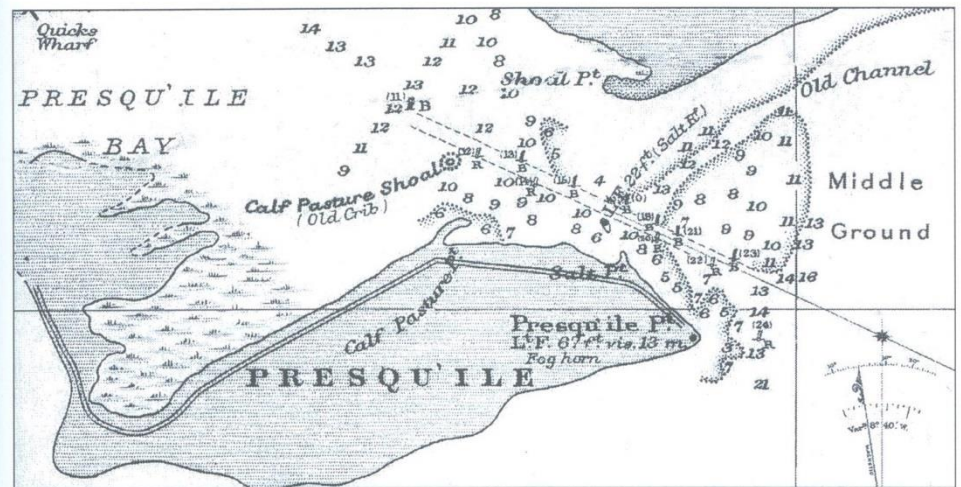


Our Continuing Story by Dan Buchanan - The 1860s and 1870s: Changes and Plans

The 1860s saw an increase in maritime traffic and the Presqu'ile Lighthouse was a vital part of the protection of all this shipping. John Edward Proctor and several other Brighton merchants and lumber barons built schooners during this period and sent loads of lumber, staves, wheat and barley through the wharfs at Gosport and across the lake. Proctor would be voted Reeve of Brighton Village in 1867 and on July 1st, the whole province celebrated Confederation. Citizens would have to get used to the province's new name of Ontario.

Ship captains relied on Presqu'ile Bay as a harbour of refuge, as a good place to ride out the many bad storms at the east end of Lake Ontario. The forest on the peninsula was considered to be an effective wind break and in 1868 the harbour master, William Quick, asked the federal government to ban tree cutting on Presqu'ile in order to preserve the wind break. Regulations were put in place to stop any more harvesting of trees on Presqu'ile and the part of the peninsula east of Salt Point, including the lighthouse, was transferred to federal jurisdiction.

Part of the deal between federal and provincial governments at this time was for the Public Works Department to spend \$10,000 on harbour improvements. Between 1872 and 1875 a channel was cut through the Middle Ground shoal at its most westerly point, directly into the inner harbour, at a width of up to 67 meters and depth of 11 feet. A few years later a new range light was built on Calf Pasture Shoal to guide ships through this new channel. Plans for a canal between the Bay of Quinte and Presqu'ile Bay had been in the works for many years and the idea



was revived again. It only made sense to divert shipping through what would be a safer and shorter route. Ship captains and merchants in Brighton salivated at this prospect, sure that more business would come to the wharfs at Gosport if a canal could be built. Unfortunately, it was delayed until 1879 when a tragic sinking on the lake motivated the public and government to take real action. Even then, the Murray Canal would not open for another decade.

A major change in lighthouse management happened at Presqu'ile when William Swetman, the first lighthouse keeper, retired and in 1871 George Benedict Simpson became keeper of the main light. These jobs were commonly passed around in families and this was no exception as George Simpson was a son-in-law of William Swetman. He would remain as lighthouse keeper until 1887.

Information about the cutting of the channel as well as the chart shown here is from the book *For Want of A Lighthouse* by Marc Sequin, page 239. The chart was originally part of W. P. Anderson's survey of 1893 called "Chart of Western Part of the Bay of Quinte and Presqu'ile Bay".



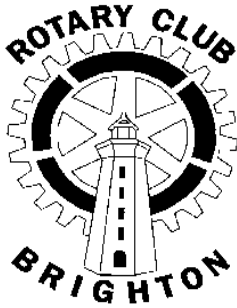
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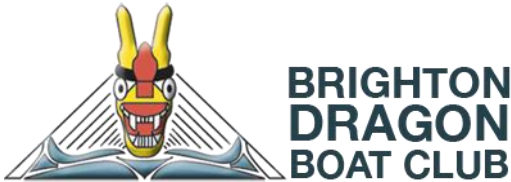


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And also Members Dave & Jean Sharp

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