



Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society
P.O. Box 962, Brighton, ON K0K 1H0
www.PresquilePointLighthouse.ca



Welcome to our 2015-12-31 Newsletter #6

A Word From Chair Spencer Dennis

At this time, I would like to extend the warmest season's greetings to all of our members from myself and your Board of Directors. May the New Year bring you and your families much happiness and good health. I must say that this past year has been very rewarding for our society in that we have held many successful fundraising and awareness events throughout the year, and our membership has also continued to grow.

We held a number of membership drives in town including those at the No Frills and Sobeys stores. There was our second annual Lighthouse Gala in June; our inaugural Fun Run in July; the highly successful Lighthouse Festival Weekend and the annual Applefest weekend. In September, we also held our second Annual General Meeting with special guest speaker Marc Seguin, the local author of the book "*For Want of a Lighthouse*".

But, I believe the real highlight of the past year is the fact that we continue to positively move forward in our goal of restoring the lighthouse in partnership with Ontario Parks. We have held several meetings over the past year with Park Superintendent Rob Cunningham, who advises that their engineers at Ontario Parks have studied our reports and have concurred with the findings and recommendations. There is still a long road ahead, but as Ontario Parks owns the structure itself, and had the final say as to whether or not we could even restore it, these developments are very exciting news indeed.

Before I close, I would like to advise everyone we are holding our second annual Fun Run and Walk in Presqu'ile Provincial Park on Saturday, July 9, 2016 at 8:30 am. Last year's event was well attended and everyone had a great time. More details will soon be posted on our website and shortly registration will be up and running on the Tri and Run Sports (Trenton) website.

At this time, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support and faith in our goal, and I would also like to thank the Board of Director's (*including retired Directors Norman Bastin, Dan Buchanan and Phil Badham*) for the unselfish giving of their time and talents, directed towards this enormous undertaking.



A huge thank you to the Rotary Club of Brighton who recently donated \$25,000 towards our goal of preserving the lighthouse. Above are some of our Board Members, (John Warner, Dave Brummell, Ernie Sharp, Dave Sharp and Michael Nicholson) who are dispersed amongst the various Rotarians.

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LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY**



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Engineering Update

In May, 2015, Board members presented recommendations to Supt. Rob Cunningham of Presqu'ile Provincial Park. The full report is now on our website @ www.pplps.ca (under "Restoration"). Basically, these deal with the window structural strength and stabilization, removal and replacement of existing shingles; repair of roof structure and replacement of the cupola along with some repairs of existing brick work.

In December, 2015; there was a further meeting of Ontario Parks management personnel to discuss the report. We can tell you that their engineer seems to agree with assessment and the recommendation of our group. Park Supt. Cunningham reports "*we certainly will be moving forward with developing a Conservation Management Plan for the Lighthouse. This Plan will basically be used as a guiding document for what we are going to do in the future*" (with regards to the preservation and actual repairs of the lighthouse).

This means we are one step closer to realizing our goal and dream of preserving our local icon. ***Fantastic progress thus far.*** The next step will be preparation of drawings and specifications for the actual repairs for quotation purposes which we are working on with Ontario Parks.

Applefest 2015 Winners

Again, this fall, we held a very successful Applefest raffle sales raising hundreds of dollars towards our cause.



First place winner – Bill Snowden and his gift of a two night stay and meals at Waring House being presented by Director, Ernie Sharp



Second place winner – Paul Berlanquet receiving his hand crafted replica of our lighthouse from Director, Dave Sharp

Third place for the framed photo of our lighthouse went to Gilberte Bissonnette and the fourth place of a Season's Pass to Ontario Parks went to Jonathan Hough. ***Congratulations folks.***

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Membership update

Yes, we continue to grow in terms of membership which now shows PPLPS having 182 which is a substantial gain in 2015. Thank you for showing your support to our worthy cause. Please continue to spread the word of mouth 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 Acting Membership Director, Ernie Sharp, or join online. The individual or family membership fee is \$20.00 per year. Corporate memberships of \$100.00 or \$500.00 may also be purchased.

And of course, donations of any amount will be graciously accepted. A charitable tax receipt will be issued for all monies received. We are now seeing families showing substantial financial support through 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, 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.

AGM Info - September, 2015

Here is a summary of our recent Annual General Meeting held in September, 2015.

- The Board of Directors were introduced by Chair Spencer Dennis.
- Chair Spencer reviewed the activities of the Board of Directors over the last year including membership drives; public awareness campaign; history weekend; the fund raising Gala; the Presqu'ile Lighthouse Festival; Applefest weekend; and the PPLPS entry in the Dragon boat races in Gosport.
- Chair Spencer also reported on the lighthouse restoration recommendations presentation from the PPLPS to Rob Cunningham, Superintendent Presqu'ile Provincial Park – further details are in this newsletter.

**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

Director Dave Sharp reported on the sale of lighthouse clothing and other embroidered items, and the ongoing arrangement with the Red Stone Clothing Co. in Brighton to provide a donation to the PPLPS for items sold (*for more info, contact Connie at Red Stone*)

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- Dave Sharp also provided a membership update and reviewed the sponsorship policy developed by the Society to recognize sponsors for their support and noted who the present sponsors are.



And, to show community support, Lion Members Owen Gibb and Jim MacKenzie presented a cheque for \$500.00 from the Lion's club, proceeds from the Lion's Presqu'ile Lighthouse Festival Bingo.

In this photo, we have long time Lion member, Owen flanked by our Directors, Dave Sharp and Michael Nicholson.

Thank you Lion Members from our Society – your support is appreciated.

- Treasurer Michael Nicholson presented the annual financial report for the periods ending March 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015. It was moved by Michael and seconded by Ernie Sharp that the financial report and report from Sautner Austin, Chartered Professional Accountants be accepted. Carried.
- Michael then showed the income and expense statements for the 2015 fundraising Gala; the Presqu'ile Lighthouse Festival, July 2015; and Applefest weekend, 2015. The Society balance is now at approximately \$40,000.00 (*plus the \$25k commitment from the Rotary Club*).
- Chair Spencer Dennis introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Marc Seguin, author of his new book "For Want of a Lighthouse", a member of PPLPS and a founding member of Save our Lighthouses organization. Marc spoke about the history of water transportation, shipping and lighthouses in our area. More than 49 lighthouses and light towers were built in the 19th and early part of 20th centuries along the Canadian shore of eastern Lake Ontario. Today there are 9 lighthouses still standing. Marc reported on the status of each of the remaining 9 lighthouses.

We need three more Directors... are you interested?

During the next several months we will be switching our emphasis towards Fund Raising at various levels. Are you good at finding grants or soliciting corporate sponsorship? Do you have other skills we can use? Would you like to attend a Board meeting and learn more about the internal operations? If so, drop Chair Spencer Dennis or Vice-Chair Dave Sharp an email and let us know.

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175th Anniversary Festival events (see more photos on our website)



Thanks to the **Brighton Dragon Boat** for their involvement and of course, this donation for \$1,350 towards our Cause.



The band – “**Second Time Around**” was thoroughly enjoyed by all despite the severe wind storm that spoiled the **Dragon Boat & Presqu'ile Yacht Club** activities



Tours of the **Brighton Auxiliary Rescue** Boat was appreciated by all.



And the kids had fun trying Stand Up Paddling.



And, **public awareness** at Memorial Park



And yes, also our first **FunRun Walk** at the Park.
Stay tuned for our July 9, 2016 Event

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We Need You To Volunteer!

Meet Your Board

Chairperson Spencer Dennis
(613) 475-1926
SDennis@PPLPS.ca

Vice-Chair Dave Sharp
(613) 475-1509
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 Lynda VanDusen
(613)475-6103
LVanDusen@PPLPS.ca

Director Dave Brummell
(613)475-1659
DBrummell@PPLPS.ca

***We need 3 more
Directors...
Please consider
and let us know.***

Presqu'ile Fun Run Saturday, July 9, 2016

- We will need help with volunteers at our Fun Run on Saturday morning at Presqu'ile Provincial Park. AND, of course, please participate.
- We need about 10 volunteers to help so please let us know you can help and we will find you a spot! Please contact our Chair Spencer Dennis.

Raffle Ticket Sales

- We will be announcing more details about the 2016 Applefest Raffle Ticket Sales in mid-2016 but, 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 help us raise funds!
- Sell them late summer to your neighbours, friends, service people, etc.

Applefest Booth – Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016

- Please volunteer to assist us on Saturday, September 24, 2016 – Main Street Booth, Brighton
- We need help in both raffle ticket sales and/or selling of memberships

Phone Committee Coordinator

- We need someone to coordinate this committee which would be responsible for phoning members and friends related to such issues as membership dues or volunteering!

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 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 acting 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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The First Lighthouse Keeper

The Presqu'île Point Lighthouse began operation in 1840 and the first Lighthouse Keeper was William Swetman. Lighthouse keeping appears to have become a family business for the Swetmans. William's brother Joseph is said to have "lit the first light in the False Duck lighthouse in Lake Ontario ... and Swetmans, father and son, have been its guardians for over fifty years" according to family historian Ray Swetman. See a picture of False Duck Lighthouse on right.

At Presqu'île, William's son William Jerome Swetman became the keeper of the main light after his father died in 1871 but he would later tend the lighthouse at Odessa and would meet a tragic end while he was Lighthouse Keeper at Pelee Island. Also, William Swetman's daughter Sarah Ann married George Benedict Simpson in 1846 and he would be the Lighthouse Keeper at Presqu'île until his death in 1887.

The Swetman family had come from Somersetshire, England in 1821 when Jerome Swetman, the father of William and Joseph, collaborated with four other families from the western part of England to charter a vessel they called "The Friend" and landed in Montreal, later settling on Amherst Island. William, who was married with a family of youngsters, had come to New York the year before and after a few years made his way to Adolphustown. By 1840 he was 52 years old and well positioned to take over as Lighthouse Keeper of the new lighthouse on Presqu'île Point.



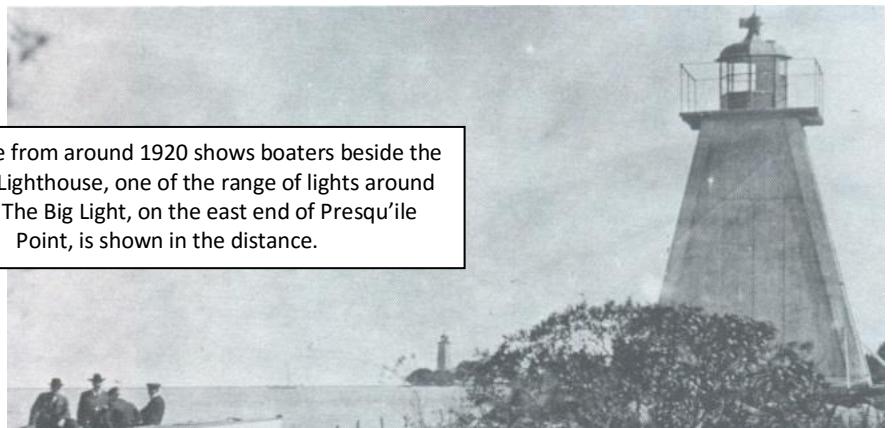
For a few years, William Swetman lived on the mainland and had to travel across Presqu'île Bay to the lighthouse. This was not only difficult and time consuming but it was extremely dangerous since he would have to be out on the Bay in some of the worst weather. Finally in 1846 a cottage was built to the west of the lighthouse. We can imagine what a welcome improvement this was for William Swetman and his family.

The main job of the Lighthouse Keeper was to make sure the light was shining at the right time so that sailors had a beacon to guide them into Presqu'île Bay in bad weather. William Swetman had the added responsibility of managing the smaller lights around Presqu'île Bay. The 'Big Light' at the extreme east end of Presqu'île Point was "the head light of a chain of guide lights into the sheltered water". We can imagine that co-ordination of all of these lights to meet real circumstances might have been difficult at a time when the only means of communication was to row a boat across the Bay and talk to the fellow at that light. No doubt he earned his pay and the sailors using Presqu'île Bay were appreciative of the reliability of the lighthouse and the Lighthouse Keeper.

This article prepared by Dan Buchanan.

This logo with the white K on the blue background is the badge proudly worn by Lighthouse Keepers.

This picture from around 1920 shows boaters beside the Salt Point Lighthouse, one of the range of lights around the Bay. The Big Light, on the east end of Presqu'île Point, is shown in the distance.



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In Closing:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society, we thank you for becoming a PPLPS member and your continued support of preserving the lighthouse.

We ask these things of our members.....

- 1. Spread the word about our work and encourage others to become a member and even make a financial donation. Ask them to also spread the word.*
- 2. Be involved in our Society and offer to help as a volunteer supporter. Send us an email to volunteer.*
- 3. Maintain your ongoing annual memberships and consider making a charitable tax deductible donation.*
- 4. Check out our website at www.presquilepointlighthouse.ca*
- 5. Visit our Facebook under "Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society" and encourage your friends to do the same. Be sure to "Like Us"*
- 6. Come out and participate or support our Saturday, July 9, 2016 Run or Walk. Visit our website or even register at www.myracetime.ca*
- 7. Consider helping us fundraise by offering to sell some 2016 Applefest raffle tickets during the 2016 summer months. Help us out at our Booth(s) Applefest Weekend, Sept. 23, 2016. Contact Directors Dave Sharp or Michael Nicholson*
- 8. 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*

Be sure to like us on our Facebook Page at Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society

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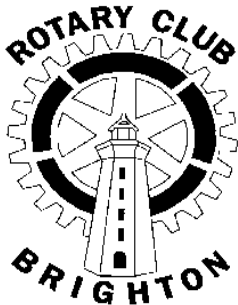


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Thanks to our Major Financial Sponsors

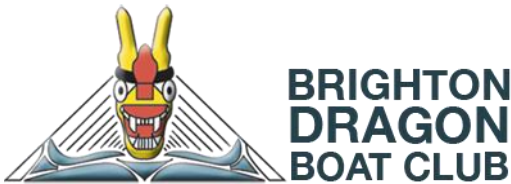
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Municipality of
Brighton



Head Office - London



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Bronze Grower Sponsor

Members Jack & Liz Thomson & Family

Members Dave & Jean Sharp & Family

Bronze Sponsors

Brighton Lion Club



Member Harold Moss

Presqu'ile Point Property Owners' Ass'n

Thanks to our Major In-Kind Sponsors



Khalid Bashir

WebMaster



Malcolm Scholfield
(for his support with our
marketing material)



Amit Tamrakar

Email Coordinator

Tri & Run Sports,
Trenton



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