



Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society

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

www.PresquilePointLighthouse.ca



Welcome to our 2015-07-01 Newsletter #5

A Word From Chair Spencer

Hello fellow members. I hope by the time you are reading this newsletter we are well into the warm, sunny days of summer.

We all have been busy behind the scenes this winter furthering the cause of restoring our lighthouse. You were advised last fall with regard to the completion of the engineering study. This report was very positive in that the actual structure of the lighthouse is still in remarkable condition, although there are still some costly repairs that are required to enable the lighthouse to last another 175 years.

In late April, we met with Park Supt. Rob Cunningham. This was of significant importance due to the fact that he is now bringing our restoration plans to the table with his superiors in Ontario Parks.

We also made a presentation to Brighton Council in early May requesting financial assistance for promoting the Presqu'ile Lighthouse Festival this summer. Our request of \$2000.00 was approved.



Congratulations to our Founder, Norman Bastin who received the honour of being known as the **"Guardian Of Presqu'ile Lighthouse"**.

Above Norman is being presented with a lighthouse plaque by our Chair, Spencer Dennis at our Gala event on June 6

We have also recently applied for the Canada 150 Infrastructure Funding Opportunities Grant, which has earmarked 150 million dollars for infrastructure improvements.

Our local MP Rick Norlock and MPP Lou Rinaldi have provided us with written 100% support of our cause and have indicated they will do what they can to assist us.

Please continue to support our membership as the more people from our community on the membership list shows the politicians that there is a keen interest in this project.

And finally, be active in our 175th anniversary celebrations during July 17-19, 2015

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.koppla.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.

This report is now in the hands of the Engineers that Ontario Parks have on their team.

Once they (hopefully) deem they are in agreement with our Game Plan, we would then work with the senior levels of Ontario Parks to gain authority to proceed with Phase II which is the preparation of drawings, and specifications for the restoration/preservation quotation process.

Once this happens, our input may be minimized as their Engineering team may "take over" the quotation process. It is our intent to continue to dialogue with Ontario Parks personnel to ensure they continue to communicate with our Preservation Society.

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Another Night to Remember - Our Second Gala Event 2015-06-06

Our Second Gala was a huge success. With over \$16,000 raised on June 6, 2015; we surpassed that \$13,000 raised in 2013. Congratulations to Co-Chairs Lynda Van Dusen and Dave Sharp for making this a fantastic evening. We want to thank all of the Donors (*we received about 150 items for our Auctions*) and of course, all of the evening attendees that bought tickets and still managed to find generosity to spend another \$9,000 in auction items. We are very appreciative of this outpouring of support.

The food was fabulous and plentiful; the decorating team changed the Legion to one befitting of a Lighthouse; the entertainment was soft and serene and thoroughly enjoyed by all and last but not least, all of the guests seem to be having a great evening out. Again... with this support of the donors and the guests, we continue to show the community that there is indeed, a large and growing base of support for our cause to **"Let Our Light Shine"**



A huge thanks to Co-Chairs
Lynda VanDusen and Dave Sharp for making
this event such a success



With over 120 in a sold-out attendance, the guests had a great time supporting us while at the same time, having some wonderful social time.



Once again, thanks go out to Jean Sharp and her group of volunteers who prepared the food and to Chef Aaron Swanson for cooking it. And of course, to the Youth who served the food.

A special thanks go out to all of the attendees; the volunteers that made this night special and of course; the many donors who made this night a success.

We raised over \$16,000 profit - FANTASTIC!!

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A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the past few months, here are some of our activities:

- Two membership drives in May (*another success story with details elsewhere in the newsletter*)
- Preparation of our very successful June 6 Gala event (*requiring hundreds of hours of volunteer time*)
- Provide community education about our activities through ongoing seminars. (If you know of a group that would be interested in hearing about our cause, please let us know)
- Working with Ontario Parks (Presqu'ile Provincial Park) management team to complete the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for our Festival being held on July 17-19, 2015 (*It seems that their process is to establish a MOU for each of our activities at the Park*)
- Preparation for the Fun Run and other activities associated with our 175th Festival celebrations
- Presentation of our recommendations to Ontario Parks, our local MP & MPP and the Municipality of Brighton
- We have applied for a Canada 150 Grant towards the preservation cost of the lighthouse but, we expect some hiccups because as part of the grant format, we had to either own the lighthouse or lease the structure which we do not. We did include a MOU whereby Ontario Parks has given us permission to work towards the goal of preserving the lighthouse so let's hope that works.

Upcoming Raffle Draw

During the next several weeks, we will be selling Raffle tickets towards some great prizes. The costs of the tickets are \$5.00 each and 3 for \$10.00. The winning tickets will be drawn on Applefest Sunday, Sept. 27 @ 4:00pm.

The prizes will be as follows

1. A weekend for 2 in Prince Edward County.
2. A large replica lighthouse made by Norman Bastin.
3. A framed lighthouse print
4. A 2016 full year pass to Ontario Provincial Parks.

Please volunteer to help sell some of these tickets. We are printing 3,000 tickets so it represents a huge fund raiser for us.

Membership update

Community support continues to be strong with PPLPS now having 148 members who have paid their 2015 Membership Fees. So far this year, we have gained 51 new members which we are really excited about. Some of these recent ones are a result of our drives at Sobeys and No Frills in May; but many are a result of word of mouth referral from other members. So, please be sure to ask your friends, your business associates and anyone else you talk to; to consider becoming a member. At the last AGM, we agreed that all Memberships were to run annually with a renewal date of April 1. If someone you know would like to become a member, please contact our Director, Lynda Van Dusen, 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. 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

Monday, Sept 28 @ 7:00pm @ Community Centre

We invite ALL MEMBERS to be there!

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[175th Anniversary Festival events \(www.pplighthousefestival.ca\)](http://www.pplighthousefestival.ca)

Friday, July 17 @ 6:00pm - Doors open for the Lion's Bingo @ Community Centre;

Saturday, July 18 Events

- 8:00-11:00am - Brighton Kins Club pancake breakfast at Memorial Park
- 9:00am-11:30am - PPLPS Fun Run and Walk at Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse (*see below*)
- 10:00am-4:00pm - Ontario Parks & FOPP – come visit the Presqu'ile Point Interpretative Centre
- ~11:00am - Presqu'ile Yacht Club Regatta Race at Brighton Bay
- 11:00am -2:00pm - Friends of Presqu'ile Park (FOPP) – enjoy a BBQ held at the Interpretative Centre
- 12:00-4:00pm - Brighton Arts Council: Music in Memorial Park and Art in Memorial Park
- 12:00-6:00pm - Presqu'ile Lanes, Main St – Open bowling fundraiser
- ~1:15pm - Presqu'ile Yacht Club Race starting near Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse
- 2:00pm - Ontario Parks – Be spooked during their Ghost Walk leaving from the lighthouse
- 6:00pm – Enjoy the fundraiser at Brighton Speedway
- 6:00-10:00pm – Street Dance presented by Rotary Club on Main Street

Sunday, July 19 Events – Brighton Bay Day at Harbourview Marina

- 11:00am-2:00pm – Brighton Dragon Boat Racing Club wants you to come out and try it
- 11:00am-2:00pm – Come and try Stand-up Paddling (*courtesy of Presqu'ile Bay Outfitters*)
- 11:00am-2:00pm – Tour of Brighton Auxiliary Rescue Boat at the Marina
- 1:00-3:00pm - Presqu'ile Yacht Club is offering ½ hr rides for up to four at the Marina
- All afternoon - Music by "Second Time Around"
- *All of the above events are asking for donations for the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse*

Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society Fundraiser

What a great way to celebrate the 175th anniversary of our lighthouse here in Brighton! By participating in our fun run /walk, you will not only be supporting the preservation of our lighthouse, but will also be enjoying a wonderful run or stroll along the shores of Lake Ontario and through the adjoining wooded areas of the park. Please visit our website at www.koppla.ca for more details.

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Meet Your Board

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We Need You To Volunteer!

Presqu'ile Lighthouse Festival - July 17-19, 2015

- During July 17-19, 2015; we celebrate the **175th anniversary of our lighthouse**.
- We will need help with volunteers at our Fun Run on Saturday morning, July 18 at Presqu'ile Provincial Park.
- 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

- When – July 18 & 19 – Selling raffle tickets at various Presqu'ile Lighthouse Festival locations or on a personal basis
- When – All summer long to your neighbours, friends, service people, etc.
- Contact: Dave Sharp at 613-475-5109 (DSharp@koppla.ca) or Michael Nicholson (613-475-3646 (MNicholson@koppla.ca)) to get a few books to sell and help us!

Applefest Booth – Sept. 26 & 27, 2015

- When: Saturday, September 26, 2015 – Main Street Booth, Brighton
- When: Sunday, September 27, 2015 – Community Centre, Brighton
- What: Assist in 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.koppla.ca) and download an application form; have them sign it and either mail it in to us at **P.O. Box 962** or give Lynda Van Dusen, our Membership Chair a call and she 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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Historical Article #5 -

The Lighthouse: Big Light – Old Friend

By Dan Buchanan

The Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse was put to work immediately because the early 1840s saw a boom in lake traffic. Many settlers arrived on schooners in Presqu'ile Bay and made their way up country to establish new homes. The Village of Brighton, which was organized in 1831, attracted merchants and tradesmen to support the growing rural and urban population. The Village of Gosport, renamed during the 1840s from the original Newcastle, experienced a building boom as fishing and boat building picked up. The growing trade in lumber and wheat resulted in lots of traffic across John Nix's brand new (1841) wharf at the east end of Price Street.

Sailors and passengers alike would have gazed thankfully at the big stone lighthouse, called "The Big Light", standing guard on the point as they sailed into Presqu'ile Bay. If they passed this way during bad weather, they would experience the warmth of the big light flashing out from the red cupola on top. Of course, it was especially from the cold, rough waters of the lake while approaching the Bay in bad weather that ship captains thanked their lucky stars they had a beacon showing them the way. For those in the business of transporting people and goods around Lake Ontario in those days, Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse would have become a good friend and companion.

But there was trouble brewing. A November 1842 inspection of the lighthouse revealed "water damage resulting from roof leaks, etc." as one report stated in its title. The report recommends a good deal of repointing, plastering and installation of tin gutters. On the other hand, some good news.. " ... in other respects - the house is clean and in good repair."



Another interesting document is found in the archives with the title "*Specifications For A Dwelling For The Keeper of Presque Isle Light House - 1842.*" We see from other documents that William Swetman, the first Keeper of Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse; did not move into this new house until 1846. The plans were for a substantial dwelling with a cellar "36 feet long by 26 feet wide and 8 feet deep all around" and "the principal storey to be 9 feet high." The walls were to be 18 inches thick and made of Kingston limestone "or some other of equal quality laid in lime and sand mortar."



The lighthouse keeper's cottage turned out to be solid and durable. It housed many keepers and their families over the years until the job of lighthouse keeper became obsolete. At some point, it gained a second storey and white framing but when the Interpretive Centre was built, the keeper's cottage was restored to its original appearance. It can be seen today to the east of the Interpretive Centre, a testament to those days of the schooner when the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse undoubtedly saved lives and played a very critical role in the development of Brighton.

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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 KOPPLA member and supporting the cause 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 make a 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*
- 4. Check out our website at www.presquilepointlighthouse.ca or www.koppla.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. Take part in the Presqu'ile Lighthouse Festival during July 17-19, 2015. The website info is www.pplighthousefestival.ca*
- 7. Take part in the Walk on Saturday, July 18, 2015 as part of our 175th anniversary festival. The website info is <http://www.myracetime.ca/viewEvent.aspx?eid=5261&rid=5468> or www.myracetime.ca*
- 8. Consider helping us fundraise by offering to sell some raffle tickets during the summer months. Contact Directors Dave Sharp or Michael Nicholson*
- 9. 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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