



# Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society

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

[www.PresquilePointLighthouse.ca](http://www.PresquilePointLighthouse.ca)



## *Welcome to our 2016-06-30 Newsletter #7*

### **A Word From Chair Spencer Dennis**

Greetings to all our members. By the time you read this, I hope the summer weather is in its full glory. I have a fair bit of news to report to you since our previous newsletter was last published six months ago. .

We have continued our ongoing discussions with Ontario Park Superintendent Rob Cunningham. In late May, we attended a meeting with Supt. Rob and Mr. Matthew T. Harvey, (Architectural Design Team Leader, Operations and Development Section, of Ontario Parks); along with Mr. Paul Jeffs and Mr. Mark Shoaltz. Paul and Mark are our Heritage Consultants we hired earlier this year to formalize the bidding process for the final Phase 3 of the restoration process of our lighthouse. We are very pleased to announce that both Supt Rob and Team Leader Harvey indicated they fully supported our plans. Anytime now, there will be a further meeting between these two and their two next levels of management to get further approvals for our process.

We have a proposed Pilot Conservation Project that is scheduled to hopefully start in April, 2017, pending approval from Ontario Parks and that our fundraising efforts are successful. Dave Sharp will provide more detail on this in a separate section of this newsletter. You will see Dave refers to a cost of over \$140,000... that is a huge amount and we hope that during the next nine months, that the public various corporate donors and our own Membership are generous to us from the fundraising projects we have in place. This includes a Fun Run on July 9<sup>th</sup>; a summer-fall Raffle (to be drawn on Nov 4); Applefest activities of Sept. 24 and our Gala event planned for Friday, Nov. 4. Talking about fundraising, did you visit our very successful Fashion Show earlier this spring?



The environmental cleanup of the lighthouse basement has been completed, and the four foot high rubbish filled basement is now back to its original eight foot height with a clean cement floor and no garbage. We were hoping to find some golden coins to help cover the cost of the project but no such luck.

We are in the process of having our lighthouse being declared as a Heritage Site. Once this is complete, we should be able to obtain some substantial money from the various forms of government.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you for your continued support, and please pass this information on to all your friends and neighbours! We need them to consider joining our ongoing membership drive.

That is about it for now. Stay tuned for more exciting news on our ongoing lighthouse restoration. We will have more to say at our Monday Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> evening Annual General Meeting so please set that date aside and plan to attend.

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LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY**





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## ***Engineering Update***

As Chair Spencer has reported, we had a great recent conversation about our proposed road map for the engineering side of our Phase 3 with Ontario Parks. And, so far, things are progressing the way we are hoping (except the gov't does tend to make the process slow).

The proposed Pilot Conservation Project is scheduled to hopefully start in April, 2017 pending written approval from Ontario Parks and a successful fund raising campaign. This will entail erecting the scaffolding to the top of the lighthouse, (69 feet in height); removing the shingles and the wood girdle; and confirming earlier inspections of the overall structure itself, which would 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 final portion of Phase 3 restoration. The scaffolding will remain in place once erected. This pilot project is necessary from the standpoint of contractors tendering accurate quotes for the restoration (ie..so they don't build in large contingency costs for the unknowns as there should be none after we do this initial evaluations).

This project is budgeted at \$140,000.00, so we need to raise some serious money before next April. Based on our present bank balance, and the great support we are receiving, we are all confident we can raise this money.

Now some of you may wonder why we would spend \$140,000.00 on a pilot project? This expense is certainly justified, as scaffolding has to be erected; the shingles have to be removed; and the wooden girdle has to be removed when we commence the restoration anyway, so this expense will not be duplicated down the road. Without the removal of the shingles and the wooden girdle, it would be literally impossible for a contractor to give us a firm quote, not knowing what could be underneath in terms of structural strength. Our Heritage consultants also feel that the shingles may be contributing to the moisture damage in the lighthouse, by trapping it between them and the original limestone. If this is the case, the shingles may be dispensed with, and the original limestone structure left as it was originally constructed – but with some stainless steel support rods inside the lighthouse walls and of course, new grouting using today's technologies. This will all be determined as things progress.



The above photo is of the basement before the cleaning.



*This photo is after the environmental cleanup of the basement.*

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## ***Thanks to our Volunteers at the 2016 Fashion Show***

Without the enthusiasm of coordinator, Connie Howell of Red Stone Clothing (Prince Edward St), we would not have had a very successful Fashion Show. Thanks to Connie and her team; we raised over \$2,000 at this inaugural event. We all had a lot of fun and certainly welcome others to come up with innovative ideas like this one to help us raise the funds we need to achieve our goals.



## **Membership update**

We are proud to announce our membership base is just shy of 200. Thank you 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. You may have recently received a phone call from our summer student, Emma, as a friendly reminder that we once again, need your financial support via the Membership. Thanks to all those who have quickly responded.

If someone you know would like to become a member, please contact our Membership Director, Ernie Sharp, or join online at [www.pplps.ca](http://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.

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.

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**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. We need your input. Thank you!**

## **AGM Info - September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Here is a summary of our next Annual General Meeting to be held Monday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Community Centre starting at 7:00pm sharp. Please plan to be there.

- Election of the 2016-17 Board of Directors.
- Review of the past year activities including Membership; Financial Statements and fundraising ventures
- Amendments to the ByLaws
- Update on Engineering proposals
- Presentation by Heritage Consultant, Mr. Paul Jeffs

## **A Sad Bit of News**

It was a sad April for the VanDusen family with the passing of Lynda VanDusen after several months of fighting cancer.

Lynda was one of those dedicated individuals who as a volunteer Director became very active in PPLPS. Her organizational skills were exceptional and certainly welcomed.

If Lynda knew you were not a member of our organization, she probably encouraged you to join our cause to preserve our local iconic lighthouse.



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## The Yankees Are Coming - The US Lighthouse Society

A busload of lighthouse enthusiasts are coming to our Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse on Monday, Sept. 12. PPLPS will be providing them with a bit of our local history as spoken by Dan Buchanan and will be sending them on their way, to the next lighthouse with a box lunch. Here is a blurb about them:

The US Lighthouse Society is a nonprofit historical and educational organization dedicated to saving and sharing the rich maritime legacy of American lighthouses and supporting lighthouse preservation throughout the nation, organized in 1984. They have supported important lighthouse restoration projects nationwide.



The Society offers domestic and international tours every year. Participants develop an appreciation for each lighthouse's history and discover what makes each one special. There is no more wonderful experience than visiting, photographing and, whenever possible, climbing up a lighthouse. Counting the steps to the top, you can imagine the complex life and responsibilities for lighthouse keepers. With each light station visited, participants learn about the special circumstances that surrounded keeping the light burning.

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

## Better Late Than Never

When we first started our PPLPS incorporation process, we were gladly assisted by local lawyer Dan Thompson and his staff to get us underway and registered as a Not For Profit Charity. Back then, we were not as organized as we are now and sadly, forgot to recognize Dan and his team for their efforts.

*So, on behalf of the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society, we wish to offer a late Thank You to Dan Thompson and his team.*

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## *We Need You To Volunteer!*

### **Meet Your Board**

Chairperson Spencer Dennis

(613) 475-1926

[SDennis@PPLPS.ca](mailto:SDennis@PPLPS.ca)

Vice-Chair Dave Sharp

(613) 475-5109

[Dsharp@PPLPS.ca](mailto:Dsharp@PPLPS.ca)

Secretary John Warner

(613) 475-1619

[JWarner@PPLPS.ca](mailto:JWarner@PPLPS.ca)

Treasurer Mike Nicholson

(613) 475-3646

[MNicholson@PPLPS.ca](mailto:MNicholson@PPLPS.ca)

Director Ernie Sharp

(613) 475-5215

[ESharp@PPLPS.ca](mailto:ESharp@PPLPS.ca)

Director Dave Brummell

(613) 475-1659

[DBrummell@PPLPS.ca](mailto:DBrummell@PPLPS.ca)

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

### **Raffle Ticket Sales**

- We will be announcing more details about the 2016 Applefest Raffle Ticket Sales shortly. Please consider contacting Dave Sharp at 613-475-5109 ([DSharp@PPLPS.ca](mailto:DSharp@PPLPS.ca)) or Michael Nicholson (613-475-3646) ([MNicholson@PPLPS.ca](mailto:MNicholson@PPLPS.ca)) to get a few books to sell and raise some 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

### **Fund Raising Committee**

- We are now at that point of time when we need help sourcing out and applying for major grants from large organizations, etc. We even have a country band ready to do a dance for us if someone wants to coordinate this. Please let us know if this is something you would like to manage!

### **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](http://www.presquilepointlighthouse.ca) ([www.pplps.ca](http://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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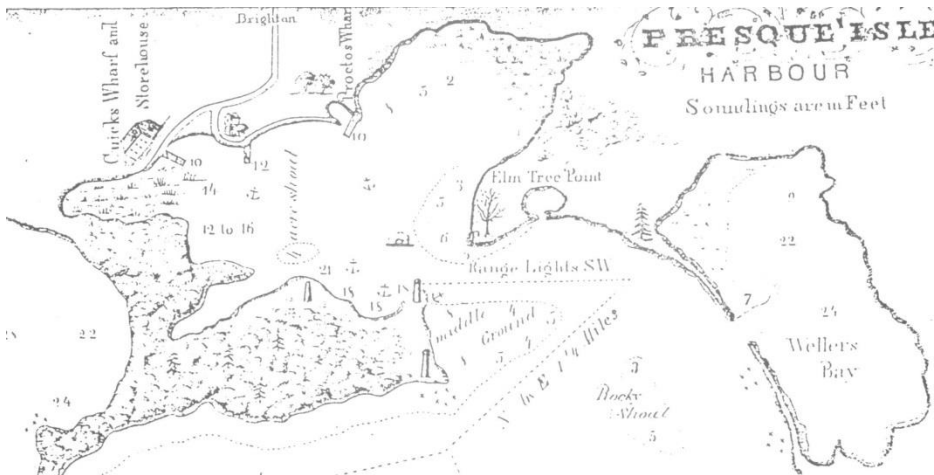
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## Our Continuing Story by Dan Buchanan – “The Range Lights”

A unique situation existed in Presqu'ile Bay because the channel into the bay was located far to the east between the tip of Presqu'ile Point and Stoney Point. Ships had to sail well to the east after passing the main lighthouse, then turn sharply northwest, sailing down the channel to a certain point when they could turn south west to enter the inner bay. The large shoal area just off the tip of Presqu'ile Point, called “Middle Ground”, was a constant danger because of shallow water and many boulders.

In 1851 the Department of Public Works announced to sailors that “Two leading Lights, one on Salt point, and the other near to an old Barn on the opposite hill ... ” had been erected. The first light was on Salt Point which had been the traditional spot to build a beacon fire before the lighthouse was erected. This was where the beacon fire was built to guide HMS Speedy into the port of Newcastle in October of 1804, not long before that fateful ship and all on board were lost in a violent storm.



The other light was on higher ground near what we know as the Calf Pasture, part of the Atkins farm for many years. These range lights worked in tandem. A ship captain would sail northeast past the main lighthouse and look west to see the first light on Salt Point. Then, when that light lined up with the other light farther behind and a bit higher, he could turn northwest and sail down the channel. When he was about sixty meters from the front light, he could turn off into the deeper waters of

Presqu'ile Bay. At the time, these were among the first range lights built in Canadian waters but their utility led to many more, placed tactically based on the different situation in each location. Edward Hodder's sketch in 1857 shows the Middle Ground, the channel and the three lighthouses.

The range lights at Presqu'ile were wood-frame buildings in the shape of a pyramid. They had a flat top which was used as the platform for the light and gallery. This was a new design that would eventually outnumber other lighthouse styles in Canada.

The range lights were almost always managed by a separate lighthouse keeper from the main lighthouse. William Swetman, Jr., son of the first keeper at the main Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse, built a small house between the two range lights while he managed them for a time. This picture shows the Salt Point Range Light in the 1920s with the main light in the distance.



Thanks to Marc Seguin for his wonderful book “For Want of a Lighthouse” which provided much of this information. This book covers all the lighthouses that were built between Kingston and Presqu'ile and demonstrates how lucky we are to have The Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse, one of the very few still standing.

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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. This year, more than ever, we need that extra donation to achieve our goal of getting Phase 3 underway.*
- 4. Check out our website at [www.presquilepointlighthouse.ca](http://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](http://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 Saturday, Sept. 24, 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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## *Thanks to our Major Financial Sponsors -*

*Please support these donors when possible*

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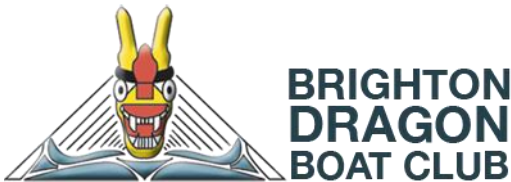


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**Members Dave & Jean Sharp & Family**

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***Thanks to our Major In-Kind Sponsors***

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