

PASSAGES

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society

115 S. Huron St., Suite D ♦ P. O. Box 519 ♦ DeTour Village MI 49725-0519 ♦ 906-297-8888

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 1998

Michigan's Historic Lighthouses on National Preservation Organization Endangered List

Michigan's historic lighthouses, exemplified by the DeTour Reef Light, have been named to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 1998 *List of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places*. On June 15, First Lady Hillary Clinton joined the National Trust in announcing the list and said, "As we embark on the new millennium, it is time to honor the past as we imagine the future. My hope is that Americans will seize this opportunity to join together to save these monuments to our history and seek out the places in their own communities that also need to be preserved for the next generation."

(Continued on page 5)

DeTour Reef Light Will Be Restored & Preserved!

Marking the entrance to the St. Mary's River at the northern end of Lake Huron, the DeTour Reef Light is well known to ship captains and pleasure boaters who sail the upper Great Lakes of Michigan.

Since 1847, a lighthouse, either on shore or on the nearby DeTour Reef, has provided a beacon to guide vessels for generations. According to U.S. Coast Guard officials, modern shipboard navigation systems have rendered the DeTour Reef Light obsolete. Government regulations, however, do allow for private groups to obtain long-term leases on such excess property for the purpose of preservation.

(Continued on page 7)

Memories of the DeTour Reef Lighthouse

By Jeane Yorty Gant

*Please submit your special
Memories of the Lighthouse*

Memories of Drummond Island are very special indeed. And interwoven with those memories is the sound of the DeTour Reef foghorn. We often welcomed foggy days for the great, sonorous BEE\OOOOO that punctuated what we called the symphony of the lakes: the differently pitched signals of the ships anchored in the channel blasting pillows of sound out into the mist. We mourn the loss of that distinctive song, so characteristic of the day and the weather. It was comforting, and yet when it ceased, we knew the all clear had arrived and we could go about our fishing or boating in safety.

It was in the late fifties that Joe, Jon and I made our first visit to the lighthouse. Ascending the steel ladder fastened to the sheer cement wall was daunting, but the welcome by the Coast Guardsmen was warm and hospitable. They "toured" us through their quarters and up the many steps to the light itself, explaining the mechanism and their special tasks. But the return to the boat was even more daunting than the climb up. To step off that vertical ladder into a pitching boat took some mustering of courage, I recall.

After that visit, the Light and its keepers were like old friends saying hello on every foggy day. We could imagine the young men in their quarters, going about their duties, and know they were providing a great service for the ship captains of the lakes. Our pride included the building, the keepers, and the great basso, the foghorn, which I still hear at times in the night, even when I am far, far from the DeTour Reef Lighthouse, and it comforts me.

Hats off to those who are preserving our Lighthouse!♦

The Best Lighthouse Museum in the Nation



By Sandy Planisek, Director GLLM

The best lighthouse museum in the nation is still the goal of Mackinaw's Lighthouse Committee. It will be the Great Lakes Lighthouse Museum, and it will sit on the spectacular tip of the State Ferry Dock in Mackinaw City, Michigan, jutting 1,400 feet into Lake Huron.

On July 11th the Mackinaw City lighthouse team, along with five other teams, made their final presentation to the Steering Committee to select the National Lighthouse Museum. The competition was keen with tiny Mackinaw competing against the powerhouses of Staten Island, New York; Hull (an adjoining community to Boston), Massachusetts; Point Judith, Rhode Island; New London, Connecticut; and Northpoint, Maine.

Staten Island offered six buildings which served as the original national distribution center for U.S. lighthouse supplies and equipment. These historic buildings, and the funds to restore them, won the National title for Staten Island. But the Steering

Committee was strongly impressed with Mackinaw's museum plans and offered a resolution of support for Mackinaw as the home of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Museum.

The plans have not changed; the work continues. Our team, which includes each and every one of you, has the opportunity to make this museum what it can and should be – historical, educational and entertaining – a place you can't wait to re-visit. Fund-raising is our first priority. Governor Engler's office has pledged its support and we will be visiting the generous foundations and corporations of the Great Lakes area in the next several months.

But memberships are the basis of our whole program. Memberships provide much-needed seed money but more importantly they provide the evidence that a vast public wants to see a lighthouse museum in Mackinaw City. Support from each of you makes our appeal to corporate donors stronger.

We want to thank each of you for your support of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society and for your support of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Museum.

For membership information, please write us at: Great Lakes Lighthouse Museum, P. O. Box 172, Mackinaw City MI 49701. ♦

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you members for your support of the DRLPS!

- ♦ Total Members as of 10/8/98: 336* coast-to-coast!
Categories: 71 Individual, 68 Family, 34 Patron, 28 Keeper, 12 Lifetime, 10 Grand Keepers
(*Note that some categories include more than one person)
- ♦ Local Drummond Island artist Sandra Ledy's painting of the DRL has been sent to the Keeper & above members.
- ♦ Personalized plaque for Grand Keepers due end of November.

Please ask someone you know to join the DRLPS!

COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

- ♦ ADMINISTRATIVE – Jeri Feltner 906-493-6079
- ♦ EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS – Jim Charles 906-297-2609
- ♦ FINANCE – Carol Melvin 906-493-6582
- ♦ FUND-RAISING – Barb Snider 906-297-5999
- ♦ GRANTS – TBA 906-493-6079
- ♦ HISTORICAL – Chuck & Jeri Feltner 906-493-6079
- ♦ MEMBERSHIP – Mary Rogers 906-297-5704
- ♦ MEMORABILIA – Barb Gusfa 734-455-7684
- ♦ NEWSLETTER – Jeri Feltner 906-493-6079
- ♦ PROPERTY – Bob Jones 906-297-3231
- ♦ PUBLIC RELATIONS – TBA 906-493-6079
- ♦ RESTORATION – Denny Bailey 906-493-5232

*Notice to all members: There is much work to do for the DRLPS to be the best we can be. Your help is needed on the above Committees. Please contact the respective chairperson. Thank you!
(Note: You don't have to live in the area in order to help!)*

PASSAGES



Newsletter of the
DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society
115 S. Huron, Suite D, P. O. Box 519
DeTour Village MI 49725-0519
906-297-8888, Fax 906-297-8970
www.merchantfind.com/reef/preservation.htm
www.sault.com/drummond/reef.html

Purpose of the DRLPS: To establish, support and promote efforts in the preservation and restoration of the DeTour Reef Light; to achieve the safe-keeping of the building, artifacts and records; to educate and inform the public on its history; and to raise awareness about the importance of volunteers in maintaining and protecting the lighthouse.

A tax-exempt, nonprofit, 501C3 organization
Donations are tax-deductible - EIN 38-3387252

Editor: Jeri Baron Feltner
Assistant Editor: Barb Gusfa
Contributing Staff: Tyler Snider
(We need help with our Newsletter - please call Jeri 906-493-6079)

Officers & Directors

Robert N. Jones, President; James M. Charles, Vice-president
Jeri Baron Feltner, Secretary; Barbara J. Snider, Treasurer
Denny Bailey, Director; Dick Moehl, Director

Membership Categories: (Charter Campaign expires 12/31/98)

\$15 Individual, \$25 Family, \$50 Patron, \$100 Keeper,
\$ 500 Lifetime, \$1,000 Grand Keeper

Your newsletter contributions are very much appreciated!
Please submit material to:

Jeri Baron Feltner
38456 S. Seajay Row
Drummond Island MI 49726
906-493-6079, Fax 906-493-6496, e-mail: jeribaron@aol.com

SAVE THE 'LIGHTHOUSE' SALMON ANGLER

By Tyler Snider



The DeTour Reef Light marks some of the finest Chinook salmon fishing in northern Lake Huron. Unlike ports such as Grand Haven, Rogers City, and Alpena, the DeTour Reef Light provides the salmon angler with reefs and structures at which the salmon feed. The lighthouse marks the DeTour Reef and without it, the salmon angler would have no source of bearing to chart the reef, which runs approximately one mile north, and south of the DeTour Reef Light. To the south, the beginning of the reef is marked by the green can, which has provided many memories for salmon anglers.

To an angler who owns a Global Positioning Sensor (GPS), this form of lighthouse navigation probably means nothing; however, for one without this fairly inexpensive technology, the DeTour Reef Light provides a fairly easy troll up and down the reef. The DeTour Reef is anywhere from 25 to 35 feet deep and is formed out of large rocks. The two-mile long reef drops from this depth to around 130 feet in a distance of some 20 or 30 yards. Without knowing where this massive wall of boulders lies, many salmon anglers would find disaster frequently. Losing the DeTour Reef Light would mean losing amazing amounts of salmon gear or a rise in GPS sales in the years to come.

The DeTour Reef provides mainly Chinook salmon, pink salmon (when in season), an occasional lake trout or steelhead, and if you're really lucky, an Atlantic salmon. The most recent addition to the line-up is a new species anglers term a "pinook" salmon. This species is a crossbreed of the pink and Chinook salmon. These rare salmon have been

caught in the 10 to 15 pound weight class.

The DeTour Reef salmon are plagued by a variety of problems present in the St. Mary's River. First is the mighty Cormorant crisis, which migrated here from the St. Lawrence Seaway area. Salmon size this year is down as seen in the recent DeTour Salmon Derby. A 23.7-pound Chinook took first place when generally a 28-pound-plus fish takes the prize. Now consider a Cormorant flies 70 miles per hour, can dive up to 100 feet, and travel in droves of thousands. The result is an incredible decrease in the population of baitfish for every predator fish in the St. Mary's River. In other words, our fish are hungry.

The next and far worse situation is the presence of the Sea Lamprey. These freshwater eels attach themselves to large fish until they die or they target other fish. On average, 100,000 Lamprey travel through the St. Mary's River every year. A single Lamprey destroys approximately 40 pounds of premier game fish yearly. If the average salmon is 10 pounds, then 400,000 10-pound salmon are depleted every year in the St. Mary's River. It's amazing there is any salmon at all when figuring these two factors.

Salmon fishing was good this season and anglers have caught many fish. I remember 15 years ago, however, when you would hardly ever see another boat at the lighthouse while fishing. This is when this species of fish was planted in the Great Lakes. Though some local anglers feel they were planted for the tourist to fish, they were actually planted to deplete the abundance of ale-wives which is a form of bait fish too plentiful in the Great Lakes at the time.

Hopefully in the years to come the salmon will be there, along with the lighthouse, for our children and grandchildren. ♦

JUNIOR LIGHTHOUSE VOLUNTEERS

"We Can Make a Difference Too!"

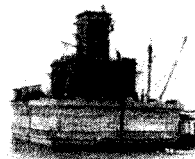
By Amy Scott

Students from the DeTour and Drummond Elementary Schools are joining in the project to preserve the DeTour Reef Lighthouse. They will be collecting pop cans throughout the year with hopes of adding significantly to the cause of preserving our lighthouse. The cans will be collected on the first and third Fridays of each month. Students will be creating "Save the Lighthouse" posters to hang in local businesses. A slide presentation of the lighthouse as it looks today both inside and out, along with a brief history of the lighthouse, will be presented at the schools by DRLPS President Bob Jones. ♦

Editor's Note:

You can help these young people in their efforts to save our lighthouse! They are our future *KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT*. **PLEASE SAVE YOUR POP CANS FOR THEM!** Drop off the cans at the DeTour or Drummond Elementary Schools on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month.

Thank you members for your help. And thank you to all the students and to teachers Amy Scott and Amy Tischer for their *Save the Lighthouse* project.



DeTour Reef
Light c. 1930

Photo courtesy
Dockside Cafe

MEETING ADDRESSES THE FATE OF MICHIGAN'S LIGHTHOUSES

By Martha MacFarlane, State Environmental Review Coordinator

(Reprinted with permission from *SHPO News* - An Update from the State Historical Preservation Office)

In conjunction with the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, on April 7, 1998, the State Historical Preservation Office hosted a daylong planning session devoted to the preservation of Michigan's historic lighthouses. In addition to the sponsors, participants included representatives from state and federal agencies, legislators, and advocacy groups such as the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association (GLLKA).

With over 120 lighthouses in the state, the highest number in any single state, Michigan is particularly challenged to preserve the increasing numbers of lighthouses declared surplus federal property. Approximately forty Michigan lighthouses are already on federal disposal lists, with at least as many expected to be added in coming years. The future of these lighthouses is uncertain in part because current federal laws provide relatively few options for their continued preservation. The present disposal system gives priority to federal agencies, states, and local units of government in acquiring lighthouses. Qualified nonprofit organizations and private parties may be considered for lighthouse ownership only if there is no interested unit of government. To add to the challenges, environmental regulations and state ownership of lake bottomlands limit the future use of Michigan's many offshore lights, the most threatened structures in this group.

With the aid of Bill Southworth, a facilitator and consultant

with Interaction Associates, the group of over twenty-five participants arrived at a collective vision for the future of Michigan's lighthouses, identified barriers to that vision, and determined some preliminary strategies for overcoming these barriers. The April 7 meeting provided an important opportunity for key stakeholders in the lighthouse disposal process to address the crisis collectively. Recognizing the situation's urgency, a steering committee was designated to coordinate a long-term action plan. The sponsors hope this initial planning session will pave the way for increased public awareness of the issues facing Michigan's lighthouses, improved advocacy for lighthouse preservation, and that the anticipated results might serve as models for other states faced with a similar crisis. ♦

LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

As a result of this meeting, the *Michigan Lighthouse Project* was organized to address the future of lighthouses. A lighthouse preservation workshop has been developed entitled *Keep the Lights On! Strategies for Saving Michigan's Lighthouses* and will be held Friday, November 6, 1998, at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing. For more information, please contact Martha MacFarlane 517-335-2721.

U. S. COAST GUARD TO REPAIR LIGHTHOUSE INTERIOR

DRLPS Will Get Long-term Lease of the Lighthouse

Notification was received from the U.S. Coast Guard in Cleveland indicating that they are preparing projects for the DeTour Reef Light to repair the damaged interior plaster walls and encapsulate the plaster which contains asbestos, to remove damaged lead paint, seal and paint all interior surfaces in preparation for the lease of the lighthouse to the DRLPS. This work is scheduled to be completed by next summer. Included was a copy of the Asbestos Survey and Lead Inspection Report conducted at the lighthouse this past spring by Environmental Testing & Consulting of Romulus, Michigan.

According to DRLPS President Bob Jones, the Coast Guard will begin the work next spring to make the building safe. After the work is completed, the DRLPS will need to provide an Asbestos Management Plan to the Coast Guard as one of the conditions of the proposed lease. The DRLPS is also working on a lease for the bottomlands from the State of Michigan.

If all goes well, our restoration volunteers can begin the remaining interior restoration and the exterior work next summer. Members who are interested in working on the lighthouse should please contact our Restoration Committee Chairperson Denny Bailey at 906-493-5232. ♦

NATIONAL TRUST *(Continued from page 1)*

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. It has seven regional offices and works with thousands of local community groups in all 50 states. By including lighthouses on their prestigious list for the first time since the lists inception ten years ago, the NTHP has sent a wake-up call to America for the urgent need of the preservation of lighthouses.

The NTHP launched the *Save America's Treasures Millennium Program*, a cooperative effort of the National Trust, the White House, and other public and private sector partners to address our nation's preservation needs. This program will provide the nation opportunities to learn about our history, preserve our cultural heritage and give permanent gifts to the future.

For more information, please contact the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington DC 20036, 202-588-6296 (www.nationaltrust.com).

DRLPS 1998 FUND-RAISERS

The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society had three successful fun-filled fund-raisers in 1998. Starting with the Save Our Lighthouse Benefit Dinner held on April 18 at the Fogcutter restaurant in DeTour Village; a Boat Cruise to the Lighthouse on June 21; and an Auction/Dinner on August 12 at the Woodmoor on Drummond Island. Thank you members and donors for your support. We plan on making these annual events and hope you will attend!

Additionally, please support the DRLPS with purchase of our logo memorabilia. Call 906-297-8888 for order form.

ARTICLES ON THE DETOUR REEF LIGHT WILL APPEAR IN THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS

◆ GREAT LAKES CRUISER Magazine (October 1998)
P. O. Box 1722, Royal Oak MI 48068, 248-545-5999

◆ BEACON (Fall 1998)
Journal of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association
% Henry Ford Estate, 4901 Evergreen, Dearborn MI 48128
313-436-9150

◆ LIGHTHOUSE DIGEST (January 1999)
An International Magazine
P. O. Box 1690, Wells, Maine 04090, 207-646-0515

Thank you to these publishers for their support of the DRLPS!

THANK YOU

◆ DRLPS catalyst Dick Moehl for getting us off to a running start.
◆ Board of Directors & Officers: Denny Bailey, Jim Charles, Jeri Baron Feltner, Bob Jones, Dick Moehl, Barb Snider. ◆ Committee Chairpersons: Barb Gusfa (Memorabilia), Carol Melvin (Finance), Mary Rogers (Membership). ◆ Each DRLPS member, donor, fund-raiser participant & volunteer. ◆ Fogcutter for DRLPS office space. ◆ Those who shared old lighthouse photos: Curtis Anderson, George Leonard, Floyd Soule, Michelle Woods, Coast Guard, National Archives.
◆ National Trust for Historic Preservation for choosing the DRL as Michigan's example lighthouse. ◆ Diane Werling & the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association for commemorating the DeTour Reef Light on their 2nd annual (1998) limited edition ornament series. ◆ To all the publications who promote the DRLPS including Community Voice (Jim & Barb MacClaren, Meta Geyer), Drummond Island Digest (Anne Stadler), Evening News (Jack Storey), St. Ignace News (Wesley Maurer & Barbara Buschbacher). ◆ The businesses who displayed DRLPS literature: Fogcutter, DeTour Passage Historical Museum, Dockside Café, Central Savings Bank, DeTour Marina, EUP Insurance Agency, Sunes Food Center, Fortino's Pizzeria, Pappy's Harbor House Bakery, North Country Sports, DeTour-Drummond Building Center, Fishers Restaurant, DeTour Shell Service Station, Northern Collectables, Bayview Groceries & Gas, Wazz's Party Plus, Northwood Restaurant, Skandia, Sunes Grocery, Sunes Dry Goods, Sunes Home Center, Gourmet Galley, Bailey's Service, Chuck's Place, Woodmoor, DeTour-Drummond Credit Union, H&H General Store, Drummond Island Township Hall, Drummond Island Yacht Haven, Fort-Drummond Marine, Islander Shoppe, Drummond Island Outfitters, Bear Track Inn, Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce, Soo Locks Boat Tours, Safe Harbor Books, Cedar Pantry, Arfstrom Pharmacy, Pine Cone, Anggio's Restaurant, True Value Hardware, First National Bank of St. Ignace, Cedarville Foods, Great Outdoors Sports Shop, Norine Rudd's Gift Shop, Cedarville Shell Station, Cedarville Marine, Mertraugh Boat Works, Hessel Bakery, Hessel Grocery Store, IGA Grocery Store, Main Street Café, Pickford Hardware Store, Raber Bay Landing. ◆ Talented artists who did a painting of the lighthouse: Leigh Melvin (donated original), Norine Rudd (donated original), Elna VanHouten, Sandra Ledy (donated original, print chosen for members). ◆ Fund-raiser donors: Tom Farnquist, Don Bentley, At Home, Sandra Ledy, Mike & Melanie Helfand, Bob & Judy Jones, Leigh & Carol Melvin, Carter Jewelry, Mary Jo Daggitt, Chuck & Jeri Feltner, Gov. John Engler, Bill Penrose, Chuck & Kathy Turner, Lori & Ron Ogden, Patty Duncan, John & Norma Andree, Barb Boddy, Dan Salkowski, Robert Conard, Kewadin Casino, Gray Jewelers, Gary & Roxanna McGonegal, Patric & Becky Farrell, Ruth & Vince Klamerus, Mike Soczek, Faye McLeod, Frank & Barbara Taylor, Dick Moehl, Joanne & Leonard Tifenbach, Barb & Tom Snider, Anne O'Connell, Richard Brawley, Bart Stupak, John Wagner, Terry & Sharon Haviland, Steve Autore, Carl Levin, National Office Products, Drummond Island Yacht Haven, Caterpillar, EUP Insurance Agency, Walter North, Ed Zeerip. ◆ Also - Chuck Feltner, Sandy Planisek, Judy Jones, Pat Gagliardi, Kevin Morter, Randy Bertram, Ann Jousma-Miller, Glen & Gert Bailey, Denny & Sis Bailey, Clif & Carolyn Haley, Fred May, Fogcutter staff, Dan Serrine, Woodmoor Staff, DITA, DeTour Village Chamber of Commerce, USCG Cleveland & SSM, SHPO, Bob Graham, Suzette Lopez, William O'Brien, Jeff Laser, EUPTA, Tom Snider, Tyler Snider, Bob Rogers, Larry Baron, Valerie Damian, Halina & Karl Hildenbrand, Mary Jo Daggitt & family, Jim & Steve Gusfa, Norma Mieras, Sherrie Phillips, Mark Irwin, Jerry Brown, Jack Cork, Tom Graf, Laurette Tully, John Polacsek, Sylvia & Henry Krolkowski, Sheila Matthews, Diane Bosley, Kaye Birkmeier, GLLKA Beacon Staff, Cynthia Johnson, Bruce Jenvey, Tim Harrison, Wayne Wheeler, Mrs. Gusfa's Class, Daniel McInnes, Wish List donors. All members will be listed in the next issue of *Passages*. We may have missed a special person to thank. Please let the Editor know for our next issue. Thank you!

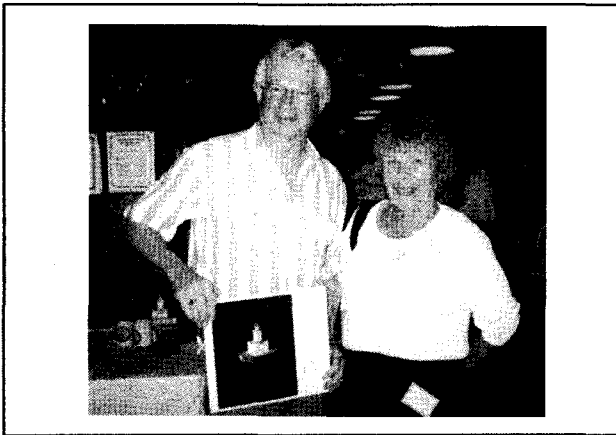
THE DRLPS PHOTO ALBUM



Taking a break at the Auction are Carol Melvin, Chairperson Finance Committee and Barb Gusfa, Chairperson Memorabilia Committee



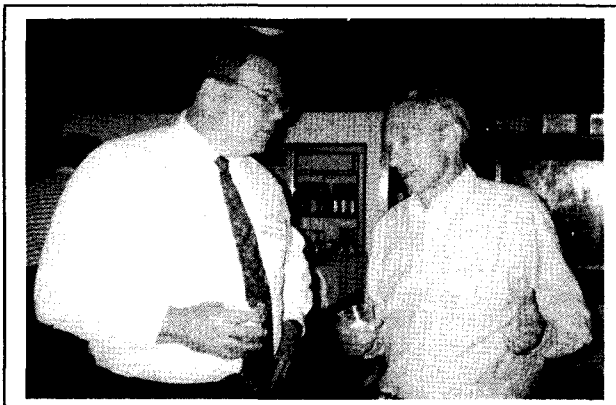
Enjoying the Auction are Denny & Sis Bailey and Frank & Barbara Taylor



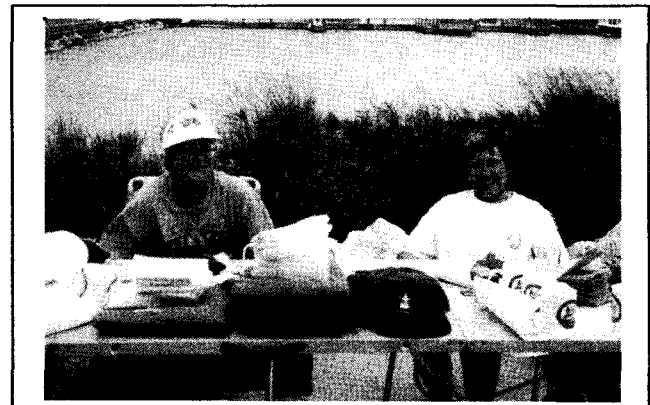
Members Mark Irwin and Anne Stadler having fun at the Auction



Auction attendees included U.S. Representative Bart Stupak and State Representative Pat Gagliardi, GLLM Director Sandy Planisek, and Cliff Haley



Kevin Morte, Senator Carl Levin's Regional Representative, and DRLPS Chief Historian Chuck Feltner chatting at the Auction



Member Norma Mieras and Mary Rogers, Chairperson Membership Committee at Fred May's Cruising Club Rally at the DeTour Marina

LIGHTHOUSE FACTS

Courtesy United States Lighthouse Society

◇ The first known lighthouse was the Pharos of Alexandria, Egypt. It was constructed between 300 and 280 BC by Ptolemy I and his son Ptolemy II. It stood about 450 feet high. This lighthouse was one of the Seven wonders of the Ancient world. It was destroyed in stages by invaders and earthquakes, being destroyed in the 1300's.

◇ The oldest existing lighthouse in the world is considered to be La Coruna in Spain that dates from c. 20 BC. A Roman lighthouse is located on the Cliffs of Dover in the UK that was constructed in 40 AD.

◇ The first lighthouse in America was at Boston on Little Brewster Island (1716). The first keeper was George Worthylake who was drowned, along with his wife and daughter, when returning to the island in 1718. The original tower was destroyed by the British and eventually reconstructed in 1784.

DeTour Reef Light Foghorn To Be Restored & Returned Home

In March, DRLPS member Jeff Laser of Bellville, Ohio, discovered the foghorn from the DeTour Reef Light sitting on a pallet at a warehouse belonging to the Great Lakes Historical Society in Vermilion, Ohio. The DRLPS contacted the GLHS and they have agreed to return the foghorn to its original home.



The DRL foghorn at the GLHS.

Photo by Jeff Laser 1998

Mr. Laser, a representative of TOOT (reTurn Our Old Tone), has volunteered to restore the 475-pound foghorn. Thanks to Jeff and to the GLHS executive director William O'Brien and Rear Admiral Anthony Fugaro.

Mr. Laser notes: "According to the U.S. Coast Guard's 1953 Great Lakes Light List, the DeTour Reef Light was a distance finding station listed as a Diaphone, air: When foggy in lake, but clear inside river, as seen from station, groups of 3 blasts; 3 blasts 2 seconds each, every 60 seconds. 2 silences 2 seconds each, 1 silence of 50 seconds. when foggy in both lake and river; as seen from this station, blasts 6 seconds, silent 54 seconds." ◇

DeTour Reef Light *(Continued from page 1)*

On January 4, 1998, civic leaders from DeTour Village and Drummond Island met to form the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS), a nonprofit organization, to restore, preserve and maintain the lighthouse as well as educate the public on lighthouse and Great Lakes maritime history.



*DeTour Reef Light (c. 1931)
Photo courtesy Curtis Anderson*

DETOUR REEF LIGHT DATA

Year established: 1847
Rebuilt: 1861
Existing tower constructed: 1931
Year automated: 1974
Tower height: 63 feet
Concrete platform: 60 feet square
20 feet high
Height of focal plane: 74 feet
above the mean low water level

The officers and directors include President Bob Jones, Assistant Director of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority; Vice-president Jim Charles, head of the DeTour Village Chamber of Commerce; Secretary Jeri Baron Feltner, co-author of two books on Great Lakes maritime history; Treasurer Barb Snider, owner of a travel agency and the Fogcutter restaurant in DeTour; Director Denny Bailey, owner of Drummond Island Yacht Haven and head of the Drummond Island Tourist Association; and Director Dick Moehl, President of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association and the catalyst in the formation of the DRLPS.



Lots of scraping and painting needed inside the lighthouse.

Photo by Dick Moehl 1997

Both Moehl and Jones visited the lighthouse with the Sault Ste. Marie Coast Guard in the summer of 1997 and found the structure to be in excellent condition. Moehl said "the paint is chipping away inside, but a good scraping and paint job will have it looking like new." ◇

WANTED - PAST KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT!

Please help us in locating the families of past keepers of the DeTour Reef Lighthouse for future articles. Send information to Jeri Feltner, 38456 S. Seajay Row, Drummond Island MI 49726, 906-493-6079.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Strategies for Saving Michigan's Lighthouses Workshop
Friday, November 6 - Michigan Historical Center
8am-6pm. Call Martha MacFarlane 517-373-0511
Saturday, November 7 10am-3pm at the Michigan
Historical Museum - Lighthouses & Lakes Day
- ◆ DRLPS Save Our Lighthouse Benefit Dinner (2nd Annual)
Saturday, May 1, 1999, at the Fogcutter
(Tentative date - flyer will be mailed for rsvp)
- ◆ DRLPS Annual Meeting Sunday, May 2, 1999
(Tentative date - flyer will be mailed for rsvp)
- ◆ DRLPS Auction/Dinner Fund-raiser (2nd Annual)
August 1999 on Drummond Island
(flyer will be mailed with date & rsvp)

CALL 906-297-8888 FOR INFORMATION ON EVENTS.



DRLPS Officers and Board of Directors: Left to right - Jim Charles (Vice-President), Denny Bailey, Dick Moehl, Bob Jones (President), Jeri Baron Feltner (Secretary), Barb Snider (Treasurer)

Legendary Lighthouses

PBS-Mini Series *Legendary Lighthouses* started airing on most PBS TV stations nationwide on October 5 with Lighthouses of the Atlantic, October 12 Lighthouses of Maine, October 26 Lighthouses of the South Atlantic, November 9 Lighthouses of the Great Lakes, November 23 Lighthouses of California and November 30 Lighthouses of the Pacific Northwest. ◆

WISH LIST

Along with volunteers to do the work on the lighthouse, we will need tools and supplies for the restoration project, and other items such as: Generator, toilet (either compost, chemical or electric), power washer, flagpole, lighthouse furnishings, office supplies, and more.

We are appealing to our members and businesses for donations of this material. If you can help, please contact Bob Jones at 906-297-3231.

Thank you to the following Wish List donors:

Sam Marlett, Bay Communications (*VHF marine transceiver and antenna*); Arfstrom Pharmacy in Cedarville (*First aid kit*); Dick Moehl/GLLKA (*GLLKA Flag*); Eddie McGregor (*handcrafted dining room table & 6 chairs*); David Rodgers, Marine Industries (*2 ring life buoys*); Charles Fabry, Soo Welding (*2 fire extinguishers*); John Wellington, Pilot boat (*boat rides to the lighthouse*). ◆

LETTERS

Dear DRLPS: I enclose a contribution toward the preservation and maintenance of the DRL. Our summer home is on the river, where the Lighthouse has always been a part of the landscape. On my eighth birthday, my gift was a boat ride to visit the lighthouse. I remember signing the guestbook! My children - and now my grandchildren - share my Drummond Island summers. Let's hope the lighthouse will be there for the great-grandchildren. ◆ — *Luella Stinson Allen & Family*

DETOUR REEF LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

115 S. Huron, Suite D
P. O. Box 519
DeTour Village MI 49725-0519
906-297-8888

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Dick Moehl
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