

PASSAGES

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society

PO Box 519 • DeTour Village MI 49725 • 906-493-6711 • www.DRLPS.com

A NONPROFIT 501(c)(3) ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED IN 1998 TO RESTORE AND PRESERVE THE LIGHTHOUSE • DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE • EIN 38-3387252 • WWW.DRLPS.COM
DETOUR REEF LIGHTHOUSE IS ONE MILE OFFSHORE IN NORTHERN LAKE HURON AT THE EASTERN END OF MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA BETWEEN DETOUR VILLAGE AND DRUMMOND ISLAND

Issue 4

We'll Keep the Light on for You!

Summer 2003

President's Letter *by Chuck Feltner*

I am pleased to announce that restoration of the exterior of the Lighthouse began the week of June 2. As you may know from my previous President's Letter, which was published last December and is on our website, the process of getting to this point has been long, arduous and drawn out. The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) team is to be congratulated on their perseverance.

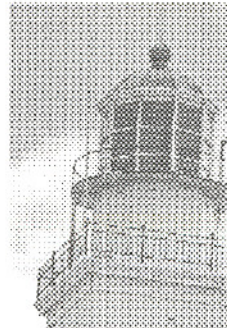
Our plans and specifications were approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in late February and necessary contractual agreements with the Village of DeTour and MDOT were completed on April 7. Next we went through a six-week bidding process and on May 23 the exterior restoration contract was awarded.

We had four general contractors who submitted bids with the low bid of \$412,095 being submitted by Mihm Enterprises of Hamilton, Michigan. It was determined that Mihm was a qualified bidder, and by MDOT regulations, we accepted them as the low bidder. Mihm Enterprises is no stranger to our region, or to restoration work. As of this writing they have just completed the restoration of St. Mary's Cathedral in Sault Ste. Marie.

The expected completion date of the exterior work is August 30, so watch for some changes in the appearance of your Lighthouse over the next three months.

Plans and specifications for interior restoration have been completed and approved by the State Historic Preservation Office. This work was put out for bidding on June 10 with a bid opening date of July 3. We expect to award the contract by July 11. Work on the interior restoration will begin on July 15, and the planned completion date is October 15, 2003. We have budgeted \$365,000 for the interior restoration, and all of this work is being done under a grant from the

Clean Michigan Initiative program, which is being administered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. They have been a pleasure to work with.



Exterior restoration of the DeTour Reef Light begins in June. The ten-sided lantern room (including tower and steps) was moved from the 1861 onshore DeTour Point Light to the offshore lighthouse in 1931.

Photo by Cullen Chambers 2000

Other work to be done this summer includes the manufacture and installation of a dock and boarding stairs to the Lighthouse to facilitate public tours, rebuilding of the second deck crane and installation of a video security system and "River Watch" webcam. This last system will provide 24-hour viewing on a web page of boat traffic passing the Lighthouse. If all goes well we expect to run some experimental tours to the Lighthouse for our members in the summer of 2004.

There is other good news to report. In December the State Legislature passed a Bill that makes it possible for organizations such as DRLPS to enter into a lease or agreement for the use of State lands on which an offshore lighthouse is located, including the use of water over those lands immediately adjacent to the lighthouse. This Bill makes it possible for the U.S. Coast Guard to transfer ownership of offshore lighthouses to organizations like DRLPS.

DeTour Reef Light is one of five Michigan offshore lighthouses to be placed on a federal government property availability list by the General Services Administration sometime this summer. If we are successful in our application, sometime in the first

(Continued on Page 4)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The DRLPS is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization established in 1998 and files a yearly Form 990 with the IRS. The 990 can be viewed online at www.Guidestar.org. A copy of the DRLPS financial statements can be obtained by written request from the DRLPS, PO Box 519, DeTour Village MI 49725.

The DRLPS has been awarded over one million dollars in grant funds from various state, federal and private agencies which can only be used for the restoration and education program. A copy of the grant summary can also be obtained from the above address.

Continued funding from membership dues, donations and fundraisers is required for the operation of the Society and for lighthouse maintenance.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to help us preserve the DeTour Reef Light – a magnificent monument to Michigan's maritime history.

Lighthouses of DeTour Passage



DeTour Point Light c. 1861
Established 1847



DeTour Reef Light 1931

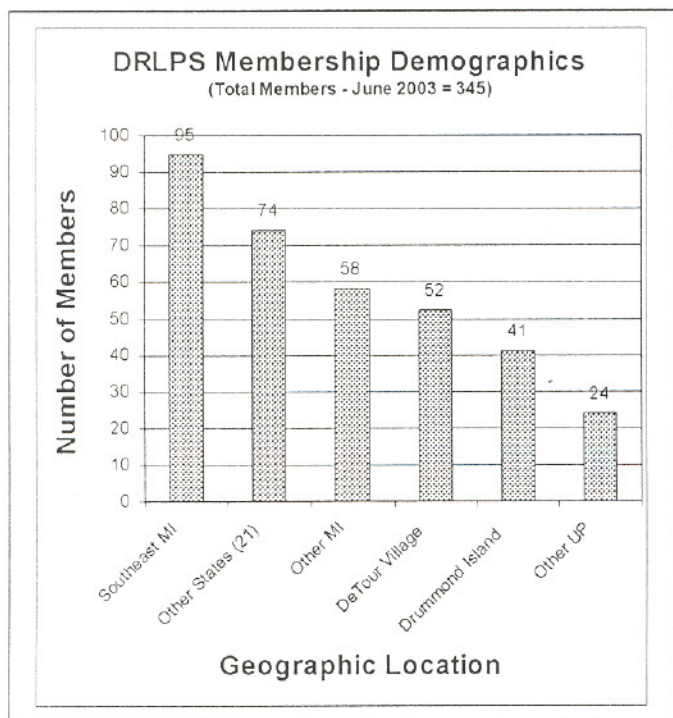
Photos courtesy Woodward
Lighthouse History Collection

The first lighthouse at DeTour Passage was the DeTour Point Light established onshore in 1847 and rebuilt in 1861. It was replaced by the DeTour Reef Light built a mile offshore in 1931 at a cost of \$140,000, and was automated in 1974. The 63-foot tower rests on a 20-foot high 60-foot square concrete and steel crib pier 24 feet of water.

Membership Report

As of June 2003, DRLPS has 345 members in good standing coast-to-coast! Thank you members for your loyal and continued support of the DRLPS. For those who would like to renew or join the Society, please contact Mary Rogers 906-297-5704, or www.DRLPS.com.

You might be surprised to learn from the chart shown below that our memberships come from many areas in Michigan, including 21 other states.



We'll Keep the Light on for You!

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Newsletter of the
DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society
P. O. Box 519
DeTour Village MI 49725-0519
906-493-6711, 906-493-6079, Fax 906-493-6496
www.DRLPS.com



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; to take visitors safely to the lighthouse; and to raise awareness about the importance of volunteers in maintaining and protecting the lighthouse for generations to come.

A tax-exempt, nonprofit, 501c3 organization established in 1998
Donations are tax-deductible · EIN 38-3387252

Newsletter Editor: Jeri Baron Feltner

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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Paula Bardsley, Recording Secretary
Sheryl LaMoite, Webmaster
Mary Rogers, Membership Chairman
Doty Witten, Ornament Sales

ACCOUNTING CONTRACTOR
Dawn Gibbons

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

\$20 Individual, \$30 Family, \$50 Patron, \$100 Keeper,
\$500 Lifetime, \$1,000 Grand Keeper

For a membership application, please contact DRLPS
PO Box 519, DeTour Village MI 49725, 906-297-5704, www.DRLPS.com

Please submit material for the newsletter to:

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

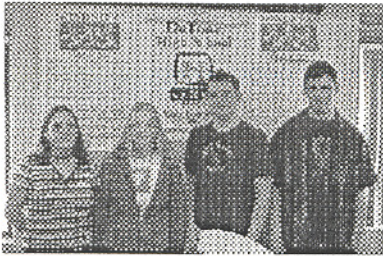
DRLPS HAPPENINGS

FUN! RAISER

Enjoy the 4th Annual *Evening Under the Stars* benefit event at the waterfront at Bayside on Drummond Island on Saturday, July 5. \$100 per person includes gourmet dinner, music, art and great ambience. A portion of your ticket cost is tax deductible. Please call 906-493-6711 or www.DRLPS.com for a reservation.

STUDENT KEEPERS OF THE LIGHTHOUSE

Lighthouse projects have been keeping local students busy learning about the DeTour Reef Light and contributing their time and talent with preservation projects. Teacher Brian Nettleton and DeTour and Drummond Island students developed engineering drawings for the first restored lighthouse deck crane. Teacher Russ Norris and students helped develop a new website for the Society, and Brian and Russ took students out to the lighthouse last summer for a narrated tour by Chuck Feltner.

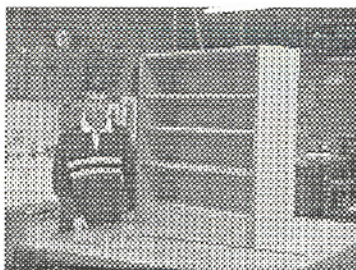


DeTour High School students who worked on the oral history videotape transcriptions are (left to right) Ashly Tiefenbach, Amber Tiefenbach, Gary Kott, and Mike Young. Not pictured include Ashley Stefanski, Janelle Klamerus and Angela Fought.

Additionally, Russ and students recently completed oral history transcriptions from videotaped interviews of past lighthouse keepers as part of a DRLPS Michigan Coastal Management Program grant. Brian and students also contributed to this grant by construction of two beautiful new bookcases to house lighthouse logbooks and other DRLPS historical data at the DeTour Public Library.

A future project will involve the students in designing, manufacturing and installing the cabinetry on the lighthouse as part of the restoration effort. The DRLPS is very grateful for their outstanding contributions toward The preservation of the DeTour Reef Light – they are Keepers!

DeTour High School student Dustin Fierek in front of the bookcase he built for the Lighthouse Logbooks at the DeTour Public Library.



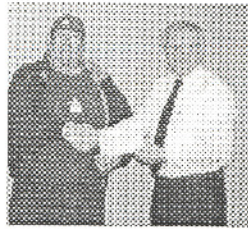
ALFRED LEMIEUX HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER

The last known survivor of the *Men of Iron* who built the DeTour Reef Lighthouse in 1931 was named a lifetime honorary member of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation. Alfred, 93, lives in DeTour Village.

JIM WOODWARD HONORARY BOARD MEMBER

Since 1998, Jim Woodward has contributed his time, expertise and information to the DRLPS. He currently works for the U.S. Coast Guard in Cleveland in the Civil Engineering Unit and is due to retire in January 2004 to pursue his passion of preservation of Fresnel lens and lighthouses around the country.

GREAT LAKES LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL (GLLF)



The DRLPS has had a booth at the GLLF for the past five years. The annual event held in Alpena on the 2nd weekend in October draws over 10,000 people. Bob Fournier of the GLLF (right) presents Jim Charles a check for \$425 as part of the GLLF sharing program to participating nonprofits groups.

EXTERIOR RESTORATION MEETINGS

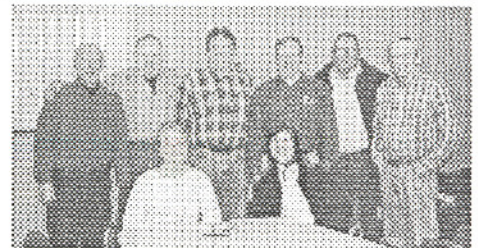
A pre-bid meeting for exterior restoration contractors was held on March 10 in DeTour Village and attended by 32 people including 12 general contractors.

DRLPS contractor Ken Czapski (left) of UP Engineers & Architects of Marquette answers questions at the pre-bid meeting for exterior restoration of the lighthouse while DRLPS Director Dave Bardsley holds up an engineering drawing.



The bid opening meeting took place on March 25 and four bids for the exterior restoration were received from Mihm Enterprises \$412,095, JB Builders \$453,769, Ryba Marine \$477,843, and Gerace Construction \$653,600. Mihm Enterprises was the winning bidder for the lighthouse exterior restoration.

THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE OUR SOCIETY SUCCESSFUL



At a recent Board Meeting DRLPS volunteers are from left Directors Dick Moehl, Clif Haley, Denny Bailey, Dave Bardsley, Jim Charles, Chuck Feltner, and (seated) Jeri Feltner, and Recording Secretary and Assistant Secretary Paula Bardsley. Not pictured are Sheryl LaMotte, Mary Rogers, and Dotty Witten.

Note that the DRLPS will be featured in the Summer issue of *Great Laker Magazine* (www.greatlaker.com).

Try a great maritime website * www.boatnerd.com!

WWW.DRLPS.COM

Check out the DRLPS website at www.DRLPS.com. Thanks to volunteer Sheryl LaMotte, we are working well worldwide! Thanks also to our initial website developers Dan Serrine, Mike Jamroziak, and DeTour High School students, lead by instructor Russ Norris and student Jennie Dreeves. Our plan is to have a webcam system established at the lighthouse for live coverage of the DeTour Passage. Stay tuned!

LOGBOOK GRANT COMPLETED

A DRLPS Michigan Coastal Management Program grant awarded in the fall of 2001 was completed in March 2003. It included reproducing the original lighthouse keeper's logbooks of the DeTour Point Light and the DeTour Reef Light from the National Archives, and are currently housed at the DeTour Public Library, along with the oral history videotaped transcriptions of previous lighthouse keepers and others associated with the DeTour Reef Light.

VIDEO GRANT APPROVED

The Michigan Coastal Management Program recently approved a DRLPS grant application to produce a video of the DeTour Reef Light which would include historical and restoration documentation. Dave Bardsley, the DLRPS coordinator for this grant, is seeking old movies, photographs and recollections of events related to the DeTour Point Light and the DeTour Reef Light. Please contact Dave via email at bardsley@lighthouse.net or phone 906-493-6609.

quarter of January 2004 we could become the proud owners of this historic structure, and we plan to have a "burn-our-lease" party. We will keep you posted on this matter.

On yet another subject, I am pleased to announce that the DRLPS has hired Ms. Dawn Gibbons of Drummond Island on a part time basis to do bookkeeping for the Society. Dawn brings an excellent background in accounting to the Society. With her help, and that of former treasurer Bruce Glupker, we are now operating on a double entry accrual based system using Quick Books Pro by Quicken. Dawn is also working on establishing an Endowment, which we hope to use to fund our maintenance program. Please join me in welcoming Dawn to our team.

Check out our web site at www.DRLPS.com. This web site provides you with all the information you need to sign up for our *Father's Day Boat Cruise* and our *Evening Under the Stars* dinner. It is packed with lots of other information, so visit the site today.

Thanks for your valued support, and have a great summer – and remember

We'll keep the Light on for You!

CHUCK FELTNER, PRESIDENT
DRUMMOND ISLAND MI
JUNE 8, 2003



ORDER YOUR HOLIDAY ORNAMENT TODAY

The sixth annual limited edition DRLPS 2003 Holiday Ornament is now available for sale. It is a lovely heart-shaped 3-inch clear beveled glass design with the DeTour Reef Lighthouse etched on it. Includes a hanging ribbon, gift box and description card. Cost is \$10 plus \$2 shipping. Order from Dotty Witten 906-297-2001, upwitten@lighthouse.net.

DETOUR REEF LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

PO Box 519
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A nonprofit 501c3 organization
Established in 1998 to restore and preserve
the DeTour Reef Lighthouse for all.

Celebrating Five Years – 1998*2003

We'll Keep the Light on for You!

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