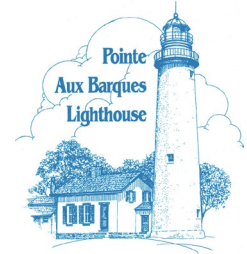


Fall 2022

Pointe aux Barques Lighthouse & Life-Saving Station News

Greetings once again to our members, supporters and visitors!

The last several years have seen some substantial changes to the Pointe aux Barques Lighthouse Society as we continue to improve our facilities and increase our funding while we strive to grow from being the manager of a small lighthouse museum into the operator of an educational facility with an improved museum, the home of a residential docent program, the sponsor of field trips and other educational opportunities for both children and adults, and the restorer of the 1875-type life-saving station that will ultimately join the lighthouse as the centerpieces of our museum complex.



Major changes to the Pointe aux Barques Lighthouse complex started almost three years ago when one of our Board members almost single-handedly took on the job of refurbishing the 1908 Assistant Keeper's House to start our residential "Assistant Keeper" docent program. That program started modestly last year, when two groups of lighthouse enthusiasts resided in the house while helping PABLS by serving as docents in the lighthouse museum. This past summer, the program grew as Assistant Keepers were in residence most of the weeks of July through September; spots for next summer are already beginning to fill up. In 2021, we joined the majority of Michigan lighthouse museums by beginning to charge a modest admission fee for entry to the museum and, this past summer, with funding from Michigan Works, PABLS hired two college students to operate the gift shop, allowing us to be open to the public for many more hours than in previous years.

During our Heritage Festival in August, we opened the life-saving station to the public for the first time. We were awed by the public's enthusiastic reception and look forward to beginning restoration work that will allow future visitors to learn more about the United States Life-Saving Service that operated from 1871 until 1915, when it was merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to become the U.S. Coast Guard.



In 2022, we also initiated a school field trip program that we hope to make an annual event. In September, we hosted field trips for almost all of the County's public and rural school 6th graders to both the Pointe aux Barques Lighthouse and the Huron



County Nature Center. (Laker School 6th graders will visit in the spring of 2023.) We feel that

the field trips were a great success – two-thirds of the students had not visited Lighthouse Park previously, and all of them clearly enjoyed the activities we had planned for them, including a museum scavenger hunt, a lighthouse tower climb and a tour of the life-saving station.

In 2021, PABLS received a \$15,000 grant from the Michigan Architectural Foundation to help pay for the cost of a Historic Structures Report that will document the history of the PAB life-saving station and adjacent keeper's quarters and provide a plan for restoration of the buildings. Over the last year, our architects have been working on the HSR and hope to have it ready for review by the State Historic Preservation Office within the next month or two. PABLS board members have visited the National Archives in Chicago to copy log books kept by the keepers of the life-saving station. The logbooks have been an invaluable source of information about when changes and additions to the buildings were made over time. Having a completed HSR will be a great help when seeking grant and other funding to pay for the substantial costs of restoring the life-saving station buildings.



In addition, this winter we will begin the process of modernizing the exhibits in the Lighthouse museum. Our initial efforts will focus on bringing together our existing life-saving artifacts and photographs to better tell the story of the U.S. Life-Saving Service, both generally and with respect to its operations at the Pointe aux Barques station. These materials will be supplemented by life-saving artifacts not previously on display at our museum. We will also update our displays about local shipwrecks to improve

both their appearance and accuracy, as well as to make them more accessible to the public. We also hope to make some significant changes to our displays regarding the PAB lighthouse keepers.

As we move forward with these efforts, the need to fund our ongoing operations continues. PABLS still depends largely on donations and grants for its funding as well as on volunteers for its operations. As we continue our efforts on life-saving station restoration—including fundraising—and begin work on improvements to the lighthouse museum, we will have an increased need for individuals with experience in business, marketing, finance, art, and related fields. If you are interested in helping in any of these ways, please contact Mimi Herrington at mimiherrington@comcast.net or (989) 768-0466. And, of course, you can help with a donation. We've enclosed a return envelope for your convenience. Donations can also be made on-line at our website, www.pointeauxbarqueslighthouse.org.



Our Board thanks all of our visitors, donors and volunteers for their continued support and wishes you all the happiest of holidays.

Mimi Herrington (President), Joe Biggers (Vice-President), Jim Warchall (Secretary), Margaret Herrington (Treasurer), Larry Becker, Jennifer Biggers, Rob Lutz and Sandy Streberger