



POINTE AUX BARQUES MARITIME MUSEUM

Fall 2024

7320 Lighthouse Road, Port Hope MI 48468

We've Changed our Name!

This year we went through a “rebranding” exercise to change our name to the Pointe aux Barques Maritime Museum in recognition of the fact that we have become not just a lighthouse museum, but a museum of maritime history, featuring not only our lighthouse but also our life-saving station and shipwrecks in the Thumb Bottomland Preserve.

We've Updated our Exhibits

Last winter we spent a lot of time working to update our museum, including building new exhibits on the U.S. Life-Saving Service, installing a new electronic exhibit on local shipwrecks, and updating our lighthouse displays. Plans for this winter include a new touchscreen exhibit on the PAB lighthouse keepers and improved display of our 3rd order Fresnel lens.



Assistant Keepers Were a Big Help All Summer

Our Assistant Keeper's house is available for maritime enthusiasts to spend a week enjoying the beautiful views of Lake Huron and Lighthouse Park. In 2024, our program launched the first week of June and concluded the last week of September with every week filled! The Assistant



Keepers were a huge help as docents in the museum and life-saving station, gardeners on the grounds and helpers in the gift shop. Many have applied to return in 2025 when nineteen weeks will be available starting the week before Memorial Day weekend.

20th Annual Heritage Festival

Our annual Heritage Festival, held the first Saturday of August, was a fun-filled day of music provided by the Detroit Social Club and Still Running, delicious food from Angry Ginger and ice cream from the Chill Zone, numerous vendors, tasty bake sale goods, tower climbing and lighthouse museum and life-saving station tours. To top things off, we raffled off a beautiful handmade maritime quilt donated by Ginger McNabb.



County Sixth Graders Visit the Maritime Museum

We are in our third year of hosting over 300 sixth graders from across Huron County. They tour the lighthouse museum, visit the life-saving station, climb the tower, and learn about the rich maritime and shipwreck history of Pointe aux Barques and the Thumb Bottomland Preserve.



2024 Board of Directors

Mimi Herrington, President - Joe Biggers, Vice President

Jim Warchall, Secretary - Margaret Herrington Hinkle, Treasurer

Larry Becker, Jennifer Biggers, Rob Lutz and Sandy Noble

Restoration of the 1876 PAB Life-Saving Station

Well, it's coming to the end of one year and the start of another, and we have to admit we're getting a bit excited. Yes, about the Holidays, but also about what the New Year may mean for PABMM and, most particularly, our Life-Saving Station.

After the LSS Station House and Keeper's Quarters came back to Lighthouse Park in 2017, we began work toward our goal of restoring the buildings to become part of our museum complex. Our first steps were "stabilization"—new cedar shingle roofs for the buildings, removal of moldy and crumbling plaster from the Keeper's Quarters, and arranging for off-site storage of artifacts that came with the buildings. Next came fundraising for preparation of a "Historic Structure Report," a necessity for authentic historical restorations. We hired Diekema Hamman Architecture of Kalamazoo to perform the on-site investigation and to prepare necessary drawings and plans, while our board members researched the buildings' history, including three trips to the National Archives in Chicago. After review by the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, the HSR was approved by SHPO in June of this year. The HSR recommends five phases of restoration work, starting with all exterior work and followed by infrastructure (electrical, HVAC, etc.) and various interior work.

This year, as soon as funds could be raised, we hired the highly respected historical restoration architect Ken Czapski of Sanders & Czapski Associates (Marquette, MI) to develop plans and specifications to allow us to request bids for Phase 1. Phase 1 includes some significant construction work—reconstruction of the "summer kitchen" connecting the Station House and Keeper's Quarters, as well as of the lookout platform, lookout cupola, three chimneys and an exterior stairway—in addition to lead paint removal, restoration of siding, ornate trim, windows and doors, and site grading.

In 2024 we also contracted with historical paint analyst Steven Seebohm (Indian River, MI) to determine the original colors of the LSS. We have the answer, but will keep it a secret until we complete a rendering of what the buildings will look like once Phase 1 is complete, so stay tuned!

We were also busy in 2024 seeking SHPO's recommendation regarding listing of the LSS on the National Register of Historic Places. Although we are still discussing some details with SHPO, we're pleased to announce that SHPO has deemed us eligible for listing on the National Register.

Fundraising for the Life-Saving Station restoration will be hard work, but we're truly looking forward to it. As we've given tours of the LSS over the last few years, we've seen our visitors' enthusiasm grow as we describe the incredible bravery of the men of the U.S. Life-Saving Service and the amazing rescues they accomplished. Although fundraising is never an "easy sell," there seems to be a growing understanding of the importance of restoring historic maritime buildings. We hope you share our enthusiasm about 2025 and beyond as the historical restoration of the Life-Saving Service buildings becomes a reality (fingers crossed!).





PO Box 97
Port Hope MI 48468
www.pabmm.org



Best
Wishes
For 2025!

