
TESTIMONIALS FOR DRLPS 2003-2005

"The DRLPS undoubtedly stands as one of Michigan's premier lighthouse preservation organizations, not only for their heralded efforts to preserve the historic light itself, but because they are also an unmatched resource and teacher for other nonprofit organizations who are about to embark on the arduous task of taking ownership and preserving their own particular lights. Because of their extensive experience, expertise, and guidance, the DRLPS is a model for others in the lighthouse preservation world to imitate."

*Steve Belko, Manager, Michigan Lighthouse Project
Clarkston, Michigan*

"DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society is setting the standard of excellence for offshore lighthouse preservation that all efforts nationwide will be measured by in the future. The courage, vision and dedication of DRLPS volunteers matches the steadfast strength of the light itself -- ensuring that one of the Great Lakes finest historic treasures will shine on for future generations. The highest tribute that can be paid to the DRLPS is that we will only be able to truly learn of the extent of their passion and unwavering commitment to save such an offshore lighthouse as DeTour Reef in future reflection...for it is impossible to measure such fine dedication and its incalculable worth to the Drummond Island community and Great Lakes region in the present."

*Bob Trapani, Executive Director,
Delaware River & Bay Lighthouse Foundation
Lewes, Delaware*

"How high has the lighthouse restoration bar been raised? For the answer, one need look no further than Michigan's DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society.

In the six short years since their first meeting, the progress made by this grass-roots organization is nothing short of miraculous. Working at a frantic pace to avoid long-term burnout, and making maximum use of grant availability, this motivated group stands ready to complete the complete restoration of this historic asset in a mere seven years. And make no mistake, this is no mere "clean up the outside and make it look pretty" type of restoration. When DRLPS opens the structure to the public in 2005, they plan on having the restoration complete to period accurate furniture and pictures on the walls, and if their past performance serves as a precursor to the future, they WILL pull it off.

The management, creativity and organizational skills displayed by this all-volunteer group will doubtless serve as a model for future historic restoration projects for years to come.

My guess is that it will be quite a while before another group steps up to move the bar another notch."

Terry Pepper, Seeing the Light, www.terrypepper.com

"Never meant to foreshadow other light stations, nor the good work of other lighthouse groups – DeTour Reef Light, as poster child for the Michigan Lighthouse listing on America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places – was meant to exemplify the challenges of off-shore lights both physically and for the new non-profit steward. Many of you may recall, that the majority of initial light stations identified for federal transfer were off-shore lights. Thus, it was also the hope that the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society would help provide a beacon for those off-shore light efforts to follow."

"Indeed the needs and challenges of saving DeTour Reef Light and the actions of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society have served to exemplify the challenges. Moreover, the Society has been exemplary in its response to these challenges. From its formation, through on-going organizational development, public relations efforts, fundraising, project planning and implementation – the Society has performed as a model of success. |

have witnessed many outstanding preservation efforts in my almost 20-year career in historic preservation, yet I have often found myself amazed and much impressed by the Society's actions. Quite simply, these good folks know how to respond to adversity with savvy, creativity and perseverance. They know how to get the job done."

*Michael J. Matts, Director
Historic Preservation & Planning, Gray & Pape
Cincinnati, Ohio*

(Former Director of Programs, National Trust for Historic Preservation's Midwest Office)

"As with all building projects, clients come in many varieties, from private individuals to government agencies to preservation groups such as the DRLPS. The DRLPS has been an excellent client to work for and with on the restoration efforts at the DeTour Reef Light. Before hiring the architectural-engineering firm, the DRLPS had done an extensive amount of work in preparation for the future construction effort and clearly defined the scope of work expected of the architect-engineer. Their high degree of organization throughout the project has allowed the work to proceed as smoothly as possible for a restoration project of this magnitude. It has been a pleasure to be working with the DRLPS."

*Ken Czapski, U.P. Engineers & Architects
DeTour Reef Light Restoration Project Manager
Marquette, Michigan*

"DRLPS is a model organization whose spirit and commitment is to be commended loudly and broadly."

*Susan Vincent
National Park Service
Omaha, Nebraska*

"The Society has completed a first class restoration without the diminishment of standards of research, documentation, or treatment. The success of this project has inspired others."

*H. Tom McGrath, Jr., Superintendent
Historic Preservation Training Center
U.S. Department of Interior
Frederick, Maryland*

"...the dedication of volunteers and those who dedicated countless hours to this project is worthy of recognition by the National Trust for Historic Preservation."

*Jason Allen
Michigan State Senator, 37th District
Lansing, Michigan*

"The Preservation Society has become a 'poster child' for Michigan lighthouse preservation groups due to their success as a strong volunteer-based group."

*Jennifer Granholm, Governor
State of Michigan
Lansing, Michigan*