

DETOUR REEF LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION PRESENTED TO THE DETOUR REEF LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Drummond Island (May 23, 2005) – Governor Jennifer Granholm recently announced the 2005 recipients of the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation recognizing outstanding historic preservation projects throughout the state. Department of History, Arts and Libraries Director Dr. William Anderson presented the awards during a ceremony on May 19 at the State Capitol rotunda. The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) is proudly one of the recipients of this prestigious award for their efforts in restoring and preserving the DeTour Reef Light.

"Historic structures across Michigan play an important role in making our communities vibrant, interesting places to live and work," Governor Granholm said. "This year's winners have demonstrated commitment, collaboration, cooperation and the highest degree of excellence in preserving these important parts of Michigan history."

Created in 2003, the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation recognizes individuals, developers, corporations, academic institutions, and units of government that have undertaken rehabilitation of historic resources or archaeological excavations, or implemented sound public policy to promote preservation. Through these awards, the governor seeks to draw attention to historic resources' unique potential for economic development as well as to the important role these resources play in defining our communities. Nominations for these awards are made to the governor by the State Historic Preservation Review Board in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, Michigan Historical Center (www.michigan.gov/shpo). For more information on the award program, please see www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160--117949--,00.html.

The DRLPS team has worked diligently since 1998 to restore and preserve the DeTour Reef Light located a mile offshore in northern Lake Huron at the far eastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula between DeTour Village and Drummond Island. Built in 1931, the 83-foot lighthouse is a strategic and historic landmark that marks a dangerous reef to help guide ship traffic from and to Lake Huron and Lake Superior via the strategic St. Mary's River. The DRLPS completed major restoration of the structure in 2004, and public tours to this unique lighthouse will begin in July.

DRLPS founding Director Jeri Baron Feltner accepted the award on behalf of the DRLPS along with Chuck Feltner-Restoration Chairman, Clif Haley-Grants Chairman, Dave Bardsley-President, and Paula Bardsley-Assistant Secretary. Jeri stated "I am honored to accept this prestigious award on behalf of the committed and talented DRLPS team, and would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of the loyal volunteers, members, donors, private and government agencies especially the State Historic Preservation Office, who have unfailingly supported us with this worthwhile endeavor of preserving the DeTour Reef Light as a magnificent monument to Michigan's maritime history. The DRLPS plans to continue to restore the lighthouse to its 1931 as built condition, and to educate the public on the rich maritime history of the area for generations to come."

To learn more about the organization, the lighthouse, and public tour programs, please visit www.DRLPS.com, email drlps@lighthouse.net, or call 906-493-6609.



At the awards ceremony at the State Capitol rotunda on May 19 (l to r) Dave Bardsley-DRLPS President, Clif Haley-DRLPS Grants Chairman, Jeri Baron Feltner-DRLPS founding Director, Chuck Feltner-DRLPS Restoration Chairman, Dr. William Anderson-Director of Michigan Department of History, Arts & Libraries (who presented the award), and Senator Jason Allen.

(Photo by Todd Walsh)