



PASSAGES



* PO Box 307 * Drummond Island MI 49726 * drlps@drlps.com * www.DRLPS.com * 906-493-6609 *

Issue 17

We'll Keep the Light on for You!

February 2009

Do Something Wild this Summer – Become a Lighthouse Keeper of DeTour Reef Light

"Last year at this time I was in Hawaii, I find this much more relaxing...we all have memories we will keep forever."
"Today is departure day! It's come all too soon!! We've had a great weekend and all will hate to leave. We're already talking about doing this again. What an experience, great location, historic and interesting (and one of a kind) accommodations, real good food and best of all, sharing it with good friends and new friends!" "Wow –This is fabulous!...We are totally enjoying the experience," "We truly are impressed and delighted to be entrusted with this house." "It is like waking up on a cruise ship when you have the best room on the ship."

The above quotes are just a few of the comments that last summer's keepers wrote in the DeTour Reef Logbook. One couple, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on DeTour Reef Light, have already signed up to celebrate their 51st this summer. Over the past four summers, more than 150 volunteer keepers have spent three days and two nights on what they inevitably call "our lighthouse." The experience of living on an offshore lighthouse can only be experienced at DeTour Reef Light. No other offshore lighthouse, anywhere, has a volunteer resident keeper program. (And very very few offshore lights are open for public tours). DeTour Reef Light is an active Coast Guard aid to navigation, with a rotating beacon, racon beacon and foghorn. When that experience is coupled with a high volume of freighter and pleasure boat traffic, staying at DeTour Reef Light is extraordinary.

While DRLPS has strived to furnish DeTour Reef Light consistent with the manned period of the lighthouse and to the extent possible with 1931 era items, the lighthouse is very comfortable and environmentally friendly. The freshwater system draws from Lake Huron, filters the water through a coarse and then a 5-micron charcoal filter and finally is sterilized by a modern ultra-violet purification system. Black water is sent to a Coast Guard approved marine sanitation system identical to that used on many commercial Great Lakes ships. Other mechanicals include a shower and tub, electric baseboard heat and full window screens.

A fully functional 1931 G.E. range with oven has provided past keepers with meals as exotic as broiled lobster tails, lasagna, rice pilaf and peach cobbler. Other kitchen appliances include a refrigerator with freezer, microwave, toaster, coffee maker and blender. A small stainless steel covered charcoal bar-b-que is provided for those who prefer to grill their steaks. 1940's porcelain top cabinets, almost identical to the original lighthouse furnishing, provide storage and work surface in the galley.

Consistent with World War II furnishings, the lighthouse accommodates six individuals at a time. The head keeper's room has a vintage double bed similar to that specified for the original furnishings. The assistant keepers' room has two military style bunk beds dating from the 1950's. Each bedroom has a chest of drawers; the one in the keeper's room actually saw service at DeTour Reef Light during its manned period. Keepers have enjoyed the six folding canvas deck chairs for relaxation both on the pier deck and at the top of the light on the watch room deck.



Keepers enjoying a meal in the lighthouse
Photo by Bob McSweeney



Clif Haley making broiled lobster tails during a Guys on the Light weekend.
Photo by Dave Bardsley

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The lighthouse office is also furnished to the 1931 Lighthouse Service Specifications for DeTour Reef Light, which includes a restored 1930's roll top desk, chair, and glass front wooden bookcase. A modern marine radio allows communication with passing pleasure boats, the DRLPS keeper program chairman, and if necessary, the U.S. Coast Guard and passing freighters. Keepers have enjoyed monitoring the Coast Guard emergency traffic as well as the freighter traffic.

Unlike volunteer keeper programs at onshore lighthouses, there are only a few housekeeping work tasks for the keepers of DeTour Reef Light. Keepers have enjoyed lots of free time for ship watching, cocktail hour(s), reading, flying kites, and doing jigsaw puzzles. As with tradition, keepers prepare their own meals and make their own beds. The most significant housekeeping task is power washing the pier deck in preparation for the two or three public tours that will occur during one day of the weekend. Keepers also keep the lighthouse clean; bake chocolate chip cookies (from frozen cookie dough) for the tour guests and sell lighthouse memorabilia. Keepers will also assist the trained DRLPS tour guides in assuring the safe boarding and departure of tour guests.



*Dotty Witten enjoying the view at the top of the Light
Photo by Dave Bardsley*

Lighthouse keepers will meet at and be given a short orientation at the Drummond Island Historical Museum before making the 3-mile boat trip from Fort Drummond Marine to the Light on a state inspected charter boat piloted by a U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain operated by Sturgeon Bay Charters www.sturgeonbaycharters.com. Once on De-Tour Reef Light, keepers are instructed in the operation of the lighthouse mechanicals, safety procedures, tour plans and emergency communications.

Keepers will typically reside at the lighthouse for Friday through late Sunday, although longer stays can be arranged. Keepers must be at least 18 years old and in good physical condition capable of climbing up and down the vertical 20-foot pier ladders and to the top of the lighthouse.

The charge per person is set at \$200 (\$220 for non-DRLPS members) for the three day, two-night program. This fee includes the cost of the charter boat to transport keepers to the lighthouse and to pick them up two days later. Keepers will be responsible for their own linens and food. DRLPS membership is available for \$30 and includes all family members.

Individuals desiring an application to become a Lighthouse Keeper should go to www.DRLPS.com and click on "visit the lighthouse" and then "stay at the lighthouse" to get to the lighthouse keeper page. A great deal of information is provided at this web site. Keepers will be scheduled from mid-June to the end of August. Singles and couples are encouraged to apply and will be matched with other applicants to fill the weekend. In order to facilitate scheduling of all applicants by early spring, applicants are encouraged to submit their application early. Priority for assignment to weekend of choice is based on the date of the application receipt. Payment for the program is due at the time of weekend assignment by DRLPS. For additional information, please email: Keepers@DRLPS.com or call Dave Bardsley at 906-493-6609.

An update from our Tour Guides, John and Sunny.....

Persistent Rumor?

Yes! It's true! The 2-for-1 mania has hit the U.P.'s tourist industry, and the DRLPS will not be left out. This season the 2-for-1 local tour promotion will go into effect. That means that if you are a resident of DeTour Village or Drummond Island, zip codes of 49725 or 49726, you will be able to purchase one tour, AND take a friend, relative, visiting guest, significant other, whomever.....FOR FREE! Your tour guides will verify your zip codes, and there you go! That's all there is to it! DRLPS members cost is \$75 per person and the guest goes at no cost. Non-members cost \$95 per person and the guest goes at no cost.

Remember. Free is worth saving up for!!



From the deck with the Tour Guides....

Hello from Sunny and John C,

2009 will bring another milestone to the resurrection story of the DeTour Reef Light. If it had not been for the efforts of those few determined and dedicated people who started the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society in 1998, we would not have milestones to write about. Filling the requirements for grants, and then implementing the grants, made possible the 2003 and 2004 project. The goal was to breathe life back into our forgotten piece of Michigan's maritime history. Thanks to the plastic surgeons of lighthouses, better known as the construction workers with Mihm Enterprises, our DRL was ready to be open to the public by the summer of 2005. This was the summer the society had established a weekend keeper program, along with regularly scheduled weekend tours through the lighthouse.

In the August 2005 Drummond Island Digest, the headline read "Lighthouse Keepers in Residence and Public Tours a Success". What an understatement! This was when John and I became more involved. We were not the first to take a tour, but we were the first to sign up. Up until 2005, the only hands-on contribution we made to the DRLPS, was the writing of the checks for our membership renewals. That all changed after our 2005 tour. Thank goodness my retired school-teacher husband absorbed all that our tour guide had to tell us that day. However, I was so in awe of actually being on the light, I confess I wasn't paying much attention. By the way, our tour guide was none other than Dave Bardsley himself. Long story short, we were asked to be the tour guides for 2006! Needless to say, the DVD GATEWAY TO SUPERIOR: Saving the DeTour Reef Light was played at our house over and over, and over again!

2009 will be the 5th year for both the keepers and tours programs. As far as any of us are aware, ours is the only off-shore lighthouse in the world that offers such unique opportunities. For the Covells, the milestone we are about to acknowledge is our 4th season of taking visitors out to, and onto and into the LIGHT. This summer, we are once again looking forward to getting as many of you out there as possible. This is the light you have all seen off in the distance as you make the crossing of the St. Mary's River. Seriously folks, you have to get up close and personal to appreciate what has been accomplished. "OBSOLETE?" Not this lighthouse. In the words of Susan Vincent from the National Park Service during the final inspection when the reconstruction was almost complete in May of 2004, "I have never seen anything like this. It is in absolute pristine condition". I always tell the folks on our tours about the RPM'S of the lighthouse. The DRL has been Restored, Preserved, and now the task is to Maintain the DRL for years and years to come.

For more details on how to become members of the DRLPS, as well as the keeper program, tours, and anything you ever wanted to know about the DeTour Reef Light, check out www.drtps.com

Doing our bit to keep the light on for you, Sunny and John Covell



A tour group taking in the view from the deck of the Light.

Photo by Bob McSweeney



The view from the top of the Light is spectacular. In this photo, a group of people from a tour take in the views.

Photo by Bob McSweeney

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society Announces Plans for 2009

The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) is beginning their 11th year restoring and preserving the DeTour Reef Light. Built in 1931, the 83-foot tall lighthouse is a strategic and historic landmark marking a dangerous reef and has helped to guide ship traffic from and to Lake Huron and Lake Superior via the strategic St. Mary's River. Major restoration of the structure by the DRLPS was completed in 2004, and public tours to this unique lighthouse began in July, 2005.

The DRLPS is proud to announce their schedule of activities for 2009.

12th Annual Fathers Day Cruise on the St. Mary's River - Sunday, June 21

The day long narrated cruise includes a trip to the DeTour Reef Light with many photo opportunities while circling around the Light. After circling the Light, the narrated cruise proceeds up river and through the Soo Locks.

The cruisers are treated to a brunch, buffet luncheon, and afternoon snack.

10th Annual Evening Under the Stars - Saturday, July 18

The evening includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a beautiful gourmet dinner, a unique dessert, music and a silent auction. It will be held on the shore of Lake Huron at Bay-side Dining on Drummond Island, MI.



Cruiser Carley Cruse helps Captain Jack Cork steer the course up the St. Mary's River on the 2008 Father's Day Cruise

DeTour Reef Lighthouse Tours

Tours are on Saturdays, except as indicated:

June 20	July 19 (Sunday)	August 9 (Sunday)
June 27	July 25	August 15
July 5 (Sunday)	August 1	August 22
July 11		August 29

This is the fifth year for the Lighthouse Tours. They include boat transportation on a government inspected charter boat piloted by a U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain, a guided tour, and light refreshments on the Light. Each tour is limited to 6 individuals, assuring personal attention by the tour guides. The tour lasts approximately 2 1/2 hours.

Advanced reservations and payment will be required.

DeTour Reef Light Keeper Weekends (Friday PM – Sunday PM)

June 19-21	July 17-19	Aug 7-9
June 26-28	July 24-26	Aug 14-16
July 3-5	July 31 – Aug 2	Aug 21-23
July 10-12		Aug 28-30

In its fifth year, the DeTour Reef Light Keeper program has received an overwhelming response from Lighthouse aficionados as well as the general public. The process of becoming a Weekend Light Keeper includes a personal phone interview, a letter explaining why the individual wants to be a keeper with two letters of reference. Each weekend is limited to 6 keepers.

To learn more about the organization, the lighthouse, and the 2009 activities, please visit www.DRLPS.com, email DRLPS@drlps.com, call 906-493-6609 or write to DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726.



Keeper Cindy Mitchell climbs the Light's 20 foot ladder using the safety harness. Photo by Cindy's husband

DRLPS Elects New Officers for 2009-2010

The Board of Directors of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) elected David Bardsley of Drummond Island as the new president of the nonprofit volunteer organization whose mission is the preservation and restoration of the DeTour Reef Light. Dave returns as the organization's president succeeding Russ Norris. Previous presidents are the late Bob Jones and Chuck Feltner. Russ will continue as the Youth Advisor for the Society. Also elected were: Ann Method Green, Vice President; Janelle Dudeck, Secretary; and Chuck Feltner, Treasurer.

President David Bardsley has been a Director of the DRLPS since 2002, and Chair of the popular DeTour Reef Light-house Keepers program. He continues to be a major contributor to the restoration program at the DeTour Reef Light and has previously held the offices of president and vice-president. Dave rides in the annual "Bicycle Ride Across Nebraska" raising money to provide college scholarships, and he is also active Keryx, a nondenominational, nonprofit, nationwide Christian prison ministry at Michigan correctional facilities in the Eastern Upper Peninsula bringing hope and comfort to the inmates through the word of the Lord. He is active in several community organizations including the Senior Lunch Program as a volunteer "emcee" and dish washer twice a week, Drummond Island Lutheran Church Elder and Vice-Chairman, and a member of the Lions Club and Drummond Island Moose Lodge. He retired from Ford Motor Company as an executive in Heavy Truck Operations after 29 years of commercial truck product development. As a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, he was assigned to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Division of Naval Reactors and USN Naval Ship Systems Command as nuclear engineer on Admiral H. G. Rickover's technical staff. He received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering with distinction from Stanford University, a Masters in Engineering Administration from George Washington University, and an Equivalent Masters of Science in Reactor Engineering from the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory. Dave is an avid outdoorsman and citizen environmentalist who lives with his wife Paula on a private 26-acre island just north of Drummond Island.

Vice President Ann Method Green joined DRLPS in 2006 as Public Relations Chair and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2008. She has worked with Symbol Technologies and Intermec Technologies as a Strategic Accounts and Market Development Manager to develop and implement radio frequency computer systems for distribution and manufacturing applications for major automobile manufacturers and airlines. The innovative systems of the 80's and 90's are now available in households and are known as WiFi. In addition, her responsibilities included introducing Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) applications to the airlines. Ann has a BS from University of Minnesota in mathematics, and a CDP (Certified Data Processor) from the Institute for Certified Computer Professionals. Ann also serves on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance. In addition she contributes her time to the Friends of the Drummond Island Library as Treasurer, and is a substitute teacher for the DeTour Area Schools, and coordinates the BEAR (Be Excited About Reading) Program at Drummond Island Elementary. She is "addicted" to genealogy research (her ninth great grandmother was hung as a witch on Gallows Hill in Salem, MA in the 1692), and to boating the North Channel on the "Mighty 8th". She loves traveling to visit her gypsy family living all over the world. Since 2002 she lives on Drummond Island with her husband Ron Green and grandson, Connor Method.

Treasurer Dr. Charles Feltner is a founding member of the DRLPS and served as President for four years. He has been the Society's Historian since 1998. As President he was instrumental in the management of the restoration of the DeTour Reef Light and the execution of several major grants that funded the restoration program. With his wife Jeri, he received the Drummond Island Outstanding Citizen Award in 2004 for his work on restoration of the Light. Dr. Feltner also served on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance and received The Association for Great Lakes Maritime History's prestigious 2006 award for Historic Preservation. Dr. Feltner was recognized for his contributions to maritime historic preservation spanning over 25 years. He is co-author (with his wife Jeri) of two books on Great Lakes maritime history. Dr. Feltner has 46 years of industrial experience in engineering and corporate management having worked for Ford Motor Company, IBM Corporation, Standard Oil of Ohio, United Aircraft Corporation and Parametric Technology Corporation. Chuck earned a PhD degree, summa cum laude, in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois. He has over 25 publications in engineering and scientific journals, and is a member of several honorary engineering societies. In 1995 he was awarded an honorary "Leaders for Manufacturing" degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He lives on Drummond Island with his wife Jeri and their two golden retrievers.

Secretary Janelle Dudeck joined the DRLPS in 2008 in the position of Recording Secretary. In August 2008 she was elected to the Board of Directors and became the Secretary. She is the Vice President of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Fine Arts Council (EUPFAC) and has been a board member since 2000. She is the chair for the EUPFAC fundraisers Restoration Races and A Village Christmas. Janelle grew up in DeTour Village and is a graduate of DeTour High School. She attended Lake Superior State University as a business major and, after graduation, accepted a position in California. While in California, Janelle volunteered for a non-profit dog rescue group for several years. She designed and built one of the first websites that utilized the Internet for the placement of homeless pets. She worked for 15 years as a Senior Business Analyst where she managed large Information Technology projects and traveled the country doing training on new IT

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The Insider's Perspective on the Father's Day Cruise

Being a fan of all things lighthouse, my missus and I took the cruise last year.....again. It was the first time that we were on board for the entire trip, all the way through the locks at the Soo. I suppose I should have known that it is a long way by tour boat, from DeTour, through The Passage and the various channels, and although the boat moves along at a brisk pace, it still consumes several hours for the entire trip. We all had plenty of time to enjoy the scenery and the terrific buffet, make new friends and meet some old ones, too, and just have a good time.

But being a pilot (airplanes) my curiosity was aroused about our routing. From the deck of our tour boat, I could see lots of navigation markers.....buoys and lights, and I began to wonder about the significance of each of the markers. How does the captain know which side of a certain buoy to pass on? How deep is the water, and how much clearance does a fully loaded freighter have in the shallows of the channels?

Apparently, a lot of others were thinking the same thoughts. Ms. Stafford remarked to me that, there were a lot of suggestions for a better "map", and I agreed to help do something to make improvements. I soon found myself involved, almost over my head. After many, many hours at the computer, we now have the ground work done that should result in a full color, four page brochure. Our new St. Mary's DRLPS Cruise booklet displays the entire route of our cruise, with all important landmarks and channels shown clearly. At present, we are still working on the details of getting the booklet printed, together with a cost per unit estimate. With Lady Luck on our side, we will soon go to press.

Although June is not far off, we should be able to have enough copies for the upcoming Father's Day Cruise, 2009.

John Covell, DRL Tours Chair



Soo Locks Tour Boat circling the DeTour Light for a better look during the Father's Day cruise

Stories from the DeTour Reef Light: Dave Bardsley saves the day (and the prescription sun glasses)

The members of DRLPS are known for their enthusiasm and hospitality when it comes to the DeTour Reef Light. Recently, Dave Bardsley went above and beyond for a visitor who had toured the Light.

As John Covell tells it (and this has been verified by a source well known to him, his wife Sunny) the tour to the Light that Saturday had been a success. The visitors had spent their time exploring every inch of the Light, asking questions and falling into the spell of the Light.

They boarded the boat for the return trip to the dock and as John threw the rope to Sunny, the rope caught the glasses of Barry Stephan of Byron Center, MI and yanked them off his face. The next anyone realized, the prescription sun glasses were falling through the water to the reef 20 feet below the surface.

This is where Dave Bardsley comes in. When Dave heard of the mishap, he volunteered to go below with his diving equipment and see if he could locate the lost glasses. Because of his diving skill and determination he located the glasses on the reef and brought them up to the surface.

The following e-mail was received by John and Sunny from Barry.

"Over the years I have done a good bit of diving in Lake Huron but must now confess to a certain level of jealousy as my glasses have spent more time underwater in that lake than I have. One can easily suspect that one reason for the success of DRLPS is the depth of talent in the members, yes, just UNBELIEVABLE !

And yes, snail mail got them here Tuesday, thank you."

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products. She moved back to DeTour Village in 1999. She and her husband, Gary, own the River Bend Resort (www.riverbendresort.com). She is partner/owner of the Timberdoodle in DeTour Village. Janelle is also an artist making hand-designed jewelry, beaded flatware and works in pastel and watercolor. She is an artist /member of Pilot House, an artist cooperative in DeTour Village. Janelle is the mother of two active boys (Jake and Leo) who play baseball, participate in local theater and love to swim and camp.

Memorabilia Order Form—DeTour Reef Preservation Society

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (very important) _____ Phone _____

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	Price Each	Color	Size	Quantity	Total
1	Decal with Society Logo	\$1				
2	Bumper Sticker with Society Logo	\$1				
3	Cup with Society Logo	\$3				
4	Embroidered patch of DeTour Reef Light— 2 3/4 inch square	\$6				
5	DeTour Reef Light Collectors Pin— 1 1/8 inch	\$6				
6	Hat (khaki, khaki/blue, or wheat/pine) with Lighthouse Crest	\$15				
7	Visor with Lighthouse Crest (navy)	\$10				
8	T-Shirt w/Lighthouse Crest (stone blue or light green — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$20				
9	White Golf Shirt w/Lighthouse Crest (unisex — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$32				
10	Denim Shirt with Lighthouse Crest (unisex — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$39				
11	Crew Neck Sweatshirt with Lighthouse Crest (stone — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$28				
12	Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt with Lighthouse Crest (birch — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$35				
13	Sterling Silver Charm of Lighthouse	\$20				
14	Tote Bag with Lighthouse Crest (natural/red trim or natural/navy trim)	\$28				
15	Note Pads w/Lighthouse Logo (pack of 3 — 50 sheets per pad)	\$2				
16	Note cards, ivory, showing Lighthouse in 1931 (10 cards & envelopes)	\$8				
17	8x10 Color Photo of 2004 Lighthouse	\$10				
18	8x10 Color Photo of 2008 Lighthouse (NEW!)	\$10				
19	DVD video of the Lighthouse before/during/after restoration	\$20				
20	2008 Ornament (octagon-shaped 3x5 inch glass etched with Lighthouse image)	\$16				
21	1931 Limited Edition Lighthouse Window Pane (9 1/4 x 11 x 1/4 inch) w/Etching of Lighthouse	\$300				
22	Custom Framing for item #21	\$150				
23	Lighthouse Model 3" Little Light of Mine by Harbour Lights	\$17.50				



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for your
Support!*

*We'll Keep the
Light on
for You!*

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\$30 Basic, \$50 Patron, \$100 Keeper, \$500 Lifetime, \$1000 Grand Keeper. All memberships include family.

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or by writing: DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island MI 49726

DeTour Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society

DRLPS is a volunteer nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1998 to restore and preserve the DeTour Reef Light. Donations are welcomed and are tax-deductible (EIN 38-3387252, MICS 27001).

The Light was automated in 1974. In 1997, the lighthouse was declared surplus property by the U. S. Coast Guard due to sophisticated navigational systems aboard ships, and the Coast Guard's not having the funding to care for the structure in accordance with historic preservation guidelines. In January 1998, local citizens joined together to save the Light.

The lighthouse was built in 1931, and proudly stands guard a mile offshore in northern Lake Huron at the far eastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The structure rises 83 feet above the water and 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 received the 2005 Governor's Award for excellence in historic preservation, and the Superior Award in 2006 from the Historical Society of Michigan. The DeTour Reef Light is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PURPOSE: the purpose of DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) is 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 lighthouse history; to enhance public awareness of the value this lighthouse and its keepers brought to our nation's development; to make the DeTour Reef Light a premier tourist attraction in Michigan's Upper Peninsula as the best example of a faithfully restored offshore lighthouse in the Nation; to provide the public safe access to the lighthouse; to raise awareness about the importance of volunteers in maintaining and preserving the DeTour Reef Light and the DRLPS for generations to come.

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To submit comments and/or articles to the Editor, email *newsletter@drlps.com* or send by mail to: Sheila Sawyer, 49434 Tarrytown Ct., Shelby Township, MI 48315

Your input for the future issues of *Passages* would be appreciated. Thank you!