

## **TEN YEARS OF PRESERVING THE DETOUR REEF LIGHT**

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society Invites All to Attend  
the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on August 30, 2008

*Keeping the Light On for You – 1998-2008*

*Drummond Island, MI* – The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) invites you to attend the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the nonprofit volunteer lighthouse preservation organization to be held Saturday, August 30, 2008, in DeTour Village, Michigan.

DRLPS is extremely proud of their accomplishments to restore and preserve this Michigan maritime monument, and the team is very grateful to all the people and organizations that have helped *Keep the Light On* for the past ten years, including the dedicated volunteers, members, donors, and government and private organizations.

### **ANNIVERSARY EVENT**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will honor DRLPS accomplishments and those who have helped make the society successful, and to encourage continued efforts in lighthouse preservation. The event will be held at the Eastern Upper Peninsula Fine Arts Council Arts & Cultural Center, 245 Erie St., DeTour Village MI 49725, Saturday, August 30. Activities will include a social hour with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30, dinner at 6:30, and presentations at 7:30, along with an ongoing slide show of the lighthouse prior, during, and after restoration, and other DRLPS activities.

Additionally, the lighthouse photo contest winners will be announced, along with the winners of the DeTour-Drummond High School student's essay contest on "The Importance of Preserving Lighthouses." Special door prizes and welcome gifts will be provided to attendees. Some of the participants will include former U.S. Coast Guard lighthouse keepers who will have interesting stories to share about their work on the DeTour Reef Light.

A special showing of the 1907 3-1/2 order Fresnel lens used at the DeTour Reef Light will be available at the DeTour Passage Historical Museum on Saturday, August 30, and Sunday, August 31, with a narrative provided by Jim Woodward, a world-renown lens and lighthouse expert.

Dinner will be donated and prepared by Sandy Wytiaz of Complete Benefits Designs of DeTour Village. Ticket cost is \$15 per person, and a cash bar will be available.

### **LIGHTHOUSE AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

Situated a mile offshore at the far eastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the historic 1931 83-foot DeTour Reef Light proudly stands guard at a dangerous reef in DeTour Passage at the mouth of the strategic St. Mary's River which connects Lake Huron to Lake Superior. The Light was automated in 1974, and in 1997 the lighthouse was declared surplus property by the U. S. Coast Guard due to sophisticated navigational systems aboard ships and the lack of funding to care for the structure in accordance with historic preservation guidelines.

In January 1998, a group of concerned citizens put their heads and hearts together and formed a nonprofit organization to preserve the DeTour Reef Light for all to enjoy, and the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society was born. Through the diligent hard work, talent and perseverance of volunteers full of energy and action; much has been accomplished with high standards and attitudes of excellence over the past ten years. Major lighthouse restoration was completed in 2004, and first-ever public tours and overnight keeper programs have been offered since 2005. In addition, 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.

### **MORE INFORMATION AND TICKETS**

For more information and tickets for this event, please contact Co-Chairpersons Sandy Wytiaz (906-297-6801), or Jeri-Baron Feltner (313-268-6846) at DRLPS10@drpls.com, or go to [www.DRLPS.com](http://www.DRLPS.com) to print out a DRLPS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration reservation form. Early reservations are encouraged as seating is limited.