



## THE DRLPS STORY: History, Restoration, Preservation, and Public Access of the DeTour Reef Light Station



*By Jeri Baron Feltner, Founding Director Emerita*

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society

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In his 1937 book, legendary longtime commissioner of the U.S. Lighthouse Service, George R. Putnam stated: "The building of the station at DeTour was the result of a conference I had at Detroit with marine representatives who were asking that a lightship be placed at the north end of Lake Huron, better to guide the immense Lake Superior traffic passing in and out of the St. Marys River. I proposed instead a lighthouse built on the submerged reef, close to the edge of the channel. This station was built and has proved most valuable to shipping; it is more reliable and less expensive to maintain than a lightship would have been. One of the distinguished Stevenson family of Scottish engineers, who for a number of generations have built the remarkable light towers of that wild coast, made a tour of the lighthouse systems of the United States and Canada a few years ago. When I visited the DeTour Reef Lighthouse a year later, I ran across this entry which Alan Stevenson had made in the station log: 'Delighted to visit the most up to date lighthouse I have ever seen.' I was told, however, that he added orally, 'But oh, how extravagant!' I expect he was referring to the bathtub and electric lights provided for the keepers' quarters!"

Since 1998, 25 years of dedicated volunteer preservation effort from the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) team, and support from the public and government agencies, the DeTour Reef Light Station has been restored and educational programs developed with



DeTour Reef Light 1931  
*Courtesy U.S. Coast Guard Historian*

over \$1.4 million in state and federal grant funding and donations. Guided public tours and overnight keeper programs are offered at the lighthouse, and ownership of the lighthouse was transferred from the federal government to the DRLPS in 2010. Mr. Putman would be proud.

### IN THE BEGINNING

In northern Lake Huron at the southeastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the first lighthouse marking the busy entrance to where the St. Marys River enters Lake Huron from Lake Superior in DeTour Passage, was the DeTour Point Light Station (DPL) built onshore in 1847 (the light was turned on in 1848). The DPL was rebuilt in 1861 (similar to the station at Whitefish Point) near the same location due to the original stone tower disintegration because of poor construction materials and the need for a higher tower for the lens due to rapid increase of vessel traffic following the opening of the first Soo Lock in 1855. By 1919, an average of 77 commercial vessels per day were

traveling this strategic waterway connecting Lake Huron to Lake Superior. As larger and more sophisticated vessels with deeper drafts were developed, the shallow waters at the reef a mile offshore from DeTour Point made it increasingly difficult to traverse the area safely. Shipping interests asked for an aid to navigation which would be nearer to the channel than the former station; thus, in 1929, the U.S. Lighthouse Service authorized building a new lighthouse to be located offshore in 24 feet of water on the outer end of the DeTour Reef to mark this dangerous shoal and the entrance to the busy St. Marys River.



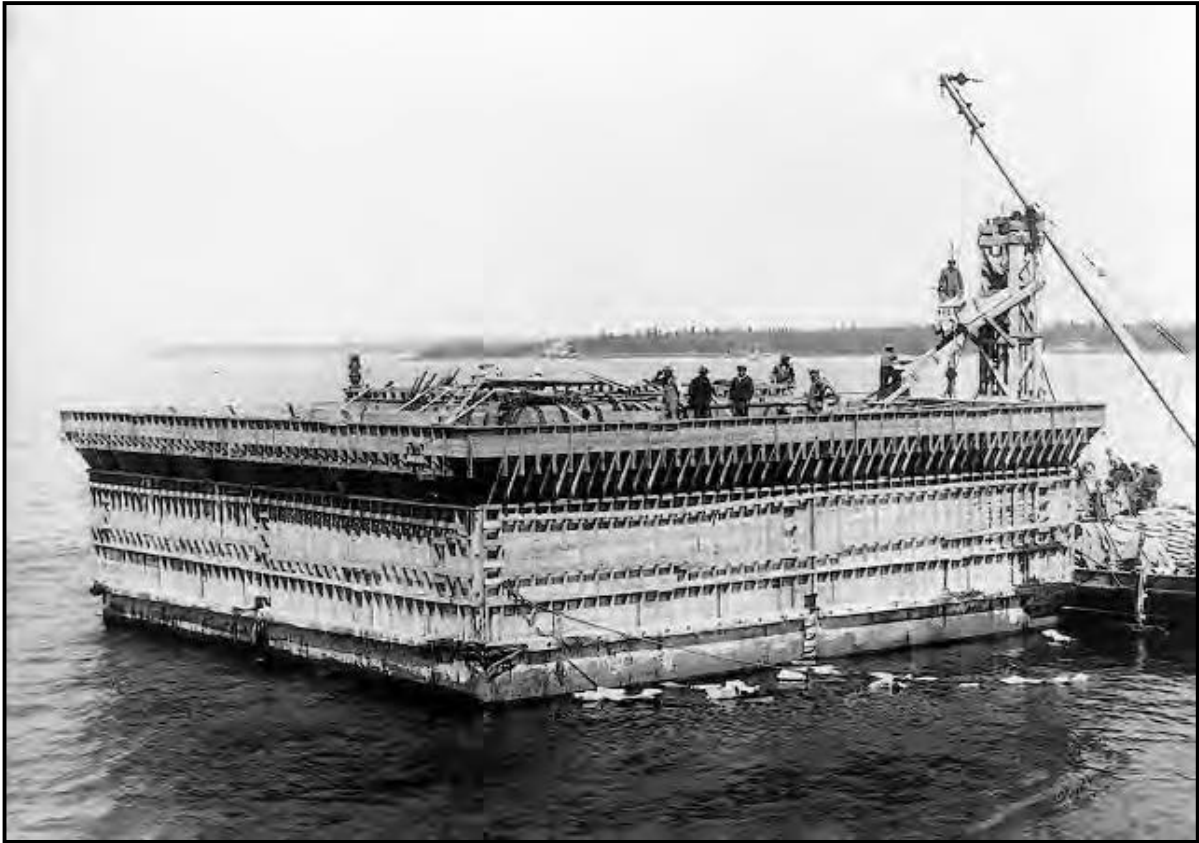
## DETOUR REEF LIGHT STATION

Built in 1930-1931, 4,050 feet and 126.5 degrees from the onshore DeTour Point Light Station, the offshore DeTour Reef Light Station (DRL) is a unique steel-framed square tower of three distinct levels in Classical Revival architectural styling. Sitting on a unique 21-foot timber crib covered with a concrete slab platform that rises twenty feet above the surface of the water, the 63-foot-high lighthouse is painted white with a red roof. The lighthouse was manned from 1931 until it was automated in 1974. Due to more sophisticated navigational equipment aboard ships, and the massive conversion to unmanned automated beacons, along with insufficient operating funds, the U.S. Coast Guard rendered DRL obsolete in 1997. Federal government regulations, however, do allow for nonprofit organizations to obtain long-term leases and ownership on such surplus property for the purpose of preservation. DRLPS obtained a 20-year lease in 2000, and ownership in 2005.

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## LIGHTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Building of the DeTour Reef Light Station by the U.S. Lighthouse Service began in early 1930 and was completed in late 1931 after 327 working days and a cost of \$140,000. In this northern climate and exposed location, the winter months were not suitable for construction. A heavy wooden (fir timbers) crib 60 feet square and 21.6 feet high was constructed on shore at the Watson Coal Dock north of the present-day DeTour Village Marina.



DeTour Reef Light Station crib being built at DeTour Village MI in 1930. *Photo from the Woodward Lighthouse History Collection.*

**The Crib:** Containing 180,000 board feet of lumber, the completed crib was then towed three-and-a-half miles to the reef site and sunk upon a 75-foot square leveled bed of crushed rock (similar to the piers used for Martin Reef and Poe Reef Light Stations). The outer compartments of the crib were filled with cement placed by the tremie method and the inner compartments were filled with rock. Half-inch steel plating extending about two feet above and below the waterline encircles the crib and protects it from the grinding effects of the ice. Topping the crib is a solid concrete deck extending two feet out on all sides to create a wave deflector and prevent so far as possible the breaking of waves over the deck against the tower. A large basement level is inset into the crib. This lower level, eight feet six inches above water level, which housed machinery and mechanical equipment, contains a large open space in the middle which is open to the entry or top of the crib floor above, and is surrounded by columns supporting the base of the tower. A heavy metal I-beam with a winch on a trolley was provided so that machinery from the basement floor level could be readily raised or lowered in and out of the main door of the structure.

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*Write-up from DRLPS volunteer John Covell:* A "crib" is a commonly used structure, partially submerged, for the purpose of securing dockage for boats, small and large. It is/was used to take the place of pilings, because it is easier to come by and install, and be made of readily available materials, assembled by semi-skilled workers, using the common tools found in most toolboxes. By nature, it is semi-permanent in many cases, but in acting as the foundation of a lighthouse, such a crib would be of a permanent nature.

Design features of a lighthouse crib would include a water-tight perimeter wall of heavy timbers. Rigidity would be achieved by incorporating an interlocking interior of wooden timbers, mortised into the sides of the outer wall. Additionally, a heavily timbered wooden floor would be part of the over-grown box. In the case of the DeTour Reef Light, one needs to envision the crib as 60-feet square and about 22-feet in height. To construct such a crib would take several days, and so, a suitable off-location construction site would be used. In that manner, the finished crib could be floated to location, where it would be filled with ballast and poured concrete, anchoring it securely to the bottom of the St Marys River, in this case. Once leveled and anchored to the river bottom, the lighthouse superstructure would be erected upon the crib.

Now for particulars: DRPS had no documentation, but all evidence points to the choice of Frasier Spruce as the specie of choice. Local providers could not supply such timbers, 12-inch square, in sufficient quantity. Rail service was available with a terminus close to the building site at Watson's Coal Dock, in DeTour Village, and so, it is believed this was the manner of supplying the timbers: Cut and saw them on site in Washington or Oregon and ship them to DeTour. The sawyers left the timbers a bit larger than 12-inch square, which was okay. No finished lumber went into the crib. Splices, where necessary, were a foot in length, and two bolts were used to secure each splice. The water at Watson's Coal Dock was determined to be deep enough for the endeavor, and so it went. As each new layer was added, the weight of the growing structure sank the crib deeper into the water, and yet, it was still buoyant enough to keep the workers dry. As the top of the structure neared, a skirting of heavy steel plating was added and braced into place.

As it was now time to float the completed crib to location, it became evident that it was top-heavy, and so, for stability, the crib was trussed-up between two larger tugs and towed to location, where it is today. Here it was filled with ballast (riprap and poured concrete). The location had previously been prepared by divers, and so, the crib came to rest on the bottom, which was only inches out of level. All was within the limits of the designers, with the final concrete pourings providing a level deck for the superstructure. At one time during the filling of the crib, Portland Cement was being used at the rate of three hundred bags per day. Remarkably, all of this was achieved in one season during the summer of 1930. Only local, semi-skilled labor was employed. DeTour Reef Light remains as an icon to the dedication of these men.

DRLPS volunteer John Covell, with assistance from Chuck Feltner and Sunny Covell, painstakingly built a 5'x5'x2' wooden scale model of the crib in 2006 which is currently housed in the lighthouse basement for visitors to enjoy. Wood for the project was generously donated by Brian and Jerry Nettleton of Nettleton Wood Products in DeTour Village.





DeTour Reef Light Station crib being towed to offshore site 1930. *Photo courtesy of Don Nelson*

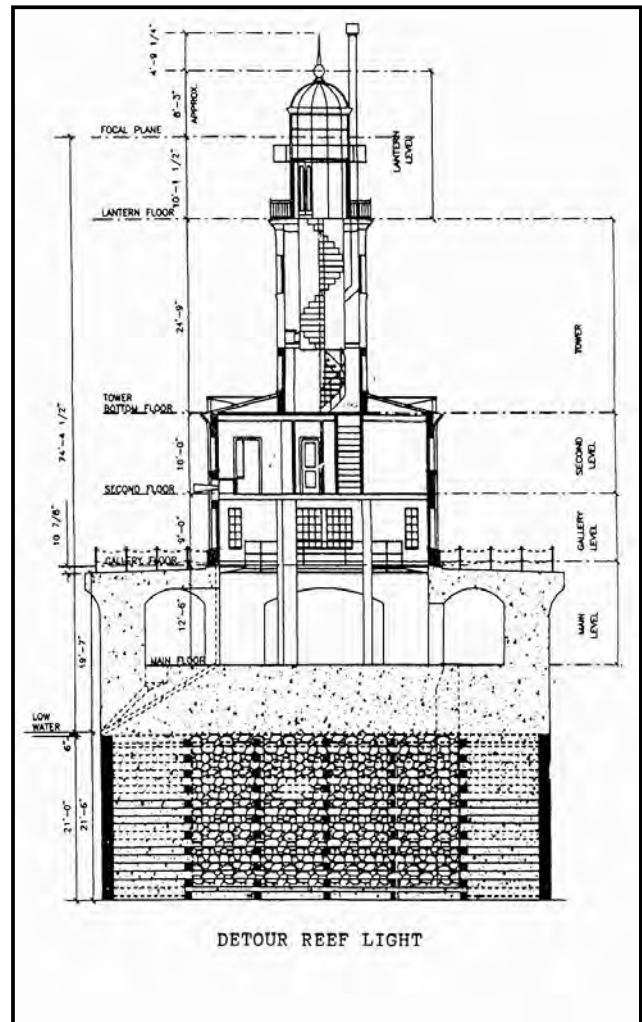


DeTour Reef Light being built in 1931. *Photo from the Woodward Lighthouse History Collection.*

## THE LIGHTHOUSE STRUCTURE

Rising from the concrete platform is a white steel-framed tower of three distinct levels. The first level, consisting of two stories, is 31-feet square and is framed with structural steel columns and beams encased in concrete. The interior floor surface at the entry level consists of open metal grating on three sides, supported on structural steel members. This gallery held smaller mechanical equipment including the radio beacon transmitters and clock controls. A short flight of stairs takes you to the keepers' quarters in the second story where there is a kitchen, bathroom, dining room, two bedrooms, and an office. The second level, 12-feet square, contains the circular staircase and supports the third level which includes the ten-sided watch room and lantern with an inscribed diameter of nine feet. The lantern is capped by a red painted cast iron roof. The total tower height is 63 feet to the top of the ventilator ball. The total lighthouse structure rises 83 feet above the water. The staircase cylinder, circular stairs, lantern, Fresnel lens, radio beacons, and fog signal were relocated from the onshore lighthouse (rebuilt in 1861) to the offshore lighthouse in 1931. The DeTour Reef Light was turned on November 10, 1931, and the onshore lighthouse was

discontinued, became a private residence, and in 2011 the Little Traverse Nature Conservancy received ownership of the majority of the lighthouse reservation. Note that the house burnt to the ground in 2021.



## AIDS TO NAVIGATION

### BEACONS AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

*From 2012 Passages article by Dave Bardsley: "LED Marine Beacon Installed in DeTour Reef Light":*

The history of the illumination and lenses of DeTour Reef Light begins with a meticulously crafted 1908 French Fresnel lens to the current beacon that looks like something from "Star Wars."

When DeTour Reef Light Station was constructed in 1930-31, the 1861 lighthouse tower from the DeTour Point Light Station with its 1908 3½-order Fresnel lens was relocated to the reef light station a mile offshore. This lens was one of only a dozen used around the country, most of which were on the Great Lakes, configured as a flashing white light with a characteristic of a one-second flash and a nine-second eclipse every 40 seconds and was visible up to 17 miles away with a focal plane of 74 feet above the water level. The lens was manufactured by Barbier, Benard & Turenne Co. of Paris, France, at a cost of \$2,940.50 (\$87,000 in 2023 dollars). The original shipping weight of the lens and components was 4,480 pounds and was shipped in 16 boxes. In 1936, the color changed from straight white to white with a red sector to the northwest to warn of the dangerous DeTour reef. This

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was accomplished using a color plastic inside the lantern (the glass-enclosed room containing the beacon). In 1978, this lens was removed and replaced by a modern beacon. The 1908 lens and its timing mechanism are now on display at the DeTour Passage Historical Museum in DeTour Village. From 1996 until May 15, 2012, the VRB-25 served as the beacon for DeTour Reef Light.

The VRB-25 beacon by Vega was six-sided (six lenses) and rotated continuously day and night, although the 22.5-watt incandescent lamp was activated at night by a photocell. Six bulbs in an automatic changer (like a Ferris wheel) assured continuous service when a bulb burned out. The beacon had to rotate during the day because sunlight is focused through the lens, and if the lens were stationary, the intense heat would destroy the beacon. Power consumption to rotate the beacon was about 2 watts. Accordingly, the average power consumption per day would be about 318 watt-hours. As installed in DeTour Reef Light, the VRB-25 range was 18 miles. When the VRB-25 was removed from the lantern, the Coast Guard donated it to the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society, and it is on display in the lighthouse basement.

On May 15, 2012, the U.S. Coast Guard installed an eight-tier Vega VLB-44 LED Marine Beacon in the lantern of DeTour Reef Light, replacing the Vega rotating beacon (VRB-25) that has been in DeTour Reef Light for about 15 years. Vega Industries is a New Zealand company. The DeTour Reef beacon is programmed to flash white every 10 seconds (with a red sector to the northwest). As such, it does not rotate. The vertical divergence is 2.5 degrees – making the beacon only visible at water level and not visible to aircraft at flying altitudes. The total power consumption is a maximum of 80 watts per flash resulting in average power consumption per day of 96-watt hours. Seventy-four feet above the water, the beacon has a range of 16 miles.

All the aids to navigation on the lighthouse are powered by a 12-volt battery bank, which is charged by solar panels. Concurrent with the introduction of the LED beacon, the Coast Guard reduced the number of solar panels from ten to three. This corresponds to the 70 percent reduction in power usage by the beacon. Other aids to navigation powered from the battery bank are the foghorn (which is activated by a signal from marine radios) and the radar beacon (RACON) which transmits an electric Morse code letter “D” (Dash-dot-dot) to radar receivers. This identifies the lighthouse so the boats using radar do not mistake the lighthouse for a large ship.

## ***FOGHORN***

In 1998, one of the original foghorns from the lighthouse was discovered by DRLPS member Jeff Laser at the Great Lakes Historical Society in Ohio (and after a persuasive phone call by DRLPS first President Bob Jones and Director Chuck Feltner, their Executive Director in turn gave it to the DRLPS). Jeff donated his time and funds to restore the 475-pound air-powered F-2-T diaphone foghorn. It was on display at the Drummond Island Historical Museum for several years and was put back on the lighthouse as a non-working foghorn in 2003 as part of the restoration effort. In 2008, DRLPS was awarded a grant from the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program for

rehabilitation and installation of this historic original foghorn and replicating of accessories to offer a working foghorn for visitors to the lighthouse to enjoy. This project was completed in 2011. See Foghorn article by Chuck Feltner in DRLPS *Passages* Spring 2011 [www.DRLPS.com](http://www.DRLPS.com).





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## A TREASURED REGIONAL ICON

The DeTour Reef Light is a point of pride for residents of both DeTour Village and Drummond Island at the far eastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The mutual objective of saving the lighthouse has brought the two communities, separated by the mile-wide St. Marys River, together. These communities value the historical contribution of the lighthouse and the keepers as a testament to the importance of shipping in the region's and nation's political, economic and social history. The lighthouse is also valued for its architectural beauty and esthetic value as a landmark of the eastern Upper Peninsula region. In 1997, preservation of the lighthouse and honoring this important part of our history became a priority when the U.S. Coast Guard exsessed it due to budget constraints and more modern ship navigation; thus, in 1998, the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society was born.

## BUILDING THE DETOUR REEF LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Well-known lighthouse preservationist **Dick Moehl** (President of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association) was made aware of the U.S. Coast Guard's exsessed of the DeTour Reef Light. In August 1997, he contacted **Bob Jones** and **Jim Charles** of DeTour Village and they (along with Dick's wife Margaret, son Mike and a Coast Guard Sault Ste Marie crew) took a boat ride out to the lighthouse to investigate its condition. Dick and Bob inspired some people from the community to come together for a common cause to save the lighthouse; and, in January 1998, the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society was formed as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization to restore and preserve the lighthouse.



DeTour Reef Light Station 1997  
*Aerial photo by John Wagner*

## THE DIRECTORS AND KEY TEAM MEMBERS

**Founding members of the Board of Directors** in January 1998 included **Bob Jones** (President – deceased 2002), **Jim Charles** (Vice-President – deceased 2007), **Jeri Baron Feltner** (Secretary), **Dick Moehl**, and **Barb Snider** (Treasurer). **Denny Bailey** joined the Board in May 1998.



January 1998 DRLPS Board of Directors' meeting with Jim Charles (Vice-President), Denny Bailey, Dick Moehl, Bob Jones (President), Jeri Baron Feltner (Secretary), and Barb Snider (Treasurer).  
*Photo by Chuck Feltner*

**Other past board members:** **Denny Bailey** (1998-present) Special Projects, **Bob DenBoer** (2000-2001) Treasurer, **Janelle Dudeck** (2008-2015) Secretary, **Bruce Glupker** (2002-2003) Treasurer, **Chuck Feltner** (1998-2020) President, Restoration Chair, Webmaster, Chief Historian, deceased 2020, **Don Gries** (2007-2009 Maintenance Chair, deceased 2009), **Clif Haley** (2000-2015 Grant Program Co-Chair, Legal Advisor, *Stars* Master of Ceremonies.



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**Glenn Lahti** (2004-2008 Secretary, deceased 2008), **Sheryl LaMotte** (2003-2007, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor), **Dick Moehl** (1998- 2015, deceased 2015) Founding Director Emeritus, **Sheila Powell** (2015) Stars Auction Chair (2014-2015); **Sherry Vermeulen** (1999-2000 Fundraising), **Sandy Wytiaz** (2007-2014 Vice- President and special projects, deceased 2014).

**Current members of the Board of Directors** (as of 2023): **Dave Bardsley** (2002), Treasurer 2014-present, Co-chair Keeper Program 2005-present), former President 2004-2006 and 2009-2010); **Terry Breiler** (2019); **Mary Chamberlin** (2021) Tour Co-Chair, Keeper Program Co-Chair, *Evening Under the Stars* Chair; **Ann Method Green** (2006) Former President 2011-2015, Public Relations Chair 2006-2015; Tours Co-Chair, *Passages* Co-Editor), Co-Webmaster; **Joe Henne** (2012), Vice-President, former President (2016-2022), Public Relations Chair, Tour Guide, *Stars* Auction Co-Chair; **Mike Horton** (2015) Keeper Program Co-Chair; **Brad McGann** (2021), *Passages* Co-Editor; **Brian Nettleton** (2010) Preservation and Maintenance Chair; **Russ Norris** (2004), President 2022, former President 2006-2008, Youth Program Chair; **Hallie Wilson** (2015) Secretary, Tour Guide and Special Projects. *Non-voting members of the Board:* **Jeri Baron Feltner** (1998-present), Founding Director Emerita, Founding Secretary 1998-2004, Membership and Database Manager 1998-2005, Boat Cruise Co-Chair 1998-2005; *Stars* Co-Chair 1998-2005 (Chair 2012), Webmaster 1998-2003; Public Relations Chair 1998-2006, DRL Grant Program Co-Chair, Steps Chair, *Passages* Editor 1998-2005, Historic Marker Chair, Archival Records Chair; **Clif Haley** (2000-2015) Legal Advisor, Grant Program Co-Chair, Director Emeritus; **Jim Woodward** (1998), Honorary Director, Retired from USCG-Cleveland Ninth District, DRL history consultant.

**Other current committee chairpersons and key team members:** **Jeannette Alguire** (2022) Contractor/Bookkeeper; **Paula Bardsley** (2002) Membership Chair and Database Manager 2005, past Director 2004; **Lois Bryant** (1998) *Stars* Silent Auction 2015-2017; **Candis Collick** (2008) former *Passages* newsletter Chair 2005-2007), Ladies of the Light Chair; **Chris Henne** (2016) Special Projects, *Stars* Silent Auction Co-Chair; **Matt Sawyer** (2005) Co-Webmaster; **Darlene Skinner** (2017) *Evening Under the Stars* decorator and food.

**Retired Chairpersons:** **Sis Bailey** (*Stars* Chair 1999-2000, deceased); **Larry Baron** (Special Projects and Promotion 1998-2011, deceased); **Joyce Buckley** (*Stars* Chair 2005-2009); **Donna Burden** (Tour Program Chair 2014-2015); **John & Sunny Covell** (1998) Tour Program Co-Chairs 2006-2013; Historic Marker Chair); **Ivan “Meade” Gable** (2006-2022) Charter Boat Operator; **Dawn Gibbons** (2003-2022) Accountant; **Nella Gries** (2014) Memorabilia Co-Chair; **Barb Gusfa** (Memorabilia Chair 1998-2000); **Lorna Heydinger** (2013- 2015) *Stars* Chair; **Judi Bailey Martin** (*Stars* Chair 2010); **Carol Melvin** (Finance 1998-2000); **Joan Meyer** (2012) Newsletter *Passages* Editor 2012; **Mary Rogers** (Membership Chair 1998-2008), **Sheila Sawyer** (2005-2012) Newsletter *Passages* Editor; **Mike Spears** (1998) Special Grant Projects; **Anne Stafford** (1998, deceased 2016) River Cruise Chair 2005-2015); **Anne Westlund** (Contractor - Special Projects 2000-2001); **Dotty Witten** (2001-2015) Memorabilia Co-Chair and past Chair of the DRLPS 15-year annual ornament).

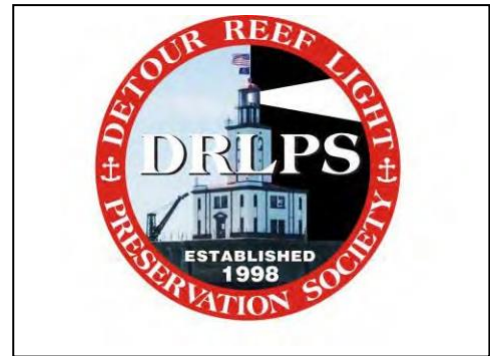
The DRLPS has been truly fortunate to have free use of the conference room along with office and storage space at the Drummond Island Airport Hangar donated by past Director Clif Haley since 2000-2016; and, since 2016 to present, donated by the Drummond Island Resort & Conference Center owners Princeton Enterprises.

The success of the DRLPS is based on the unfailing dedication and determination of the volunteers from day number one in 1998 to today along with the loyal support of the constituency, the State of Michigan, and the Federal government. The people have persevered and are preserving the lighthouse for all to enjoy for generations! Sustaining volunteers is a top priority!

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## PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY (Mission Statement)

The purpose of the 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 and regional maritime 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 all present and future generations.



## PUTTING TOGETHER THE ORGANIZATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

**Garnering a Constituency:** Starting with developing a team of dedicated, hardworking volunteers from the local communities in 1998, reams of paperwork had to be prepared to develop the successful foundation of the organization. This includes: *Articles of Incorporation* (for the State of Michigan which state the organization's intended purpose); *Bylaws* (rules governing the internal affairs of the organization); obtained an *EIN* (Employer Identification Number from the IRS required for all corporations); nonprofit tax-exempt status from the IRS (*501c3 application*) was applied for in January 1998 which was approved on April 1998; developed a logo, stationery, brochure, newsletter (*Passages*), memorabilia, and a website. A computerized database was developed to keep track of members, donors, and marketing sources. Regular monthly Board Meetings were held. Persistent PR with regular press releases were distributed to publications and organizations around the country, including to local, state, and federal government agencies. Slide presentations were given to local and state-wide groups. Notices and sign-up sheets were placed in local communities. A "Wish List" was developed and published, and many businesses and individuals donated items for use at the lighthouse and for auction fundraisers. Local and state functions were attended to promote the DRLPS. Membership developed steadily with 424 members garnered at the end of the first year in 1998, with over 1,500 people nationwide from 27 states who have signed up since 1998 to preserve the lighthouse. Membership renewals are requested annually. DRLPS has a current active membership roster of over 250 devoted members. DRLPS utilizes a double-entry accrual based financial system using Quicken software producing monthly reports to the Directors to keep them up to date on the Society's financial position and to provide the proper reporting of IRS tax forms.

**Gaining Respect and Recognition:** DRLPS has established a very strong and widely recognized and respected membership-based volunteer preservation organization along with a strong leadership team and active talented volunteers; and, consequently, was recognized by the State as the "poster child" of Michigan lighthouse volunteer preservation groups. After major restoration in 2004, the *Governor's Award for Historic Preservation* was presented to DRLPS in 2005 and states: "Presented to the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society for the determination, cooperative spirit, and perseverance of its members, who took up the challenge of rehabilitating one of Michigan's picturesque, yet remote, off-shore lighthouses and put it back into service as a tourism destination." DRLPS is proud!

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## FUNDING

Since 1998, the DRLPS has taken a very active approach to developing and maintaining a dedicated membership from around the country with annual dues and annual donations from a core group of individuals supporting much of the cost of operating the Society. Additionally, money has been raised from several annual successful fundraising and social events operated by dedicated volunteers which include: benefit dinners, auctions, boat cruise to the lighthouse and up the St. Mary's River and through the Soo Locks (beginning in 1998), an elegant *Evening Under the Stars* dinner on Drummond Island (established in 2000), major raffles (Freighter Ride Raffles donated by the Interlake Steamship Company raised over \$12,000 in 2000 and \$15,000 in 2005, and \$7,000 was raised from a raffle of a handcrafted Peapod boat by Jim Ross in 1999), and memorabilia logo items that are sold on a regular basis at several DRLPS functions, on the lighthouse, and local businesses as well as on the DRLPS.com website. A significant source of funding since 2005 comes from lighthouse tours and overnight keeper programs. Matching grant funds were generously donated in early 2000s by the Plym Foundation (\$15,000 in 2000), Rob Block (Philo-B-Leonard boat donation value of \$40,000 in 2000), Bayliner boat from Dick and Betty Gerber valued at \$6,000, and Bruce Glupker of DeTour Passage Marina (\$10,000 value of usage of dock slip). We have raised over \$260,000 from these sources since 1998 that have been used mainly to match grant funding. DRLPS is working on establishing an endowment for assuring the availability of funds for maintenance of the lighthouse into perpetuity. The most substantial source of funds for restoration has come from Federal, State, and private grants.

## SUMMARY OF GRANTS RECEIVED BY THE DETOUR REEF LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Since the establishment of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society in January 1998, obtaining grant funds to restore and preserve, share history, and educate and entertain the public for the DeTour Reef Light Station has been a major priority. The following is a list of 15 grants the DRLPS has received from 1999 to 2018.

**Summary of Funding:** Federal and State grant funds \$1,250,156; DRLPS cash match \$160,749; donated items towards match \$56,000; DRLPS volunteer service value match \$54,352; total funds of \$1,521,257 for the DeTour Reef Light Station restoration and education projects from 1998 to 2015. (Restoration projects \$1,432,705 and Education projects \$88,552.)

**Grant Agencies:** DRLPS is very grateful to the following major grant agencies for their support of the preservation of the DeTour Reef Light Station: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality/CMI (\$705,000), Michigan Department of Transportation/TEA21 (\$241,500), Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program/SHPO (\$259,456), and the Michigan Coastal Management Program (\$42,500).

**Major Restoration in 2004 Grants:** The DRLPS' major exterior and interior restoration grants applied for in 2001 and completed in 2004 consisted of state funds from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality – Clean Michigan Initiative (MDEQ-CMI) for \$705,000, and federal funds from the Michigan Department of Transportation – Transportation Equity Act (MDOT-TEA21) \$241,500. These grants required substantial matching share of funds (MDEQ-CMI \$235,000 and MDOT-TEA21 \$80,500), and fortunately it was determined that federal grants could be used to match state grants and visa-versa. The MDOT-TEA21 grant funded most of the cost of the exterior restoration and providing essential program resources that were required to obtain the MDEQ-CMI grant that funded the architectural and engineering services, a portion of the exterior restoration and the majority amount of the costs for the interior restoration.

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**Grant Team:** DRLPS volunteer grant team included (*in alpha order*) Dave Bardsley, Chuck Feltner, Jeri Baron Feltner, Ann Method Green, Don Gries, Clif Haley, Brian Nettleton, Hallie Wilson.

**Chronological listing of grants DRLPS received to date:**

**1) EDUCATIONAL HISTORICAL DISPLAY AND ORAL HISTORY VIDEOS (MCMP 1999-2000)**

*Michigan Coastal Management Program* (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) historical educational grant of \$10,000, matched by \$10,000 in volunteer services, project total \$20,000). Grant application was acquired and prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner and awarded in 1999 to produce an educational historical display, seven oral history videos with former DRL keepers: Floyd Colvin, Bob Soldenski, Jim Williams, and Ron Freels; Alfred Lemieux, a builder of the lighthouse; Glen Shaw, tugboat captain; and Jim Woodward of the Civil Engineering unit USCG Cleveland), and a full color DRLPS brochure. This grant project was completed in 2000 by Jeri Baron Feltner, Chuck Feltner and Mike Spears, and assistance with historical documents from Jim Woodward. The project included a trip to the National Archives in Washington DC by Chuck and Jeri Feltner to conduct research on the DeTour Point Light and the DeTour Reef Light Stations. Architectural and engineering drawings of the lighthouse were obtained from Jim Woodward of the USCG Cleveland, the USCG Sault Ste Marie, and the National Archives. Chuck Feltner studied each of the 87 drawings and prepared a detailed spreadsheet with annotation describing the contents. This document became an important attachment to our grant applications. The display is currently located at the Drummond Island Historical Museum and includes 120 interpretive panels of pictures and drawings describing the history of the *Lighthouses of DeTour Passage*. Jeri Baron Feltner and Chuck Feltner were project managers.

**2) LIGHTHOUSE PIER DECK CRANE #1 (Southeast Corner) (MLAP 2000-2001)**

*Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program* (State Historic Preservation Office) restoration grant of \$20,000, matched by \$10,000 in DRLPS cash and \$10,000 in DRLPS volunteer services, project total \$40,000, to restore a pier deck crane (#1) on the lighthouse (titled “*Gift Us a Lift!*”). Grant application was acquired and prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner with assistance from Chuck Feltner in 1999, awarded in 2000, and project was completed in August 2001. Managed by Chuck Feltner, large pieces of the original crane and the builder’s plate were discovered underwater near the lighthouse by divers Mike Spears, Chris Pemberton, Garey Eilertson, and Dock Borth, and were used in the construction of the new crane. While salvaging the crane parts, the divers also made an underwater video of the crib which documented the stability of the lighthouse foundation. DeTour High School students assisted in computer design drawings of the crane along with their teachers Brian Nettleton and Russ Norris. Contractors were L&B Builders/Ken Lyke and Charles Bosley, and George Socia and sons Justin and Jonathon of Drummond Island. Crane manufactured by Bunker Manufacturing in Sault Ste. Marie MI. Chuck Feltner was project manager.



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3) **VIDEO OF LIGHTHOUSE EXISTING CONDITIONS (NTHP 2001)**

*The National Trust for Historic Preservation* grant of \$1,700, matched by DRLPS cash of \$1,700, project total \$3,400, for an existing conditions at the lighthouse video. Grant application was acquired and prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner in 2001, awarded in 2001, project completed in 2001, produced by Ric Mixter of Airworthy Productions of Saginaw. Chuck Feltner was grant coordinator and DRLPS contractor, Anne Westlund, was project manager.

4) **WINDOW RESTORATION (MLAP 2001-2003)**

*Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program* (State Historic Preservation Office) restoration grant of \$20,000, matched by \$10,000 in DRLPS cash, project total \$30,000, for window restoration. Grant application was acquired and prepared by Clif Haley with assistance from Chuck Feltner in 2001, awarded in 2001, and completed in the fall of 2003. Contractors were Mihm Enterprises /Frank Mihm, and UP Engineers & Architects/Ken Czapski. Chuck Feltner was project manager.

5) **LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION (MDEQ/CMI 2000-2004) – Mainly Interior**

*Michigan Department of Environmental Quality - Clean Michigan Initiative* (MDEQ-CMI) restoration grant of \$705,000 (matched by \$235,000 with DRLPS cash, donated property, and Federal MDOT grant funds – see Grant #6) for exterior and interior lighthouse restoration and visitor access development. Grant application was acquired by Jeri Baron Feltner and prepared by Clif Haley and Jeri Baron Feltner with assistance from Chuck Feltner in 2000. Grant was awarded in 2001 and completed in 2004. As part of the local match, DRLPS charter member Rob Bloch donated DeTour Village area's historic tug *Philo B Leonard* valued at \$40,000, Dick and Betty Gerber (DRLPS members) donated a 1980 Bayliner boat valued at \$6,000, the Plym Foundation donated \$15,000 in 2000 in memory of Glen Bailey (Drummond Island), and Bruce Glupker (DeTour Village) donated use of a boat dock slip at the DeTour Marina valued at \$10,000. This grant was conducted in partnership with the Drummond Island Township (Frank Sasso, Supervisor), and was used mainly for interior restoration and engineering services. Chuck Feltner was grant coordinator and project manager with assistance from Dave Bardsley and Jeri Baron Feltner. Contractors were Mihm Enterprises/Frank Mihm, and UP Engineers & Architects /Ken Czapski. A detailed 19-page report including before/after photos was prepared by Chuck Feltner on behalf of Drummond Island Township and submitted to MDEQ in November 2004. (See Passages #7 Spring 2005 for additional information on the restoration effort.)

6) **LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION (MDOT/TEA21 2000-2004) – Mainly Exterior**

*Michigan Department of Transportation – Transportation Equity Act* (TEA21) 2002 restoration grant funding of \$241,500 (matched by \$80,500 State CMI grant funds – see Grant #5) for interior and exterior restoration. Grant application was acquired by Jeri Baron Feltner and prepared by Clif Haley and Jeri Baron Feltner with assistance from Chuck Feltner in 2000. Grant was awarded in 2001 and completed in 2004. This grant was conducted in partnership with the Village of DeTour (Terry Nelson, Mayor), and was used mainly for exterior restoration. Chuck Feltner was grant coordinator and project manager with assistance from Dave Bardsley and Jeri Baron Feltner. Contractors were Mihm Enterprises/Frank Mihm, and UP Engineers & Architects /Ken Czapski.

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7) **LIGHTHOUSE LOGBOOKS COPIED AND TRANSCRIPTION OF ORAL HISTORIES (MCMP 2000-2003)**

*Michigan Coastal Management Program* (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) historical educational grant of \$8,500, matched by \$8,500 in DRLPS volunteer services, project total \$17,000, to reproduce lighthouse logbooks and correspondence from the National Archives, and transcribe previously recorded oral history videos (see Grant #1). Application acquired and prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner with assistance from Chuck Feltner in 2000, was awarded in October 2001, and project completed in 2003. Under the guidance of teacher Russ Norris, DeTour-Area High School student volunteers Angela Fought, Janelle Kalmerus, Gary Kott, Ashley Stefanski, Ashley Tiefenbach, Amber Tiefenbach, and Mike Young, transcribed the oral history video tapes (by Jeri Baron Feltner in 1999 – see Grant #1); and, under the guidance of teacher Brian Nettleton, student Dustin Fierek built two bookcases to house the logbooks at the DeTour Village Public Library. Carol Hiney (Library Manager) helped set up the material at the library. Three large, framed photos were provided to the Library of the DeTour Reef Light in 1931, 1998 and 2003, and they proudly hang above the doorway. The grant was managed by Jeri Baron Feltner with assistance from Chuck Feltner and Chris Pemberton (who scanned the logbook pages and put them on CD and copied for binders).

8) **VIDEO DVD “GATEWAY TO SUPERIOR: SAVING THE DETOUR REEF LIGHT” (MCMP 2002-2010)**

*Michigan Coastal Management Program* (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) historical educational grant of \$10,000 (matched by \$10,000 in DRLPS volunteer services), to produce a 45-minute video DVD of the DeTour Reef Light. The application was acquired and prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner in 2002 and was awarded in March 2003. The video title is “*Gateway to Superior: Saving the DeTour Reef light.*” DRLPS volunteer Dave Bardsley became project director in 2003 and worked with Ric Mixter of Airworthy Production, Saginaw, producer of the video, to develop the content of this high-quality documentary of the history and of the DeTour Reef Light Station. An additional \$5,000 (matched by \$5,152 in volunteer services) was obtained for this grant from MCMP by Dave Bardsley in 2004. Project totals \$30,152. The video includes historical and restoration documentation along with oral video history interviews of former lighthouse keepers by Ric Mixter and Dave Bardsley (Floyd Colvin, Ron Freels, Bob Soldenski, Jim Williams) and Alfred Lemieux who helped build the lighthouse in 1930-31. Also included are interviews with restoration contractor Frank Mihm and Al Pembroke, State Historic Preservation Office personnel Brian Conway and Bryan Lijewski, Susan Vincent of the National Park Service, and Dick Moehl of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association. Those interviewed from the DRLPS include Dave Bardsley, Jim Charles, Chuck Feltner, Jeri Baron Feltner, and Clif Haley. The grant project was completed in September 2004. Note that subsequent revisions were made to the video managed by Dave Bardsley including video input from Byron Goggin in 2008 for which DRLPS paid \$900 for limited rights to Goggin’s 15-minute Gameday Productions’ clip, and video now includes 69 photographs taken by Dave Bardsley depicting the successful tours and overnight keeper programs at the lighthouse. Also, videos by Gordon Snyder and Bob McSweeney are included in the 2010 release. Many people contributed time and talent in support of this video as documented in Dave’s extensive final report to the MCMP November 5, 2004. Dave Bardsley was grant coordinator and project manager.

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9) **HISTORICAL MATERIAL COLLECTION (MCMP 2003-2005)**

*Michigan Coastal Management Program* Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) historical educational grant of \$9,000, matched by \$9,000 in DRLPS volunteer services, project total \$18,000. Application was acquired and prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner and Chuck Feltner in October 2003 to create an extensive five-module collection (format of compact disc and DVD) of historical material entitled "*Lighthouses of DeTour Passage: A Collection of Historical Material*." This project included: 1) Logbooks of DeTour Point Light 1872-1931 and DeTour Reef Light 1931-1963 (two CDs with 8,032 pages); 2) Government correspondence related to matters of construction, operation and maintenance of DeTour Point Light and DeTour Reef Light (two CDs with 1,019 pages); 3) Architectural and engineering drawings of DeTour Point Light and DeTour Reef Light (one CD with 154 drawings); 4) Historical photographs of DeTour Point Light and DeTour Reef Light (one CD with 87 photos); and 5) Oral history videos (8 people) of interviews with former keepers and other people associated with DeTour Reef Light. Project was completed in September 2005. Chuck Feltner was grant coordinator and project manager with assistance from volunteers Mike Spears, Chris Pemberton, and Jeri Baron Feltner.

10) **LIGHTHOUSE CABINETS AND BASEBOARD MOLDING (MLAP 2004-2005)**

*Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program* (State Historic Preservation Office) grant awarded in 2004 for lighthouse cabinetry and molding rehabilitation with \$32,387 MLAP funds and a 50% DRLPS cash match of \$16,193, project total \$48,580. Chuck Feltner acquired and prepared the application. Project began June 1, 2004, and ended September 30, 2005. It included construction or refurbishment and installation of seven pieces of cabinetry: 1) kitchen cupboards, 2) machinery room supply cabinet, 3) machinery room workbench, 4) storage cabinet in tower room, 5) closet cabinet in keeper's room, 6) two dresser cabinets for keepers' quarters. The second work task was the fabrication, installation and painting of metal base molding, door and window trim molding and picture molding for the trim in the keepers' quarters and tower room. Steel & Sons of DeTour Village was the contractor. Chuck Feltner was grant coordinator and project manager. (Note: DRLPS had a contract to restore the interior of the DeTour Reef Light using CMI grant money (see Grant #5). The amount of the original bid for this restoration exceeded the funds available. Consequently, DRLPS had to reduce the content of the restoration work. Two items that were removed from the original interior bid package included the construction and installation of cabinetry and the fabrication and installation of metal trim molding. The work under this MLAP grant included these two projects. The architectural drawings and specifications had already been approved by SHPO as part of the approval of the original interior restoration bid package and the original bid amount for this work under the CMI grant prior to its deletion was \$48,580.

11) **LIGHTHOUSE PIER DECK SKYLIGHTS (MLAP 2005)**

*Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program* (State Historic Preservation Office) for lighthouse pier deck skylights installation and sealant with \$4,200 MLAP funds and a DRLPS cash match of \$2,100, project total \$6,300. Chuck Feltner acquired and prepared the application, awarded in February 2005. Eight new pier deck skylights were manufactured by Circle Redmont Company of Melbourne FL and are identical to the 1931 originals. Pro-Builders/Gerald Ellis of Drummond Island was the contractor. Chuck Feltner was grant coordinator and project manager.

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**12) LIGHTHOUSE PIER DECK CRANE #2 (Northwest Corner) (MLAP 2007-2008)**

*Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program* (State Historic Preservation Office) grant awarded March 2007 for fabrication and installation of the second deck crane for \$30,000 with DRLPS matching funds of \$15,000, project total \$45,000. The grant application was prepared by Clif Haley with assistance from Chuck Feltner. Don Gries was the project manager, with assistance from Dave Bardsley, Denny Bailey, Ed Clark, and Meade Gable. Crane was fabricated by Bunker Manufacturing of Sault Ste. Marie MI. Project was completed in 2008. (See Passages #12 page 9, and Passages #14, page 5 for further information)

**13) FOGHORN (MLAP 2008-2010)**

*Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program* (State Historic Preservation Office) grant awarded March 2008 for rehabilitation and installation of the original F-2-T diaphone foghorn, replicate air storage tanks and piping, fabricated non-functional diaphone, and moisture control surrounding amplifier cones. MLAP funds of \$20,000 matched by DRLPS funds of \$10,000. Don Gries was the project manager until his untimely death in 2009 at which time Chuck Feltner took over as project manager. Additional funds were required for the project with MLAP grant funds of \$14,681 and a DRLPS cash match of \$7,340. For a total MLAP grant \$34,681 and DRLPS cash match \$17,340, project total \$52,021.) Project was completed in August 2010 by contractors UP Engineers & Architects/Ken Czapski, and Mihm Enterprises/Frank Mihm, and the rehabilitated foghorn was first sounded on August 27, 2010. Chuck Feltner was grant coordinator and project manager.

**14) WATER INGRESS REPAIR AND REMEDIATION (MLAP 2013-2014)**

*Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program* (State Historic Preservation Office) grant application for major interior repair of peeling plaster and paint due to moisture coming in the lighthouse, and resolution of the roof leakage problem. Grant project name is “*DeTour Reef Light Station Rehabilitation: Water Ingress Repair and Remediation.*” Grant application acquired and prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner with technical input from Brian Nettleton (Project Summary 11-14-2012), Chuck Feltner (Report on Water Ingress at the DRL 11-11-2012), and Ken Czapski of Sanders & Czapski Associates (Roof Inspection Report 9-19-2012) and submitted November 2012. The original application included MLAP grant funds of \$60,000 matched by \$30,000 DRLPS cash, project total \$90,000. Grant costs were grant funds of \$58,188 and DRLPS match of \$31,594. Grant funding was approved in July 2013 and completed in 2014. Brian Nettleton was project manager with assistance from Dave Bardsley, Ann Method Green, and Ken Czapski.

**15) PIER DECK AND SIDEWALK LIGHTS DAMAGE REPAIR (MLAP FY 2018)**

*Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program* (State Historic Preservation Office) grant application (FY 2018) submitted Nov 2017 and approved Jan 2018 for work on the DRL including 1) pier deck repair, 2) rehabilitation of seven sidewalk light and sidewalk light perimeter repair, 3) casement window repair and improvement, 4) pier vertical surface repair, and 5) downspout diversion. MLAP funds of \$60,000 with a \$30,000 match from DRLPS for a total project cost of \$90,000. Grant application prepared by Dave Bardsley with assistance from Hallie Wilson and Jeri Baron Feltner submitted November 2017. Frank Mihm of Mihm Enterprises (who did an onsite in-depth study of the project), and Ken Czapski of Sanders & Czapski Associates (preparer of detailed plans and specifications) are contractors for the repair work. Dave Bardsley is the project coordinator.



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## **GRANT FUNDING PROCESS**

The grant funding process has been a challenging, yet exciting and rewarding effort of applications, negotiations, and operations. The grant agencies have been a pleasure to work with, and the DRLPS is grateful for the funding received. There were some learning curve challenges encountered with the initial involvement with MDOT for DRLPS Restoration Chairman Chuck Feltner involving lots of red tape with the contract approval process. DRLPS ended up getting state government representatives and lawyers involved in helping us solve the problem. Because DRLPS is restoring an offshore lighthouse, weather, waves, and winter ice severely limit the working season, and time was of the essence in getting the contract approved and restoration completed before the grant deadline. It took over four months of effort (and legal expense) to negotiate a legal and financial agreement that DeTour Village (the official applicant) and MDOT, as well as the DRLPS Board of Directors, would find acceptable. It was a learning process for both the DRLPS and the government agency. The DRLPS experience helped pave the way for other lighthouse preservation organizations with their grant agency encounters. DRLPS developed an excellent working relationship with the grant agencies including SHPO's Brian Conway, Bryan Lijewski, and Denise Sachau; Jacqueline Shinn of MDOT, and Jami Harrington of MDEQ-CMI, and their staffs.

Note that the DRLPS was not the official recipient of either the MDEQ-CMI grant or the MDOT-TEA21 grant. Both grants required that a local government agency be the official applicant and recipient of the grant. To meet this requirement, DRLPS got Drummond Island Township and DeTour Village (the two local communities adjacent to the lighthouse) to be the official "local agencies" for the MDEQ-CMI and TEA grants, respectively, with DRLPS preparing the applications and agreeing to carry out all of the work. An important element to the success of the restoration grant funding was the cooperation of the local governments as the sponsoring agencies for the grants.

The MDEQ-CMI and MDOT-TEA21 grant applications were acquired by Jeri Baron Feltner and prepared by Clif Haley and Jeri in 2001. Chuck Feltner developed a detailed restoration plan, work schedule, and budget, along with a complete annotated inventory of 154 original U.S. Lighthouse Service engineering drawings (12-page document), for the applications. In late 2002, engineering services contractor Ken Czapski of U.P. Engineers & Architects of Marquette, with help from Chuck Feltner and Dave Bardsley, assembled the restoration details and worked with state and federal officials to get the required approvals to begin the restoration effort.

## **LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION**

Crucial to the success of the DRLPS' restoration program was the obtaining of historical documents including photos and original architectural engineering drawings, the preparation of an existing conditions report, and the formulation of a restoration plan, work schedule and detailed budget, and acquiring a twenty-year lease of the lighthouse from the U.S. Coast Guard in 2000.

The DRLPS first restoration project was the manufacturing and installation of one of the lighthouse deck cranes utilizing an MLAP grant completed in 2000. The grant application was acquired and prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner, and Chuck Feltner was the project manager.

Major lighthouse exterior and interior restoration work was accomplished with the MDEQ-CMI and MDOT-TEA21 grants in 2003-2004, along with a second MLAP grant used for window restoration. For the major exterior and interior restoration of the lighthouse, DRLPS hired restoration project manager Ken Czapski of U.P. Engineers & Architects (UPEA) of Marquette in January 2002. Frank Mihm of Mihm Enterprises from Hamilton, Michigan, was selected as the general contractor in May 2003. DRLPS volunteer Chuck Feltner oversaw the project with assistance from Dave Bardsley.

The first part of the major restoration effort was undertaken in mid-2002 on the exterior of the lighthouse, with only minor work undertaken on the interior. In 2003, exterior work began by setting up tons of scaffolding. The first thing that was done was repair of the roof on the lantern, along with scraping and



DeTour Reef Light during restoration in 2004  
*Photo by Jeri Baron Feltner*

painting the ventilator ball and dome. All the windows were removed from the lantern, the frames were cleaned, and refinished, and new windows were installed. The exterior of the watch room walls were scraped and repainted along with the decking railing and ladder. A new flagpole was put in place, and a new smokestack installed. All the windows on the upper and lower towers were refurbished, repaired, repainted, and new glass was installed where necessary. The upper tower had all the paint removed by hand scraping, and was then sandblasted, primed and painted. The same thing is true of the lower tower except that it has yet to be painted. Portions of the new chain rail on the outer edges of the pier deck have also been installed. Interior work to this point included demolishing of some interior walls that needed replacement, along with cleaning and repainting of the inside walls of the upper tower which included the area outside of the cylinder tower that encases the staircase. At the end of 2003, DRLPS spent \$379,915 and the program was 38% complete. By September 2004, the remainder of the restoration work was completed.



DeTour Reef Light Station Keepers' Office before restoration 1998, and after 2004. *Photos by Jeri Baron Feltner*

A final inspection was held for State and Federal government authorities on September 15, 2004, and the restoration project passed with flying colors! The participants of the jubilant final inspection

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team of the restoration grant work on the lighthouse included: Jeff Barsh (Michigan Department of Transportation), Dave Bardsley (DRLPS), Brian Conway (State Historic Preservation Officer), Ken Czapski (restoration engineer U.P. Engineers & Architects), Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner (DRLPS), Phil Granfors (Mihm Enterprises), Clif Haley (DRLPS), Bryan Lijewski (State Historic Preservation Office), Frank Mihm (restoration contractor Mihm Enterprises), Ric Mixter (Airworthy Productions), Dick Moehl (DRLPS), Russ Norris (DRLPS), Pete Paramski (Michigan Department of Transportation), Blaine Tischer (Drummond Island Township Trustee), Susan Vincent (National Park Service).



Final inspection of major restoration of the DeTour Reef Light Station 9-15-2004.

*Photo by Ric Mixter*

The total amount spent on this single restoration project was \$1,068,703 all of which has come from grant money with the exception of \$51,200 which came from private funds raised by the DRLPS (memberships, donations, memorabilia, fundraisers, etc.), and the value of donations of a boat from Rob Bloch (\$40,000), Plym Foundation \$15,000 donation in memory of Glen Bailey, Bayliner boat donation from Dick & Betty Gerber (\$6,000), and usage of a boat slip from Bruce Glupker (\$10,000). Utilizing a Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) Grant matched by DRLPS funds, construction and installation of cabinetry (Steel & Son of DeTour Village), fabrication and installation of metal trim molding (Mihm Enterprises), and installation of the deck lights (Pro Builders/Gerald Ellis of Drummond Island) have been completed.

## **FUTURE DRLPS PROJECTS**

Future projects that are not yet funded, include manufacture and installation of boarding stairs to the lighthouse to facilitate public tours; clean, patch and repair concrete pier vertical surfaces; interpretative displays and furnishings; safety signage; and installation of a video security system and “River Watch” web cam that will provide 24-hour viewing on the DRLPS web page of boat traffic passing the lighthouse; and development of an onshore viewing station and educational center.

## **MAINTENANCE OF THE LIGHTHOUSE**

Every spring since 2005 a group of volunteers called “Ladies at the Light” boat out to the DeTour Reef Light for a weekend stay of camaraderie and cleaning to get the lighthouse ready for the season’s tours and overnight keeper programs. Weekend lighthouse keepers (from the overnight keeper program) keep the place in ship shape throughout the summer. In the fall, the “Guys at the Light” required maintenance and shut down the lighthouse for the long winter’s rest.

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With the extreme temperature changes in northern Lake Huron, a major maintenance issue is peeling paint for which a solution is being addressed with regular maintenance. DRLPS has a long-term cyclical maintenance program for the exterior and the interior of the DeTour Reef Light Station as required by the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act. In addition, regular maintenance is conducted on equipment at the lighthouse, e.g., foghorn, water, and waste management, etc.

## **LIGHTHOUSE OWNERSHIP**

An important goal of the DRLPS from the very beginning of the Society in January 1998 was to obtain ownership of the DeTour Reef Light Station.

DRLPS obtained a 20-year lease for the lighthouse from the U.S. Coast Guard signed by first DRLPS President Bob Jones on September 5, 2000.

Under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act (NHLPA) of 2000, the federal government may transfer ownership of lighthouse structures from the U.S. Coast Guard to interested parties whose restoration and operational plans are approved by the National Park Service.

An extensive application for ownership of the lighthouse was prepared and submitted to the National Park Service (NPS/Susan Vincent) in December 2004 (revised in January 2005) by a team of DRLPS volunteers led by Jeri Baron Feltner with major input from Clif Haley, Chuck Feltner, and Dave Bardsley, based on the NHLPA which allows lighthouse ownership to be transferred to a nonprofit organization. Note that this application received accolades from the NPS and they stated it planned to use it as the “example” application for other applicants.

DRLPS received a letter on August 17, 2005, signed by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, which stated: *“The National Park Service (NPS) has recently forwarded a recommendation for the selection of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society as the recipient of title to the DeTour Reef Light Station. The NPS’s recommendation was based upon a review of the DRLPS’s application submitted pursuant to the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act (NHLPA). I am pleased to inform you that I have accepted the NPS’s recommendation and am forwarding my selection decision to the General Services Administration (GSA). In accordance with NHLPA, the GSA will provide for the preparation of a deed, subject to terms and conditions specified by NHLPA, and the application and agreement previously submitted to NPS. On behalf of the Administration, I applaud the commitment of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society to the preservation of our Nation’s maritime heritage in accepting stewardship of the DeTour Reef Light Station.”*

Ownership of the DeTour Reef Light Station would now be based on negotiations by DRLPS with the MDEQ for use of the bottomlands on which the station sits.

DRLPS volunteers, led by Clif Haley with assistance from Dave Bardsley and Michigan Lighthouse Alliance President Buzz Hoerr, worked diligently for several years with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ/Tom Graf), and the State's Attorney General's Office, on the legal issues for the official use of the bottomlands that the lighthouse sits on. In 2009 Carol Linteau of the MDEQ joined the bottomlands team. The historic Bottomland Use Agreement was signed by DRLPS President Dave Bardsley on May 18, 2010. The Quitclaim Deed drafted by Arthur Ullenberg



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of the General Services Administration (GSA) to the lighthouse was signed by Glenn Rotondo of GSA on June 8, 2010.

On June 17, 2010, the DRLPS team, represented by Dave Bardsley and Clif Haley on stage, was officially presented the Society's hard-earned ceremonial key and deed from the U.S. Coast Guard and General Services Administration to the DeTour Reef Light Station. Ownership of the lighthouse was transferred from the Federal Government to the DRLPS at the Great Lakes Lighthouse Preservation Conference organized by the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance held in Traverse City MI. Other DRLPS key team members present at the conference included: John and Sunny Covell (Tour Program Co-Chairs), Chuck Feltner (Director & Chief Historian), Jeri Baron Feltner (Founding Director Emeritus), and Ann Method Green (President).

Note, as Clif Haley stated in a memo, "the U.S. Federal Government retains a reversionary residual realty (easement) interest in the DeTour Reef Light Station through the NHLPA Covenant Agreement. The light station reverts to the U.S. for breach of any of the conditions and covenants of the Covenant Agreement, whether caused by legal or other inability of DRLPS to comply, or at any time the U.S. Government needs the historic light station for national security purposes. The U.S. protects this reversionary interest and ensures it will run with the land through recordation with the applicable county register of deeds."

## **BOTTOMLANDS USE AGREEMENT**

Under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act (NHLPA) of 2000, the federal government may transfer ownership of lighthouse structures from the U.S. Coast Guard to interested parties whose restoration and operational plans are approved by the National Park Service.

Offshore lighthouses like the DeTour Reef Light Station posed a special challenge in the NHLPA process because they sit on state owned and managed lake bottoms.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ/Tom Graf) prepared a draft "Agreement to Use and Occupy Unpatented Great Lakes Bottomlands for Lighthouse Private Purposes" dated July 1999. This controversial document was investigated by the state and lighthouse preservation groups to incorporate a more positive position for all concerned.

In December 2002, the State Legislature passed Bill 795 (sponsored by Sen. John J. H. Schwarz) regarding conveyance of bottomlands that offshore lighthouses rest upon. This Bill would amend the Michigan Submerged Lands statute to allow the MDEQ to accept applications for bottomlands use from a non-profit entity, local governmental unit, state or federal agency, or a community development organization to restore and maintain lighthouses located on the bottomlands of the Great Lakes, thus making it possible for organizations such as the DRLPS to enter into a lease or agreement for the use of State lands on which an offshore lighthouse is located, including the use of water over those lands immediately adjacent to the lighthouse. This Bill made it possible for the U.S. Coast Guard to transfer ownership of offshore lighthouses to organizations like the DRLPS. Thirty-eight lighthouses are located on Great Lakes submerged lands.

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The first MDEQ Application for Conveyance of Great Lakes Bottomlands was filed on August 14, 1998, by former Director Jeri Baron Feltner and signed by former DRLPS President Bob Jones. A second application was submitted by former DRLPS President Chuck Feltner on June 18, 2004, with an acknowledgement received from MDEQ's Tom Graf on October 20, 2004, stating "the application was incomplete as our application for transfer of ownership from the National Park Service was pending due to the unresolved issues of conveyance of bottomland's ownership."

Over the next five years, Clif Haley, DRLPS Director and legal counsel, lead the major effort to investigate the matter, assisted by former DRLPS President Dave Bardsley, along with Buzz Hoerr of the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance, and in 2009, Carol Linteau, a legislative director from the MDEQ joined the team. Clif devoted countless hours of time and talent, as he and his team worked diligently with government officials to develop a landmark agreement for use of the bottomlands of Michigan's offshore lighthouses.

The process for obtaining the agreement that would lead to ownership of the lighthouse was a difficult one as negotiations were held up for over five years at the Land and Water Management Department of MDEQ, and the Federal government's General Services Administration (GSA) did not want to give DRLPS a Deed, just a Bill of Sale. Clif Haley worked judiciously in developing comprehensive briefs on Navigational Servitude and holding the GSA to the regulations of the NHPLA that required a deed, which led to assistance from Carol Linteau from the MDEQ legislative department, and the Michigan Office of General Council lawyer Frank Ruswick. Support was received from the State Historic Preservation Office including Brian Conway, Bryan Lijewski, and Martha McFarlane-Faes.

The Bottomlands Agreement was signed on May 28, 2010, by Elizabeth Browne, Chief, Land and Water Management Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE), and by DRLPS President Dave Bardsley

The execution of the bottomland agreement was the final piece to the complex DRLPS efforts from 1998 that enabled the lighthouse to be transferred to the DRLPS. The official transfer of ownership took place on June 17, 2010, at the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance *Lighthouse Conference* at the Maritime Academy in Traverse City. Clif Haley gave an informative presentation at the Conference outlining the long and arduous task involved in solving the major bottomlands use issue to assist in the process of the lighthouse ownership transfer for the DeTour Reef Light and Harbor Beach Light stations and other Michigan offshore lighthouses.

DRLPS subsequently had a gala celebration of their ownership of the lighthouse in DeTour Village in August 2010 to celebrate all those who contributed to this major effort.

The transfer of ownership of the lighthouse to DRLPS was made possible after twelve years of effort by many dedicated volunteers. These efforts involved: 1) building and marketing a strong society and gaining the respect of government agencies and the lighthouse community; 2) developing a loyal membership base from around the country; 3) researching and obtaining historical drawings, photos, documents, and obtaining oral histories from several former lighthouse keepers; 4) operating successful fundraisers; 5) obtaining and executing grants; 6) restoring the DeTour Reef Light Station to its original 1931 condition; 7) developing public tours and overnight keeper programs; 8) obtaining the right to

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ownership from the Federal Government, and 9) negotiating and accepting the Michigan bottomlands use agreement.

MEMO: An interesting significant document regarding ownership of the bottomlands upon which offshore lighthouses sit was discovered by Chuck Feltner and Jeri Baron Feltner during their visit to the National Archives in 2000 to research lighthouses. Following is a report by Chuck Feltner regarding this document:

*On March 24, 1874, the Michigan legislature passed a law entitled "An Act concerning submarine sites for light-houses, and other aids to navigation". This is PA 1874 No 4, being MCL 3.301.*

*This law authorized the governor (by executive order) to convey state bottomlands to the federal government. The full extent to which this law was used by the federal government is unknown to us. However, we have unearthed one case where it was used, i.e., the Detroit River Light.*

*On May 8, 1884, then Michigan governor Josiah W. Begole issued an executive order pursuant to PA 1874 No 4 to convey ownership of 10 acres of land to the federal government (by request of the Corps of Engineers) for the purposes of building a lighthouse (the Detroit River Light?).*

*On July 25, 1986, the Michigan legislature passed a law entitled "An Act to require certain limitations, conditions, and procedures for the acquisition of certain property rights in this state by the United States; to require the approval of the state legislature; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts". This is PA 1986 No 201, being MCL 3.251 to 3.262. Note that this law repealed PA 1874 No 4.*

*Although I have no legal background, it appears to me that PA 1986 No 201 has the same intention as PA 1874 No 4 but changes the power of approval from executive order by the governor to a resolution by the state legislature.*

*In view of the fact that PA 1874 No 4 was in effect for a substantial period both before and after the DeTour Reef Light was built, and, had the proper process been followed, it seems likely that the bottomland upon which the DeTour Reef Light sits actually belongs to the federal government and not the State of Michigan.*

## **PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE LIGHTHOUSE – TOURS AND KEEPER PROGRAMS**

Safe public access to the offshore DeTour Reef Light requires special ingenuity with a deck 20 feet above the water and significant wave action (both wind created and freighter wakes) against vertical sides. Transferring from a boat to the lighthouse requires agility and the strength to climb the 20-foot recessed ladder steps. Past keepers of the lighthouse have advised us that they did not climb the ladder but remained aboard a 26-foot launch as it was lifted to and from the water and the deck boat cradle by the massive lighthouse cranes. DRLPS continues to investigate easier and safer access capability.

The first ever public guided tours and overnight keeper programs were offered by DRLPS in July 2005. DRLPS volunteer Chuck Feltner originated the effort with valuable material received from Stef Staley of the Grand Traverse Bay Lighthouse Keeper Program. DRLPS volunteer Dave Bardsley further developed the extensive DRLPS Keeper and Tour Program. He has been the Chairperson of the Keeper Program since 2005 with volunteer Mike Horton joining as co-chair in 2012, and Mary Chamberlain co-chair in 2022.



Keeper Program Chair Dave Bardsley puts safety harness on visitor for the climb up the 20' ladder.

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John and Sunny Covell were co-chairs of the Tour program from 2006 to 2021 (Note, no onsite programs offered due to power failure in 2022). Visitors to the historic lighthouse take a 10-minute charter boat ride from Drummond Island's Whitney Bay to the lighthouse for their climb a 20-foot vertical ladder to the pier deck. Each visitor is fitted with a full body safety harness while climbing the ladder to walk in the footsteps of the former lighthouse keepers. The tours last for about two hours. The first of its kind offshore overnight keeper program is a unique and enjoyable two-night experience. It includes magnificent views of scenery, sunrises, sunsets, and freighters, all while experiencing history in the steps of the former lighthouse keepers. The tours and overnight keeper programs have proved to be a very popular and successful venture and the programs continue to be well-received. As of 2021 over 800 people have taken the day tour of the DRL and over 900 have enjoyed the overnight keeper program. An estimated \$100,000 has been earned from these programs.



*DeTour Reef Light Station - photo by Jeri Baron Feltner 2008*

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION RECEIVED BY DRLPS**

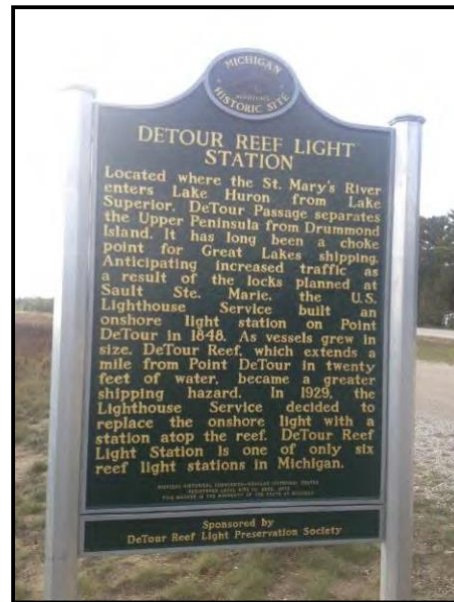
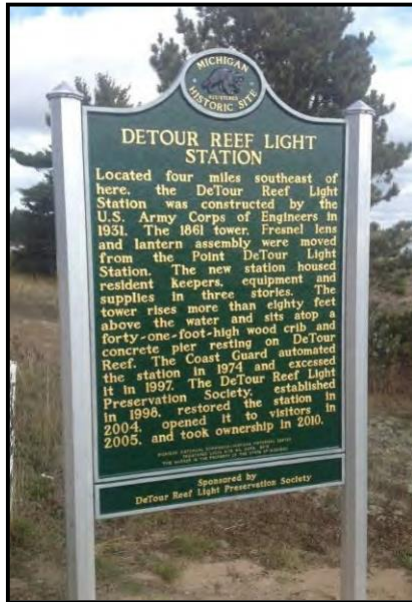
1. Due to DRLPS' extensive national promotion efforts and the dedicated initial volunteer efforts in building a strong well-respected non-profit organization, the DeTour Reef Light was chosen as the example of Michigan's historic lighthouses on the ***1998 National Trust for Historic Preservation's List of 11 Most Endangered Places***. This selection provided national recognition to the State's lighthouse preservation program and was the first time a lighthouse was placed on this list.
2. DRLPS received a ***Special Tribute from the State of Michigan*** in 2004 (a first for a Michigan lighthouse) from the 92<sup>nd</sup> Legislature of the State of Michigan endorsed by Jennifer Granholm, Governor of Michigan, Jason Allen, State Senator 27<sup>th</sup> District, and Scott Shackleton, State Representative 107<sup>th</sup> District. The Tribute states: "For over six years, the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society has pursued all possible means of achieving their goal of preserving and restoring the lighthouse. The founders worked relentlessly to increase membership and raise awareness in the community for their cause. Not only has the Society received support from their



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constituency, they have received financial donations from local businesses. DRLPS has garnered members from twenty-five other states. The preservation Society has become a ‘poster child’ for Michigan lighthouse preservation groups due to their success as a strong, volunteer-based organization. This success is based on the unfailing dedication and determination of the volunteers, as well as the loyal support of lighthouse enthusiasts.”

3. The DeTour Reef Light Station was listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* in 2005 due to its significance to Michigan’s history in the areas of maritime history, transportation, and architecture. The DRL is associated with events that have made an important contribution to the broad patterns of the State’s maritime transportation history. The property embodies and exemplifies the distinctive architectural characteristics of an early Twentieth Century Great Lakes crib foundation lighthouse. U.S. Coast Guard Washington DC employee Dr. Daniel Koski-Karell (with assistance from Jeri Baron Feltner) completed this extensive application in 2005 after a personal visit to the DeTour Reef Light Station.
4. DRLPS received the *Governor’s Award for Historic Preservation in 2005* (a first for a lighthouse preservation organization). This is a distinguished award granted to projects that exemplify a commitment to Michigan’s historic resources. Created in 2003, the annual award 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. Jeri Baron Feltner accepted the award with the attendance of Dave & Paula Bardsley, Chuck Feltner, and Clif Haley, at a ceremony at the Capitol in Lansing, on behalf of all the dedicated DRLPS volunteers.
5. DRLPS received the *Superior Award from the Historical Society of Michigan* in 2006 “to honor and recognize the local grassroots organization’s outstanding efforts to preserve and promote Upper Peninsula history exemplifying dedication and community spirit, with the restoration, preservation, and promotion of the DeTour Reef Light and advancing appreciation of EUP maritime history. Chuck and Jeri Feltner accepted the award at a special ceremony in Marquette on behalf of all the dedicated DRLPS volunteers. Jeri Baron Feltner submitted the application.
6. DRLPS received the *Old Mission Bank Community Pride Award* in 2007 in Sault Ste Marie stating: “The DRLPS’ efforts to serve the needs of our citizens and to create new opportunities for our children and grandchildren to live and prosper within our Eastern Upper Peninsula community are appreciated.” Dave Bardsley accepted the award on behalf of all the dedicated DRLPS volunteers.
7. DRLPS received the designation of *Preserve America Steward* by First Lady Michelle Obama in 2010 “in recognition of its preservation of the DeTour Reef Light, with appreciation for the efforts of its volunteers in preserving cultural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.” *Preserve America Stewards* is a designation program that recognizes programs that have demonstrated a successful use of volunteer time and commitment in order to help care for our historic heritage. DRLPS President Ann Method Green acquired and prepared the application.
8. The U.S. Coast guard **Sault Ste Marie Sector introduced their new logo** in 2011 featuring the DeTour Reef Light proudly sitting at the top.
9. DeTour Reef Light Station **Michigan Historical Marker** erected on M-134 was dedicated on September 28, 2013. Located five miles west of DeTour Village on the shores of Lake Huron when you first spot the lighthouse from shore going east. The Marker designates the DeTour Reef Light Station as Michigan Historic Site #2252 and honors the DeTour Reef Light Station as an important and educational part of local and state history. Jeri Baron Feltner prepared the application.



## PAST KEEPERS OF THE DETOUR REEF LIGHT

Research on former DeTour Reef Light keepers has been ongoing beginning in 1998 with an article Jeri Baron Feltner placed in local newspapers asking for information about past keepers and subsequently receiving a letter from Dan McInnes of DeTour Village listing several names. Tom Tag provided DRLPS with an extensive list of names he prepared in 1999. Additional research was conducted at the National Archives in Washington DC by Chuck and Jeri Baron Feltner, and Chuck Feltner's research with logbooks turned up several former keeper names. Previous U.S. Coast Guard employee Jim Woodward helped with official titles. Oral history interviews were conducted by DRLPS volunteers Jeri Baron Feltner and Mike Spears in 2000, in 2004 by Ric Mixter and Dave Bardsley of those shown with an \*, and in 2006 and 2007 by Chuck Feltner and Russ Norris of those shown with an x.

**KENNETH F. HOLCOMB**, Engineman 3rd Class (EN3), 1957; **HAROLD EUGENE ANDERSON** Fireman (FN), 1958-1959; \***JAMES P. WILLIAMS**, Engineman 1st Class (EN1), 1960-1962; **ERIC R. OLSEN**, Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class (BM2), 1962-1963; \***RONALD E. FREELS**, Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (BM1), 1965-1966; \***ROBERT F. SOLDENSKI**, Engineman 1st Class (EN1), 1967-1968; \***FLOYD L. COLVIN**, Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (BM1), 1968-1969; x**HAROLD EUGENE ANDERSON**, Fireman (FN), 1958-1959; x**MILTON V. LOVETT**, Engineman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (EN2), 1958-1959.

## WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD

The DeTour Reef Light will continue to be maintained and preserved by the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society who will continue to make it accessible to visitors for public tours and overnight keeper programs with safe docking and boarding facilities. Goals include installing interpretative displays at the lighthouse and development of an onshore viewing and educational center to enhance public awareness and appreciation of the rich maritime heritage of the region, and to keep the DeTour Reef Light as a premier tourist attraction in the Eastern Upper Peninsula as the best example of an offshore lighthouse in the world.

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DRLPS has established a special fund for maintenance of the lighthouse in perpetuity and fundraisers are conducted annually, along with funds earned from the tours and overnight keeper programs at the lighthouse for this important fund.

Other important goals include strategic planning and budgeting, sustaining volunteers and volunteer management, membership development, and working closely with the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance, and other lighthouse preservation organizations and state and federal agencies on preserving the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society. A DRLPS Policy and Procedures Manual is being developed to help sustain the success and recruitment of volunteers.

## **SUSTAINING SUCCESS**

Success of lighthouse preservation is based on the unfailing support of the people dedicated and committed to restoring and preserving the DeTour Reef Light and keeping the organization strong. Volunteers invest a huge amount of personal time, energy and expense in keeping the Light on. DRLPS has been fortunate with a team (from 1998 to the present time) with passion, persistence, patience, and integrity. It is important to ensure that these individuals do not reach the burn out point. The DRLPS is confident that the lighthouse national and statewide programs and policies being developed will help these individuals and organizations sustain their goals by developing potential sources of future funding to maintain the lighthouse and to help sustain the operation of operate lighthouse preservation organizations.

Another important aspect of sustaining success for the future is to value and respect the organization's past volunteers who have dedicated significant time and talent to the preservation of the DeTour Reef Light -- as is attempted to be accomplished in *The DRLPS Story*, an ongoing effort.

As well-known lighthouse personality Terry Pepper stated as one of his personal team philosophies - "How far should we extend ourselves? All the way. Each challenge will bring new opportunities we never dreamed of. We must work with the conviction that *if we build it, they will come.*" This applies not only to the individual organizations but to all the lighthouse community national organizations that have been developed. They must all work together to be sure that the organizations do not fail in keeping the light on in the spirit of George Putnam as he said in his 1917 book - "*The building and the keeping of the lights is a picturesque and humanitarian work of the nation.*"

## **JOIN THE TEAM**

The DRLPS plans to keep the Light on for generations to come and will continue to share the lighthouse with the people through safe and informative public access. It is the hope and dream of the DRLPS that this historic lighthouse will continue to attract many visitors including lighthouse enthusiasts and boat watchers (as the deck is a great place to take photos of the ships) to learn of the value this lighthouse and its keepers served to the prosperity of the nation.

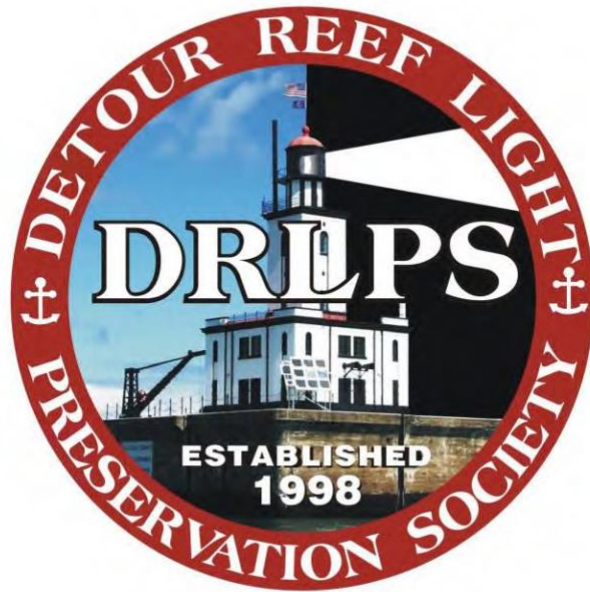
The DRLPS is very grateful to state and federal agencies, and others, for the over \$1.3 million in grant funding to accomplish major lighthouse restoration and educational projects. This funding, however, does not cover additional restoration projects, and ongoing operational expenses, including lighthouse insurance and maintenance. DRLPS appreciates the loyal individual supporters who have steadfastly offered their support to keep the DRLPS functioning. The DRLPS' continues to actively work at raising funds through donations, memberships, tours and overnight lighthouse keeper programs, and other fundraising events. DRLPS is a tax-exempt nonprofit 501c3 organization and donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Memberships can be obtained for as little as \$30 which includes a newsletter. Please join the DRLPS in this worthwhile endeavor and become a

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member of the DRLPS team to restore and preserve this magnificent monument to Michigan's maritime history -- and remember -- *We'll Keep the Light On for You!*

*Visit the DRLPS at [www.DRLPS.com](http://www.DRLPS.com) or contact, [drlps@drlps.com](mailto:drlps@drlps.com), DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island MI 49726, 906-493-6609 for more information about the lighthouse and how to join the team to preserve the DeTour Reef Light for generations to enjoy. (EIN 38-387252, MICS-27001)*

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**WE'LL KEEP THE LIGHT ON FOR YOU!  
1998-2023 AND THE FUTURE**

**DRLPS TURNED 25  
ON JANUARY 8, 2023**



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## **DETOUR REEF LIGHT STATION & DETOUR REEF LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY HISTORY TIMELINE: A Chronology of Major Accomplishments from 1998-2015 (compiled by Jeri Baron Feltner)**

Since January 1998, several significant developments due to committed people and entities have contributed to the enormous widely respected success of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) and the restoration and preservation of the DeTour Reef Light Station along with educating the public about maritime history. The success of our Society is based on the untiring dedicated efforts of our volunteers, donors, members, and the loyal support of grant agencies for our 14 restoration and educational grants received from 1999-2013 with a total value of \$1.2 million. Since the first public visitor's program offered by DRLPS in 2005, hundreds of lighthouse enthusiasts have enjoyed touring the restored lighthouse and participating in the overnight keeper programs. DRLPS celebrates 15 years of preserving the lighthouse from 1998 to 2013, and, with your continued valued support, *We'll Keep the Light On for You* for many years to come! For information on visiting the lighthouse, participating in our events, or how you can help, please go to [www.DRLPS.com](http://www.DRLPS.com).

### **1848**

There was a need for a navigational aid at the mouth of the St. Mary's River in DeTour Passage during our nation's development and the bustling activity of early sailing vessels from Lake Huron to Lake Superior, and, in 1848, the onshore DeTour Point Light Station was built. Due to increased traffic and larger ships, the submerged reef, a mile from shore, became more of a hazard, thus the onshore Light was closed, and the offshore DeTour Reef Light Station was built in 1931.

### **1930 to 1997**

- 1930 – To replace the onshore DeTour Point Light Station, the mile offshore DeTour Reef Light Station was ordered to be built by the U.S. Lighthouse Service. Sitting at the end of a submerged reef, the station rests in 24 feet of water, and the 63-foot structure sits on a reinforced concrete pier atop a unique 60x60 foot box-like wooden crib and has a steel-framed square tower of three distinct levels in Classical-Revival architectural style.
- 1931 – Relocated from the onshore DeTour Point Light to the new offshore DeTour Reef Light were the staircase cylinder, circular stairs, lantern, Fresnel lens, radio beacon, and fog signal. After 327 days and \$140,000, the DeTour Reef Light Station's light was turned on November 10. The first keepers at the Light were W. S. Hall (Keeper), James Brander (K1A), and Sterling Malone (K2A).
- 1956 – USCG placed a F2T Diaphone air-driven foghorn on the lighthouse. It operated until 1974 when the lighthouse was automated and was replaced by an electrically-driven fog signal.
- 1962 - Longest serving DeTour Reef Light Station Keeper (1940-1962) Charlie Jones retired on October 31 after 22 years of service.

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- 1974 - DeTour Reef Light Station automated and no longer manned, windows boarded up and equipment removed, and the structure left to erode to the elements. Note that the USCG was still responsible for maintaining the Light apparatus as an aid to navigation.
  - 1993 - DeTour Reef Light Station's 1909 Fresnel Lens (which was transferred from the DeTour Point Light Station in 1931 and removed in 1978) was recovered from storage in a garage in Mackinaw City by Dick Moehl and Bob Jones. The lens was put back together by the USCG and installed as an exhibit in the DeTour Passage Historical Museum in DeTour Village in 1993.
  - 1997 – Due to budget constraints and modern on-board ship navigation technology, the U.S. Coast Guard exceded the DeTour Reef Light Station making it available for ownership by government and nonprofit entities to care for or tear the structure down and put up a metal tower with the light as an aid to navigation.
  - 1997 - Dick Moehl, President of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, learned of U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) excessing of the DeTour Reef Light (DRL) and took a trip on a USCG vessel in August 1997 to assess the lighthouse conditions with his wife Margaret, son Mike, the USCG Sault Ste Marie Group, and local DeTour Village residents Bob Jones and Jim Charles. Right after that visit, Dick and Bob rallied local citizens to form a society to save the lighthouse. After the visit to the DRL, the group had lunch at the Fogcutter Restaurant in DeTour Village (owned by Tom & Barb Snider), and while Barb served them, she learned of their mission to *Save the Light!* Barb and Tom subsequently had dinner at Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner's new home on Drummond Island in November 1997, where Barb and Jeri, friends since 1964, discussed Saving the DRL, which could be seen from Feltner's front window.
  - 1997 - Dick Moehl, Barb Snider, and Jeri Baron Feltner met at Weber's Restaurant in Ann Arbor on December 5 to discuss formation of a society to preserve the lighthouse. Dick brought along a heap of 501c3 application forms and instructions for Jeri to prepare (which proved to be quite a learning experience for her and the start of much more paperwork to come!).

## 1998

- On January 4, 1998, the first official meeting of the Board of Directors of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society was conducted in DeTour Village at the Fogcutter Restaurant with Dick Moehl, Bob Jones (President), Jim Charles (Vice-President), Barb Snider (Treasurer), and Jeri Baron Feltner (Secretary). Future dedicated volunteers and charter members Chuck Feltner and Mary Rogers also attended.
- First newspaper article about the DRLPS appeared in the *Community Digest* January 8, 1998, "DeTour/Drummond Residents Organize to Save Light," by Jim MacLaren.
- DRLPS nonprofit IRS tax-exempt 501c3 status applied for (application prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner) in January 1998 and approved in April 1998 whereupon DRLPS got the nickname of "the 90-day wonders."
- DRLPS logo developed in January 1998 by DRLPS member and volunteer Chuck Tanner of Drummond Island.

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- DRLPS stationery, letterhead, and business cards developed by Jeri Baron Feltner January 1998.
  - Led by the dedicated passionate leadership of DRLPS President Bob Jones, the team work assiduously beginning in January 1998 contacting and networking with national, state, and local politicians to help the Society obtain a lease of the lighthouse and support of the preservation efforts.
  - Historical documentation, correspondence, architectural and engineering drawings, and photos acquired by Jeri Baron Feltner and Chuck Feltner during 1998-2001 from various sources including local residents, their first visit to the National Archives in Washington DC in 2000, the U.S. Coast Guard in Sault Ste Marie by Bob Jones, and Jim Woodward of USCG-Cleveland provided many wonderful photos from his original glass plate collection, along with historical documents and drawings of the DeTour Point Light and DeTour Reef Light.
  - DRLPS database established by Jeri Baron Feltner in January 1998 using Avery Label Pro software which included 15 fields of information with a sort capability. Extensive effort was made by the DRLPS team to garner local, state, and nationwide support of the DRLPS, leading to a country-wide charter membership of over 350 by the end of 1998.
  - DRLPS website established by Jeri Baron Feltner in May 1998 with Iceberg Computers via a connection with the websites of Drummond Island Tourist Association and the DeTour Village Chamber of Commerce. Jeri contacted Dan Sirinne of the Woodmoor Resort who entered the DRLPS data into these websites from 1998-2000. Clif Haley recruited his employee Mike Jamroziak, of the Resort, who worked on the website in 2000-2001 and provided very creative input. Jeri set up the domain name [www.DRLPS.com](http://www.DRLPS.com) with Network Solutions on December 13, 2000. Local DeTour Area Schools high school teacher Russ Norris and his talented students, including Jennie Dreves, set up many new features on the website. DeTour Village resident Sheryl LaMotte worked as webmaster 2002-2006 with help from Dave Bardsley. In 2006, Matt Sawyer volunteered to be webmaster and worked with DRLPS volunteer Chuck Feltner on the extensive development of the website with detailed layout and content.
  - A replica of the solid oak dining room table used at the lighthouse was handcrafted by Eddie McGregor of Oxford, Michigan, and donated to the DRLPS in 1998. Eddie learned about the preservation of the DRL effort and contacted President Bob Jones about wanting to help.
  - Denny Bailey, owner of Drummond Island Yacht Haven, was elected as DRLPS Director in May 1998.
  - Due to the DRLPS' diligent and dedicated team efforts and the well-respected reputation built beginning January 1998, national recognition was received by the DRLPS in 1998 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in naming Michigan's historic lighthouses, exemplified by the DeTour Reef Light, to its 1998 *List of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places* (the first time a lighthouse was included on this prestigious annual list!). First Lady Hillary Clinton made the announcement on June 15, 1998.
  - Chuck Feltner received a call from NPR (National Public Radio) on June 15, 1998, for a live interview about the DRL with Linda Wertheimer on her "All Things Considered."

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program. This call was in response to the announcement by the National Trust for Historic Preservation that DeTour Reef Light was placed on their *List of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places*. Chuck ended the three-minute interview with the statement – “Now remember, *We'll Keep the Light On for You!*” (This phrase was a take-off of the Motel 6 ad that was running at the time.) That statement became the official “tagline” of the DRLPS.

- DRLPS ran the first (annual) Father's Day Boat Cruise June 1998 originated by DRLPS member Jerry Brown of Drummond Island and organized by Barb Snider (DRLPS Director and Treasurer) and Jeri Baron Feltner (DRLPS Secretary) with the Soo Locks Boat Tour Company in Sault Ste Marie MI using the 65-foot Le Voyager and Captain Jack Cork at the wheel. The Fogcutter Restaurant (Tom & Barb Snider) in DeTour Village was the food caterer. DRLPS volunteers Jim Charles, Jeri Baron Feltner, Bob Jones, Mary Rogers, and Barb Snider operated the successful fundraiser.
- Previous lighthouse keepers and a person who built the lighthouse were located by Jeri Baron Feltner in 1998 after placement of an ad in local newspapers that was answered by DeTour Village resident Dan McGinnis listing previous lighthouse keepers Floyd Colvin, Ron Freels, Bob Soldenski, and Jim Williams, and Alfred Lemieux (who help build the DeTour Reef Light in 1930-31). These people were subsequently contacted and interviewed by Jeri Baron Feltner and filmed by Mike Spears as part of a historical grant oral history project in 1999 and 2000.
- The original foghorn from the DeTour Reef Light was discovered by DRLPS member Jeff Laser at the Great Lakes Historical Society warehouse in Cleveland in March 1998, while he was touring the facility. After persuasive contact by Bob Jones and Chuck Feltner, the GLHS donated the foghorn to the DRLPS, and Jeff completely restored the 475-pound foghorn to working order. It was on display at the Drummond Island Historical Museum for several years and is now back on the lighthouse as of 2010 as part of the restoration program.
- DRLPS attended the annual Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival in Alpena October 1998 with Jim Charles, Jeri Baron Feltner, Bob Jones, Mary Rogers, and Tom and Barb Snider managing the booth to spread the word about DRLPS. DRLPS had a booth there for several years.
- Article on the DeTour Reef Light in the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association's magazine *The Beacon* in Fall 1998 “*A Great Year for DeTour Reef Lighthouse!*” by editor Michelle Tregembo Wilson, with the magazine cover showing a painting of the DRL by Kuschel in 1998.
- DRLPS Secretary Jeri Baron Feltner prepared and gave a presentation on *Building a Successful Lighthouse Preservation Society* at the first State of Michigan Lighthouse Project “Lighthouse Preservation Workshop” held in Lansing in November 1998. Jeri also gave the same presentation at the second state conference held in Mackinaw City in May 2001, and she and Chuck Feltner gave a presentation *Forming and Sustaining a Volunteer Nonprofit Lighthouse Preservation Organization* at the third lighthouse conference held in Traverse City in June 2004.



- First (annual) DRLPS silent auction and dinner fundraiser held at the Fogcutter Restaurant in DeTour Village in 1998. Arranged and managed by Barb Snider with many DRLPS volunteers. This fundraiser eventually became “Evening Under the Stars” in 1999 at the Bayside on Drummond Island.

## 1999

- DRLPS Newsletter *Passages* created by Jeri Baron Feltner (Editor 1999-2005) and widely distributed to membership, and other interested people, organizations, and businesses. Subsequent editors included Candis Collick (2005-2007), Sheila Sawyer (2007-2012), Ann Method Green and Paula Bardsley (2011, 2020-21), Joan Meyer (2012-2019), Brad McGann (2022). DRLPS volunteers mailed the newsletter for several years managed by Dave & Paula Bardsley with assistance from Drummond Island senior citizens. *Passages* has been sent to the membership and other interested parties via email since 2014. All issues are available on [www.DRLPS.com](http://www.DRLPS.com).
- The very first grant awarded to the DRLPS (in 1999) was a Michigan Coastal Management Program educational grant. The application was acquired by Jeri Baron Feltner and prepared by Jeri and Chuck Feltner in 1999 and was completed in 2001. The \$10,000 grant matched by DRLPS \$10,000 in volunteer services included a traveling educational display entitled “*Gateway to Superior: The Lighthouses of DeTour Passage (DeTour Point Light 1848 and DeTour Reef Light 1931)*” consisting of 120 panels of historical photographs, engineering drawings, and historical write-ups; seven oral history videos conducted by Jeri Baron Feltner and videoed by Mike Spears of former DRL keepers Floyd Colvin, Bob Soldenski, Jim Williams, and Ron Freels; Alfred Lemieux (builder of the lighthouse in 1930-1931); Captain Glen Shaw (tugboat captain); and Jim Woodward (of the Civil Engineering Unit USCG Cleveland who did projects on the DRL in the 70s), along with a full-color DeTour Reef Light brochure prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner and 5,000 copies distributed to all of the Michigan Travel Centers, Eastern Upper Peninsula businesses, and national marketing mailings. The display is used at the museum to educate the overnight keeper program participants by Keeper Program Chair Dave Bardsley since 2005.
- A four-foot scale model of the lighthouse was meticulously handcrafted by Bob Jones and Jim Charles in 1999 and displayed on a trailer driven by volunteers in the local July 4<sup>th</sup> parades of DeTour Village and Drummond Island and displayed at other events including the local schools.
- Scott McLeod of DeTour Village composed words and music and a CD of the song *Shine On* as a tribute to the DeTour Reef Light. He donated the copyright of this song to DRLPS.
- DRLPS was featured in a major article in the January 1999 issue of *Lighthouse Digest Magazine* “Saving the DeTour Reef Lighthouse: It Takes a Village,” by Cynthia Johnson, with assistance from Jeri Baron Feltner.
- DRLPS Board of Directors at a board meeting (a mock meeting set up at Feltner’s home) featured in a video produced by Equity Studies of Traverse City in 1999 and widely distributed to government and nonprofit organizations around the country and shown on regional television programs.

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- Organized by Bob Jones in the fall of 1999, local elementary school children completed drawings of the lighthouse (displayed at local businesses), made a lighthouse gingerbread house, and collected pop cans to raise over \$500 for the DRLPS.
  - Major DRLPS raffle of an exquisite, handcrafted Peapod boat made and donated by Jim Ross of DeTour Village raised over \$7,000 in 1999.
  - First lighthouse restoration project of a new historically accurate three-ton replica of a pier deck crane (#1) manufactured by Bunker Engineering of Sault Ste. Marie MI and installed by L&B Builders (Ken Lyke) of Drummond Island, utilizing DRLPS's first Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) grant applied for in 1999 and completed in 2001 for \$20,000 (matched by DRLPS cash of \$10,000 and volunteer services of \$10,000). Grant was acquired and prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner with assistance from Chuck Feltner who was project leader and executed the effort. Note that some original crane parts were used that were recovered from underwater when the U.S. Coast Guard disposed of the crane when the lighthouse was automated in 1974 (underwater divers included Mike Spears, Chris Pemberton, and Dock Borth).

## 2000

- Major DRLPS raffle of a Freightier Ride donated by the Interlake Steamship Company of Ohio (James R. Barker, Chairman of the Board) raised over \$12,000 in 2000. The raffle was arranged by Bob Jones, organized by Jeri Baron Feltner, and executed by Richard "Dock" Borth and the DRLPS team.
- Clif Haley, co-owner of Woodmoor Resort on Drummond Island, was elected a DRLPS Director in January 2000.
- A visit to the National Archives was made by Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner in December 2000 to research DeTour Point Light and DeTour Reef Light for various DRLPS grants and projects (see NA report in Appendix).
- The Coast Guard removed damaged lead paint and encapsulated the plaster which contained asbestos at the lighthouse in 2000 at a cost of \$66,000 (taxpayer's money) to prepare for the DRLPS to obtain a long-term lease. An Asbestos Management Plan was subsequently prepared by Environmental Testing, Inc. of Romulus MI for DRLPS to give to the Coast Guard as a condition of the lighthouse lease. DRLPS volunteers Jim Charles, Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner, and Bob Jones attended a required Asbestos Management Workshop, and Certificates were received.
- Cullen Chambers (of Tybee Island, Georgia), nationally recognized lighthouse preservation consultant, contacted Jeri Baron Feltner in 1999 to inquire about preservation of the DRL, and he subsequently volunteered his services to the DRLPS and conducted a significant two-day "existing conditions" survey on the lighthouse in June 2000. He prepared an outstanding 185-page extensive *Assessment Survey and Recommendations Report* for the Society that outlined recommendations for restoration and preservation, and this significant document became the foundation of our restoration plan and grant applications.

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- Jim Woodward (a steadfast supporter of the DRLPS since early 2000 – and a DRLPS Honorary Director) of the USCG-Civil Engineering Unit in Cleveland conducted a *Joint Inspection of Conditions* survey in summer 2000 as a condition of the lease application. Accompanying Mr. Woodward from the DRLPS included Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner, Cliff Haley, Bob Jones, Dick Moehl, and Barb Snider. Note that Jim Woodward provided an infinite invaluable amount of information and support to Jeri Baron Feltner’s quest for DRL material and preservation of the lighthouse.
  - On September 5, 2000, the U.S. Coast Guard’s 20-year lighthouse lease to the DRLPS was signed by President Bob Jones and witnessed by Society Director Dick Moehl at the Fogcutter Restaurant in DeTour Village. Several members of the DRLPS were in attendance. Draft of Restoration Plan was prepared by Chuck Feltner at this meeting. Meta Geyer wrote an article about the Plan in the Community Voice newspaper, and the Plan was used throughout the restoration program.
  - USCG Cutter Buckthorn (Sault Ste Marie) installed a solar panel at the lighthouse in the fall of 2000 to power the light and fog signal.
  - Plym Foundation donated \$15,000 in 2000 in memory of Glen Bailey as matching funds for the Clean Michigan Initiative/MDEQ (CMI) restoration grant.
  - DRLPS member Rob Bloch of DeTour Village donated in 2000 a 28-foot 1947 historic tugboat, the *Philo B. Leonard*, to the Society to be used as matching funds for the CMI restoration grant.
  - In 2000, DRLPS member Bruce Glupker of DeTour Village donated use of a boat slip for ten years at the DeTour Passage Marina to be used as matching funds for the CMI restoration grant.

## 2001

- Obtained major restoration grants from the Clean Michigan Initiative/Department of Environmental Quality (CMI/\$705,000), and the Michigan Department of Transportation’s Transportation Equity Act of the Twenty-First Century (MDOT-TEA21/\$241,500) in May 2001. Grant applications were acquired by Jeri Baron Feltner, and application submitted in the fall of 2000, prepared by Cliff Haley, Jeri Baron Feltner, with assistance from Chuck Feltner. Chuck Feltner was the project leader of these restoration grants with assistance from Dave Bardsley. Note that the official applicant for CMI was Drummond Island Township (Frank Sasso, Supervisor), and for MDOT was DeTour Village (Terry Nelson, Mayor). See Chuck Feltner’s extensive report to CMI in 2004 in Appendix.
- Received State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) approval of our restoration Request-for-Proposal (RFP) for the CMI and MDOT grants in November 2001.
- DRL “existing conditions” video produced in 2001 from a National Trust for Historic Preservation grant (DRLPS Grant #3) prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner using grant funds of \$1,700 matched by DRLPS cash of \$1,700. Video by Ric Mixter of Airworthy Productions of Saginaw MI with Chuck Feltner as grant coordinator and DRLPS contractor Anne Westlund as project manager.

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- Presentation given by Jeri Baron Feltner at the second state-run lighthouse conference *Save Our Lights! Strategies for Saving Michigan's Lighthouses* held in Mackinaw City May 31, 2001, entitled "Building and Operating A Volunteer 501c3 nonprofit lighthouse Preservation Organization."
  - Window restoration grant from the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) for \$20,000 matched by \$10,000 in DRLPS cash application acquired and prepared by Clif Haley with assistance from Chuck Feltner in 2001 and completed in 2003. Contractors were Mihm Enterprises (Frank Mihm), and UP Engineers & Architects (Ken Czapski). Chuck Feltner was project manager.
  - DeTour Reef Light was featured on a national PBS program on the History Channel on October 24, 2001. Legendary Lighthouse film crew (Lloyd Fales, producer from New York City) filmed the DeTour Reef Light in the fall of 2000 for their production *Legendary Lighthouses II*. Jeri Baron Feltner was the project manager with assistance from Bob Jones, Chuck Feltner, and Mike Spears. DRLPS was also featured in the book *Legendary Lighthouses, Volume II* by John Grant in 2001.

## 2002

- Architectural and engineering services contract awarded in January 2002 to U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc. (UPEA) of Marquette (represented by Ken Czapski), for preliminary design and planning along with construction administration and management of the restoration project. They did an outstanding job for the DRLPS.
- Bob Jones, DRLPS founding President died in March 2002. DRLPS will keep the Light on for him!
- Vice-President Jim Charles selected as acting President in March 2002.
- Paula Bardsley was elected by Directors as Acting Recording Secretary in April 2002.
- UPEA completed the exterior restoration bid document in April 2002. State Historic Preservation office (SHPO) approves the bid document in May 2002.
- The No-Adverse-Effect (NAE) approval letter received from SHPO June 2002. This NAE letter means that the DRLPS restoration plans and specifications would have no adverse effect on this historic structure. This document was used for other state grant applications.
- Jeri Baron Feltner, Secretary of the DRLPS, featured in *Lighthouse Digest Magazine* "Women of the Light" article in July 2002.
- In July 2002, a meeting with MDOT, DeTour Village Mayor Terry Nelson, and DRLPS volunteers Chuck Feltner and Dave Bardsley, was held in DeTour Village to discuss the MDOT-TEA21 grant contract. The MDOT consultant (hired by MDOT) to assist them in administration of the contract insisted that procedures required for major road construction projects be applied to the restoration of the offshore lighthouse. These inappropriate procedures caused great distress for the DRLPS and DeTour Village. Resolution was achieved with the assistance of Jacqueline Shinn of MDOT after a personal visit to her in Lansing by Chuck Feltner with the development of a legally



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binding agreement between the Village and DRLPS which tied up our funding for maintenance of the lighthouse for twenty years. As a consequence, both DRLPS and the Village hired lawyers to work out the legal problems.

- SHPO approves the long-term maintenance schedule developed by UPEA in September 2002.
- MDEQ approves the first CMI grant deadline extension request to July 1, 2004, in September 2002.
- \$250,000 line of credit established by Chuck Feltner in November 2002 at the First National Bank of St. Ignace (Jim North, President) to cover restoration cash flow.
- *Gateway to Superior: Saving the DeTour Reef Light* video produced using a Michigan Coastal Management Program (MCMP) educational grant of \$10,000 matched by \$10,000 in volunteer services. Grant application acquired and prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner in 2002 and was awarded in 2003. Dave Bardsley became project director and worked with Ric Mixer of Airworthy Productions (Saginaw) who produced the video of this high-quality documentary of the history and restoration of the DeTour Reef Light which includes former keeper interviews. Subsequent additions were made by Dave Bardsley with input from Brian Goggin and others. See Dave Bardsley's MCMP extensive report of November 5, 2004, in Appendix.

## 2003

- Chuck Feltner elected by Directors as President #2 of DRLPS in January 2003.
- Dawn Gibbon was selected as DRLPS Accounting Contractor in January 2003.
- MDOT approves exterior restoration plans and specifications in February 2003.
- Exterior restoration contract (CMI, MDOT, MLAP) signed by DeTour Village Mayor Terry Nelson in April 2003.
- The exterior restoration contract was awarded to Mihm Enterprises of Hamilton MI May 2003.
- Exterior restoration of the lighthouse began in June 2003.
- Mihm Enterprises was awarded the interior restoration contract in July 2003.
- Second MDEQ-CMI extension request to September 30, 2004, approved in July 2003.
- Over 9,000 pages of original lighthouse keeper's logbooks and correspondence were located by Chuck Feltner and Jeri Baron Feltner on a visit to the National Archives in Washington DC in 2000 and were subsequently copied by the National Archives under a Michigan Coastal Management Program grant. The documents were put in binders and placed on display at the DeTour Village Library in 2003. Jeri Baron Feltner of DRLPS worked with librarian Carol Hiney. Brian Nettleton and student Dustin Fierek built two bookcases to hold the logbook and correspondence binders. Photos of the DeTour Reef Light in 1931, 1998, and 2003, were framed and placed in the library above the main entrance door.

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- *Great Laker Magazine* excellent article on the DRL by Dave Wobser (magazine editor) Summer 2003 called “*DeTour’s Million-dollar Makeover: Beacon Restoration a DeTour Delight*” – stating DeTour Reef Light restoration is a shining example of skillful fundraising and local commitment.
  - Channel 9&10 News (Corey Adkins) *Michigan This Morning* program filmed and featured the DeTour Reef Light with Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner on August 22, 2003. It aired around Michigan showing lighthouse restoration in action.
  - Interior restoration of the DeTour Reef Light Station begins in September 2003.
  - CMI interior restoration contract with Mihm Enterprises was signed on October 17, 2003, at the Mainsail Restaurant in DeTour Village with Terry Nelson, Chuck Feltner, Dave Bardsley, Ken Czapski and Frank and Sharon Mihm.
  - DRLPS members Fred and Linda May of Drummond Island donated in October 2003 a 50x25 foot barge to be used as a floating dock at the lighthouse.
  - Historical Material Collection educational grant application from the Michigan Coastal Management Program (MCMP) acquired and prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner and Chuck Feltner in 2003 to create an extensive five-module collection (format CD & DVD) of historical material entitled “*Lighthouses of DeTour Passage: A Collection of Historical Material*” which included lighthouse logbooks, correspondence, architectural and engineering drawings, historical photographs, and oral history videos. Chuck Feltner was grant coordinator and project manager with assistance from volunteers Mike Spears, Chris Pemberton, and Jeri Baron Feltner. Project began June 2004 and was completed in September 2005.
  - A 1970s vintage Ranch Oak dresser used at the lighthouse by the keepers was donated to the DRLPS by former lighthouse keeper Floyd Colvin in October 2003.
  - Alfred Lemieux, the last known survivor who built the DeTour Reef Light Station, died November 23, 2003, at the age of 94. He was a major supporter of the DRLPS and provided many important facts and interesting stories about the building of the lighthouse during his oral history interviews by DRLPS conducted by Jeri Baron Feltner (DRLPS volunteer), Lloyd Fales (PBS TV producer), and Ric Mixer (Airworthy Productions of Saginaw).
  - In November 2003, Drummond Island Lions organization members Dave Bardsley, Norm Muench and Ken Walker repaired the damaged ice barrier around the power line to the lighthouse where it enters Lake Huron at DeTour Point.

## 2004

- Paula Bardsley elected to the Board of Directors in June 2004 (she resigned in January 2005 so that she would not be a Director while her husband Dave Bardsley was President). Glenn Lahti was elected by Directors to fill her vacancy in January 2005.
- A photo of the DeTour Reef Light surrounded by scaffolding (with a head shot of Bob Jones and Chuck Feltner) appeared on the cover of the Spring 2004 issue of the *Beacon*

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(Great Lakes Lighthouse Association Magazine) and included an extensive story of the DRLPS by Jeri Baron Feltner.

- *Name-That-Barge* contest won by Kaye Birkmeier of DeTour Village in 2004 with the name *Alfred Lemieux* (who was the last known survivor of the team who built the lighthouse in 1931). Forty entries were submitted. Jeri Baron Feltner was coordinator of this fun project.
- The Drummond Island Interservice Council presented an *Outstanding Citizen Award* on April 17, 2004, to Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner for their work with the restoration and preservation of the DeTour Reef Light. Dave Bardsley presented their names and a detailed application describing their efforts with the DRLPS building of the society and restoration effort since 1998 for consideration of this award.
- Lighthouse Cabinetry and molding rehabilitation Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) grant applied for by Chuck Feltner in 2004 for \$32,387 MLAP funds and a 50% DRLPS cash match of \$16,193 and completed in September 2005 included construction or refurbishment and installation of seven pieces of cabinetry, and fabrication, installation and painting of metal base molding, door and window trim molding, and picture molding. Chuck Feltner was grant coordinator and project manager.
- Major restoration of the lighthouse was completed in September 2004. Restoration projects from 2002-2004 included preparation of engineering drawings, roof repairs, windows refurbished, and new glass installed, exterior walls were scraped and repainted, new copper downspouts, flagpole and smokestack installed. Interior work included demolishing walls that needed replacement, cleaning and painting of walls, new baseboard moldings, new floor, etc. See Chuck Feltner's CMI 2004 report in Appendix.
- A final inspection of the restoration work was held on the lighthouse on September 15, 2004. Seventeen people participated in this special event including: Brian Conway and Brian Lijewski of the State Historic Preservation Office, Jeff Barsch and Pete Paramski of the Michigan Department of Transportation, Susan Vincent of the Natural Park Service, DRLPS volunteers Chuck Feltner (President & Restoration Chairman), Dave Bardsley (Vice-President), Jeri Baron Feltner (Secretary), Clif Haley (Director & Grant Chairman), Dick Moehl (founding Director), Russ Norris (Youth Program Chairman); Blaine Tischer of Drummond Island Township Board, Ric Mixter of Airworthy Productions (who took a video of the event); Frank Mihm, Phil Granfors, and Al Pembroke of Mihm Enterprises; and Ken Czapski of U.P. Engineers & Architects. Lunch was served in the newly restored dining room. Federal and State grant authorities praised the restoration work as outstanding! DRLPS volunteer Chuck Feltner oversaw the restoration project with assistance from Dave Bardsley.
- Steps on the spiral staircase leading to the lantern and the light were offered for sponsorship to DRLPS members in fall of 2004. The cost is \$1,500 for each of the 32 steps and funding will be used for further restoration and preservation efforts. Initial sponsors include Kathy Benua, Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner, Clif & Carolyn Haley, Anne O'Connell, Vern & Jackie Schatz (in memory of Nancy Ann Kreuger), and Richard Shoquist. Note: Step #28 is in memory of Founding Director and President Bob Jones and Founding Director and Vice-President Jim Charles. Jeri Baron Feltner is project leader for this effort.

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- State flag that flew over the Capitol and Certificate donated to DRLPS in 2004 by Senator Jason Allen.
  - Antique 1930s GE electric stove donated to DRLPS by John & Dotty Witten of DeTour Village in 2004 and restored by Ken Walker and Dave Bardsley and placed on the lighthouse in good working order.
  - DRLPS received a “State of Michigan Special Tribute from the Ninety-Second Legislature at Lansing” honoring the Society for their success in restoring the DeTour Reef Light, signed by Senator Jason Allen, Representative Scott Shackleton, and Governor Jennifer Granholm, dated November 2, 2004. The Tribute states in part: *..we honor the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society for their hard work and success in restoring the DeTour Reef Light. This volunteer, non-profit organization, has given numerous hours to preserving the lighthouse so that it may be enjoyed for generations to come. We are grateful to them and offer our best wishes for continued success. ... this success is based on the unfailing dedication and determination of the volunteers, as well as the loyal support of lighthouse enthusiasts.*”
  - Application for transfer of ownership of the lighthouse from the Federal government to DRLPS under the auspices of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000 (NHLPA) was submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) on December 31, 2004. The detailed application was prepared by DRLPS volunteer team managed by Jeri Baron Feltner with Clif Haley, Chuck Feltner and Dave Bardsley and presented in a three-inch binder full of DRLPS good stuff! The NPS informed DRLPS that it was the best application they had received to date and planned to use it as the “example” for other entities interested in lighthouse ownership. The application was approved by the National Park Service in 2005.

## 2005

- Dave Bardsley elected by Directors as President #3 of DRLPS January 2005.
- DeTour Reef Light placed on the National Register of Historic Places March 15, 2005. Application prepared by Dr. Dan Koski-Karell of the U.S. Coast Guard in Washington, with assistance from Jeri Baron Feltner.
- Pier deck skylights rehabilitation grant from Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) received in 2005. Grant acquired and prepared by Chuck Feltner for MLAP funds of \$4,200 and a DRLPS cash match of \$2,100 to manufacture, install, and seal the eight pier deck skylights. Chuck Feltner was grant coordinator and project manager.
- Furnishings at the lighthouse donated in 2005: Two small refrigerators by Dick Moehl, roll top desk by Azor Sheffield (restored by John Covell), bench (made by Ric Sawtelle), microwave by Clif & Carolyn Haley, desk chair, dresser with mirror and double bed and bed frames by Dave & Paula Bardsley, box springs and mattresses by Drummond Island Resort and Conference Center, bunk beds and mattresses by Camp Grayling-Col. Dean Brown-Base Commander, bunk bed ladders made by DeTour High School students, Carving knife donated by keepers, deck chairs by Jeri Baron Feltner and Joyce Buckley, antique double bed by Jim Charles, bathroom cabinet by Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner, 3 concrete mooring blocks by Pat Kelly of Kelly Construction on Drummond Island, 2 bookcases from an old GM building donated by Larry Baron and Mario Mazzuca,



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silverware from Dick Moehl, DVD player by Ric Mixter, antique porcelain top kitchen cabinet by Darlene & Tom Chisholm, second antique porcelain-top kitchen cabinet by Karen & John McClure, vacuum by John & Sunny Covell, white chairs by Karen McClure, antique wicker chairs by Tom & Lowell Williams. Subsequent donations include toaster by the keepers, puddingstone puzzle by the keepers, toaster by the keepers, U.S. Light-house Service replica dinnerware donated by Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner (2011), flatware similar to the original U.S. Lighthouse Society had in the 1930s donated by John & Dotty Witten (2012). Wagner-Ware pots and pans from the 1930s donated by Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner (2012).

- Local high school students from DeTour Village and Drummond Island took furnishings to the lighthouse with teacher and DRLPS Youth Chairman Russ Norris and DRLPS President Dave Bardsley on May 14, 2005, included Tim Burkey, Nathan Tiefenbach, Ellis Tarr, CJ Spohn, Lacy Woods, and Matt Peterson (teacher) – using DRLPS member Kathy Benua’s boat.
- Mihm Enterprises (Frank Mihm), the DRLPS contractor for the major exterior/interior restoration of the lighthouse, filed a lawsuit against DRLPS in 2005 for not providing access to usage of a barge during the restoration period as promised. Clif Haley and Dave Bardsley handled the lawsuit which cost DRLPS \$15,000 to settle. DRLPS counter-sued for Mihm’s failure to pay penalty charges for late completion of the project. Both suits were settled out of court without payments to either party.
- Received a \$15,000 contribution to the DRLPS Endowment Maintenance Fund from Paul Schaap, who won a trip for four on a Lake freighter donated to the DRLPS by the Interlake Steamship Company May 2005.
- *Governor’s Award for Historic Preservation for 2005* presented to the DRLPS at the State Capitol May 19, 2005. The event was attended by DRLPS team members Dave & Paula Bardsley, Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner, and Clif Haley. Jeri accepted the award on behalf of all the dedicated DRLPS team members. The award states: *“This 2005 Governor’s Award for Historic Preservation is presented to the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society for the determination, cooperative spirit, and perseverance of its members, who took up the challenge of rehabilitating one of Michigan’s picturesque, yet remote, off- shore lighthouses and put it back into service as a tourist destination.”*
- Jeri Baron Feltner retires from her positions as Director and Secretary in 2005 and is named Founding Director Emeritus by the Board of Directors. She will continue to help the DRLPS whenever possible.
- Paula Bardsley takes over as DRLPS Database Chair in 2005 from Jeri Baron Feltner, who established the first database in 1998 using Avery Label Pro software. Paula transferred the previous information to Microsoft Access database software program and will provide updates regularly.
- DeTour Reef Light photo appeared on the cover of the 2005 Drummond Island Business Directory.
- Tours and lighthouse keeper overnight stay programs at the lighthouse began July 2005. Programs were developed by Dave Bardsley with assistance from Chuck Feltner and other lighthouse groups (e.g., Grand Traverse Lighthouse). First people to sign up to tour

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the Light in 2005: Clark Butterfield, Becky & Patrick Farrell, Mary & Barbara Dinneweth, Pat Kipley, Ron & Pat Wells, John & Sonny Covell, Debbie Roark, Lori Brubaker, Dave Maue, Jake & Gloria Toering, Joanne Bonds, George Meyer, Rudy & Rosemary Seichter, Carl & Mrs. Copple, Troy & Bev Holland, Joanne & Mike Boedy, Debbie Roark and Gary Riemenschneider. First people to sign up to be overnight Keepers of the Light in 2005: Nancy Gertz, Robert Sperling, Matt Sawyer, Sheila Davis, Marc & Jill Vander Meulen, Greg Holcombe, Judy Mills, Andrew Mills, Ren & Gail Farley, Judy Dolney, and Mike Hershberger (see Mike's article in *Lighthouse Digest* Oct 2005).

- Presentation on restoration of the DRL made by Chuck Feltner at the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History conference held in Tobermory, Ontario, in September 2005.
- Presentation on restoration of the DRL made by Chuck Feltner at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality conference held at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon MI in October 2005.

## 2006

- Concrete mooring blocks (3) to be used at the lighthouse to secure visiting boats were made and donated by Pat Kelly of Kelly Excavating of Drummond Island in May 2006 and were placed at the lighthouse by Denny Bailey of Drummond Island Yacht Haven, who donated his equipment and services in June 2006. Dave Bardsley was manager of this project with assistance from Chuck Feltner.
- TV Channel 9&10 News broadcasted live from the DeTour Reef Light on June 1, 2006, for their "Michigan This Morning Show." Chuck Feltner came up with the idea of installing a video camera on the lighthouse, and he and Dave Bardsley helped make it a reality. Participating from 9&10 were Corey Adkins, Ted Halley, and Lowell Shore. A weather camera was temporarily installed on the lighthouse.
- DRLPS received the *Superior Award* from the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM) at the HSM 2006 Upper Peninsula History Conference in Escanaba on June 24, 2006. Chuck Feltner & Jeri Baron Feltner attended to accept the award on behalf of the DRLPS dedicated volunteers. Jeri Baron Feltner obtained the application and submitted it to honor the DRLPS team's work in restoring and preserving the DeTour Reef Light. The Superior Award was established in 2006 to honor historical societies, museums, and other historical organizations in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for their efforts to preserve and promote UP history. The HSM recognized DRLPS for the local grass-roots organization's outstanding efforts to preserve and promote Upper Peninsula history exemplifying dedication and community spirit, with the restoration, preservation, and promotion of the DeTour Reef Light and advancing appreciation of Eastern Upper Peninsula maritime history. The HSM stated: "The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society's remarkable efforts in only eight years exemplify the dedication and community spirit for which the UP is renowned."

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- Susan Ager, Detroit Free Press reporter, visited the lighthouse as a weekend keeper and wrote an extensive article for the newspaper about her stay in July 2006. Spiders were a problem, but the DRLPS had them exterminated the next week and now do so as regular scheduled maintenance each spring via donated services from Steve Gilbert of Drummond Island.
  - Former U.S. Coast Guard lighthouse keeper Milton Lovett stepped onto the DeTour Reef Light for the first time in 48 years in August 2006. He served on the lighthouse from 1958-1959 as Engineman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class. Dave Bardsley and Chuck Feltner accompanied him on this special trip.
  - DRLPS Honorary Director and longtime supporter Jim Woodward was named *Keeper of the Quarter* by the U.S. Lighthouse Society in July 2006.
  - Dr. Charles Feltner, Restoration Chairman and Past President of DRLPS, received the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History *2006 Award for Historic Preservation* at the AGLMH annual meeting on September 23, 2006, in Alpena. The award was in acknowledgement of his work with Great Lakes' shipwrecks and lighthouse research, restoration and preservation.

## 2007

- DRLPS received the Old Mission Bank *Community Pride Award* on April 15, 2007, in Sault Ste Marie. DRLPS Vice-president Dave Bardsley accepted the award on behalf of the DRLPS volunteers and members. In the award letter Old Mission Bank's President and CEO, David Firack, wrote "the DRLPS's efforts to serve the needs of our citizens and to create new opportunities for our children and grandchildren to live and prosper within our Eastern Upper Peninsula community are appreciated."
- Jim Charles, founding Director and Vice-President of DRLPS, passed away on April 11, 2007. He was a well-respected and resolute volunteer who worked assiduously to keep the Light on for all!
- Over the winter of 2006 and 2007, the DeTour Reef Light crib model was handcrafted by DRLPS volunteer John Covell in the basement of his home in Belmont, Michigan, with steadfast support from his wife and partner Sunny Covell. Chuck Feltner originally conceived the idea, and he aided John throughout the project. The wooden crib model measures 5' wide by 5' long by 2' high and was placed on display in May 2007 in the basement of the lighthouse for all to enjoy. The DRL is a unique example of the crib foundation lighthouse type. It sits atop a 60' by 60' square by 22' tall box-like wooden crib built with 180,000 board feet of lumber. The original crib was assembled onshore at DeTour Village in 1930 and towed to the lighthouse's designated location three miles from the assembly location. Once there, it was sunk onto a 75' by 75' square leveled bed of crushed rock. The crib's interior compartments were filled with rock and the outer ones with concrete. Additional concrete was poured around its base forming an apron, and rock riprap was placed on top and beyond the concrete apron to further protect the structure. Co-tour leaders, John and Sunny Covell, provided an excellent historical narration of the crib while John proudly showed off his labor of love on display at the lighthouse.

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- DRLPS was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP), using \$15,000 DRLPS matching cash funds, in 2007 for fabrication and installation of the second pier deck crane on the lighthouse. Application acquired and prepared by Clif Haley with assistance from Chuck Feltner. Don Gries was project manager with assistance from Dave Bardsley, Denny Bailey, Ed Clark, and Meade Gable. Project was completed in 2008. See Passages #12 and #14 in Appendix.
  - NPR (National Public Radio) program *All Things Considered* was aired May 30, 2007, by Peter Payette (of Interlochen Public Radio) on the subject “Great Lakes Lighthouses: Beacons for Tourism.” Interviewed in person on Drummond Island by Peter were DRLPS volunteers Chuck Feltner, Clif Haley, and Dick Moehl, discussing the unresolved bottomland agreement issues for transfer of lighthouse ownership to the DRLPS. Also interviewed was Skip Pruss, Deputy Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, stating that the State cannot waive the bottomland agreement requirements, noting that they are dictated by State law. DRLPS member Chris Pemberton’s connections allowed for Chuck Feltner to set up this interview.
  - Sandy Wytiaz was elected by Directors as a Director to fill vacancy in May 2007.
  - Don Gries was elected by Directors as a Director in June 2007.
  - DeTour Area Schools student welders Brandon Barrette and Andy Dyal, guided by welding shop teacher Brian Nettleton, construct ladders for the two bunk beds in the assistant keepers’ room.
  - Dick Moehl, Founding Director, resigns from the DRLPS Board and is named Founding Director Emeritus December 2007.
  - Ann Method Green was elected by Directors as Director to fill the vacancy in December 2007. Jeri Baron Feltner recruited Ann as PR chair in 2006.
  - John and Sunny Covell are elected by Directors to be Tour Program Co-Chairs in 2007 to provide guided narrated tours on the lighthouse.
  - Mary Rogers, founding member in 1998, retires as Membership Chairperson in December 2007 and was presented with an award for her ten years of dedicated service to the DRLPS.
  - Paula Bardsley, member since 2002, retires as Assistant Secretary and recorder of the Board of Directors meeting minutes since 2004, and was presented with an award for her outstanding service at the Annual Meeting in December 2007. Paula continues as Membership Chairperson and Database Manager (and contributes so much more!).

## 2008

- Matt Sawyer was elected by Directors as DRLPS Webmaster in January 2008.
- Sheila Sawyer became the new *Passages* Newsletter editor in January 2008.
- Russ Norris elected by Directors as DRLPS President #4 in January 2008.
- DRLPS awarded a \$30,000 Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program grant (with \$15,000 matching funds from DRLPS) for fabrication and installation of the second pier



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deck crane. Clif Haley prepared the application with Chuck Feltner's assistance, and Don Gries was project director, with assistance from Dave Bardsley. Help with installation was also received from Denny Bailey, Ed Clark, and Meade Gable. Installation was completed in 2008.

- DRLPS was awarded a \$20,000 grant in May 2008 from Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program with \$10,000 matching funds from DRLPS for rehabilitation and installation of the original F-2-T diaphone foghorn, replicate air storage tanks and piping, fabricate non-functional diaphone, and moisture control surrounding amplifier cones. Don Gries prepared this application and was the project director until his untimely death in December 2009 whereupon Chuck Feltner took over as project director. Project was completed in August 2010 by DRLPS contractors UP Engineers & Architects (Ken Czapski), and Mihm Enterprises (Frank Mihm), and the restored foghorn was first sounded by Chuck Feltner on August 27, 2010.
- John Covell had six historic photos (mostly from the Woodward Collection courtesy Jeri Baron Feltner Collection) professionally framed and matted at a cost of \$830 in 2008. John enhanced these photos with Photoshop, and Harbor View Framing of DeTour Village did the professional matting and framing. These photos will be shown in traveling displays and housed at the DeTour Area Schools Library for citizens to enjoy.
- Janelle Dudeck of DeTour Village was elected as Director to the DRLPS Board of Directors and elected as Secretary in 2008 to fill the vacancy created by the death of Glenn Lahti
- DRLPS logo revised in 2008 by Bill Boyd of Canton MI who donated his services.
- DRLPS had a gala celebration in August 2008 to celebrate "Keeping the Light On" for 10 years. Over 120 people attended. Jeri Baron Feltner and Sandy Wytiaz were co-chairs of the event, and Sandy donated the dinner. Chuck Feltner arranged for eight former DRL Keepers (from the period of 1958 to 1968) to attend, where they were interviewed and filmed about their experiences on the DRL: Gene "Andy" Anderson, Floyd "Boats" Colvin, John "JP" Gretka, Marvin "Blackie" Kurkierewicz, Gerard "Jerry the Owl" Livingston, Eric "Ole" Olsen, Robert "Ski" Soldenski, and James "Willy" Williams. The event was filmed by DRLPS member Larry Baron, DeTour High School student Philip Hartman (assisted by teacher Russ Norris), and Don Stefanski filmed the keeper interviews moderated by Chuck Feltner.
- DRLPS first Photo Contest was held in 2008 and the winner announced at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in August 2008 – Grand Prize was awarded to Judy Mills of Coopersville MI. The contest was arranged and managed by Ann Method Green.

## 2009

- DRL Video update organized by Dave Bardsley in 2009 included video input from Byron Goggin of Gameday productions in 2008. DRLPS paid \$900 for limited rights to the 15-minute clip which will be added to the DRL video.
- Plaster and paint repair to damaged areas of lighthouse interior walls was conducted on the DRL in 2009 by Drummond Island Yacht Haven (Denny Bailey) at a cost of \$13,522. Dave Bardsley was project manager.

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- Dave Bardsley is elected by Directors as President (his second term) in December 2009.
  - Don Gries (Director and Preservation Chair) of Drummond Island passed away on December 26, 2009. Don was dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the lighthouse and was involved in many capacities to keep the Light on.

## 2010

- Brian Nettleton was elected by Directors as Preservation Chair and Director to fill vacancy March 2010.
- Electronic bird repeller installed on the lighthouse in spring 2010 to keep the pier deck clean of bird droppings and reduce wear and tear of the deck caused by power washing. It uses the recorded sounds of gull predators and gulls in distress to discourage the birds from landing on the lighthouse. It works great! Clif Haley suggested this device and Dave Bardsley was the project leader.
- Resolution of the historic Michigan Bottomlands' Use Agreement for offshore lighthouses was obtained on May 28, 2010. This was a significant effort and the final piece of society work for DRLPS to enable obtaining ownership of the lighthouse, along with helping other lighthouse groups with offshore lighthouses. Key players who worked diligently and determinedly to successfully negotiate a finalized agreement included DRLPS volunteer legal authority and leader of the project Clif Haley assisted by Dave Bardsley, along with Buzz Hoerr (of the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance), and facilitator Carol Linteau of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, along with the State Historic Preservation Office (Brian Conway and Bryan Lijewski and staff). Board members Bob Jones, Dick Moehl, Chuck Feltner, and Jeri Baron Feltner did some early research work related to the bottomland issue. The official transfer of ownership of the lighthouse and the formal presentation of the approved Bottomlands Use Agreement was made at the Great Lakes Lighthouse Preservation Conference in Traverse City on June 17, 2010, where Clif Haley gave an informative presentation outlining the long and arduous task involved in solving the major bottomlands' use issue in order to assist in the process of the lighthouse ownership transfer for the DeTour Reef Light, Harbor Beach Light, and other Michigan offshore lighthouses. The Michigan Bottomlands' Use Agreement is a landmark decision that will help other groups who own offshore lighthouses throughout the United States. The Agreement was signed on May 28, 2010, by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Chief, Land and Water Management Division, Elizabeth Browne, and DRLPS President David Bardsley.
- On June 17, 2010, the DRLPS team (represented by Dave Bardsley and Clif Haley) was officially presented the hard-earned deed and ceremonial key to the DeTour Reef Light Station from the U.S. Coast Guard and General Services Administration, and ownership of the lighthouse was transferred from the Federal Government to the DRLPS at the Great Lakes Lighthouse Preservation Conference organized by the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance held at the Maritime Academy in Traverse City. Other DRLPS team members present at the conference included: John and Sunny Covell, Chuck and Jeri Baron Feltner, and Ann Method Green. The Deed was officially signed by the federal government General Services Administration on June 20, 2010.

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- DRLPS was designated a *Preserve America Steward* by First Lady Michelle Obama in August 2010 “in recognition of its preservation of the DeTour Reef Light, with appreciation for the efforts of its volunteers in preserving cultural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.” The application was acquired and prepared by Ann Method Green. Two special responses were received from the national lighthouse community: Cullen Chambers (nationally recognized preservationist from Tybee Island GA): *“I am not surprised that you received this outstanding recognition. DRLPS’ successful efforts set the standard – actually exceed the standards – in the preservation community. Much deserved and some of the rest of us need to follow your model project in order to meet your high standards.”* And from Bob Trapani (Executive Director of the American Lighthouse Foundation in Maine): *“A designation and recognition like this, which is a huge honor for the DeTour Reef Lighthouse and its dedicated volunteers, serves as a national “thank you” for a job well done. This project, which I know was nothing short of a labor of love for all involved, was a string of achievements over a decade long, which one by one, culminated in what I believe to be the finest offshore restoration and adaptive reuse project in the nation. So, for DRLPS to receive a Preserve America Steward designation for DeTour Reef Lighthouse is not only fitting, but it also serves as a crown jewel of recognition for the Light’s amazing keepers. Congratulations!”*
  - The Sara Williams Parish Foundation (Cleveland, Rebecca H. Dent, Co-Trustee) awarded the DRLPS a \$1,500 grant in September 2010 towards the DRLPS endowment account for lighthouse maintenance.

## 2011

- Ann Method Green elected by Directors as President #5 of the DRLPS in January 2011.
- Plaster and paint patch up work was done at the DRL in 2011 volunteer Robert Sperling (who was one of the first participants of the lighthouse keeper program in 2005).
- DRLPS erected a billboard sign *Visit the DeTour Reef Light – Overnight Keeper Programs, Summer Tours, Sponsored by the DRLPS a Preserve America Steward, [www.VisitTheLight.org](http://www.VisitTheLight.org)* with a great photo of the lighthouse on I-75 north of Gaylord in the fall of 2011. Chuck Feltner initiated the idea, and Ann Method Green and Matt Sawyer managed the project. DRLPS directors decided to not renew the billboard contract in 2012 due to the \$5,000 per year cost.
- Mike Horton joins the DRLPS team in 2011 as Overnight Keeper Program Vice-Chair assisting Dave Bardsley.

## 2012

- Joe Henne joined the DRLPS team in 2012 to work on special projects including working with student memberships and volunteer coordination and recognition.
- Joan Meyers joined the DRLPS team as Newsletter *Passages* editor 2012.
- U.S. Coast Guard Sault Ste. Marie Sector introduces its new logo in 2012 featuring the DeTour Reef Light Station.

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- On May 15, 2012, the U.S. Coast Guard replaced the VRB-25 marine beacon on the DeTour Reef Light Station with an Eight-Tier VLB-44 marine beacon in the lantern. The DRL's VRB-25, as well as two smaller beacons (from other aids to navigation), were donated to the DRLPS and are on display in the Lighthouse.
  - Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP FY2013) grant application for lighthouse water ingress repair and remediation was acquired and prepared November 2012 by Jeri Baron Feltner with assistance from Chuck Feltner, Brian Nettleton, and Ken Czapski (Sanders & Czapski Associates of Marquette) for \$60,000 grant funds and \$30,000 matching DRLPS funds. The DRL has sustained significant damage to the interior walls and ceiling due to water ingress over the past several years necessitating repair of the roof, watch room deck, interior ceiling, and walls, and to insure prevention of further water damage to the structure. Grant approval was received in June 2013 and work began in spring 2014.
  - DRLPS contracted with Elegant Seagulls of Marquette MI to redesign their website for \$5,000. Ann Method Green was project manager with assistance from DRLPS webmaster Matt Sawyer.

## 2013

- *The Michigan Historic Preservation Network's Citizen Award* application nominating Dave Bardsley was prepared and submitted to MHPN by Ann Method Green, and Dave was selected by the MHPN in April 2013 for his dedicated work in promoting the preservation of the DeTour Reef Light since 2002. The *Citizen Award* is given once a year to "an outstanding individual who, through personal effort and/or involvement in historic preservation projects, has made a significant contribution to the preservation of Michigan's heritage." Formal presentation of this award was made by the MHPN in Marquette on May 10, 2013, attended by Dave & Paula Bardsley, John & Sunny Covell, and Ann Method Green.
- Jeri Baron Feltner won First Place in the Michigan Lighthouse Guide 2013 Photo Contest with a photo she took of the DeTour Reef Light Station in 2008. The photo contest was produced by Michigan Lighthouse Festival Director, Marge Ellenberger.
- Clarke Historical Library (CHL) at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant MI, was chosen as the DRLPS archival storage depository of DRLPS and DRL historical material at a Board meeting on July 20, 2013, and the Agreement signed on August 13, 2013. Jeri Baron Feltner worked with CHL Director Frank Boles on establishing the archival material criteria that will include DRL 1930-31 engineering drawings, historic photographs, correspondence, and logbooks, along with over 100 binders and several hundred file folders of DRLPS material developed since the Society's establishment in 1998, which includes corporate documents, correspondence, administrative and financial documents, restoration and educational grant files, fundraising information, award certificates team members information and photos, the USCG 20-year lease document, the National Register for Historic Places document, National Lighthouse Preservation Act for transfer of lighthouse ownership from the federal government to DRLPS material, membership and tour-keeper brochures, meeting minutes, newsletter Passages, magazine and newspaper articles, bottomlands agreement, presentations given, memorabilia information, former lighthouse keepers information, tour and keeper program information, video and film of the DRL prior, during and after restoration, videos of former keeper interviews, other major people interviews, film of DRLPS functions, DRL



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Fresnel lens and foghorn information, etc. (see list of items stored at CHL prepared on 9-24-2013 by Jeri Baron Feltner).

- John & Sunny Covell, co-chairs of the Tour Program since 2006, retired on July 26, 2013. They have been very dedicated volunteers over the past seven years in many capacities including as tour guides, restoration of the antique desk at the lighthouse, working with historical photographs and drawings with Adobe Photo Shop, assisting at DRLPS functions, and much more.
- DeTour Reef Light Station Michigan Historical Marker was erected on M-134 in DeTour Village and dedicated on September 28, 2013. Application was acquired and prepared December 2012 by Jeri Baron Feltner for DRLPS to the Michigan History Foundation of the Michigan Department of Transportation to manufacture and place a Marker where the DRL first comes in to view from the shoreline along M-134 five miles west of DeTour Village at a scenic turn-off property owned by MDOT. The Marker text was prepared by Jeri Baron Feltner with assistance from Dave Bardsley, Chuck Feltner, and Ann Method Green, and reviewed by the Michigan Historical Commission. Marker approval was received in June 2013, and the Marker was installed on September 26, 2013, by Dave Bardsley with donated services of X-Factor Construction of DeTour Village (Matt Schultz & Duane Barbeaux). DeTour-Drummond Building Center (Ron Hill) of DeTour Village took delivery of the marker. The unveiling and dedication of the Marker took place at the marker site on September 28, with Michigan Historical Commissioner Tom Truscott giving the dedication to a gathering of over 50 people. Tom stated *"The hard work and dedication in restoring the DeTour Reef Light was the most outstanding preservation project I've had the honor of dedicating. The DeTour Reef Light Station has played a vital role in the history of not only our country but the freedom of the world. My heart goes out to all of you in the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society for your unselfish efforts."* The Marker designates the DeTour Reef Light Station as a Michigan Historic Site #2252 and honors the DeTour Reef Light Station as a significant part of Michigan's history as an important and educational part of local and state history. The 42" x 54" aluminum casting marker was manufactured by Sewah Studios in Marietta OH at a cost to the DRLPS, sponsor of the Marker, of \$4,560, and is the property of the State of Michigan. Marker project donors included Patricia Lehman Anderson \$50, Dave & Paula Bardsley \$40, former keeper Floyd Colvin \$100 (in memory of former keeper Don Ashley who was the only keeper to die while serving at the lighthouse), former keeper John Decenzo \$20, Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner \$174, Dick Moehl \$200 (Total \$584). Former keeper Don Ashley's brothers Harry & Mike Ashley of Ohio attended the dedication ceremony, along with former keeper Floyd Colvin of Sault Ste Marie. Celebration of the Marker was held at the Mainsail Restaurant in DeTour Village along with celebrating the DRLPS 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A State sign was placed by the Michigan Department of Transportation near the Marker site on M-134 in both directions in the spring of 2014.
- DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary (1998-2013). A gathering was held at the Mainsail Restaurant in DeTour Village to honor this occasion in conjunction with the dedication of the Historical Marker on September 28, 2013.
- Presentation about the DeTour Reef Light given to the Sault Tribe Elder's meeting at Lake Superior State University by Ann Method Green and Joe Henne in October 2013.

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- Sandy Wytiaz of DeTour Village (DRLPS Director since 2007) passed away on April 28, 2014. She was very active as Vice-President, Memorabilia Co-chair, and fundraising events.
  - Presentation made by DRLPS members Chuck & Jeri Baron Feltner at the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance Conference in Traverse City on May 23, 2014, on *Sustaining Volunteers: Recruiting, Guiding, Motivating and Retaining the Lifeblood of the Organization for Continued Success in Lighthouse Restoration*.
  - Mihm Enterprises (Hamilton MI) won the bid at \$74,412 in May 2014 for the refurbishing of the lighthouse with the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) Grant for rehabilitation of DeTour Reef Light from moisture damage, repair roof, structure interior plaster and paint, and watch room deck floor leak. Work was completed in the fall of 2014.
  - The United States Lighthouse Society (West Coast) operated a cruise with lighthouse enthusiasts from around the country that sailed by the DeTour Reef Light (for the first time) on June 19, 2014. DRLPS charter boat Capt. Meade Gable blew the foghorn as the group toured around the lighthouse.
  - Shepler Ferry Service (Mackinaw City/St. Ignace/Mackinac Island) put a photo of the DeTour Reef Light on the cover of their 2014 Lighthouse Cruise Brochure.
  - Former Keeper of the DRL Ronald E. Freels, born 8/20/1936, passed away on 6/6/2014. He was a Boatswain's Mate for the USCG on the DRL in 1965-1966. Ron was interviewed/videotaped in 1999 by the DRLPS volunteers (Jeri Baron Feltner and Mike Spears) and again in 2004 (Dave Bardsley and Ric Mixter) where he enthusiastically recounted, with a twinkle in his eye, his experiences on the lighthouse.
  - A special DRLPS award was presented to Clif Haley at the annual fundraiser *Evening Under the Stars* on July 13, 2014, for his 15 years of valued volunteer service as MC of Stars and acknowledging his extraordinary efforts with DRLPS restoration grants, legal counsel, Michigan bottomlands use agreement resolution, and much more since 2000. The crystal star award was presented by Jeri Baron Feltner on behalf of the DRLPS Team.
  - Former Keeper Marvin F. Kurkierewicz, born 1/25/1941, passed away on 10/21/2014. Marv was a career Coast Guardsman and worked at the DRL in 1963 as a Fireman and Machinery Technician. He attended the DRLPS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in DeTour Village in 2008 where he shared stories of his work on the lighthouse.
  - Ann Method Green was elected by Directors as President (her 2<sup>nd</sup> term). Other officers elected were Dave Bardsley (VP & Treasurer), and Janelle Dudeck (Secretary)

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- Directors Denny Bailey (1998) and Clif Haley (2000) retired from the Board of Directors in May 2015. Sheila Powell and Hallie Wilson were elected by Directors to fill the Denny Bailey/Clif Haley vacancies until a vote can be held by the DRLPS general membership at the scheduled end of their terms.
  - Janelle Dudeck resigns as Director and Secretary (since 2008)
  - Dotty Witten, dedicated DRLPS volunteer since 1999, resigns as Memorabilia Chair.
  - Director Sheila Powell passed away on July 27, 2015.
  - President Ann Method Green terms ends (2011 to 2015).
  - Joe Henne elected DRLPS 6<sup>th</sup> President, (term begins January 2016). Other officers include Dave Bardsley Treasurer, and Hallie Wilson Secretary.
  - DRLPS Father's Day Boat Cruise ends its annual run after 18 years.
  - DRLPS Founding Director Dick Moehl, 84, passed away on December 28, 2015. Since 1997, Dick had been a major player in the development of the DRLPS to preserve the lighthouse and achieved nationwide acclaim with his work on lighthouse preservation legislation.

## 2016

- Jeri Baron Feltner was awarded the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance (MLA) 2016 Beacon Award May 2016 for her work with the DRLPS and contributions to the Michigan lighthouse community since 1998. The award was presented by Terry Pepper at the MLA in Traverse City.
- Anne Stafford, 72, passed away on June 14, 2016. She was a dedicated DRLPS volunteer since 1998 in many capacities including River Cruise Chair since 2005.
- The first DRLPS Jewelry Workshop was held on the DRL in June 2016, conducted by volunteer Hallie Wilson and attended by Anne Almoney, Linda Weir, and instructor Rosemary Gould.
- Clif Haley was designated as DRLPS Director Emeritus in July 2016. From 2000 until his retirement in 2015, Clif exhibited superb leadership, commitment, and expertise as Director, Legal Counsel and grant writer for the restoration and preservation of the DeTour Reef Light Station and was Master of Ceremonies of DRLPS major annual fundraiser *Evening Under the Stars* from 2000-2015. Along with his dedication to promoting the excellence of DRLPS nationwide, he was a major contributor to the preparation and passing of the State of Michigan Bottomland Use Agreement.

- DRLPS installed a vinyl billboard sign on M134 at Sturgeon Bay Road on Drummond Island, promoting DRL Tours and Overnight Keeper Program prepared by Ann Method Green and installed by Rob Anderson, Dave Bardsley and Joe Henne.
- Mike Horton, DRLPS volunteer Keeper Program Co-Chair, was elected as DRLPS Director by the DRLPS membership at the Annual Meeting.

## 2017

- Dave Bardsley, DRLPS Keeper Program Chair (since the lighthouse was open to the public in 2005) reports 550 members of the public have stayed overnight at the lighthouse performing the duties of the past lighthouse keepers and learning about the maritime history of the region. Over 500 people have taken the two-hour guided narrated tour of the Light since 2005.
- Paula Bardsley, DRLPS Membership Chair (since 2005), reports that DRLPS has over 200 members hailing from 19 U.S. states as well as Canada, Scotland, the United Kingdom, and Japan.
- The large DRL model built by former and first DRLPS President Bob Jones and Vice-President Jim Charles in 1999, and alternated being driven in Fourth-of-July parades in DeTour Village and Drummond Island until 2004, was driven in the Drummond Island July 4, 2017, parade by Joe Henne with his granddaughter Violet.
- The First Annual Nordic Bocce Lobbit Fundraiser for DRLPS was held on August 17, 2017, at the Drummond Island Township Golf Course, organized by Rob and Joyce Anderson and Joe and Chris Henne.
- A memorial was held in DeTour Village in memory of Don Ashley, Jr. (born 1948), who died on March 30, 1971, while serving as a U.S. Coast Guard seaman on the DRL. Arranged by DRLPS President Joe Henne and conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste Marie, the memorial was attended by members of Don's family along with many citizens, and TV coverage by 9&10 News. A memorial plaque was presented to Don's family and will be placed on the lighthouse.
- Dixon Gerber, DRLPS member, donated a 26-foot 1988 Four Winns cabin cruiser to DRLPS to be sold and funds donated to the general maintenance of the lighthouse.
- Michigan Broadband Services (MBS) awarded a \$1,000 grant to DRLPS in October 2017. Bruce Moore, MBS President, placed the grant availability for Michigan Upper Peninsula nonprofit organizations on the MBS Facebook page and DRLPS volunteer Sheila Sawyer saw this posting and submitted DRLPS' name.



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- DRLPS Logo apparel and memorabilia will now be sold at the Islander Shoppe on Drummond Island.
  - Former DRL Lighthouse Keeper Floyd Colvin passed away on October 13, 2017. Working for the U.S. Coast Guard, Floyd was the Officer in Charge on the DRL during the 1969 season. Floyd was interviewed on three occasions by DRLPS volunteers where he provided in-depth history of what it was like to be a Keeper on the DRL.
  - DRLPS applied for a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) in November 2017 for Fiscal Year 2018 for \$60,000 with a \$30,000 match from DRLPS for a total project cost of \$90,000 for 1) pier deck repair, 2) sidewalk lights and sidewalk lights' perimeter repair, 3) Casement window repair and improvement, 4) pier vertical surface repair, and 5) downspout diversion. Dave Bardsley prepared the application with help from Hallie Wilson and Jeri Baron Feltner. Frank Mihm of Mihm Enterprises (who did an onsite in-depth study of the project), and Ken Czapski of Sanders & Czapski Associates (preparer of detailed plans and specifications) are contractors for the repair work. Dave Bardsley is the project coordinator. Approval of grant was received in January 2018.
  - Major supporter and cheerleader of DRLPS, Kathy Benua of Drummond Island and Chelsea MI, passed away December 12. In addition to being a charter Lifetime member of DRLPS upgrading to Grand Keeper, she has made substantial donations to the Society. She was a 40-year seasonal resident of Drummond Island.
  - DRLPS 2018 Officers elected at December 2017 Board Meeting include Joe Henne (President), Dave Bardsley (Treasurer), and Hallie Wilson (Secretary).

## 2018

- DRLPS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Incorporated on January 8, 1998).
- Michigan Lighthouse Alliance (MLA) National Lighthouse Conference May 20-22, 2018, at Mackinac Island. Ann Method Green made presentation of DRL. Jeri Baron Feltner presented Terry Pepper with the MLA Beacon Award.
- Joe Henne towed the DRL model (made by Bob Jones & Jim Charles in 1999) in the Drummond Island July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. Was a big hit!
- A jewelry workshop conducted by Hallie Wilson held on the DRL June 24-26, 2018.
- James Pitts Williams of DeTour Village, former DRL U.S. Coast Guard employee (1960-1962), passed away November 12, 2018. He had been previously interviewed by the DRLPS about his work on the Lighthouse.
- New bunk bed mattresses (4) purchased for the DRL Assistant Keepers' room.

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- DRLPS received a \$60,000 grant (matched by DRLPS funds of \$30,000) from the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program to address water infiltration issues by rehabilitating the pier deck, sidewalk lights and casement windows.
  - Terry Pepper (former Executive Director of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association) received The Beacon Award from the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance (MLA) and the Francis Ross Holland Distinguished Service Award from the United States Lighthouse Society at the MLA International Lighthouse Conference on Mackinac Island May 22, 2018.

## 2019

- Limited-edition Vernor's Ginger Ale can showcased the DeTour Reef Light Station (along with other Great Lakes lighthouses). Thanks to Marge Ellenberger suggesting the DRL.
- Fundraisers held: Evening Under the Stars, Nordic Boccee Ball at Golf Course, Dark Skies Initiative at Maxton Plains (Joe Henne) – Randall Hayes and Dr Rodney Cortwright from Wilderness State Park gave lectures. DRL tours and keeper program, membership renewals, memorabilia.
- Fred Peterson donated his 31-foot sailboat to DRLPS to sell – appraised at \$21,000.
- Charter DRLPS member and former President, Treasurer, Chief Historian, Grant Executer, Chuck Feltner, was designated Director Emeritus September 2019.
- The Robert P. and Ella B. Hudson Foundation from Sault Ste. Marie MI contributed \$200 to Evening Under the Stars fundraising event.
- Dave Bardsley, Ann Green and Joe Henne met with Whitefish Point Lighthouse Board of Directors (Bruce Lynn, President) on October 26, 2019 to discuss how DRLPS and Whitefish Point might join together to mutually benefit each other.

## 2020

- Dixon Gerber, DRLPS member, donated a 26-foot 1988 Four Winns cabin cruiser to DRLPS to be sold and funds donated to the general maintenance of the lighthouse.
- The United States Lighthouse Society (USLS.org) had 36 people from around the country tour the DeTour Reef Light Station August 19. Six boat trips were arranged to get the participants to the DRL from the dock in DeTour.
- DRL Billboard 4x8 sign advertising Tours and Keeper program installed at the corner of Sturgeon Bay and Channel Road off M-134 on Drummond Island thanks to Dave Bardsley, Mike Horton, John Orr, Joe Henne, Connor Method, and Hallie Wilson. Jack Miles of Bear Graphics redesigned and printed the sign.

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- Dr. Charles E. (Chuck) Feltner, 83, DRLPS Director Emeritus, charter member, past President, Treasurer, Chief Historian, Lighthouse Restoration Grant Executor, and much more, passed away February 21, 2020. Over \$2,000 was received by the Society in his memory.
  - COVID interfered with many DRLPS 2020 and 2021 plans, including the tour and keeper program, fundraisers, etc.

## 2021

- Ivan “Meade” Gable resigns as Charter Boat operator ferrying tour and keeper participants to the DRL Search for a boat operator and boat continues.
- Fire decimates historic onshore DeTour Point Light Station private residence property April 5, 2021. The original Light Station was built in 1847 and rebuilt several times and was eventually replaced by the offshore DeTour Reef Light Station in 1931.
- Ann Method Green was honored at the DRLPS *Evening Under the Stars* fundraising event July 2021 and presented a US Flag by Michigan State Senator John Damoose for her service to the DRLPS since 2006. In 2007 she was elected to the Board and became President in 2011 when she served for five terms ending 2015. She was also Treasure and tour program director, along with maintaining the Society’s website, and newsletter.

## 2022

- Dawn Gibbons, DRLPS contractor accountant, resigns September 2022. She handled the Society’s finances and forms with excellence from 2003 to 2022. Thank you, Dawn! Jeanette Alguire of Drummond Island was hired to replace her. Welcome Jeanette!
- DeTour Reef Light Station is without commercial power, and 2022 keeper and tour programs were cancelled. On March 21, Cloverland Electric Cooperative informed DRPS that there was a ground fault on the submarine cable powering the Lighthouse (since 1974 when the Lighthouse was automated) and power has been terminated. The power cable extends from onshore Point DeTour over 4,000 feet to the offshore DRL. A Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) was applied for (extensive application prepared by Dave Bardsley) to restore power to the lighthouse. The DRLPS received notification from MLAP in April 2023 that the grant was not approved. DRLPS will take other measures (generator) to get power to the DRL to operate the tour/keeper programs.
- After serving as President of the DRLPS for five years, Joe Henne has passed the gavel to Russ Norris beginning January 2022. Russ served as President of the Society for two years 2008 and 2009. He’s been on the Board of Directors since 2005 and is a teacher at DeTour High School. In accepting the presidency, Russ stated, “The DRLPS has set a rare standard of excellence for historical preservation. It is a source of tremendous community pride, and I am grateful for all the individuals who have contributed to its many achievements and accolades. I sincerely hope we can Keep the Light On for many generations to come.”
- DRLPS email provider was changed from Go-Daddy to Run Box and will provide for two primary e-mail addresses DRLPS@DRLPS.com and ToursandKeepers@DRLPS.com.
- Jeri Baron Feltner, DRLPS Founding Director Emerita, made a presentation on “Sustaining Fundraising for a Nonprofit Volunteer Lighthouse Preservation Organization: DRLPS - A Case Study” at the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance (MLA) Conference “What’s Next? Planning to Thrive! in Holland MI May 22-24, 2022.

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## STATE PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE ISSUES DEVELOPMENT

The following organizations and legislative issues have helped support the DRLPS and other volunteer lighthouse preservation organizations succeed by helping them sustain the organization's activity to continue to be a strong and viable organization in order to preserve the lighthouse for generations to come.

### *Michigan Lighthouse Project (MLP)*

Established in 1998 because of the U.S. Coast Guard's decision to excess over 70 historic lighthouses in the State of Michigan, the MLP was made up of representatives from federal and state government agencies and other interested parties to address the fate of Michigan's historic lighthouses, to increase public and governmental awareness of lighthouse preservation issues, and to ensure the long-term preservation of the lighthouses. MLP worked with government agencies to effect the transfer ownership of historic lighthouses under the guidelines of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act 2000.

### *Michigan Lighthouse Fund (MLF)*

The MLF, a 501c3 organization, was formed in 1998 to establish a fund to preserve Michigan's lighthouses by helping local community groups around the state with funding to be used to repair and restore these public treasures. With more than 120 lighthouses surrounding the State of Michigan's two peninsulas along 3,200 miles of shoreline, the MLF is working to create a substantial financial reserve which can generate grants and loans for these silent sentinels to get the help they need. ([www.michiganlighthouse.org](http://www.michiganlighthouse.org))

### *Michigan Lighthouse Alliance (MLA)*

MLA was established in 2003 and is comprised of over 50 nonprofit lighthouse preservation group stewards and interested lighthouse stakeholders. The purpose of the MLA is to: build a network of lighthouse stewards and stakeholders, provide long-term sustainability for lighthouse preservation efforts in Michigan, develop and assist new stewards for Michigan lighthouses, provide technical assistance and general information to all lighthouse stewards, establish educational and outreach programs that foster public awareness of the plight of Michigan's historic lighthouses and the purpose of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act, emphasize the critical role of lighthouse preservation to the economic vitality of local communities and to the State of Michigan, and advocate for Michigan's historic lighthouses by supporting necessary legislation, regulatory policies, and other public policies that support preservation efforts. ([www.michiganlighthousealliance.org](http://www.michiganlighthousealliance.org))

### *Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP)*

MLAP was established by the Michigan legislature in 1999 to assist local groups in preserving and protecting lighthouses. The program arose from the efforts of the Michigan Lighthouse Project and concern about the disposal of some 70 lighthouses by the U.S. Coast Guard. Grants are available to qualified lighthouse preservation organizations and matching funds are required. For more information, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at [www.michigan.gov/shpo](http://www.michigan.gov/shpo).

MLAP obtains funding from the State's sale of specialty lighthouse license plates. You can support lighthouse preservation in Michigan by purchasing a Save Our Lights specialty license plate through the Michigan Secretary of State. Introduced in 2001, it features the White Shoal Lighthouse with its striking red and white stripes set against the blue waters of Lake Michigan to symbolize the need to preserve Michigan's lighthouses.

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### *National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act (NHLPA)*

The NHLPA of 2000 amends the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and establishes a national lighthouse preservation program and authorizes the disposal of historic lighthouses. It recognizes the cultural, recreational, and educational value associated with these historic resources by allowing lighthouse properties to be transferred at no cost to federal agencies, state and local governments, nonprofit corporations and community development organizations for park and recreation, cultural and historic, and educational uses. The program is administered through the combined efforts of the Department of the Interior's National Park Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the General Services Administration.

The DRLPS prepared a transfer application in 2004, and the application was approved in 2005. It took several years for the DRLPS to actually obtain ownership due to the State of Michigan Bottomland Use Agreement, which was finally resolved in 2010, and the deed to the lighthouse received by DRLPS in 2010.

### *Michigan Lighthouse and Maritime Heritage Act of 2003 (MLMHL)*

In November 2003, Senator Debbie Stabenow with Senator Carl Levin introduced the MLMHL Act; a Bill to direct the Secretary of Interior to conduct a study of maritime sites in the State of Michigan, and to promote and protect Michigan's Great Lakes history including lighthouses and maritime museums and help preserve the history of this precious natural resource for generations to come. The Bill would require the National Park Service to study and make recommendations on the best ways to promote and protect these resources. Congress would then enact the study's recommendations on how to best preserve and increase tourism to these lighthouses and maritime resources, such as creating a designated statewide trail. The study would also identify funding sources for communities to preserve and restore their lighthouse and maritime resources. In October 2003, William Anderson and Sandra Clark of the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries, presented a paper called "Positioning Michigan as a Maritime Heritage Destination." They said that it was time for Michigan to capitalize on its exceptional maritime resources and stake claim to being the center of Great Lakes maritime heritage. Thus, they support the creation of a Michigan Maritime Heritage Destination that pulls together the state's top maritime attractions and stories by pooling resources for marketing and publicity and creating regional clusters. This Bill was enacted after being signed by the President in 2006 and became PL 109-436. ([www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/109/s1346](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/109/s1346))

### *National Lighthouse Stewardship Act of 2009 (NLSA)*

The NLSA of 2009 (Senate Bill S-715), proposed and sponsored by Michigan Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, and cosponsored by Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine, Charles Schumer of New York, and Richard Durbin and Roland Burris of Illinois. The legislation proposes to establish a pilot program that would enable government entities and nonprofit organizations to apply for competitive grants for the preservation and rehabilitation of historic lighthouse structures, and would authorize the distribution of \$20 million a year for three years (2009-2012). The grant would require no matching funds and could serve as a match for other grants. The NLSA compliments the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000 (NHLPA). The source for funding is the Regular Tonnage Tax (a weight tax imposed on certain vessels entering the United States from foreign ports. The Bill was introduced on March 26, 2009, in a session of Congress, but was not enacted.



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## TESTIMONIALS FOR DRLPS from the Lighthouse Community 2004-2005

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"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*

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"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*

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"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](http://www.terrypepper.com)*

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“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 many initial light stations identified for federal transfer were offshore lights. Thus, it was also the hope that the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society would help provide a beacon for those offshore 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. I 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)*

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“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*

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

*Susan Vincent, National Park Service, Omaha, Nebraska*

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“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*

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“...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, 37<sup>th</sup> District, Lansing, Michigan*

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“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*

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