



1931

PASSAGES

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



Today!

Issue 41

We'll Keep the Light on for You!

Spring 2019

Another Large Rehabilitation Project Completed on DeTour Reef Light

By Dave Bardsley

Maintaining a historical structure in Lake Huron is a continuous process. Thanks to those who purchase a Michigan "Save our Lights" license plate, membership dues, keeper program participants and those who support our fundraisers, DRLPS was able to complete major repairs to the deck, deck lights, down spouts and windows. Of the \$97,000 cost, nearly \$60,000 will be covered by a grant funded by license plate purchases.

Passages 40 (Fall, 2018) included pictures of what the deck looked like prior to repairs and provided details on the project.



Below is a post repair photo showing as well the diversion of the down spouts to keep water off of the deck lights.



It has been difficult to assure a reliable latch on several windows of the lighthouse. A number of times, keepers have thought that

the windows were securely closed when in fact the latch was not engaged. As a result, in strong winds and rain, the windows have blown open causing significant damage to the interior plaster. Supplemental latches which provide visual indication of a secure closure and new weather stripping have been added to a number of windows on the light. These latches and weather stripping are expected to eliminate this significant problem. In the photo the additional latches,



providing positive locking indication are above and below the original center latch

A final inspection of the project with the Michigan Historic Preservation Office originally scheduled for last October was deferred to this spring due to poor weather conditions last fall.

Annual Meeting Letter To DRLPS Members

Dear DRLPS MEMBERS:

Another year has sailed by... and time for the annual members meeting! It has been an eventful year with the welcoming of new members, goodbyes/condolences for others, successful completion of refurbishment on the platform/structure at DeTour Reef, and the continued vision of the future by the executive board.

We (the executive) welcome more members to be involved in any of multiple ways: committees, attending meetings (call-in via GoToMeeting.com), and of course participating in any of our special events. Patronage is spelled several ways (and doesn't always start with a \$ symbol)!

Come to our Annual Meeting for an update - synopsis of our goings on. We will have a tribute to retiring Director, Charles Feltner. We hopefully will be welcoming Terry Breiler and John Orr to the board to fill in the remainder of the Chuck Feltner term and the position that has been open since Janelle Dudeck left the Board at the end of 2015. Please consider voting for John and Terry to fill these positions. The other Director positions that are up for re-election this year are David Bardsley, Brian Nettleton, and Hallie Wilson. The Annual Meeting will feature wine and appetizers as well as a surprise for those who are present at the **Drummond Island Township Hall at 6 PM on Saturday, June 22nd....**

Joe

Joe Henne, President
DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society

Note: The Annual Meeting is open to everyone. Only DRLPS members are eligible to vote for Directors.

Thank You To A Special Volunteer

By Ann Method Green

John Orr has been helping the DRLPS with some perplexing problems.

The 1931 General Electric oven that is used to bake those wonderful cookies served to the tour groups was causing a problem, a big problem. No one likes burned cookies! Brian Nettleton, the Preservation and Maintenance Chair, asked John to look at the oven to see if it could be fixed without hauling it off the Light on a boat, transporting it to land by truck, and taking it to a repair shop....a logistics nightmare.

The first step in looking at the problem was to get the cover off the temperature regulating mechanism. The bolts were held tight by many years of rust. Since there was no WD-40 on the Light, John improvised with cooking oil and some patience. When he was able to loosen the bolt, John got a good look at the problem.



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John shared, "It is a most interesting oven, and a very simple system for the thermometer. It's a bimetal coil, which in its day was an engineering marvel and provided a very accurate heating." The problem was a loose wire and the repair was made.

John's next project was to repair the stop clutch on the southwest crane. Weather and water had caused the problem and the clutch was corroded.

John has helped the Society with some tough problems and his skills are very appreciated. Volunteers, like John, are what makes the DRLPS strong.

Thank you John for all you do for the DeTour Reef Light!

Cookies fresh from the 1931 GE Electric Stove. Joan Meyer has them all ready for the tour group

Mark Your Calendars 2019

Light Keeper Weekends (Maximum 6 people per weekend)

Friday thru Sunday

Weekends - June 14 thru Weekend of September 1

For more information contact:

Dave Bardsley 906-493-6609

Email: keepers@drlps.com

<http://drlps.com/stay-or-visit/stay-at-the-lighthouse/>

Light Keeper and Jewelry Workshop

Sunday, June 23- Tuesday, June 25

For more information contact:

Hallie Wilson 989-430-5266

Email: HWilson@drlps.com

<http://drlps.com/stay-or-visit/jewelry-workshop/>

Lighthouse Tours

(Maximum 6 people per tour)

Saturdays - June 15 thru August 31

For more information contact:

Ann Method Green 906-430-8169

Email: tours@drlps.com

<http://drlps.com/stay-or-visit/tour-the-lighthouse/>

Evening Under the Stars

Drummond Island Township Golf Course

Saturday, July 6, 6 PM

For more information contact:

Darlene Skinner 906-493-6812

Email: StarsEvent@drlps.com

<http://drlps.com/news-events/evening-under-the-stars/>

Nordic Bocce

Drummond Island Township Golf Course

Sunday, August 4, 2 PM

For more information contact:

Joe Henne 906 630-5093

Email: DRLPS@drlps.com

<http://drlps.com/news-events/bocce/>

Dark Sky Initiative

Thursday, August 29th, 9PM

For more information contact:

Joe Henne 906 630-5093

Email: DRLPS@drlps.com

<http://drlps.com/news-events/dark-sky-initiative/>



Become a Keeper of DeTour Reef Light!

It will be hard to match a vacation on DeTour Reef Light. All boat traffic to and from the lower lakes to Lake Superior pass close to the lighthouse. Below are some excerpts from the DeTour Reef Light logbook – comments from a few of last year’s keepers:

“It is so much more than living on a historic light. Coming here renews the soul. It is a time to relax, experience that inner peace, a time to just sit in silence and listen.”

“I woke up feeling quite sad because today we have to leave...I don’t want to leave! (entry from a 9-year-old).

“It was magical, relaxing education, fun, spiritual and impressive! So much more.”

“Perfection,,,,,friendship, fellowship, food, fun....The wonderful memories of sunsets and freighters and God’s wide and fantastic beauty all around us.”

The lighthouse is furnished in keeping with the time it was manned and includes a functional 1931 GE-Hotpoint electric stove. The lighthouse accommodates six, two in the head keeper’s room which has a double bed and four in the assistant’s room which has two military style bunk beds. The mattresses are new this year and are custom made 6 inch high density foam on new full length/full width bed boards.

At the time of writing there are forty reservations for keepers this summer – four of them children and several repeat keepers including Ciel Heller who was a keeper in 2005 – our first year open to the public. She does not have the record for multiple keeper stays, that belongs to Karen Cote who has served ten times as keeper of De-Tour Reef Light. We have three weekends without reservations – June 14, July 5, August 16 and a few with two openings. Lighthouse duties include light housekeeping, occasional minor maintenance and serving as hosts on the Saturday lighthouse tour. A DRLPS docent will accompany up to six people on the Saturday tour.

While the standard program starts on Friday afternoon and runs to Sunday afternoon, keepers have the option of extending their stay extra nights. The additional nights are at half the standard rate and if the stay is extended to a full week, the last night is free. Children are half price. For more information go to www.DRLPS.com and click on Light Keeper Program.



Rudi Edel, Sandi Edel, James Edel, Inara (10 years old), Constance Marie Messina

2019 Vernor’s Lighthouse Limited Edition

You’ll be seeing this picture soon in a store near you!



DeTour Reef Light Jewelry Workshop June 23, 2019 returning on June 25, 2019

This year we are excited to offer our fourth Jewelry Workshop on the Light. We are combining a chance to make some pure silver jewelry while enjoying the delights of beautiful sunsets, sunrises, freighters, and good friendship with your fellow participants, along with being a Lighthouse Keeper.

Our instructor is a member of DRLPS, who has participated in several Jewelry Workshops, and will share her experience with you for your jewelry creations. We will be using Precious Metal Clay (PMC) which is made up of small molecules of pure silver combined with a binder. After the clay is formed into the desired design in a mold which each participant will create, the clay is removed from the mold, dried for a short time and then fired with a small butane torch. This removes the binder, leaving your pure silver jewelry piece.



Sample of pure silver jewelry made at the 2018 workshop

As we will not be able to go out collecting natural materials on the Light, participants should be on the lookout for interesting pieces of wood, drift wood, unusual buttons, small pine cones, leaves, any rocks that have an interesting surface, and items that have a unique surface that would make a mold design. You would bring these items with you to use and share with the other participants.

All the participants will pool their talents for deciding what meals we will have while on the Light, and share in contributing food for the workshop. Each person should bring their own sleeping bag and pillowcase or (their own sheets and pillowcase), towel, wash cloth and face soap, as well as appropriate clothing for various temperatures.

The cost for the workshop is \$250 for DRLPS members and \$270 for non-members (Family DRLPS membership is \$30.) This includes all the workshop materials, cost of staying on the Light, and the roundtrip boat trips. The workshop is limited to 5 participants plus the instructor.



(2018 Participants: Left to right) Karen Boswell, Lori Ogden, Joan Meyer and Rebecca Fitzpatrick. (Hallie Wilson, jewelry instructor, not pictured).

Come and join us for a great Lighthouse experience.

Look for the application at DRLPS.com, then click on Stay or Visit to find the application materials.

DeTour Reef Light 2 DVD Video Available

The best way to learn about DeTour Reef Light, short of visiting the light in person, is to view the "Gateway to Superior" video set. Conditions prior to restoration, the restoration effort, interviews with those who built the light in 1931 and operated it when it was a manned by the Coast Guard, and the recent experiences of volunteer keepers of DeTour Reef Light are documented. It is a must see. The set is available from DRLPS for \$8 plus \$0.64 tax. Shipping is available (priority mail) for \$7.20. Mail your order to DRLPS Video, P.O. Box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726 or Email DRLPS@DRLPS.com. Charge cards are accepted.



Members of DRLPS



1. Thanks to all the members who put the following dates in their journals or on their 2019 calendars:

- June 22nd, 6:00 pm - Annual Meeting,
- July 6th, 6:00 pm - DINNER UNDER THE STARS,
- August 4th, 2:00 pm - THIRD ANNUAL NORDIC BOCCE,

******New This Year******

August 29: DRLPS DARK SKIES INITIATIVE

2. Thanks also

- To all Lifetime and Grand Keeper members and those members who have renewed their annual memberships in a timely fashion!
- To all the members who have recently sent their renewals and this message crosses theirs electronically or by USPS!
- To all the members who have RENEWAL on their respective 'to do list' !!!
- To all the members who have upgraded their membership this year!!!
- To all the members who have encouraged others to join DRLPS!!!!

3. Thanks and Thanks again

- To all the members who have brought potential members to 'an event' in the past year. This year the Annual Meeting promises to be fun with wine and appetizers. Look for it on the web page! (www.drlps.com)

4. Thanks and Thanks again and again

- To all the members who participated in DINNER UNDER THE STARS and in the silent auction by donating!!!!
- To ALL the members who participated in the bidding. This year we are trying to take the auction online thanks to Mike Horton! Look for it on the web page and also by FaceTime via your phone the night of July 6. Instructions will be on the webpage.

5. And more thanks to all the members for their shared ideas, participation, and committee work. There is room for you to share your time, treasure, and talent. Please step up.

Any questions, ideas, or sharing, call any board member or better yet send us a message via internet at your leisure. WE NEED YOU TO HELP US RUN THIS SOCIETY.....AND..... THANKS TO ALL THE MEMBERS !!!!

Joe Henne, President
DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society

To renew your annual membership (Basic - \$30, Patron - \$50, or Keeper - \$100) by mail, please send your check or credit card information to DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726, or you can call our Membership Chairperson, Paula Bardsley, at 906-493-6609. Please include any changes in your address(es), phone number(s) or email address(es). Also, please consider upgrading to one of the lifetime memberships at this time (Lifetime - \$500, Grand Keeper - \$1000).

TERRY PEPPER

Major Contributor to the Preservation of Great Lakes Lighthouses

By Jeri Baron Feltner

Terry Pepper, 70, of Brutus MI passed away at his home, with his beloved wife Mary by his side, on February 23, 2019. Born in England in 1948, he moved to Canada where he earned degrees in Advertising and Business Administration before immigrating to the United States. Terry held management positions with various manufacturing companies throughout the Midwest. Later, after settling in northern Michigan, Terry was the Executive Director of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association (GLKKA) for ten years.

Terry began a lifelong interest in lighthouses in 1990; and spent decades visiting lighthouses, researching their history, photographing them, writing about them (as cataloged in his outstanding website www.terrypepper.com), and making presentations on lighthouses throughout the Great Lakes. His knowledge and passionate dedication for preservation of these lighthouse was unsurpassed, and he is recognized as one of the foremost authorities on Great Lakes lighthouse history. During his ten years as the Executive Director of GLKKA, Terry narrated many lighthouse cruises fascinating attendees with his knowledge and delightful personality. He also helped many fledging lighthouse preservation organizations be the best they can be.

In 2000, Terry contacted me to make arrangements to see the DeTour Reef Light, and he visited the lighthouse several times since then, contributing greatly to its preservation. A deep friendship developed with Terry and my husband, Chuck Feltner, and me over the years for which we are eternally grateful. We shared many of life's blessings along the way, including when Terry and his future wife, Mary, spent their first vacation time together in 2006 at our home on Drummond Island.

I had the honor of presenting Terry with the Michigan Lighthouse Association Beacon Award last year at the MLA International Lighthouse Conference for his outstanding contributions to the Great Lakes lighthouse community. He was so proud of this much-deserved award.

Terry was a man of great integrity and character, and I have the greatest respect and admiration for his deep conviction to the preservation of lighthouses, and his friendship. Terry leaves a lasting legacy, not only in the preservation of lighthouses, but in the hearts of all who knew him. We will SEE YOUR LIGHT, Terry Pepper, in every lighthouse for generations to come. There will be a celebration of Terry's life on Saturday, June 8, at 11:00 a.m. at the Cheboygan River Front Range Light (606 Water St, Cheboygan MI 49721). We will miss him greatly, but his light goes on.



*Mary and Terry Pepper a a visit to the
DeTour Reef Light in 2006.
Photo by Jeri Baron Feltner*

James Pitts Williams

James Pitts Williams, age 89, of DeTour Village, Michigan, passed away Monday, November 12, 2018 at Mercy New Life Hospice in Lorain, Ohio. He was born on November 19, 1928 in Cherry Valley, Arkansas to Roscoe Archie and Catherine (Pitts) Williams.

Jim spent his youth in Cleveland, Ohio and after high school, joined the US Coast Guard, where he dutifully served for 22 years. Several of those years were as a Lighthouse keeper, including an assignment on the De-Tour Reef Light from 1960-1962, and as a Chief engineer on Cutters and Ice Breakers from Okinawa Japan, Alaska, and all around the Northern and Upper Peninsula of Michigan. While in the Korean War, Jim participated in several combat experiences that he was proud to be a part of. Jim also worked 22 years as 1st, 2nd, 3rd assistant, and Chief Engineer on Great Lakes Freighters. After several years in Ohio and retirement, Jim and his wife Rita decided to spend their retirement days in Rita's hometown of DeTour Village.

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Jim took great pride in his service with the USCG in particular his time on DeTour Reef Light. He was very excited about the interview the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society conducted about his time at DeTour Reef Light and generously and enthusiastically shared his time there during the interview with Jeri Baron Feltnner in 2000 and with Ric Mixer in 2003. He was thrilled that DRLPS was saving the Light.

He is survived by his son, Bill (Vera) Williams of Amherst, Ohio; daughter, Kris (Harry Turner) Williams of Avon Lake, Ohio; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren; brothers, Robert Williams of Parma, Ohio and Roger (Joyce) Williams of Whitter, California.

Jim was preceded in death by his wife, Rita (Winneroski) Williams of DeTour Village.



NOTE: Obituary is in part from THE SAULT NEWS (Additional information was supplied by the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society).

Join us
June 22nd
6PM
DRLPS Annual Meeting
and
Social Hour
Drummond Island Township Hall
Wine with Appetizers from
ESTHER'S

DETOUR REEF LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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\$30 Basic, \$50 Patron, \$100 Keeper, \$500 Lifetime, \$1000 Grand Keeper.

All memberships include the family.

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

DeTour Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society

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

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

The lighthouse was built in 1931, and proudly stands guard a mile offshore in northern Lake Huron at the far eastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The structure rises 83 feet above the water and marks a dangerous reef to help guide ship traffic from and to Lake Huron and Lake Superior via the strategic St. Mary's River.

The DRLPS received the 2005 Governor's Award for excellence in historic preservation, and the Superior Award in 2006 from the Historical Society of Michigan. The DeTour Reef Light is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2010 the DRLPS was designated a Preserve America Steward by First Lady Michelle Obama.

PURPOSE: the purpose of DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society is to establish, support and promote efforts in the preservation and restoration of the DeTour Reef Light; to achieve the safe keeping of the building, artifacts and records; to educate and inform the public on lighthouse history; to enhance public awareness of the value this lighthouse and its keepers brought to our nation's development; to make the DeTour Reef Light a premier tourist attraction in Michigan's Upper Peninsula as the best example of a faithfully restored offshore lighthouse in the Nation; to provide the public safe access to the lighthouse; to raise awareness about the importance of volunteers in maintaining and preserving the DeTour Reef Light and the DRLPS for generations to come.

PASSAGES is the official publication of the DRLPS. Statements and opinions appearing herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of DRLPS, its officers or members. The editor reserves the right to edit all material for publication and to publish material which is felt to be in the best interest of the DRLPS. Permission is granted to reprint, providing credit will be given to the author, DRLPS, and provided that copyright is not involved, return copy of the article when published would be appreciated. To submit comments and/or articles to the Editor, email newsletter@drlps.com or send by mail to: DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726

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