

Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society 2014 Annual Report

Chairman: Matthew McMullen

Opening

2014 has once again marked another productive year for The Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society. From work trips to our annual open house, we are a group that is drawn together by our passion for saving this lighthouse for future generations to enjoy. Our Society (RILPS) is comprised of dedicated volunteers who wish to share their passions with others and invite those who wish to join us in our mission for the lighthouse.

Current Board of Directors

Currently occupying board seats are five hard working & extraordinary people:

Matthew McMullen
Brad Mrozinski
Patricia Eckenstahler
David Mack
Brenda Card

Of the board members listed above, the following is a current register of chairs held by each board member

Matthew McMullen Board Chairman
Brad Mrozinski Vice Chairman
Patricia Eckenstahler Society Secretary
David Mack Society Treasurer

Summary of 2014

In late June of 2014 our Society held our annual work trip. Many new faces joined our efforts this year both as society members and members of Freeland Boy Scout Troop 323. During our work trip we cleaned and prepared the lighthouse for our annual open house. We also cleaned the shoreline of trash and rubbish that had washed up during the winter months. Scouts and their parents worked to remove brush and overgrowth from around the outbuildings and lighthouse. Maintenance was performed to the private aid to navigation light in the tower, as well as bulb replacement. The Society also began planning and taking measurements for a possible future front door restoration project that would match the original 1930's door but yet be built in a manner to prevent vandals from gaining access to the lighthouse.

During the second weekend of July the Society hosted our eighth annual open house with assistance from the United States Forest Service, Halcyon Charters, and Freeland Boy Scout troop 323. Weather was once again in our favor for the weekend. We hosted numerous lighthouse and history enthusiasts. Many of our guests arrived via kayak and other small craft from Mackinac Island as well. It is always rewarding to see familiar faces as well as meet new ones. The open house served as a way for our Society to promote public awareness and access to the lighthouse. More measurements and design discussions also took place towards the replacement of the front door of the lighthouse.

In the early fall of 2014 our Society worked towards making the plans for replacement of the front door a reality. A door design committee that had been formed over the summer submitted drawings and ideas to Wightman and Associates, an architecture firm out of Benton Harbor, Michigan. From there our working blueprint was developed as part of the next step in working towards final approval for front door replacement. During this time our society members also worked through the paperwork and steps necessary to gain final approval for this project

In October the Society once again attended the Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival. The Festival is a great opportunity to network with other preservation groups, promote Round Island to the public, and raise funding for our Society.

Looking toward 2015

As we move into 2015, approval for the front door replacement has been green lighted by the United States Forest Service and The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office. This year will mark the first year in over 10 years that major changes have come to the lighthouse. The door project has been and will be a perfect example of what can be accomplished by the many patrons and guardians of the lighthouse. It is only the beginning however. This Society is dedicated and committed to the restoration and preservation of the Round Island Lighthouse. We will once again host our annual open house in July and also work on other smaller projects to keep the lighthouse in the best condition we can.

Each year I have begun the tradition of using my closing statements in this annual report to set a goal for the year. This year let us use the lighthouse door restoration project as a means of showing the world that we are dedicated to this lighthouse. That we can accomplish whatever task is set in front of us. Let us show that we are a dedicated group that is seeking more members to join in our passion for this lighthouse.

As I have said in years past, it is amazing what a dedicated group of people can do when they come together for a common cause in which they are passionate for. This Society is and will continue to be a welcoming friendship for those that want to raise awareness, teach the history, and promote the preservation of the Round Island Lighthouse for future generations. This year let us strive to continue to meet our goals and meet the expectations of the new ones set before us.