

THE NORTH MANITOU LIGHT KEEPERS OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

OUR FIRST YEAR ON THE CRIB In Summary

Work in 2017 was both rewarding, and challenging! Between uncooperative weather and logistical issues, we encountered many challenges, but by the end of summer, we could count it as a successful first season of restoration and renovation.

THANKS TO MANY HELPING HANDS,
OUR FIRST YEAR GOES ON THE BOOKS
AS A SUCCESSFUL SEASON OF
RESTORATION AND RENOVATION.

The mountain of documents and approvals to transfer the deed and ownership took longer than expected, which delayed the start of our renovation until mid-June. Our contractor, Mihm Enterprises, jumped in immediately to begin the hazmat remediation. Over a period of weeks, interior lead paint was scraped, asbestos tiles removed, and 40 years of bird guano scraped from the exterior. It was all bagged (over 150 bags!) and hauled off by boat for proper EPA disposal.

Once the hazmat was removed and the structure safe, exterior painting could begin. This was also a monumental undertaking involving 14 pallets of material weighing over 20,000 lbs. Scaffolding, a trailer-mounted compressor, generators, 4000 lb bags of blasting media, and a blasting rig were just a few of the items that were transported to the lighthouse.

It took weeks to set up the scaffolding from the upper deck to the top of the lantern. Once the scaffolding was in place, the structure was tented with fiber-reinforced plastic, and a negative air pressure system installed to prevent any blasting media or paint from leaving the tented tower. The antenna, lantern, railings, and upper tower were media blasted, primed, then painted.

By this point, summer had slipped away and it was mid-November. The weather had turned and the days the lighthouse **could be accessed safely meant less work days**. The contractor persisted as long as possible, but conceded to the weather the week before Thanksgiving. 2/3 of the scaffolding was taken down, and all of equipment and supplies were moved inside the Crib for safe winter storage.



WHO IS MIHM ENTERPRISES? More About Our Contractor, Mihm Enterprises

We're often asked, "Who was doing all the work out there this summer?" NMLK has hired and contracted with Mihm Enterprises for the initial phase of work that is taking place.

Mihm Enterprises (MihmEnterprises.com) is an experienced, award winning contractor, specializing in restoration and preservation of historic structures. They have worked on 16 Great Lakes lighthouse restorations, including the award-winning total restoration of our "sister" lighthouse, the DeTour Reef Lighthouse (see DRLPS.com for more info).

In addition to lighthouses, Mihm also restores other historic structures- churches, libraries, courthouses, etc. They are a company big enough to have the proper equipment for the job, yet small enough to adapt to the constantly changing and challenging conditions of lighthouse restoration.

We are grateful for Mihm's help and look forward to continuing our work together to restore The Crib. And, now that the hazmat has been removed, we look forward to getting out there and getting to work ourselves!

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2018? Our Plans for the Upcoming Year

As soon as the weather breaks in the spring, Mihm will be out there with their new supply and personnel boats to complete the exterior painting. By June, the Crib should be sporting shiny new paint from top to bottom!

The lantern glass was also scheduled to be replaced in 2017, but due to the late start, that project will also happen early in the 2018 season.

While the budgets, estimates and fundraising are still in progress, plans are being made for this summer's scheduled work. Some items on the work list:

1. Have the sea doors historically reproduced and installed (the original doors were permanently welded shut when the Crib was mothballed in 1980). The sea doors are near the waterline, and if opened and functioning, will make access to the lighthouse much simpler and safer.
2. Remove and refurbish all of the exterior windows.
3. Install an automated, electronic bird repellent system. Now that the exterior is clean, we need to keep it that way and prevent the cormorants from returning.
4. Remove steel deck plates (the plates were installed when the lighthouse was mothballed to prevent water intrusion and help with long-term storage).
5. Resurface all deck surfaces and skylights.
6. Determine electrical power source for the lighthouse.
7. Create a comprehensive interior renovation plan.

Obviously, this list is fluid. Some items may be added or removed depending on timing or available funding. We are excited for our second summer of restoration and have a much better understanding of the logistics and weather challenges.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR MEMBERS

Member Recognition

We have thoroughly enjoyed meeting some incredible people since we became an organization in August of 2016.

We would like to both acknowledge and welcome the following members to our team (from 2017):

Don Schank
Kathleen Hodges
Heidi and Patrick Johnson
Christeen Conlin Holdwick
Jim Simons and Shirlee Affhalter
Brad and Fabienne Warrick

Barbara Dove
Jerome and Marilyn Grube
Franklin B. Mead III
Diane G. Lambert
Claude Lambert
Ken and Terri Burritt
Karen and J.D. Wells
Brian and Tammy Arnes
Brent and Libby Nelson
Jason and Paige Sieloff
Robert and Carole McWilliam
Adam and Allison Beers
Roland Schultz

We love to find new ways to better engage the community and our members. Last summer we had a fantastic time sharing our story as speakers at the Leland Summinars on July 5 at the Old Art Building in Leland. We appreciated the opportunity to meet some folks from the Leland community.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! IF
YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE, PLEASE
FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO US AT
NORTHMANITOU LIGHTKEEPERS@GMAIL.COM

We also enjoyed our time on July 4 participating in the Independence Day Parades in both Glen Arbor and Leland. It was surreal to assemble our float in Glen Arbor with a great view of the Crib in the background. It was a beautiful day!

We received some great suggestions for some fun projects on the Crib. One of those was a live web cam so that people could watch and monitor our progress, and the other was a weather station that would transmit real-time data. The Crib gets a strong cell phone signal, so we believe that both projects are feasible. Both sound great, but nobody in our immediate circle has the expertise or know-how to make them happen. If this is something you have experience with and would like to help, please send us an email at northmanitoulightkeepers@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us on the 4th of July in Glen Arbor and Leland, and to all those who attended the Summinar on July 5!

Parade crew and float pictured here.



Here is one of our favorite drone photos from construction last summer.

We look forward to seeing the changes that lie ahead in 2018.

Thank you for playing a role in the restoration and renovation of the North Manitou Shoal Light, aka The Crib. We appreciate your enthusiasm for and commitment to this project and look forward to our continued work together. We definitely couldn't do it without your support!

Stay in touch and shine on!

YOU CAN FIND US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.NORTHMANITOU LIGHTKEEPERS.ORG

