

THE NORTH MANITOU LIGHT KEEPERS OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



THE NEW WINDOWS NOW
ALLOW NATURAL LIGHT INTO
THE STRUCTURE, AND IT HAS A
WHOLE NEW FEEL INSIDE!



President's Message: Big Milestones!

We have reached a big milestone in our effort to care for the Crib and make it available for tours, visits, and appreciation. Phase 1 of our operation is complete! We have removed hazardous materials, painted the exterior of the lighthouse, and restored and replaced the lighthouse's windows and lantern housing glass. With this work, the Crib is safe for work and visits, sealed and protected from nature's elements, and has a whole new feel inside with daylight coming in through its restored windows. We now enter phase 2 of our operation, which includes two parts. First, we will maintain the Crib in its current state and build an ability to facilitate visits there. Second, we will raise funds in our capital campaign to complete the rest of the Crib's restoration. The restoration will turn to focus more on the Crib's interior while we also make some additional improvements to the exterior. With your help, we have saved the Crib from deteriorating and made NMLK into a lasting and stable organization. We now will grow from this foundation!

Welcome Aboard Kim, Our New Business Manager!

We are excited to announce that Kim Kelderhouse has joined our team as our Business Manager. Kim has been a good friend of our effort from the start. She has a passion for Leelanau County and historical preservation, and has education and experience in non-profit administration. Kim also works at the Leelanau Historical Society. She is joining our team to help us better communicate with all our members, grow our membership even further, build community support for our project, and take care of jobs that are a necessary part of operating as a non-profit organization. In addition Kim will provide support to the board as we seek to raise funding for the Crib's restoration. We are excited to have Kim on deck!



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The Crib gets all new navigation equipment!

In July, the Coast Guard visited, replaced and updated all of the navigation equipment on the lighthouse. We now have a brand-new foghorn, LED beacon, and solar panels. The new equipment is much more compact and efficient than 20+ year-old equipment it replaces, and also requires much less space.

The new foghorn can be activated by passing boats and ships when needed and will function for 45 minutes at a time. This new foghorn will make it much more comfortable for our future visiting tour guests and overnight stays. The new red two-layer LED beacon is visible for up to 12 miles and operates from sunset to sunrise. This updated and modern equipment should essentially be maintenance-free, requiring only an annual visit to check its condition and possibly change out the rechargeable batteries. A huge thank you to Chief Hawkins and the entire Coast Guard ATON unit out of Sault Ste. Marie for doing a fantastic job installing this new equipment in a way which minimized space and had no impact on our restoration.

It was another busy summer!

The biggest project of the summer was the refurbishment and reinstallation of the Crib's 22 original windows. The crew from Mihm Enterprises removed the 22 windows last fall, rebuilt and rehabilitated them in their warehouse near Grand Rapids over the winter, and reinstalled them this summer. While installing new windows may have saved some cost and labor, NMLK was committed to restore the original windows to maintain the historic integrity of the lighthouse. The restoration was a labor of love, involving many hours of labor to renew, hundreds of panes of glass and metal bars and using thousands of brass screws. Some of the windows had to be completely rebuilt, and others were in fairly good condition. This was a big job, but all



the hard work was worth it! The transformation on the exterior was expected and obvious, but what was a little unexpected was how much the windows would transform the interior. What was once a dark and damp interior, has transformed into an open and airy space. Every window in every room has a phenomenal view of Sleeping Bear Dunes, the Manitou Islands, or the Manitou freighter passage, and the entire interior is bright and inviting. We can't wait to share it with visitors!

Out of this enormous and expensive project came our window sponsorship program. You can sponsor one of our 22 windows and dedicate it to your family or a loved one and

be permanently recognized with a plaque under your window. Contact us through our website or via email for more information on window and other sponsorship opportunities.

Also, this summer, the Historic Structures Report (HSR) got underway. As you may remember, in the spring, NMLK was awarded a \$40,000 grant from the State of Michigan. This grant is awarded by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and is funded by the sale of the “Save our Lights” license plates. The grant was awarded specifically for the creation of this HSR. Bids were received, contracts signed, and an architect hired. Czapski & Sanders Associates of Marquette, Michigan won the contract. Architect Ken Czapski and Structural Engineer Cheryl Early visited the Crib in late August to begin documenting and photographing the lighthouse in its current condition. Also, in November, they made a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the National Archives and Coast Guard Archives to copy and collect documents and architectural drawings. A similar trip is planned to the Coast Guard’s Civil Engineering Unit in Cleveland.

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

The comprehensive final report will document the entire history of the lighthouse from its initial construction in 1933, to its present-day condition, and create a plan for the restoration and its future use. The report is expected to be complete early next year.

Fabrication and replacement of the currently non-functioning Sea Doors was also on the project list for 2019. Unfortunately, due to the record high water levels in Lake Michigan, this project has been delayed until 2020 and possibly later if the water levels don’t return to normal levels. This is a high priority project, as it will allow much simpler and safer access to the lighthouse by a larger range of people.



*A busy summer of special visitors!
NMLK welcomed a number of special guests to
the lighthouse this summer.*

Probably the most rewarding moment of the summer was reuniting retired Coast Guardsman Coby Thenikl with his former duty station. Coby was stationed on the lighthouse in 1977 and 1978, and in July, Coby was reunited with the Crib after 41 years. Coby shared information, stories and photographs of his duty on the lighthouse. All of the information Coby provided will be used to tell the human story of the lighthouse, as well as guide its restoration. Coby provided invaluable information about equipment, paint colors, and location of items on the lighthouse. This information will be used to accurately recreate the interior and exterior. You may recognize Coby- he’s been our guest of honor and spokesman at several of our community events, fundraisers, and parade appearances.

We also welcomed volunteer and super-member Don Schank to the lighthouse this summer. As you may remember, Don built 2 desktop display models for us as well as two beautiful stained-glass windows that will someday hang in the lighthouse. Don has been a hard-working and tireless supporter of the Crib as well as other lighthouses, and we were privileged to take him to the lighthouse this summer to see all of the work firsthand.

NMLK also welcomed Kim Kelderhouse (now also our Business Manager) and Elizabeth Adams from the Leelanau Historical Society Museum to the lighthouse. The Museum has been a fantastic supporter of our lighthouse, and they have a wonderful display of the lighthouses of the Manitou Passage. Again, it was a privilege to get Kim and Elizabeth out there to share our vision and have them document our restoration efforts.



Looking at the year ahead.....

As we look to the year ahead, we are moving into the next phase of our restoration. As with any year ahead of us, our progress will depend on our level of support from members and donors, as well as weather and other factors.

On the outside, there is still exterior steel decking that needs to be removed, deck surfaces that need to be sealed on the main and second levels, exterior doors that need adjustment and restoration, and deck skylights that need rehabilitation.

While some exterior work remains, the restoration effort is largely shifting from stabilization and exterior restoration to interior restoration and the logistics of tours and overnight stays. The Historic Structures Report will help guide the future interior and exterior restoration, but in the short term we would like to install some basic interior systems to allow

tours and overnight stays. Clean drinking water, waste storage systems, and basic electricity are all on the work list for 2020. If funding and installation goes as scheduled, we may be able to conduct some initial tours in the second half of 2020. Stay tuned for more information!

YOU CAN FIND US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.NORTHMANITOULIGHTKEEPERS.ORG