

third edition / June 2016

THE LIGHTHOUSE NEWS

St. Peters Harbour
Lighthouse Society Inc.



Hi again folks !

Summer is finally here, so time for the annual edition of the Lighthouse News, the voice of the SPHLS. Last year the Society enjoyed buoyant growth, incorporation, fundraising and a successful AGM in August. All the while in patient wait of our divestiture approval: ownership and restoration of the St. Peters Harbour lighthouse.



The SPHLS AGM at the Rossiter Centre, August 27th, 2015

If you were unable to attend the AGM, please click on the SPHLS website below, then go to the minutes posted for a good summary of last year's developments.

www.stpetersharbourlighthouse.com

This bulletin just in . . . we are there !! . . . (well almost)

Over the fall and winter, the wait continued. It is amazing to realize that September brings six long years since the SPHLS forerunners, the lightkeepers (a small group including current Executive Gail Rice), filed our petition for community ownership under the Lighthouse Heritage Act. Recently this spring, the dam finally broke. So it is with a great deal of satisfaction that we advise our loyal membership and friends of the completion of two major milestones:

our contracts have been executed !!

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O.K. . . . so when will we actually . . . “ be there “ ??

Unfortunately with this type of transaction, there is a long closing period lasting another five months. The next milestone is receipt of historical listing from Parks Canada, who are secondary sponsors of the Heritage Lighthouse Act. This process should be completed mid July. Then follows a 90 public notice period, including publication of the proposed sale in the Guardian. Thereafter the execution of a final bill of sale and transfer of the deed. And once the deed is in hand, we receive payment of the grant. October is a realistic horizon.

as the saying goes . . . let's celebrate when the check is in the bank !!

So despite the good news, there is quite a process ahead, involving new players and theoretical pitfalls. While the DFO has assured that all divestitures at this stage have been completed without fail, the SPHLS Executive feel it prudent to provide a note of caution to our membership.... restrain your enthusiasm (a little bit) at this time.

When will the lighthouse be restored ??

We had hoped to restore in 2016. But with ownership pushed back to the fall, the major work, a fair weather sequence involving lead paint removal, shingle repair and painting, will not be possible this year. Conditions permitting, we will try for some work in October, such as foundation and railing repairs, but we are looking at repairs next spring.

On the good side, the Building Committee has time this summer to revisit restoration costs, secure prices and schedule the trades. Get our ducks in a row.

As part of this, in July we will sign our long term / no charge lease with the Old St.Peters Harbour Homeowners Association, owners of the lighthouse property. Needless to say, this group has been an essential cornerstone, as well as booster to our effort. Big thanks to Mary Phillips and all the folks at OSPHHA.

so the champagne is on ice until the summer of 2017 !!

In other news . . . our lighthouse is in the news !!!

On April 2, our MLA Sidney MacEwen gave a glowing report of our progress with ownership and restoration of the lighthouse to the PEI Legislature. We are



Sydney MacEwen reports on the SPHLS to the PEI Legislature on April 2

delighted that Sidney is not only a supporter of the SPHLS, but one of the newest members of our Executive.

For a video of his remarks on the floor, please follow the following link:

<https://youtu.be/Io5GQ9uWp9A>

In addition, some of you may have seen John Lounds' article "Pursuit of Conservation" in the Guardian (Opinion page) on Monday April 11th. If not, it is well worth the read.

Notably, the article included a fabulous picture of our lighthouse in its' dune setting. Turns out St. Peters Harbour is one of six Island wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. This organization works with American counterparts to uphold habitats needed by waterfowl and migratory birds. And this year marks the centennial anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty signed on August 16, 1916.



our lighthouse as seen in the Charlottetown Guardian in April 2016

yet another feather for our lighthouse and its' Harbour !!

What's up this summer... anything I can do ???

Now that the countdown has officially begun, the SPHLS has much on its' plate. At last years' AGM, some of you volunteered to participate in areas of interest, or on the Executive. More help is needed and most welcome. A sampling of where you can fit in :

- **SPHLS business :**

The SPHLS needs to get underway on solid feet and with sure hands. We need folks who are business oriented, good with numbers and keeping an eye on the till. In the first year, managing restoration work in a cost effective and timely manner will be critical. At the same time, our typical annual budget needs shaping. In general, business minds need to be a part of all SPHLS activities. And not to forget fundraising concepts, from membership fees to crowd sourcing and special events !

help build a strong SPHLS foundation !!

○ **Lighthouse restoration :**

We are fortunate to have contractor and Building Manager Doug Milligan to handle the restoration. However we are well aware that our funding, while adequate, is still limited. So those with construction interest are encouraged to help save a dollar and / or pitch right in, whether sourcing materials or pushing a broom. And two related items need special direction, a commemorative plaque and silver shingles for our Founding members. There are projects down the road for today's evaluation, such as restoration of the beacon. And as yearly maintenance begins, a grounds keeping crew is needed.

enjoy a direct part in the restoration and care of our lighthouse !!

○ **SPHLS communications :**

We are a seasonal operation with limited time to get together and make things happen. So quick and reliable communications are essential to our productivity. Membership and contact lists must be current and well organized. Meetings and events must be announced well in advance. And our publicity teams, including website and newsletter, could use help.

getting out the message is half the battle !!

○ **Heritage research :**

Many members have expressed interest in the history of the lighthouse as well as St.Peters Harbour itself, both as a fishing wharf and original French settlement. A lot of historical material has become evident during the divestiture process : photos from archives, blueprints in closets, data in books, and wonderful memories as told by our seniors. We need a team to start bringing it together, and tell a story that needs to be told.

a yearly feature for our AGM and website would be nice !!

○ **SPHLS retail :**

From the outset, everyone has been asking for a t shirt, a beach towel, a pin, or some artwork that shows their love of the lighthouse. We imagine a spiffy offering of “ must have “ goodies... things that stand apart and make us proud to be SPHLS members. And help fill the coffers too ! .

be part of the lighthouse design line !

○ **SPHLS events :**

If you enjoy planning and organizing events, the SPHLS wants you. The AGM is an important production at the end of August . Another possibility is a beach party at the Lighthouse Beach. Could be a very appropriate way to celebrate the lighthouse (we can open it for the day) as well as summer and family times. And then there are friendly fundraisers like car washes, yard sales etc. etc.

lets have fun with this ... let the good times roll !

Membership status and fundraising

The SPHLS membership has grown to over one hundred loyal supporters, founding members who have contributed to the cause for ownership of the lighthouse.

For this summer, we will continue our founding member drive as before:



FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

SUPPORT

and help save our lighthouse !!!

WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!

- our application is complete.....on course for a restoration grant and ownership of the lighthouse in 2016..... under the Heritage Lighthouse Act
- funds are needed to meet our commitments.

WHAT ALL DONATIONS WELCOME !!!

- \$35 +** : annual membership in SPHL (AGM and yearly newsletter)
- \$50 +** : annual family membership
- \$500 +** : lifetime membership ("silver shingle")

WHERE PLEASE LEAVE YOUR CONTACTS !!!

- with one of our friendly volunteers
- or with Tom Moore, our President

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" Doug McEgan and Tom Moore of the inspection of the St. Peter's Harbour Lighthouse with the USCG and Coast Guard to take away of last year. "

\$35 for annual membership, \$50 for family membership, and \$500 for “silver shingle” lifetime membership.*(FYI: membership fees are not tax deductible.)*

Spread the word and help grow the SPHLS!

That's it for now . . . thanks for your continuing support !!

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, don't hesitate to speak withone in the loop, or call President Tom Moore at 902 961 3017.

And please attend our AGM in late August, (time and place TBA) when we will update the progress of our schedule to ownership, as well as this summer's undertakings.

Have a great summer everyone !!

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