

Chantry Island Newsletter

Marine Heritage Society
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www.chantryisland.com

2008 Summer Hello All

The 2008 season will be a busy one. We are celebrating Southampton's 150th Anniversary and also the first year of the 150th Anniversary of the lighting of the six Imperial Tower Lighthouses. Our Volunteers, the Propeller Club and the Marine Heritage Society are very much involved. In September, Saugeen Shores' display for the 2008 International Plowing Match will have a Marine Heritage theme. We are already planning for that exciting five day event.

Last December The Marine Heritage Society finalized a four year sub-lease agreement with the Town of Saugeen Shores for the area of Chantry Island encompassing the Lighthouse, the Keeper's Quarters, the Boathouse, all ancillary buildings and the docks. This means we can maintain & develop Chantry Island and promote this site as a Town tourist attraction. The terms stipulate that public access to the leased area is only permitted under the supervision of Marine Heritage.

There have been changes you may want to know about. Having completed an extremely busy and effective but maximum two year term, Gord Webb is now past Chairman. Gord is still the President of the Propeller Club and was recently appointed Chair of Bruce Coast Lighthouse Partners a unique association dedicated to the preservation, maintenance, restoration and promotion of Lighthouses and Lightstations in the Bruce Peninsula and as far south as Point Clark. Rick Schumacher, the always there, always thinking and always working guy, is your new Vice Chairman. Donna Savoy has taken on double duties as Treasurer and Secretary. For personal reasons John Rigby and John Mackay have regretfully resigned from Marine Heritage Society but remain staunch supporters and active contributors which is very much appreciated.

The 2008 season promises to be a wonderful and busy time. We look forward to enjoying it together.

Larry LePage Chairman

meet me at the flag in 2008

In This Issue

Range Lights

The Gift Shop
aka
The Tour Base

The Boathouse & Island Docks

The Tall Ships

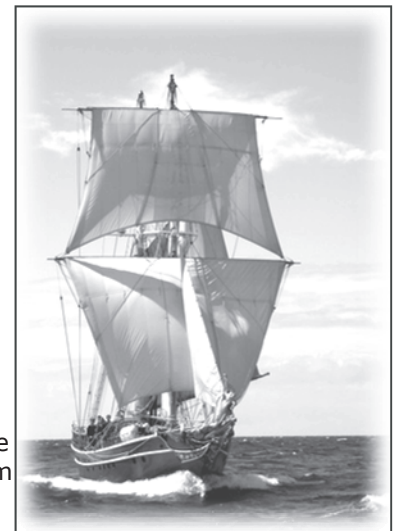
Significant Artifacts on Chantry



TALL SHIPS - TALL SHIPS

On July 19th 2008, two Tall Ships will enter the Port of Southampton. It is desired that they arrive at approx. 1000 hrs. On board tours will be available with a donation requested as the charge. All proceeds will go towards the fee for the Tall Ships.

A Piper will escort the vessels into port. This piper hails from Edmonton, and is part of the R.C.M.P. Pipe Band. He will be attired in full regalia. A band will play during the tours, and a food tent will offer soft beverages and food. The vessels are named The Playfair and The Pathfinder. They will visit for only one night and depart on Sunday the 20th 2008. We will have local vessels go to sea to greet the Tall Ships and escort them into Southampton.



PLAYFAIR

The Chantry Island Tour Base will be open, and additional wares will be displayed on the dock. We have had great co-operation from the Town of Saugeen Shores and thank them for their assistance. It has been my pleasure, on behalf of The Southampton Marine Heritage Society, to have been part of this endeavour. Our organization looks forward to a great year in support of the 150th anniversary of The Town or Southampton.

Enjoy their visit, your attendance will be appreciated.

Gordon Webb



The Gift Shop aka Tour Base

The Gift Shop, known as the Tour Base, carries some wonderfully unique items, some made with the original slate from the Keepers Cottage (the slate picture of Chantry). The rest of the store is filled with all sorts of neat ideas with the help of the volunteers and some local businesses. We try to add new things each season and this year we took on the project of painting a floor cloth and upgrading some of the shelving. I think the customers will be pleasantly surprised when they stop in to check us out. Wood burned plaques, stained glass, jewelry, pottery, books, gift cards, post cards, games and much more. Drop in to check out our Gift Shop and book your tour to Chantry after you have taken the time to look around. Chantry Tour Base and Gift Shop is open 9-5:30 7 days a week from July 01- September 01.

Saugeen Shores Range Lights & Walking Tours

If all goes well, there will be one, two, maybe more, Marine Heritage Walking Tours in Southampton this summer. Walking tours, while not new, have two new and important elements—the rebuilding of the historic McNab Point Range Light (1877) and the discovery of the wreckage of the General Hunter (2004). In addition to the McNab light restoration, the federal government has also agreed to finance renovation work on the Inner Range Light (1903), including rebuilding and stabilizing the fieldstone foundation and painting the exterior. When the weather improves from its soggy June, all three range lights will have a fresh new coat of Ultra White paint on the shingles and Carnival Red paint on the red highlights, upper cupola, railing and trim.

Last year there were three walking tours of the Saugeen Range Lights organized for area school children through the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre. In 2006 there were three tours of the range lights for attendees of the Lighthouse and Marine Heritage Conference. This year, though, will be a test to determine the best routes and to establish the necessary historical data for guides with a goal of expanding walking tours into a permanent feature of the town's summer-time activities for residents and visitors alike. When fully operational, the two-hour tours would be conducted by volunteers on Saturday mornings through July and August. The tours would be offered as affordable activities for families and children. But they may also be used as standby activities for Peerless tours cancelled by poor weather, especially for people who cannot rebook a Peerless tour at another time.

The tours would start at the Long Dock, follow the beach boardwalk past the wreck of the General Hunter, go past the home of town founder Capt. John Spence, visit Pioneer Park and the harbour, cross the bridge and tour the Inner and Outer Range lights. Planning is in the early stages and there are still a few stumbling blocks, a key one being transportation for participants at the beginning or end of a tour. Another question is where to start? At the Outer Range Light on the North Pier (started as a breakwater wall in 1858) or at the Long Dock (1870-1878)? If you have ideas you think will work, please contact, Gord Webb, Larry LePage, or Wayne MacDonald.

Wayne MacDonald

The Boathouse & The New Island Docks After the new Boathouse ceiling was completed, new wiring, lights, including a bank of fluorescent lights and circulating fans were added resulting in a much brighter, more pleasant work or meeting area with a big improvement in heating characteristics.



The most important project completed was the rebuilding of the Chantry Island docks. What started out as a modest refit, replacing the wooden surface with expanded metal industrial grating, turned out to be a major rebuild when it was discovered that the basic structure of the docks was in very bad shape. Thanks to Peter McGuire and many volunteer workers & painters the docks were straightened, repaired and considerably strengthened. Now at the Island, the docks are doing the job beautifully and the self cleaning surface saves hours a day of tough labour.

Rick Schumacher

Surprising but Significant Artifacts on Chantry Island

Since Sea Captains and Lighthouse Keepers were men of diverse experience, it should be expected they would have open, inquiring minds and that there would be evidence of that where they lived, isolated from immediate neighbours. After all, some had travelled the world, knew the vagaries of weather, knew the mechanics of rigging and knew the mathematics of stellar navigation. So it should not be surprising if a visitor found some unusual, interesting and provocative artifacts on the Island.

Let's consider one, as an example, – the Inuksuk that was removed. Inuksuit (plural) are stones put together in the likeness of a human. There could be different forms and different names for specific purposes. They were used as hunting and navigational aids, message centers and, many, still standing after generations, told stories of the Inuit.

Closer to home, Inuksuit were the inspiration for Mike Goodwin's song "**We Were Here**". This beautiful song was written to give a real answer to a difficult question posed to the men planning the restoration of the Island - - Why are you even thinking of trying to restore the Keeper's Quarters? And it did give an answer. It gave all the Lighthouse Keepers a chance to say "WE WERE HERE". And although they probably did not think about it, the men with the vision and determination to start the renovation also were saying "We Were Here" as were the many volunteers.

The song, "**We Were Here**", inspired by the Inuksuit helped to explain the project to others and to raise the thousands of dollars and create the dedication needed to make the restoration of the Keeper's Quarters happen. There are other significant artifacts on Chantry Island; the Gypsy Stone, the mathematical formulae, the Golden Ratio and the Trompe L' Oeil or "fool the eye" art work. Each of these artifacts has it's own background and each is certainly appropriate to the period 1859 – 1954.

Larry LePage

*For more Information, to Volunteer or to make a Donation contact: The Marine Heritage Society
Call or Visit the Tour Base*

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