



Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society
P.O. Box 962, Brighton, ON K0K 1H0
www.PresquilePointLighthouse.ca



KOPPLA Update as of July 9, 2013

Saturday June 1, 2013

Hello everyone. Wow.. what an exciting start to our future to protect our Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse. On Saturday, June 1, 2013, over 150 supporters of our cause came to our inaugural fundraising event. And what a success it was. The entertainment was great, the food was fantastic and the overall financial success was beyond our expectations.

The Master of Ceremonies, Dave Sharp kept the evening going smoothly and kept the crowd active in the Live Auction portion of the program, raising just shy of \$4,000.



Overall, we raised just shy of \$15,000 for our evening and we are just thrilled to have that to support our future activities.



**KOPPLA - KEEPERS OF PRESQU'ILE POINT
LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION**



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A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers and donors that made it successful. You know who you are and so, give yourself a pat on the back. Your efforts were definitely appreciated.



What a Spread!!

It was very important to us that everyone enjoyed themselves with the food and entertainment. And, based upon the fantastic feedback we received that evening and even since then, we definitely succeeded. All thanks to our volunteers.

For a short video on the evening, please go to our website at www.presquilepointlighthouse.ca and let us know your thoughts on the video. A big thanks also goes out to Mami of Toronto Film Company for making this video for us.

Every now and then, a volunteer steps forward to act on a dream. And it is the dream of our Chair, Norman Bastin to preserve and restore our local Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse.

With the support of a dedicated board and the community, we are well underway. We congratulate Norman for his ambitious plans

*Now, we need your help in achieving the
Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society goals.*



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What is the Status of our Lighthouse

It is very important to ensure the general public understands our priorities in the future of the lighthouse. Here is where we are at:

Earlier this year, Ontario Parks did install some new wood support beams underneath the window structures to give them more strength because of the weight of the stones (walls) above them.



- We are working with Ontario Parks to develop a written agreement of partnership to proceed with the necessary repair work on the lighthouse.
- In the mean time, we are working with Ontario Parks to get a better understanding of the actual requirements and thus costs, to eliminate the dampness (humidity) problems in the lighthouse. It may be as simple as installing more ventilation openings (*they are already in place but have been "shingled" over and so the openings could be simply cutout*) or it may involve expensive and extensive humidification system. We also need to confirm if there is any rain in-leakage from the top of the lighthouse as that would need to be stopped immediately.
- The next step that we want to start work on is to source out a qualified engineering firm that understands heritage buildings. Their role will be to give us a report on the actual physical status of the lighthouse. What is the degree of wood rot? What is the degree of deterioration of the stone structure that supports the external shell of shingles? Can the lighthouse be saved? Can our lighthouse be restored? And of course, what will it cost to bring it back to the condition that will make us proud of our efforts?
- It is far too premature to start throwing costs around on the actual final repair costs and even when we start the process, who knows what unexpected curveballs we or the engineers will find. At this time, we do not know what the initial costs for the preliminary engineering studies will be nor do we know what the final costs of the repair work will be. Because of our June 1 event and our membership drive and donations being received thus far, we are on our way to covering some of those costs. Yes, we will need more fundraising and that will also be another priority of your Board of Directors. Why not jump on "board" and give us a hand? It will be appreciated.

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KEEPERS CREST

The Keepers crest was worn by the lighthouse keepers on their lapel. The large K stands for “Keepers” and the white in the K represents the white colour of the lighthouse. The dark blue bottom of the crest represents the water, the light blue top the sky, the red outline of the crest represents the red at the top of the lighthouse, and the yellow represents the light shining from the lighthouse. Our use of the crest and name KOPPLA, Keepers of Presqu'île Point Lighthouse Association, reminds us of the “Keepers” responsibility to keep the lighthouse.

Membership Status

Our membership base is growing at a reasonable rate. Much of it has been the result of the many “Show & Tell” presentations to local organizations by volunteer Directors Dave Sharp & Norman Bastin. If you belong to an organization or society, and would like us to attend and inform your group, please let us know. We would be glad to. Definitely, the June 1 event helped bring in a few new members.

We ask that you also spread the word and encourage others to visit our website and see the value in preserving our wonderful lighthouse. It is worth every effort.

Many of you have inquired about the status of our Charitable registration. All we can tell you is that we are working with the Ontario Ministry of Finance and we expect an answer in the near future. Yes, we are in regular contact with them. Let's hope for a positive response very soon.

Our Need For More Directors

Our Society will not be successful without the volunteer time of the Directors and we are hoping that we can obtain another 3-5 new Directors in the immediate future. Yes, the June 1 event took a lot of time but now that it is over, we plan to meet once or twice per month for a couple of hours to help steer our Society in the right direction. Please give it some thought as we really need more help at the Director level.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Presqu'île Point Lighthouse Preservation Society, we thank you for becoming a member. We ask three things...

- 1. Spread the word about our work and encourage others to become a member and make a donation. Ask them to also spread the word.*
- 2. Be involved in our Society and become a Director or other volunteer supporter.*
- 3. Have faith that we can succeed in the months and years ahead.*

Regards and thank you again.

Dave Sharp

*Volunteer Director of Marketing
613-475-5109*

PS.. Over the next several newsletters, we plan to tell you the story about our Lighthouse and thanks to our local historian, Dan Buchanan, we will start you off with Chapter 1 which tells you a bit about the local history and geography prior to the construction of the lighthouse.

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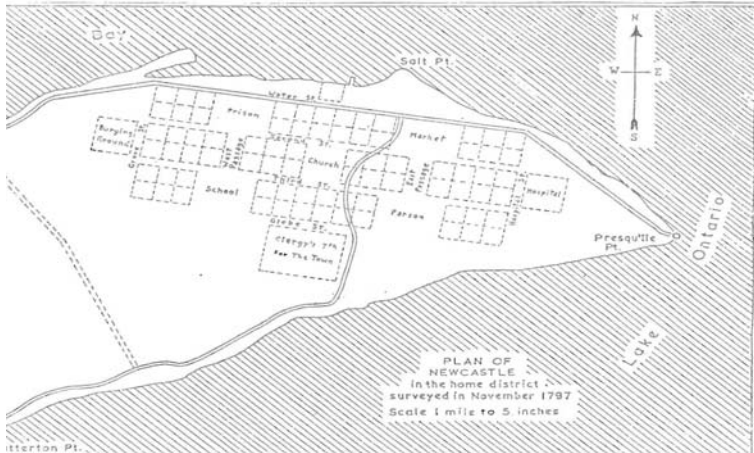
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History of Presqu'ile Lighthouse - #1: Newcastle and H.M.S. Speedy

In the early 1790s, Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe saw Presqu'ile Bay and immediately knew that it was an important part of the future transportation system of Upper Canada. The town of Kingston was located at the far east end of Lake Ontario and was the supply depot for Upper Canada. At the far west end of the lake the town of Newark, later Niagara-on-the-Lake, was the capital of the province. On the north shore toward the west end of the lake there was an excellent natural harbour near the place the natives called Toronto which Simcoe insisted would become the permanent capital of Upper Canada.

Simcoe envisioned a fleet of military and commercial ships taking people and goods back and forth between the major centres of activity around the lake. In the middle, between Kingston and his future town of York, he saw Presqu'ile Bay, a natural harbour with waters deep enough for the larger ships of the day. It was perfect.



In fact, he felt it was so perfect that he decided a town should be located on Presqu'ile Bay. The District of Newcastle (later Northumberland) had just been created and the new town of Newcastle would be the capital or "County Town" of the District. In 1797 the site was surveyed and in 1802 a large building was built to house a courthouse and jail.

Then, on the stormy night of October 8, 1804, disaster struck. The government schooner H.M.S. Speedy was sailing from York to Newcastle with all the people required to conduct a murder trial at the new courthouse. When the ship fired its cannon as a warning, Charles Selleck, who was the custodian of the courthouse building, rushed to light a beacon fire on Salt Point. It was hoped that this light in the Bay might help H.M.S. Speedy make its way to Newcastle.

Unfortunately, the ship could not turn into Presqu'ile Bay due to heavy westerly winds. Then, just as Captain Paxton thought he might be safe in Weller's Bay, a nasty nor'easter struck and drove the ship back out into the lake. Bad luck continued when H.M.S. Speedy collided with a large rock just below the surface a bit west of Weller's Bay. All souls on board perished that night and the remains of ship were not found for more than 185 years.

The sinking of HMS Speedy had a serious negative impact on the town of Newcastle. Five months later the government passed legislation saying that the location of Newcastle was "inconvenient" and therefore the designation of County Town would be withdrawn. In a couple of years, Asa Burnham donated land for a courthouse and jail in the small village of Amherst, in the northwest corner of present day Cobourg, and eventually Cobourg became the County Town for Newcastle District.

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