

The Beacon

Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration and Preservation Society

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Welcome

The Board of the Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration and Preservation Society would like to welcome all our new members. The society was formed in November of 2001 and much has been accomplished. We have received our official non-profit (501c3) status from the federal government, established bylaws, and devised a five-year restoration plan for the lighthouse. We have been in contact with the Coast Guard as we continue to work towards acquiring the lease to the lighthouse.

Touring the Lighthouse

On July 2nd of this year, members of our society were permitted to accompany the Coast Guard as they completed their annual inspection of the lighthouse. It was most important for us to have a clear vision of the work that will be necessary to restore the structure. Contrary to recent newspaper reports, we believe the lighthouse is in good shape. The basement area has been most affected by lack of care over the years however very little water was found on the floor. Sandblasting, power washing and painting will be necessary throughout the structure. We were pleased to discover that the roof is in good repair as is the glass around the cupola. Standing on the catwalk around the top of the cupola was an amazing experience. It certainly made all of us more determined to get the lighthouse out of government hands and into more caring ones....ours!

Funding

The lighthouse society is currently exploring several venues for financial assistance. We are also in the process of applying for a grant that will assist with web page development. It is our intention to have it up and running before the end of the year.

Summer Fest 2002

The Lighthouse Summer Fest was held the third weekend in June at Walnut Beach in Ashtabula. Organizers would especially like to thank **Great Lakes Auto** for their sponsorship of Saturday night's concert by Phil Dirt and The Dozers. Many special events occurred during the weekend along with nautical craft/art exhibits, nonstop entertainment, speakers, delicious food and a classic car show. Helicopter and boat riders were also available to take festival goers out for a better view of the lighthouse. A good time was had by all.

We Need Your Help!

Our society has made great strides this year. However, much needs to be accomplished. We are very short of the needed funds to be considered by the Coast Guard for ownership of the lighthouse. Everything else is in place. We appreciate your membership and input but we need to expand our numbers. If each of us could encourage two more individuals to join our organization and acquire some corporate sponsors we would be able to realize our dream so much sooner. Remember contributions are tax deductible!

We are now selling a variety of articles with our Lighthouse logo (see enclosed). These would make great Christmas gifts and would support your Lighthouse Society at the same time!!

Please join us at our next meeting-your input is important