

NLPS Newsletter - July 2019

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Newsletter

NOTTAWASAGA LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

NLPS is an exciting organization!
 We are undergoing changes at every level. Board as well as actionable items.
 This newsletter is to provide you with the facts so you can share them with others.

MEET THE BOARD

Over the next few months we will be introducing you to the six members of the Board of The Nottawasaga Lighthouse Preservation Society.

This month we are pleased to introduce our newest Member **Lucas Kokot**.



We welcome Lucas to Collingwood and the NLPS. He will be sharing new ideas, working on revising our bylaws and reviewing all contracts. In his words...

"Growing up, Collingwood was a second home to my family and I. After moving to Collingwood permanently to further pursue my legal career, getting involved with the NLPS was an obvious choice. The lighthouse is a landmark to the community, and I am eager to help restore it to its former glory. I am very excited to be joining such a dedicated and passionate Board of Directors. There's a lot of work left to be done but the progress made so far is outstanding. We are in the midst of an exciting time and I look forward to working with you all moving forward!"

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George Czerny contacted us to let us know that while on a boat trip out to the Lighthouse he noticed something amiss on the Tower. Our Chair was in immediate contact with **Doug Hackbart** and **Howie Outerbridge**. Howie was able to get out there, took pictures and reported back. A seam has come loose and will need repair this Fall. We thank George for his concern and information and encourage others to get in touch if they notice anything questionable out on the island.

Gay Harper lives at Chartwell and was inspired by our volunteer **Eleanor Burke**. Gay is now collecting the empty wine bottles and cans at Chartwell and delivers them to Eleanor's collection area at Lighthouse Point. If she is in town, she takes them right to the Beer Store. When she tells the staff there the money is for The Lighthouse, they deposit it in a jar under the counter. We thank Gay and all her friends at Chartwell for their support. Cheers!



Larry Wismer, a bookkeeper who worked with our treasurer, **Nancy Leno** has decided it's time to move on. Nancy thanks Larry on behalf of the whole Board..." It's difficult to shorten Larry's contribution to the NLPS to a few sentences. Larry spent many hours and did an incredible amount of work

For the past 3 years Larry has helped our Treasurer with the input to our accounting books making sure everything was accurate and documented...meticulous. He also stepped in and completed the annual Financial Statement since 2016. Larry guided us in establishing a 5-year financial plan. We will miss you Larry!"



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

"Does the NLPS have ownership of the Lighthouse yet?"

"Why is ownership taking so long?"

The Board hears these questions all the time. Please know, we are working hard to obtain ownership of our Lighthouse so that restoration can get underway. Kevin Pidhirniak, our contact at the DFO has commented that of the 300 Lighthouses for which DFO is responsible, our transfer has been the most complicated, thus taking the most time to complete. Some of the reasons for the time and work involved are....

CONDITION

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years of neglect, coupled with a lightning strike in 2004 which caused a large portion of the stone to fall away, made many wonder if the structure was even able to be restored. Engineering studies, including one by the DFO, proved that it is still structurally viable and deemed to be sound and perfectly upright.

OWNERSHIP

While the Lighthouse sits on Crown Land, the NLPS dealt with several different government agencies on the way to ownership. The DFO controls the Lighthouse itself. When the DFO recommends transfer, the file goes to Public Works who will handle the Real Estate portion of the transaction. Notice then goes to Parks Canada and they will issue a plaque designating our Tower as an Historic Lighthouse of Canada. Finally, Indigenous Affairs is involved because of a recent government policy requiring an Indigenous land claim study be done for all Federal land transfers.

INDIGENOUS LAND CLAIMS

A major aspect of the process leading to ownership of the Lighthouse involves the Government conducting an Indigenous Land Claims Study. Nine First Nations were consulted including the Chippewas of Rama near Orillia, Mississaugas of Scugog Island near Port Perry, & Chippewas of Nawash north of Wiarton. The process took 9 months and resulted in 8 Nations stating they had no claim on the island. The ninth, Chippewas of Nawash, had no claim on the island but wanted to be kept informed about the lighthouse restoration. Upon obtaining ownership of the island the NLPS will first need to construct a dock facility to get visitors & workers on & off the island safely. The NLPS needs a permit from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and since the Chippewas of Nawash have fishing rights in southern Georgian Bay, the NLPS needs their permission. Talks on this issue continue with no issues anticipated.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP OF THE TOWER AND THE ISLAND

June 2017 members of the NLPS took representatives from an environmental engineering firm in Barrie and a local restoration company to Nottawasaga Island. During a tour of the entire lighthouse, samples were gathered to be tested for lead and moulds.

July of 2017, we received their report. It confirmed very high levels of lead in the paint used throughout the interior of the light and various types of mould were detected. Based on the report, the local restoration company quoted on the clean-up of the interior of the lighthouse. Ownership was not a reality at that time, the DFO could not OK our spending funds and so we were unable to commence clean-up.

This past May we visited the island with another local restoration company.

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They had approached us and wanted to get involved with the project. After their visit and review of the 2017 engineering report, we were pleased to receive a second quote for the clean-up of the interior of the lighthouse.

We were always aware that the island itself was likely contaminated. Earlier this year reports from the DFO showed there were areas contaminated with lead, cadmium, barium, copper, mercury and zinc. This was most likely caused by the batteries that would have been used to power the light. We believe the contamination is limited to a few small areas around the lighthouse. We are hopeful it can be dealt with on-site by moving the contaminated soil, if necessary and relocating it to another area on the island. This soil would then be encapsulated in a membrane and clean soil would cap it. Our opinion is that due to the transient nature of people visiting the island in the future, this approach will serve to protect both volunteers and visitors. We have engaged various Environmental Consultants to assist us in this matter.

ANSWERS FROM

Stephen Emo & Robert Square

EVENTS

Saturday mornings until Thanksgiving, you can drop into our booth at the Farmers” Market to say hello, make a donation or purchase a raffle ticket.

August 10 – 11 Side Launch Days

August 25 Lighthouse Community Barbecue sponsored by Hanna Motors. All welcome...RSVP to lightkeeper@nlps.info

Please visit our website at www.nlps.info We're also on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen Emo - **Chairman**

Robert Square - **Vice Chairman/Government Liaison**

Pat Anstett - **Secretary**

Nancy Leno - **Treasurer**

Gary Norman - **Community Liaison**

Lucas Kokot - **Director**

Contact us: 1-855-445-NLPS (6577)

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