

Grand Haven City Hall | 519 Washington Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417 | www.gighthouse.com



Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy

OUR STORY

Carol Uridil submitted a winning story of what the lighthouses have meant to her in the '2014 Tell Us Your Story' contest hosted by the Grand Haven Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Grand Haven Lighthouses and pier are places of enjoyment and wonder. On the pier many fishermen caught the fish that they needed. The pier is also a place of solace and reflection for those seeking inspiration and direction – just like the lighthouse's lamp.

I made many frequent treks to the pier beginning in childhood. I ventured to experience the beauty of the lighthouse throughout the various seasons and times of day. The view was never the same, but always majestic – sunset, storm or fog – even when the lighthouse and pier were barely visible. I also came to the lighthouse and pier to talk with God.

I spent many hours there, sometimes until the waves or storms drove me back home. Sitting on the pier by the big red lighthouse was my favorite place for reflection. My home continues to be a museum of Grand Haven lighthouse photos, paintings and memorabilia. The pier and lighthouse are both historical and personal treasures.

The lighthouse is awesome, enlightening and inspiring in so many ways. I can understand why so many hometown people and travelers alike are drawn there in all seasons to experience the sights, sounds and sensations to fit any and all of life's moods.

The pier's beauty, the lighthouses' direction and God's strength led me to go forth. The lighthouses and pier must stand and beam forth forever! I hope that others can find them a place where they can find joy, beauty and inspiration as well as guidance.

- Carol Uridil



Carol & Joe Uridil, formerly from Grand Haven, currently residing in Tucson, Arizona. Winner of the "Tell Us Your Story" contest.

Photo by M. Chavers

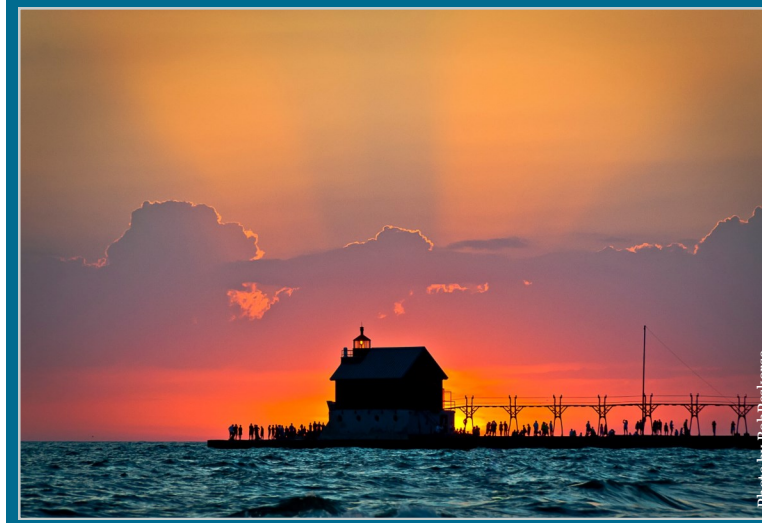


Photo by BobPeskorse

Our Mission

"To preserve Grand Haven's Entrance and Inner Lighthouse structures along with any associated artifacts. Through public promotion and education, on site interpretive displays and artifact presentations the history and importance of the lighthouse structures will be conveyed to residents and visitors alike."

Spring, 2015

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Volume 1, Issue 4



ENLIGHTENED

News from the Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy

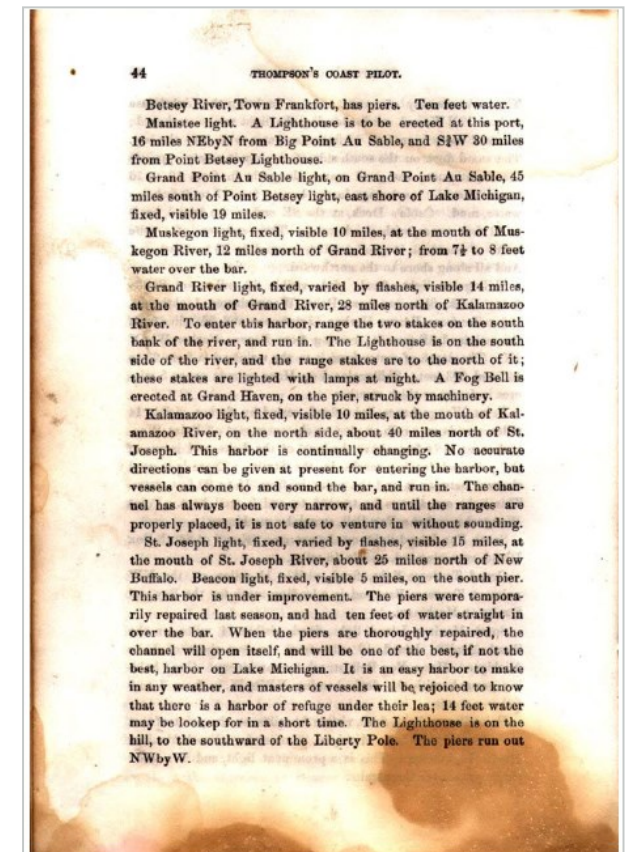
FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Wonderful news, The Army Corps of Engineers released their budget for 2015 and it includes some \$2.1 million worth of repairs to the South pier where our lighthouses are viewed and visited by the thousands of citizens and visitors of the lakeshore. We've been looking forward to these repairs for several years and are grateful to our local ACOE office for their persistence in getting this project funded.

The Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy members have taken the past several months and developed our Phase II project item list which is being formalized into a set of plans and specifications that will be ready for bid later this summer. I would expect a project soon after fundraising and grant funding is completed. And finally, I would like to congratulate Joe and Carol for their winning submission to our last newsletters contest. It was a moving testament.

And now for a little history.....page 44 of the 1869 Thompson Coast Pilot, a leading maritime publication of the time used by Mariners who transited the region described Grand Haven with the lighthouse on five mile hill and a short pier with lighted range stakes used to enter the river. A fog bell, on the pier, was struck by machinery.

- BMC David G. Karpin, Ret. United States Coast Guard



PHASE ONE COMPLETE

The Lighthouse Conservancy is proud to announce the completion of Phase One of our ongoing efforts to preserve our iconic south pier lights.

Aided by over 300,000 dollars in support from private donors, corporate giving and grants from the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, Phase One included a number of significant stabilizations and improvements which preserve the historical integrity of these iconic structures while ensuring their survival for future generations to enjoy.

Structural issues were addressed that allow the structures to best withstand the onslaught of weather that they are subject to on a daily basis. Steel was strengthened, cement was patched, railings were welded, the inch thick glass was reglazed to keep out water, and the fog signal house received a uniform coat of new siding to replace the piecemeal, patched outer skin. Both structures were carefully cleaned of any old paint and corrosion, and damage found was repaired, and they received gleaming new coats of their iconic red paint.

As the numerous old layers of paint were found to contain lead, elaborate precautions were taken to safely remove these coating while ensuring that the environment or the public was not affected by the removal process, which resulted in the "shrouds" seen last summer while the work was being completed. The shrouds served a secondary purpose, because they protected from view the work on the structures until they were removed, almost like an unveiling!

We are excited to move into Phase Two of the preservation, which will see projects like the installation of a ventilation system for both structures, preservation of significant interior features like the tanks for the fog signal, preservation of the brass porthole windows, and fresh interior paint on the outer light to give visitors a better sense of how the structure appeared when it was in daily use. We on the Conservancy hope you will join us as we move forward in our efforts to preserve these structures, which remind us of our past while providing a strong sense of place that is uniquely Grand Haven.



Photo by M. Cisneros

HISTORICAL STRUCTURES

When the Federal Government turned over the two lighthouse structures on the south pier in Grand Haven to the City of Grand Haven, one of the agreed upon conditions was the preparation of a Historic Structures Report (HSR).

An HSR provides documentary, graphic, and physical information about a property's history and existing condition. Broadly recognized as an effective part of preservation planning, an HSR also addresses management or owner goals for the use or re-use of the property. It provides a thoughtfully considered argument for selecting the most appropriate approach to treatment, prior to the commencement of work, and outlines a scope of recommended work. The report serves as an important guide for all changes made to a historic property during a project-repair, rehabilitation, or restoration-and can also provide information for maintenance procedures. Finally, it records the findings of research and investigation, as well as the processes of physical work, for future researchers.

In the introduction to the first historic structure report in this country, Charles E. Peterson of the National Park Service wrote in 1935, "any architect who undertakes the responsibility of working over a fine old building should feel obligated to prepare a detailed report of his findings for the information of those who will come to study it in future years." Since then, thousands of historic structure reports (HSRs) have been prepared to help guide work on historic properties.

The Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy hired Sanders & Czapski Associates of Marquette, Michigan to complete our HSR in 2013. The work continues as the document must be reviewed and approved by the Conservancy, the City, the State Historic Preservation Officer and the National Parks Service. Many layers of oversight make it a long process, but ensures the public that the final document will be complete and correct. The document should be completed, accepted, and available for public consumption in 2015.



Photo by The Grand Haven Historical Museum



LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO DATE

Luminary (\$100,000K)
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
Mary "Meime" VandenBerg Fund

Beacon (\$50,000K)
Marion A. and Ruth K. Sherwood Family Fund
Jim & Dulce Doss

Guiding Light (\$25,000K)
Boer Family Fund
Mart & Dottie Johnson
Loutit Foundation
Shape Corporation

Lumen (\$10,000K)
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Matilda & Harold Crane Foundation
JSJ Foundation
Verplank Dock Company

Wicki (\$5,000K)
Eagin Family Fund
Grand Haven Mainstreet DDA
Grand Haven, Spring Lake Holiday Inn
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Rotary Club of Grand Haven
Gary & Vicki Verplank
Midge Verplank
Samuel L. Westerman Foundation
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Dorothy Young Mixer
Joseph & Carol Uridil

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Ray's Drive In

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Kyle & Sam Verplank
Wharf Grand Haven LLC
Women's Club of Grand Haven

6th Order of Lens (\$250)
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C2C Gallery/Cyndi Casemier
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Mr. & Mrs. David M. Davis
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Dale & Kathryn DeYoung
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GHHS 1957 Picnic Fund
Tom & Sheri Grimes
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Ake & Marianne Johansson
Roger & Honorable Susan Jonas
Scott Klaassen
William C. & Margaret Klungle
Seth & Maria Malin

Through the generous support of our donors, including the many donors of less than \$200, and those that purchased bricks, work will continue in the spring of 2015 to preserve Grand Haven's historic maritime beacons.

~ A grateful community, thanks you all!

Dennis Pakutz
Joan M. Parker
Rodney P. & Sharon Pell
Douglas Pimm & Ms Kathe Borre-Pimm
Phillip & Marva Ringelberg
Mark Shunta
Jerry E. & Sherry VanKuijen
Lynn A. Walborn
Patricia Werly
Donald A. & Sharon Wisner

