



Grand Haven City Hall | 519 Washington Avenue  
Grand Haven, MI 49417 | [www.ghlighthouse.com](http://www.ghlighthouse.com)

## Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy

### ENTER TO WIN

Tell us your story about how the Grand Haven Lighthouses have played an important role in your life for a chance to win a special Grand Haven gift package. The winning story and photo will be featured on our website as well as in our next newsletter – Enlightened.

#### How to Enter:

Send your story of 250 words or less along with a photo to

Marci Cisneros, GH Lighthouse Conservancy Vice President,

225 Franklin Avenue, Grand Haven, MI 49417 or  
[mcisernos@visitgrandhaven.com](mailto:mcisernos@visitgrandhaven.com)

by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 27, 2014.

Include your name, city, state, and phone number with your submission.

The winner will be notified by Thursday, May 1, 2014.



- **Our Mission**
- ***“To preserve and restore Grand Haven’s Entrance and Inner Lighthouse structures along with any associated artifacts. Through public promotion and education, on site interpretive displays and artifact***

### In this issue:

Letter from President	1
Enter to Win, Tell your Story	4
Interview with Pro- Tech Environmental	2
In the News	2

Spring, 2014

Volume 1, Issue 3



# ENLIGHTENED

*News from the Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy*

### FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Spring is coming but all this snow is overwhelming. The members of the Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy have kept busy during this cold winter ensuring the completed and future work on the Grand Haven South Pier Entrance and Inner Lights meet the criteria of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Lighthouse Preservation. Consequently, the Inner Light is now lead free and has a bright red coat of paint. The windows in the lantern room will be new this season and the light will appear brighter for our maritime community. As work continues on the Entrance Light (Fog Signal Building) we expect the same bright red finish and new lantern room windows will be completed as soon as the weather warms.

The Historical Structures Report is at 95% and final edits are being completed. This report will also be available early this season. The City of Grand Haven and the Tri-Cities Historical Museum will have this report available as a guide for preservation and research.

The photo was taken shortly after the 52' cylindrical tower was relocated some 600 feet east of its original position on the west end on the pier (c.1907). Note the wooden catwalk and pier, vent stack on the lighthouse, and of course the lighthouse keepers from the U.S. Lighthouse Service which maintained the lighthouses throughout the country until 1939 when the USLHS was merged with the U.S. Coast Guard.

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





INTERVIEW WITH PRO-TECH ENVIRONMENTAL

Pro-Tech Environmental, Inc was selected to do the preservation work on both the Entrance and Inner lighthouses in 2013. Bernie Vlaming, President of Pro Tech, was asked a series of questions about progress and predicted completion.



1. How long has Pro-Tech Environmental, Inc been in business?

Pro-Tech Environmental, Inc. was established in 1991 as an asbestos abatement contractor and when I joined my current business partner, Randy Egtvedt, in 1995 we expanded into other areas of environmental remediation and construction.

2. What other historic preservation jobs have you completed?

Pro-Tech has performed numerous lead abatement and painting historical projects, such as: Au Sable Lighthouse, Zeeland Historical School House, Exterior Restoration of 20 housing structures on the Manitou Islands, Environmental Remediation and Sand/Soda blasting of the Berkley Gay Condominiums, Interior Blasting of the Covenant Life Church in Grand Haven, plus numerous others.

3. What special considerations went into bidding this job?

Dealing with the extreme elements and distance from shore were first and foremost because of having to contain all of our sandblast media for the safety of the community and the environment. Also working on a structure so close to the water while it is still open to the public has its challenges.

4. What have you experienced on the Grand Haven south pier that you did not expect?

We did not anticipate the extreme deterioration of the structure around the lower section of the inner lighthouse after sandblasting, thus requiring special brackets to be engineered and professionally installed. This delayed the project by more than a month and prevented us from completing the entire project in one summer season, but the repairs were vitally necessary for the longevity of the lighthouse.

5. What is the most common question asked by tourists while you have been working out there?

“Why are they painting it that ugly gray color”? We answered that exact question 50 times a day after applying the primer coat, especially after removing the poly sheeting while structural repairs were being made. The public thought we were finished and tearing down.

6. When do you expect to finish this job?

We want to continue as soon as the elements will allow us to and try to beat the crowds on the outer lighthouse this year. The blasting and painting of the exterior cupola and half of the entire interior structure has already completed on the outer lighthouse and new windows for both cupolas will be installed as soon as we can safely get back out there. Once again we would ideally like to be 100% complete before the Coast Guard Festival, and I see no issue with that whatsoever, but once again that will definitely be dependent on any additional structural improvements necessary to the outer lighthouse.

7. Will you be planning any lighthouse preservation work in your company’s future, or was this a once in a career type experience?

We will definitely be looking at doing other lighthouses around the Great Lakes and are currently talking to other cities and conservancies. We pride ourselves in going after the difficult projects that others tend to shy away from and love doing projects that entire communities get behind.

IN THE NEWS~Winter 2014

The Grand Haven Lighthouses drew an exorbitant amount of attention from January – March 2014. The excessive weather conditions, now known as the Polar Vortex, provided interesting and unique ice sculpture like creations of these already beautiful and historic structures. The lights were visited and photographed by many over the stretch of a few months. The real fascination, however, came after a few noteworthy images hit the associated press (AP) and went “viral” online. Our beloved lights are two of the most recognizable and photographed in the state of Michigan and beyond, but this added element of extreme weather made them even more of an attraction.

Lighthouses in the News - Winter 2014

- Michigan.org (Pure Michigan)
- Tripadvisor.com
- Buzzfeed.com
- Mnn.com (Mother Nature Network)
- USA Today
- Midwest Living
- The Weather Channel
- Plus, Numerous Local, Regional and State TV, Radio and Print News. As well as thousands of photographic websites, personal and professional blogs, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds nationally and internationally.



Photo Credit: Johnny Quirin, via Instagram Johnny Q photo



LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO DATE

Luminary (\$100K)

Grand Haven Area Community Foundation

Mary “Meime” vandenBerg Fund

Beacon (50K)

Marion A. and Ruth K. Sherwood Family Fund

Jim & Dulce Doss

Guiding Light (\$25K)

Boer Family Fund

Mart & Dottie Johnson

Loutit Foundation

Shape Corporation

Lumen (10K)

100 Men Who Give

Matilda & Harold Crane Foundation

JSJ Foundation

Verplank Dock Company

Wicki (5K)

Eagin Family Fund

Grand Haven DDA

Grand Haven, Spring Lake Holiday Inn

Mary C. Jacobson

Richard J. & Lisa Peters

Rotary Club of Grand Haven

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Verplank

Midge Verplank

Samuel L. Westerman Foundation

Warren & Nancy Wildeman

5<sup>th</sup> Order of Lens (\$500)

Edward D. & Diane Anderson

In Honor of Russ & Phyllis Bleich 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vieau

Consumers Energy Community Foundation

Bill & Mary Creason

Martha A. Erickson

Gary E. & Renee Faircloth

Carrie Marie Frifeldt

Tony & Kathy Gage

Michelle D. Griffin

David S. MacKenzie

Bruce W. & Cathy Martin

Joan M. Mattson

Morrison Family Foundation

Thomas & Sherrian Pegg

Nancy Pell

Larry Poel

Sharon Rathbun

School Zone Publishing

Mary J. Schuld

Tip A Few Tavern

Joanne Unkovskoy

Tony & Monica Verplank

Kyle & Sam Verplank

Wharf Grand Haven LLC

Women’s Club of Grand Haven

6<sup>th</sup> Order of Lens (\$250)

John & Carolyn Angus



Through the generous support of our donors and those that purchased bricks, work will continue in the spring of 2014 to preserve Grand

Haven’s historic maritime beacons.