

# Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society

## 2018 Annual Report



Chairman: Matthew McMullen

### **Opening**

What an exciting year 2018 has been for the Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society! 2018 marked the beginning of forward movement towards the restoration as well as continuing the efforts to preserve and maintain the Round Island Lighthouse. Together in cooperation with the United States Forest Service Hiawatha District, as well as other public and private sectors, we were able to deliver on our promise of replacement of the East door of the lighthouse.

### **Current Board of Directors**

For 2018, occupying board seats are five hard working & extraordinary people:

Matthew McMullen

Brad Mrozinski

Nathan Neuenfeldt

Patricia Eckenstahler

David Mack

The following is a current register of chairs held.

Matthew McMullen Board Chairman

Brad Mrozinski Vice Chairman

Patricia Eckenstahler Society Secretary

Scott Sugar Society Treasurer

## **Summary of 2018**

2018 Was a very busy year for our society. In early May Matthew McMullen along with board Member Nathan Neuenfeldt attended the international lighthouse conference at the Grand hotel on Mackinac Island. Matt and Nathan where able to network with other groups as well as attend seminars that would directly benefit the lighthouse. Since this conference was held on Mackinac Island it was only fitting to make our lighthouse the star of the event. Nathan and Matt made it a point each night to take a zodiac over to the lighthouse, and run a small generator to power the outside flood lights. The lighthouse was lit at night for the entire conference weekend. It should be noted that our society received a round of applause from the attendees of the conference for our efforts.

In June the Society hosted our annual work trip. For this trip the main focus was delivery of the door from mainland to Round Island. To do this the society worked in cooperation with the Mackinac Island state parks (MISP). The MISP were able to use their landing craft to deliver the door onto the beach of Round Island. The original plan was to have the landing craft deliver the door on Thursday afternoon however strong wind and wave action hampered any attempts. Saturday brought clear sky and calm waters and before noon on Friday the door had been successfully delivered to the beachhead. The remainder of the weekend was spent cleaning and prepping for our July Trip in which the door would be installed.

Everything was in place and ready to go for the July trip this year. This was our society's moment to prove to all stakeholders that we can accomplish whatever we set our minds too. With the help of Mr. Klinert, a mason from Clio Mi who volunteered his time. The society worked feverishly to remove the old steel door, and begin the process of mortaring in the new door. This new door was built like a bank vault, weighing nearly 500lbs but built in a manner that it mimicked the original 1930's era lighthouse door. The process of door removal to door replacement took the entire 4-day work trip. However, at the end of the trip the society and community where able to gaze and admire at the new door. It was truly amazing how our organization and its members worked to accomplish this momentous task. When asked by the local press about the door installation I (M. McMullen) summed it up best. "there is no doubt in my mind that over 100 people had a hand in making this door installation a success. It truly takes a dedicated group and not the actions of one to pull something like this off."

In mid-September Matt and Nate once again made a day trip to the Island to give a tour to a potential donor. During this trip Matt and Nate also replaced the solar battery for the lens as well as performed some light adjusting to the door. They also did some touch up painting on the door. As well as closed up the lighthouse, and the flag was lowered for the season.

## **Looking toward 2019**

As we move into 2019, I expect nothing but great things once again. Our Society has submitted a proposed projects list to the USFS which includes door replacements for the out buildings as well as some temporary roof repairs on the lighthouse. As well as we will begin the paperwork process to replace the North first story service doors with historically accurate reproductions. We also are proposing replacement or repair of the third story windows that are beginning to deteriorate. As I have

said in years past, it is amazing what a dedicated group of people can do when they come together for a common cause in which they are passionate. This Society is and will continue to be a welcoming friendship for those that want to raise awareness, teach the history, and promote the preservation of the Round Island Lighthouse for future generations. This year let us strive to continue to meet our goals and meet the expectations of the new ones set before us.