Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society

2023 Annual Report



Chairman: Matthew McMullen

# Opening

What an exhilarating journey 2023 has been for the Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society! Throughout this year, we've continued our dedicated work towards the restoration and ongoing preservation of the Round Island Lighthouse. Through collaborative efforts with the United States Forest Service Hiawatha District, alongside various public and private partners, we've made significant strides in achieving our mission of preserving the Round Island Lighthouse.

# Current Board of Directors

For 2023, occupying board seats are five hard working & extraordinary people:

Matthew McMullen

Nathan Neuenfeldt

Patricia Eckenstahler

Scott Sugar

David Mack

The following is a current register of chairs held.

Matthew McMullen Board Chairman

Nathan Neuenfeldt Vice Chairman

Patricia Eckenstahler Society Secretary

Scott Sugar Society Treasurer

# Summary of 2023

In late May, members of the Society traveled to Round Island to prepare the building for the summer season. Their tasks included taking inventory, double-checking measurements for upcoming summer projects, and raising the flag to mark the beginning of the season.

On Tuesday, June 20th, our Society assisted the United States Forest Service and a contractor hired by them in obtaining laser measurements of the entire lighthouse for future projects and for inclusion in the HSR (Historic Structures Report). Later that week, on Thursday, we were joined by more than 25 members of Boy Scout Troop 323 from Freeland, Michigan. The scouts played a vital role in various tasks, such as painting the interior of the privy, cleaning the building, removing invasive plants around the lighthouse, repairing the water delivery system in the kitchen area, and tidying up the east closet on the first floor. Additionally, the scouts helped move shoreline rocks to level the area around the outbuildings. On Saturday afternoon, the Society provided transportation for the scouts to Mackinac Island, where they enjoyed some well-deserved R&R. Society members Scott, Matt, and Dave also took measurements for the July installation of the privy door and potential window replacements on the third story of the lighthouse.

In July, the Society organized its annual July trip, with ten members present to tackle a multitude of projects. These tasks included installing and painting the privy door, painting the railing and coal doors on the lighthouse, repairing the concrete floor in the lighthouse's mechanical room, performing maintenance on the generator, and conducting a second measurement of the windows on the third story to ensure accuracy for upcoming winter projects. The lighthouse was then properly winterized, and an inventory was conducted in preparation for the year 2024.

Additionally, plans are in progress for a fall trip to retire the US flag, with coordination between the Society and the United States Forest Service for this important task.

# Looking toward 2024

As we enter 2024, we face the important task of prioritizing the needs of the Round Island Lighthouse. I propose that we give immediate attention to the pressing issues of roof and window replacement, as well as brick repair. In partnership with the United States Forest Service, we will persevere in tackling these substantial undertakings. Furthermore, we must begin assessing potential costs and exploring the ways our community can contribute financially or provide guidance to ensure the success of our projects.

As I have reiterated each year, and will continue to emphasize, it never ceases to amaze me how remarkable achievements can come to fruition when a dedicated group of individuals unites to preserve the Round Island Lighthouse. Let us persist in the momentum we have initiated and serve as an inspiring example to others, demonstrating what a small, highly motivated group can achieve in the preservation of this iconic Michigan landmark.