



Tibbetts' Tidbits

Spring 2021

Box 683
Cape Vincent, NY 13618
www.tibbettspointlighthouse.org

A Publication of Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Historical Society

~ Founded 1988 ~

Tibbetts' Point Lighthouse: An Essential Place to Visit

Many journalists have reported COVID made 2020 a hell of a year. However, not for the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Historical Society. All things considered, we took lemons and made lemonade. Despite COVID restrictions, last season was a success financially. Our Visitors Center was well staffed, and we had no open shifts all season. As a result of needing internet for the credit card machine, visitors were also able to use the site's public WiFi. Guests were able to use the internet to research site history, visit our website, and keep in touch with family. Anyone can also use our website's PayPal portal to submit memorials and make donations. With 2020 behind us, and assuming the impact of the COVID virus continues to lessen restrictions, we look forward to a great 2021 season for the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Gift Shop.

With the 2020 COVID restrictions, and the Canadian border closed, many of our visitors were staying closer to home for their staycations. We had 5,574 visitors sign our guest book. Although we missed our international guests, there was representation from 40 states plus Washington, DC. That was exciting for us during a time when most travel was curtailed! Many of our visitors were seeing Tibbetts Point for their first time; that's almost a guarantee they will return.

The Lighthouse Park Site is open 24/7 even when the Visitors Center is closed for the season. For the past several years, the Town has hosted different winter events, most notably, the holiday lighting of the lighthouse. Unfortunately, because of the strong winter winds, the Town's lighthouse holiday lights have caused damage to the lighthouse tower. As a result, the town stated 2020 may have been the last year for the holiday light display.

We are continuing to develop closer relationships with the

Town Board, CV Improvement League, and the Chamber of Commerce. Over the winter, our Board of Directors has been in touch with representatives of the Town Board of Cape Vincent. Together, we are working on a plan to help the Town secure funding to repair/restore the lighthouse keepers' residences. We will all benefit from such renovation.

Using our TPLHS funds, we plan to contract for maintenance on the lighthouse and foghorn building to repair weather damage, and we need to install new flooring in the Visitors Center. With high water over the past many years, we are hoping for some Federal grant money for erosion repair. Again, we continue to have a long-range plan to increase the size of the Visitors Center.

As we plan for our 2021 season, we are prepared to comply with whatever COVID regulations the government requires. Summer hours of operation will be based on availability of volunteers; however, we hope to be open 10 AM – 6 PM on weekends (Friday through Monday) beginning May 28, 2021. Starting July 1st, the Gift Shop will be open seven days per week.

Dependent upon the lifting of pandemic restrictions, we will be participating in the *Cape Vincent French Festival Parade*, and the *Jean Coughler Day Ice Cream Social* festivities will be held on Sunday, August 8th. There are other events on the drawing board, but we will proceed based on state regulations. Keep listening for coming events!!

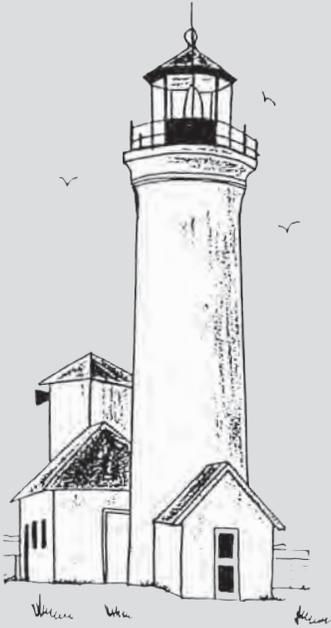
We, once again, are recruiting volunteers for both the Gift Shop and the Board of Directors.

Even though the lake and river pilots use GPS, they prefer to keep the Tibbetts Point light illuminated. Therefore, it is still vital to keep our light shining brightly.

Thank you very much for your support!



Points Of Light



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The beacon of our lighthouse is visible for 16 miles helping vessels navigate the lake and river. At Tibbetts Point, we actually have several points of light whose reach extends much farther. Our volunteer force, our points of light, send knowledge and good will by answering questions, giving information, telling stories, and making our visitors feel welcome in our Visitors Center. Guests leave with a little more knowledge, maybe a souvenir, and memories of a beautiful place to which they want to return.

Sandy Sachs has been a valued volunteer since 2014. Longtime volunteer and friend, Jim Hagen, told Sandy he thought she would enjoy volunteering, and he was correct! Sandy says she never felt unprepared for her time in the Gift Shop because her co-workers were very supportive and helped her "learn the ropes." She enjoys visiting with the guests, especially those with a passion for lighthouses. "People come from all over to visit the lighthouse. It is interesting to talk to each and every one."

Someone else who loves talking to our visitors is our Gift Shop Manager, **Jana Powell**. She feels, "people are wonderful, and I have met so many interesting people while volunteering." Jana feels lucky to spend time at such a beautiful place. "When it isn't busy, I like sitting on the bench and just enjoying the scenery. What a gorgeous place to be!" If you like people and want to do something nice, Jana invites you to come and volunteer.

Like a mosaic, each volunteer brings his or her own color to the experience that is Tibbetts Point. If you think you would like to join our volunteer force and become one of our points of light, we are always happy to add another. Call Sharon Clark at 315-654-4114 or send us an email at tibbettspointlighthouse@gmail.com for more information.



Did You Know?

- When our lighthouse was built, all lighthouses had a unique beacon characteristic that identified their location to navigators. Our light shines with a characteristic of 10 seconds: 6 seconds light and 4 seconds off. Seeing this signal in low visibility would tell the ship's pilot he was at the point where Lake Ontario enters the St. Lawrence River.
- Despite our age of GPS and radio transmission, the ships' pilots who navigate the Seaway still use our lighthouse tower as a valuable visual cue. When the government considered decommissioning Tibbetts Point Lighthouse, the pilots rallied in defense of keeping it as an active aid to navigation.
- The lighthouse tower and foghorn building are maintained strictly by the donations received by the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Historical Society. The other structures on the property are the responsibility of the Town of Cape Vincent. TPLHS is working with the Town on plans to restore the keepers' houses.

Memorials

Lighthouses are a passion for many people. They love the meaning of a lighthouse; we've all needed a beacon sometime in our lives. Tibbetts Point Lighthouse is that beacon to many of us. The following people are remembered by loved ones and friends as having a close relationship with our lighthouse.

May their Light Ever Shine!

COLLEEN KILKELLY DAVIS by Nancy Feerrar

JOE DUDEK by Daniel Shuster

GORDON HOTALING by Mary Hotaling

JOHNSON & AUDREY KIEFF by Kevin Kieff

MELISSA MCENTIRE by Jason, Sonya, Della & Hezekiah Richards

DAVID MONTONNA by Bill & Shirley Montonna

TOM MORIARTY by Mike & Ruth Moriarty

JERRY & JUDY SULLIVAN by Bernie & Dana Solan

KAREN TURNER by Debbie Cougler

UNCLE JOE VARSIK by Debra & Douglas Korfel

JOSEPH VARSIK by Kimberly Andrascik

JOSEPH VARSIK by Mr & Mrs Jerome Varsik

CAROLYN WILEY by Christine Schneider

Contributions

*When the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Historical Society was founded in 1988, its purpose was to maintain the integrity of the lighthouse and foghorn building and educate future generations on the importance of our lighthouse and its place in the history of the area. Today, we try not only to honor that commitment but to go further by promoting the beauty and serenity of the lighthouse and grounds. Good intentions and passion are not enough to ensure upkeep. The following people are some who help us reach our goals everyday by donating to our lighthouse. **Your support is our lifeline; thank you!***

NANCY BOYNTON

JACK & BETTY BURPEE

BEVERLY M. BURNS

JEFFERY J. COUNTRYMAN

BOB & DIANE DOUD

MELANIE EDGAR

PATRICIA A. GUTKIN

BOB HOPKINS

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BEA & LOU JOHNSTONE

MICHELLE LINDSAY

MICHAEL & SUSAN MAHRER

HOPE I. MARSTON

BILL & KATHERINE MILLER

GEORGE & MARCIA MINGLE

THOMAS & JOANNE MOORHEAD

PHIL, VICKI, TIFFANY & HILLARY PAINE

JOANNE PARAGI

KATHY & CHRIS SZKOTAK

JOHN T. TUCKER

JOE & CONNIE VARSIK

RICK & KAREN WILEY

LYNETTE YOST IN HONOR OF LOUISE DAVIS

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ (*suggested \$15 minimum*)

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

MEMORIAL FUND: a tribute to departed loved ones.

Each name is permanently a part of the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Memorial Roster.

In memory of _____, I am enclosing my memorial contribution of
(\$25 minimum) \$ _____ to the Memorial Fund.

An acknowledgement card will be sent honoring your loved one to:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Payable by check or money order if mailed to:

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