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Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Historical Society Scholarship

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I never realized how much the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse contributed to my life as I have been growing up in Cape Vincent. When I started thinking about how the lighthouse has been a part of my life I realized how many memories it held for me. In elementary school I took a class field trip to the lighthouse and they gave us a presentation about the lighthouse and the fog horn room. They told us how old it was and how the light and fog horn worked. I also walked there with my mother and siblings in the summer when I was younger. I remember learning that the lighthouse is where Lake Ontario meets the St. Lawrence river which I thought was cool. I still remember the difference between the lake and river because of the lighthouse. The most important way the lighthouse has been in my life is that it is close to my grandfather's cottage. When my grandfather was still here he would invite my family over to his cottage. At the cottage he had a huge telescope and you could look out on the lake at ships and you could look at the lighthouse from there. My grandfather would take me fishing on the lake side of the lighthouse for smallmouth bass. We would start at the lighthouse and troll for fish all the way up the shoreline. It was always me, my siblings, and my cousins that would go out on the boat with my grandfather. We would also go swimming, tubing, and skipping rocks out in front of the cottage and the lighthouse was always right there next to the cottage which my mom always thought was cool but I didn't realize how fascinating it was until I was older. I realized that it's a staple of our community and it's rare to have access to a running lighthouse in my community. I don't live on the water but my family bought a boat and we would drive our boat from Millens bay and drive to my dad and my secret fishing spot. We had to pass the lighthouse to get to our fishing spot and when my grandfather was still here we would stop in and say hello. The lighthouse is sentimental and nostalgic for me and my childhood but it is also a huge part of our community. The lighthouse brings tourists to Cape Vincent and is one of the main attractions and unique things in Cape Vincent. When I think of Cape Vincent I think of the river, lake, and lighthouse. It's important to me and many other community members to protect and preserve the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse for kids growing up in Cape Vincent and for all of us who will stay here and come back to visit. We need to keep the lighthouse safe to preserve our memories as a community. After writing this I have a greater appreciation for the lighthouse and the staff that keeps it going. I hope to see it still around later on in my life so I can show my children and allow them to make their own memories around the lighthouse.