

# Lighthouse Flash Spring 2020



May 2020

We are happy to report that we have all managed to stay healthy! We are still here ready to take your calls, answer your emails, and welcome you all once again with open arms when the time is right. We so hope that this email finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe, as well. Michael, Mary and Deborah

## News from the Lighthouse

by Michael J. Sullivan, Executive Director

This time last year I was worried about high water on the park, if all the gift shop inventory would arrive on time and, most importantly, would all of our dedicated volunteers return for the season – *you did*. Thank you!

What a difference a virus can make.

After a number of meetings which included our Board of Directors, DCNR, and others it has been decided – at this time – not to open the Lighthouse this summer. Even as we transition into the yellow phase the environment is not safe for our volunteers, staff, or visitors. Following the necessary state and CDC guidelines, to try and open would be impossible. The tower and Keepers Quarters were not built for social distancing, nor would I ever expect our volunteers or staff to put their health in jeopardy. Saying that, if things change later this summer we will be prepared to open on short notice.

I have no doubt that we will all get through this. The Presque Isle Light will continue to be an aide to navigation as it has been since July of 1873. The grounds will once again be filled with guests and visitors learning about our magical maritime history.

## Educational Committee News

Over the course of this past fall and winter our Educational Committee met on a weekly basis. They concentrated on developing a one hour tour that would at first, serve as an early morning “special event” and move us forward with the interpretive plan. From the work being done, we can also develop other events, such as programs about the Fresnel lens for adults and youth. Once up and running again we hope to highlight and start offering this tour as a way to enhance our guest experience. I would like to personally thank the following members: Chairwoman Mary Ambrose, Patti Rial, Deborah Lohr, Wendy Miller, Sue Matteson, Dianne Allaire, Gail Detar, Jerry Longo, Bill Nesgoda and Jackie Tammaro.

## Gift Shop News

Gift Shop manager, Deborah Lohr, is presently working with Tungsten Creative to determine the feasibility of creating an online gift shop. This is something we wanted to do last year so no better time like the present. Stay tuned for updates. Plus, Deborah is working with board member Brigid Doyle to develop some fun games along with contests (which include prizes) for our members and volunteers to **stay connected** to our Lighthouse this summer. This will all be announced shortly through email as well as our website and Facebook.

## Thank You

If you have looked at our grounds and wondered “I wish my yard looked like this” you don’t have Dave Lauer working with you! After a successful 40+ years at Erie Insurance, Dave arrived at the Lighthouse looking to volunteer. Little did I know he would transform our grounds to what you see today. Even with thousands of visitors each year the Lighthouse grounds remain pristine.

Thank you, David.

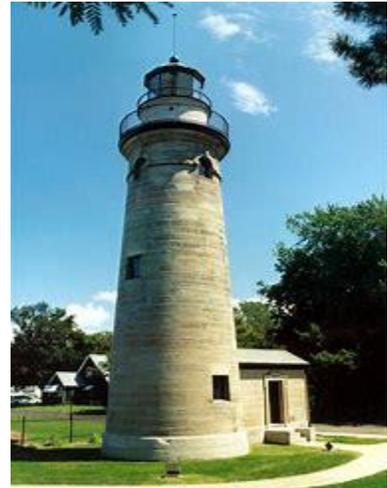
We would also like to thank our retiring Board president, Cheryl Mitchell. Cheryl’s steady hand, work ethic and leadership was not only appreciated by me but by our staff and board of directors. Thank you, Cheryl.

Also at this time I would like to welcome our newly elected Board officers; Tom Sebald as President, Mike Geiger as Vice President, Alicia Bryant as Treasurer and Eric Dahlstrand as Secretary. Again, as volunteers your time and dedication is appreciated.



First volunteer and member picnic.

Other exciting news is that we’re in early preliminary discussions with the Port Authority regarding the Land Lighthouse. This could be a great opportunity for us. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.



## How can you support our Lighthouse

With the distinct possibility of the Lighthouse not opening this season, financially speaking it could be a difficult year. Here are a number of ways you can offer your support so we can continue with some of our restoration projects.

- If you have not renewed your 2020 membership, please do so today. This can be done by visiting our website at [www.presqueislelighthouse.org](http://www.presqueislelighthouse.org). Click at the top of the page on “Ways To Give”. You can also renew by mail to Presque Isle Lighthouse 301 Peninsula Dr., Erie, PA 16505.
- Purchase a license plate through our website. Click on “Ways To Give” at the top of the page.
- If you have already made your yearly donation and would like to contribute additional funds, please do so by sending your gift directly to the Lighthouse at 301 Peninsula Drive, Erie, PA 16505 or by visiting our website.

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT**