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Membership Update and Information

WRITTEN by: Michael Galizio, President, August 2013

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Gary Geddes, Chair; Honourable Pat Carney, Senator (ret);

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The Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society was established in 2003. The Society is incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia, File #S47588 - May 17, 2004. The Society is registered as a charity by the Canada Revenue Agency, #858885940RR0001, July 29, 2004.

Thank you for your continued participation in the Society. ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE, thank you for the confidence you've placed in us.

It's the 100th Anniversary of the lighthouse at Sheringham Point. The Society volunteer membership has already celebrated with events and new items featuring the 100th Anniversary logo, available at the On-Line Store. Check for new events at the website.

Work continues in several areas including communicating with government agencies responsible for the lighthouse. The Society reported that effective February of 2010, the Federal Government declared the light station and surrounding land as surplus. That declaration allows the Treasury Board land disposal process to move forward.

In addition, the Society has requested the Federal Government declare the Sheringham Light Station as a Heritage Property under the new Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act.

This newsletter and report is provided as part of the Society's ongoing commitment to provide members and friends of the Society with as much information as possible. This is report number 47 in a series of reports, however, the second edition of the new format.

Please let us know your ideas, comments, suggestions and how you might be able to help our efforts. We welcome you to check in frequently at the website to see the latest information on the Society.

The Executive would like to invite you to the next meeting. Please note the date and location in the "Meeting" section.

Property Acquisition Update

As of February 2010, the Department of Public Works announced to the CRD, The Society and others that the Sheringham Point Lighthouse Land had been declared surplus (*see letter to the CRD from Public Works*). As such, the formal process outlined by the Treasury Board has begun. The process includes consultation with First Nations, and then proceeds with communication to various levels of government. With the CRD expressing interest in the property, and our work to promote the lighthouse and land acquisition, we are in third place to be able to acquire the light station and the land.

The new wrinkle in the process is the Heritage Lighthouse Preservation Act (HLPA). Passed by Parliament and now in effect, the legislation sets out a process to dispose of and preserve surplus lighthouse properties.

This process requires the Society to submit a business plan, a petition, and work through a process with Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to acquire the lighthouse and designated land.

There have been a series of meeting with Public Works and DFO staff.

In meetings with JdFEA Staff and Public Works Canada representatives the Society Executive members and First Nations tribal leadership discussions were held to review the land disposal process. Further meetings were held to outline environmental mitigation and public access issues.

At the meetings the Society outlined the following as the priorities:

- a covenant on the property to protect and preserve the property, signed by the Society
- the historic access remains as it is now and no changes are made to access
- significant and ongoing active involvement in decision making over long term use of the passive preserved parkland
- the parkland must be in public hands
- the Society must be the managers of the trail, parkland and maintain the integrity of the lighthouse structure for the long term

Since those meetings in September of 2011, there was another on-site "environmental review" meeting. At that time, Public Works reviewed possible contamination and mitigation plans. A report has been issued, although the Society has not at this time received a copy of the report.

And since the on-site review, we have learned from the Parks Commission and DFO that the First Nations decided to include the lighthouse property in their Treaty Negotiations.

In addition, since the last set of meetings conversations between DFO, Public Works and the Society have yielded the following information:

- 1) Public Works and DFO now have included in discussions a plan to split the three parcels of land that make up the lighthouse complex
- 2) Proposed that First Nations consider the western most parcels of land in their treaty negotiations and that the eastern most parcel (including the lighthouse structure), be considered for Treasury Board and/or HLPAs disposal.

While these proposals have come into play recently, the Society is still evaluating all options with regard to land acquisition and heritage designation.

Lighthouse View Trail and Jennie's Trail

Located at the end of Sheringham Point Road with a small adjacent parking area, the trail head leads to the Sheringham Point Lighthouse View Trail. This 3 plus kilometer trail is open from dawn to dusk and available year round. The Society is proud to have entered into an agreement with the CRD to manage the trail through the summer of 2014. As a result of the community compromise agreement with the developer of the land adjacent to the lighthouse, the Society negotiated this loop trail over private property with views of the lighthouse, the west coast and through a beautiful forest.

The Society takes the responsibility seriously and has worked since 2009 to maintain and improve the trail under the guidance of the JdFEA Parks Commission and staff.

TRAIL VANDALISM - Sign destruction continues at the trail. Some visitors have broken and knocked down trail markers. The Society is now in the process of making the necessary sign repairs.

Please sign onto the Society website and click on "Lighthouse View Trail" to find more information about the loop trail and Jennie's trail.

The last few editions reported on the Society asking JdFEA Parks Commission make Flea Beach MOT right of way a priority to be converted to a park under the management of the Society. The Parks Commission has not selected Flea Beach as one of the sites for a park. The Society passed a motion at the last meeting to request MOT grant a permit to the Society to manage and maintain the area as a small foreshore preserved and passive park. The Executive will have news at the AGM on the Flea Beach situation.

Please join us...Next meeting is the Annual General Meeting:

Sooke Region Museum Address: 2070 Phillips Road, Sooke

The agenda will be posted on the website and the time certain for adjournment is 3:30 p.m. Elections of officers will take place at the AGM. Should you have nominations for Director and/or Officer, please contact the Society's Secretary-Treasurer.

Don't forget to check the minutes of the last meeting ahead of time by logging on to the web site using your member code.

Take ACTION NOW

Please act today to Preserve and Protect our Lighthouse at Sheringham Point.

The federal government is in process of making decisions about heritage status of the the lighthouse, land and access for Sheringham Point. Without your immediate action, the site may be lost forever.

The Society has submitted all the proper paperwork and now it is up to the Federal Government to decide whether or not the land and structure are protected under the Lighthouse Heritage Act. ***Send a letter, sign the petition.***

Sign on to www.sheringhamlighthouse.org and click on "Send a letter today"

There are several ways to provide financial support to the Society.

- * Go to the web site where you can donate via Pal Pay
- * Send your cheque to the Society at PO Box 1002 Sooke BC V9Z 1J1
- * Use your Visa, MasterCard or American Express to donate via PayPal

Please make your contribution TODAY...

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION NOW SO YOUR SUPPORT CAN BE USED TO HELP SECURE THE LIGHTHOUSE LAND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. Every dollar you contribute starts working immediately for the Society's preservation work.

A History of the Sheringham Lighthouse researched and authored by Rebecca Quinn and the volunteers of the Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservations Society is a 20 page, full colour book covering the illustrious history of the lighthouse at Sheringham Point.

Featuring over 30 photos, maps, journal entries, biographies of the lightkeepers, their families, info on the junior lightkeepers, the land purchase, the building of Sheringham Point Road and the process of the Society, the book is fun and interesting reading for anyone. *The book was produced by the Society with generous assistance from the JdFEA Economic Development Commission.*

Please log on to the website and purchase your copy of this first edition publication.

Now in 2012 and 2013 the Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the light station at Sheringham Point. The Society, created in 2003 to preserve and protect the lighthouse, surrounding land and access, will organize a number of events in the community and virtual web-based to recognize the lightkeepers, their families, the Coast guard, and the many people who lived the history of the lighthouse.

The land and lighthouse located at the end of Sheringham Point Road is an important part of British Columbia and local history.

The Society is trying to keep the history of this facility alive as well as working to protect and preserve the light station and the beautiful waterfront parkland surrounding it.

We've already collected some interesting oral history, historical facts and information, reached out to families of lightkeepers and others who have information about the 100 years of service to mariners.

And the Society continues to work with the CRD, the Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation Commission, communicating with First Nations and other stakeholders to see that the land remains in public hands, is preserved "as is", managed by the Society, and is protected for the future. We also are working everyday to ensure the building is protected and maintained.

Please log on to the Society website to learn more about the 100 year celebrations this summer and beyond.

You may now purchase Lighthouse Society products including the Book, T-Shirts, Mugs and Magnets. The On-Line Store is open! Go to the website and click on LIGHTHOUSE STORE (<http://www.sheringhamlighthouse.org/splps/lighthouse-store.html>) to purchase your Logo mugs, magnets and more:

Member Price \$3.00 Non-member \$6.00

Large - Member Price \$2.00 Non-member \$4.00

Small - Member Price \$1.00 Non-member \$3.00

Short Sleeve/Gray - Member Price \$20.00

Non-member \$25.00

Short Sleeve/White vintage picture of the Lighthouse and 100th Anniversary Logo

Member Price \$10.00 Non-member \$15.00

Vintage LH picture and 100th Anniversary Logo - Member Price \$5.00 Non-member \$7.00

Should you want to purchase any item, and want to pay by cheque, please send a cheque to the Society address with \$3.00 shipping and handling (in Canada) included for each item, or use the easy PayPal option. Items will be shipped in 4 to 6 weeks. Please indicate T-Shirt size. Thank you.

Family Membership also available

On behalf of your fellow volunteer members of the Society, we'd like to invite you to ask your friends and neighbours to join in the fight to save the lighthouse. It's as simple as one click. Go to the lighthouse website and under "Become a Member", just click on JOIN NOW and use PayPal to join and pay your membership dues. Membership permits access to the private section of the web site for background, meeting minutes, agenda's and finance reports. Membership also allows your active participation in decisions facing the Society including future use of the site. In addition, you will receive the Special Member Updates via email to keep you informed about process of the Society. Don't wait - ask your friends and neighbours to join today. Thank you.

Family membership special is now available. For a short time only a new member may join the Society by purchasing:

"Family Membership" for only \$25.00. The membership includes 1 year dues for 4 members of a family.

Just send in your information with one family member's name, address, email, and phone number with your cheque for \$25.00. You can also go to the website and click on "Become a Member" and then click on "Family Membership".

*Hurry, this offer expires at the end of September, 2013. *Limited time only**

NOTE:

The Society makes every effort to provide as much information and reporting on events surrounding the Sheringham Point Lightstation and land. The website may contain more up to date information. The Society invites you to view our website at:

[sheringhamlighthouse.org](http://www.sheringhamlighthouse.org)

Members may log in to the special section for meeting agendas, minutes, etc. Please report any errors, new information or omissions to the Society. Thank you.