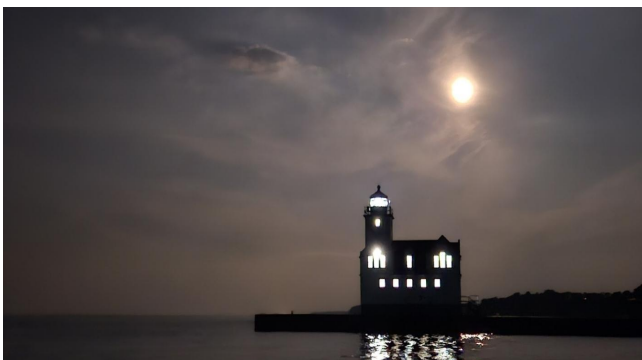


Friends of the Kewaunee Pierhead Lighthouse



New Windows and Lights

Thanks to the skill and time given by volunteers, the Kewaunee pierhead lighthouse now has new windows on the main level, and new lights (with wiring up to code) on each level. The lights are on a timer, so that each evening they shine out and give a spectacular view of the lighthouse. Thank you to Dan Jerabek for the re-wiring, and to Dan and Jim Schaller for the new lights. These fixtures were rescued from one of Kewaunee's old schools! The new windows were made by Barry Nelson, who also fashioned window fasteners in the style of the originals. Some original windows were preserved and made into display cases on the main level. Other volunteers were Danny Kruse, Dale Neumeier and Frank Voyles. The whole interior is brighter and more inviting as many of the old windows had been covered up.



Photos courtesy of Kevin Held

Newsletter Summer 2023



Paver Bricks - a lasting gift

Pavers are a great way to remember or honor a family member, friend, or recognize a company or organization. They form a permanent tribute at the end of the pier, next to Lighthouse Park. All proceeds from pavers go to the restoration of the Lighthouse.

Pavers range from \$250 for a 4x8 stone, up to \$1000 for a 16x16 stone. Please see the website for details of these and other items for sale.

www.kewauneeperheadlighthouse.org

New paver bricks were added this year, and the donor names are included on the last page of this newsletter. Thank you to all the donors, and Matt's Services for engraving the pavers.

Radio Days at the Lighthouse

Amateur radio enthusiasts made their first transmissions from the Kewaunee Lighthouse this past August, and received a lot of calls from around the country. This is a new venture for the Friends, but we hope to partner more with them as they keep alive a tradition which goes back to the Lighthouse's beginnings. More about this will follow in our winter issue.

One More Open Weekend in 2023

The Lighthouse will be open for the Door County Festival of Lighthouses, September 29th-October 1st Open Friday 10 am-noon, Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm (this date is a change).

It will also be open on Saturday, October 7th, 10 am-4 pm.

The open days so far in 2023 have been very

Volunteer Spotlight - Robin Nelson

“We probably wouldn’t have a lighthouse if it weren’t for Robin!” was the comment of one of the Friends’ Board members when they heard that she was stepping down from her volunteer role with the City Lighthouse Committee, and the Friends of the Kewaunee Lighthouse.

Robin Nelson started with the willingness to work hard to preserve Kewaunee’s landmark. She and Jim Schaller joined the Lighthouse Committee in 2015. Jim said that “From that point forward she continually met each obstacle we faced with fierce determination. It was by no means easy, something always seemed to pop up to throw a wrench into our plans but because of her we persevered and overcame much to get the lighthouse to the point it is today.”

She was instrumental in getting the lighthouse saved for the city, obtaining grants for the restoration of the exterior, a new roof and steel door, and ensuring that the Kewaunee Pierhead Lighthouse was placed on the National Historic Register. Jayne Conard stated that “This would not have happened if not for Robin. She has left the Lighthouse Committee and the city with a firm foundation to continue the process of preservation and protection of the Kewaunee Pierhead Lighthouse. Thank you, Robin!”

successful. We had 123 visitors in June and 85 in July. Admissions and donations totalled \$1261. We also sold \$427.00 in merchandise on the pier.

New this year, there is a suggested donation for admission to the Lighthouse: \$5 for adults and \$3 for school age children. Members of the Friends of the Lighthouse have free admission.



Historic Plaque for the Lighthouse

The Kewaunee Pierhead Lighthouse has been placed on the National Historic Register in 2022, and we now have the plaque to show it! It will soon be installed on the right side of the green doors, so check it out next time you are there.

Kewaunee History Corner

The Lifesaving Service/Kewaunee Station

The idea of having lifesaving stations originated on the East Coast in 1848 by the Massachusetts Humane society. Having no means to help rescue sailors in distress except for small boats caused many to lose their lives trying to save others.

The first station was established at Cohasset, Mass. It consisted of a small shed-like building that housed rescue equipment that was used by volunteers in case of a wreck. Stations like this one were only at the larger ports, leaving large gaps in between.

Federal government support began on August 14, 1878, with the signing of the Newall Act. Under this act Congress appropriated \$10,000 to establish stations from New Jersey to New York Harbor. It provided surf boats, rockets, carronades, and other necessary apparatus to help save lives and property from shipwrecks.

In 1874 lifesaving stations had been established on the Great Lakes. The Kewaunee Station was built by Frank Hamachek using a government approved plan that was consistent with those on the east coast. Enough money was given to build the station with money left over to build 3 houses for the crew members that were married. The rest stayed inside the station. Nelson Craite from Two Rivers was the first captain.

(Submitted by Tom Schuller)



The Kewaunee Lifesaving Station,
under the US Coast Guard in 1921

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Rick Nelson
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Thank You to All our Donors!

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