



Historic Ottawa Beach Society - Fall 2017 news letter



This summer completed the second season of the “SS Michigan - Icebound” exhibit in the north room of the Pump House Museum and Learning Center. For the 2018 season the HOBS board chose the Big Red Lighthouse to be the subject of a major exhibit for the museum. Noted maritime historian and exhibit designer Valerie van Heest has been retained by HOBS to create the exhibit.

“Big Red Lighthouse - From Aid to Navigation to Cultural Icon” will open in the Pump House Museum on June 1, 2018.



HOBS filed an application for a grant with the Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) in August. The amount of the grant is \$15,000 and it requires HOBS to have \$18,000 in matching funds, some of which may be “in kind” donations. HOBS proposes to use the grant to fund the creation, fabrication and installation of the Big Red exhibit in the Pump House Museum. The MHC will announce the names of the recipients sometime in November.



**Macatawa Area
Coordinating Council**

A Cooperative Effort Among Units of Government

The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC), announced their new initiative September 25, 2017 focused on supporting efforts that promote regional cohesion. It is called the Community Enhancement Program (CEP) and is being coordinated by the MACC. The CEP is a collaboration of six MACC members: Park Township, Holland Charter Township, Zeeland Charter Township, Laketown Township, Fillmore Township and City of Zeeland who have appointed members to a board that will be allocating small grants to support regional projects that “bring us all together”. HOBS has applied for a \$5,000 grant. The money will be used for improvements to the pump house museum building by providing a window shade system to enhance its suitability for multimedia presentations. The MACC - CEP will announce the names of the recipients sometime in December.



HOBS arranged for a group of 43 Lakewood Elementary School students to have a guided tour on October 3rd of the Big Red Lighthouse. Members of the Holland Harbor Lighthouse Historical Commission led the students through the lighthouse, pausing on each level to tell the students about the behind the scenes working of the lighthouse. The 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students are in Mrs. Denise Smyk’s language arts class, and they will work through the winter months to research and develop presentations and exhibits about the lighthouse, the keepers and even the Life Saving Service. In late winter, they will present their projects to the rest of the students. Their projects and artwork will then be included in a display in the Pump House Museum next summer as part of the new Big Red Lighthouse exhibit.