

CHANTRY Island

The Lighthouse

During the mid 1800's water traffic on the Great Lakes had substantially increased and the colonial government called for improved navigational tools for the mariners on the Lake Huron. *John Brown* of Thorold was contracted to build the lighthouse on Chantry Island, as well as 10 other lighthouses to help sailors navigate the Lake.

April 1, 1859 Because of the expense and difficulty of building, only six were completed. The Chantry Island Lighthouse was one of these completed and it was lit on the day. The lighthouse stands 86 ft. above water level and is 80 ft. high from its base to the light's center.



Paris The lantern room of the lighthouse was fitted with a *Fresnel lens* built and transported from France.

The first fuel used was **SpermWhale Oil** and the first light was a fixed light, not the familiar flashing one. Other fuels used have been colza oil, coal oil, kerosene, acetylene and electricity. Its present-day flashing light is *solar powered*.



LIGHT KEEPER'S COTTAGE RESTORATION *in NUMBERS*



1997 *ESTABLISHED ISLAND'S RESTORATION*

Funded by donations, fundraising efforts & the majority of the work was to be done by volunteers, rebuild the light keeper's cottage

2001 *COMPLETED LIGHT KEEPER'S COTTAGE RESTORATION*

HOURS OF LABOR TO FINISH THE RESTORATION AND READY THE BOAT TOUR **300,000**

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS **250**

Since 2001 volunteers have restored the staircase of the lighthouse, built a boathouse on the island, constructed a replica of the original boat (which sits in the boathouse) and reconstructed the privy. Today the tour is operated with over 125 volunteers, whose jobs include island housekeepers, gardeners, tour boat captains, crew and tour guides, and gift shop sales and service personnel. Volunteers also install the portable walkways and docks every spring and remove them every fall.



NUMBER OF VISITORS

12,000

Partners in the restoration, island maintenance, Chantry Island Tour operation and other Marine Heritage endeavors

Town of Saugeen Shores

Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre

Southampton Propeller Club

Chantry Island Chambettes
Saugeen Shores Chamber of Commerce

Their continuous support contributes to the success of the Marine Heritage Society goal to preserve the local marine history.