



GREAT LAKES MARINE & COAST GUARD MEMORIAL MUSEUM

(Aka: Ashtabula Marine Museum)

P.O. Box # 1546 - 1071 Walnut Blvd.

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Founded 1985

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Member of the Ashtabula Area Museum and Historical Society, Inc.

August 31, 2006

Ohio Lake Erie Commission
Lake Erie Protection Fund
One Maritime Plaza
Fourth Floor
Toledo, Ohio 43604-1866

Subject: Final Report

Dear Mr. Edwin J. Koncelik,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank your office for the funding in the amount of \$10,000. This funding gave us the opportunity to use Ohio Lake Erie Commission (LEC) and Lake Erie Protection Fund (LEPF) funds which were provided through the purchase of Ohio's Lake Erie License Plates. This assisted us in the complete restoration of our 1898 Fresnel lens and museum artifact display.

The Ashtabula Marine Museum is dedicated to the preservation, display and interpretation of Great Lakes maritime history, particularly as it relates to persons, ships and events that impacted the Ashtabula and northeast Ohio area. To this end, by using these funds we were able to fulfill our goal, which was to restore the 1905 Ashtabula Lighthouse Fourth Order Fresnel Lens using the services of one of the last of four nationally licensed Lampists, Mr. James Woodward. Mr. Woodward also put on several classes for all of our active volunteers. He trained them on "Special Handling" and the "History of the Fresnel lens".

Partly because of our ongoing effort to maintain this display of an area artifact in an attractive manner, it has drawn additional volunteers and visitors to the museum. We wanted to provide them with a rewarding experience and visitors have reported to our volunteers that they are there to see the Lighthouse and our Fresnel lens. This summer season we have noticed a significant increase in visitors of 11%. Our sales in our gift shop have also increased by almost 10%.

By having more volunteers, we can provide a more knowledgeable staff to greet visitors and assist them in interpreting the many displays within the museum and more importantly the Fresnel lens. Through this fund we were able to present a program related to Great Lakes maritime lighthouse and Fresnel lens history at the museum for interested individuals. Our museum opened in 1984, and the museum is growing again this year and because of this increased interest, we can count on these individuals telling others what we and the North Shore of the State of Ohio have to offer.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Frisbie – Assistant Director, Ashtabula Marine Museum
Cc: Elizabeth Carnegie - Director, Ashtabula Marine Museum
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