A Look Inside
the Door County Maritime
Lighthouse Tower
There are so many exciting things happening at YOUR Door County Maritime Museum this year. We celebrate the 50th anniversary of our founding with the exhibit “The Water Defines Us: DCMM@50” at our Sturgeon Bay location. We recognized the 100th birthday of the tug John Purves on May 1st. On Wednesday, August 7th, we’ll gather on Cana Island to honor the sesquicentennial of Door County’s most iconic lighthouse. As we are rapidly scaling up a comprehensive educational outreach program to engage Door County K-12 school districts and students, we are partnering with Northern Sky Theater to provide a free ticket to all local students to the Door County Maritime Museum this summer; we’ll also welcome the Boys & Girls Club of Door County’s camp program participants. May saw the launch of the Everyone on the Water Defines Us: DCMM@50” exhibit, which we are especially excited about. The first-hand the newly enhanced “Shipwrecks of Door County” exhibit components, which will ultimately transition to the Maritime Lighthouse Tower upon completion. In order to start construction soon on the Maritime Lighthouse Tower, we are asking you to accelerate the final stages of our fundraising campaign. To date, we have received more than 180 donations and pledges of support, totaling $3.81 Million. The goal of our Capital Campaign for the Tower is $5.5 Million. With your financial assistance, we can close the gap and start construction on this fantastic new expansion of our Door County Maritime Museum. We thank you for your continuing support.

Kevin Osgood, Executive Director and Sam Periman, Deputy Director & Development Manager.

The newly enhanced “Shipwrecks of Door County” exhibit.

There is no doubt that students and families will want to experience these wonderful exhibits over and over again – making the Door County Maritime Museum a destination to return to time and time again, each time offering new and exciting experiences. Patti Vickman, Superintendent, Southern Door County School District.

Having grown up in Door County, with relatives who worked in the shipbuilding industry, I can appreciate the importance of preserving the rich maritime traditions of the past for future generations. The innovative, hands-on, interactive exhibits that are planned for the museum will serve to capture the imaginations and fuel the learning of children and adults of all ages. There is no doubt that students and families will want to experience these wonderful exhibits over and over again – making the Door County Maritime Museum a destination to return to time and time again, each time offering new and exciting experiences. Patti Vickman, Superintendent, Southern Door County School District.

As a former high school principal, I often told my students and parents that we want our young people to have the most and best options as they consider their futures. I believe the expansive programming and opportunities available through the Maritime Museum expanded exhibits should engage young people, personalize experiences for them, and get them thinking about what needs and possibilities await them in the future. The vision, work and the way they want to positively impact young people and families in our community, to help them learn about the importance of our maritime heritage and also the special places that Sturgeon Bay and Door County are, are important and things that can bring value in the coming years. Dan Tjernagel, Superintendent, Sturgeon Bay School District.
The Fishing Floor (3rd) includes a large format touchscreen that will feature projections of native fish species swimming by. When users touch the fish on screen, a dialog box will open, providing detailed information about that particular fish, and its place in the food chain. When a projected boat goes by, the user can tap that image to learn more about both commercial and recreational fishing on the Great Lakes.

The Recreational Boating Floor (4th) will feature all types of boating, including sail, power and paddle sports. Not only were high-end recreational boats and yachts designed and built here, but everyday boaters – from fisherman to skiers – share the waters of Door County. One highlight of this floor will be an interactive Boating Skills Virtual Trainer, obtained for the Museum as a donation by the Door County Sail & Power Squadron. This summer, the simulator will be available for “sea trials” in a mobile display that can travel to local school districts and community organizations until permanently installed in the Tower.

The Shipbuilding Floor (5th) focuses on the work of Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding, building and maintaining the Great Lakes fleet. The exhibit will include an interactive recreation of the “Big Blue” crane, and will allow users to calculate the weight of a piece of a ship and move it from one location to the other. The exhibit will also have a moveable touchscreen that will give users the ability to view the detailed engineering of each section of a freighter and learn all that goes into building these fascinating vessels. The floor will also discuss the history of shipbuilding in Door County and pay proper respects to those who established our contemporary local maritime history.

The Shipwreck Floor (2nd) will reflect the “Shipwrecks of Door County” exhibit currently on display in the Horton Gallery of the Door County Maritime Museum. The exhibit explores maritime life on the Great Lakes and the inherent dangers that throughout history have sent scores of ships to a watery grave. The current exhibit has recently been upgraded and includes new components that will eventually transition to the Maritime Lighthouse Tower. This is your opportunity to see and interact now with the exhibits and displays that will ultimately fill the Maritime Lighthouse Tower!

The Fishing Floor

The Recreational Boating Floor

The Shipbuilding Floor

The Shipwreck Floor
Many Thanks to Our Generous Donors

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“Shipwrecks of Door County” Exhibit
Shaus Roofing & Mechanical Contractor
Jim & Kathy Springer
Ron & Jan Sowle
John & Deanna Swanson
Quantum PC - Nathan Drager
Patrick & Gail Quinn
Tauber Family Foundation
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$1-$249
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Roger & Tricia Back
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Door County Maritime Museum and Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. preserves Great Lakes maritime history, primarily focusing on Door County, Wisconsin, and provides interpretive and educational opportunities for current and future generations.

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Information available as of May 31, 2019. Please notify Sam Perlmutter (sp@museums.museum) with the Maritime Museum of any errors or updates.
Help us Reach New Heights
with the Maritime Lighthouse Tower

We would greatly appreciate your support to make the Maritime Lighthouse Tower museum expansion a reality. When you pledge even a modest donation, you will be investing in the history and the future of the unique Door Peninsula that we all love and enjoy. With your generous gift, this landmark lighthouse addition will soon become an icon to Door County and our maritime heritage as it educates, inspires and dazzles all who visit.