Island Lighthouse Journal

News from the Curtis Island Lighthouse Foundation • Issue 1 • May 2024

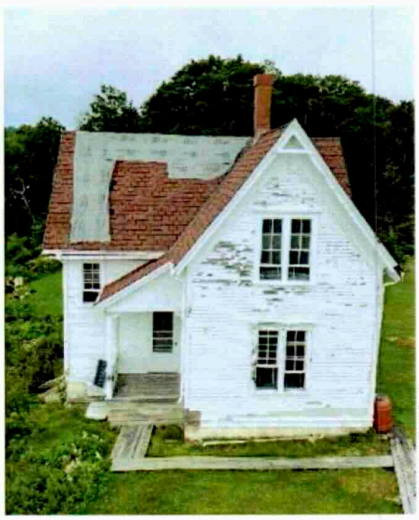


JON CUNNINGHAM, COMPASS LIGHT PRODUCTIONS

Curtis Island Lighthouse Foundation Launches Historic Restoration Plan and *We Need Your Help!*

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Curtis Island Lighthouse Foundation (CILF) — a community effort to fully restore and preserve the Curtis Island Light Station, to document its history, and to establish educational programs and materials.

For the past 42 years, the Town provided capital for major projects including a new roof in 2001, asbestos removal and temporary roof repairs in 2021 and 2022. During this time volunteer caretakers of Curtis Island continuously scraped and repainted the light station structures, maintained the island grounds and trails, and greeted the public. Because of the exposure of Curtis Island Light Station to extreme wind and weather, the required repairs from recent and ongoing damage has exceeded the capacity of volunteer efforts.



MICHAEL SKALING

December 2022 Storm Damage

CILF and the Town of Camden are working together to raise funds through private donations, grants, and town reserve funds to complete a professional comprehensive plan for these historic buildings at the entrance to Camden Harbor.

CILF and the Town have contracted with Historic Buildings Architects (HBA), to complete a multi-year master restoration plan with detailed budgets.

After completing the restoration analysis, CILF's goal is to restore the island's four existing historic buildings. The analysis will focus on the Light Tower, Lightkeepers House, Barn, and Fuel Shed. HBA's initial analysis estimates construction to cost at approximately $2 million. With annual support from the Town of Camden, we will also raise funds for a perpetual maintenance endowment to ensure the Curtis Island Light Station is protected and a vital part of Camden for the next 100 years.

Visit curtisisland.org for more information and make a donation to join the community effort!



DAVID CONOVER

Curtis Island has a history of running on volunteer help.

Volunteers needed!

We're looking for volunteers in various areas, from fundraising to carpentry, historical research, and caretaking. Volunteers are needed to repair areas of damaged shoreline and clear downed trees from Curtis Island trails.

As a volunteer, you'll play a crucial role in the restoration. You'll have the chance to contribute your skills and time in a way that suits you. Whether you're interested in hands-on work on the island or behind-the-scenes tasks on the mainland, there's likely a place for you on our team.

To join us, visit the volunteer page on our website and fill out an application. It includes a list of potential roles, a legal disclosure for your protection, and a section for you to tell us about yourself. We want to know why you're interested in volunteering, what skills you can bring, and how much time you can commit.

Developing an Access Plan

Before any work can begin on historic restoration projects, Curtis Island needs improved access for construction crews and volunteers. Current access has been compromised by erosion from recent storms at both tidal dependent staircases.

We are working with the town and local businesses to secure floats, moorings, and a ramp through donation or gifts-in-kind for the 2024 season.

Securing access for immediate renovation and construction needs will provide safe and enhanced public access in future when the renovation is complete.



SUSAN MILISA MUSTAPICH

Example of an access plan using ramp and floats as seen in a 2006 temporary solution

CURTIS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION
PO Box 975
Camden, Maine 04843

(207) 230-9164
michaelskaling@curtisisland.org
www.curtisisland.org

Curtis Island Lighthouse Foundation is a 501(c)(3).

MISSION: To protect, preserve and restore the Curtis Island Light Station for the benefit of current and future generations.

VISION: The Curtis Island Lighthouse Foundation mobilizes a dedicated community of volunteers, donors, and Town officials to safeguard Curtis Island for the next 100 years to serve as a symbol of Camden and a place of quiet inspiration and education.