

# Mission Point Lighthouse 2022 Report

We have wrapped up the 2022 season, and it was a great one.

The last day the gift shop and museum were open was November 13. Our gross sales for 2022 were more than \$205,000. Throughout the winter, we will continue to keep the online shop open, and we plan to open in person again on May 1. As always, we need a few more local volunteers to help direct visitors outside, answer questions, relieve the keepers for lunch breaks, and help in the shop. Since we limit the number of people inside, we use security cameras to see how many folks are upstairs taking the tour.

In the off season, I keep busy with end-of-year financials and budgets. I also work on shop merchandise, custom designs, and product lists. I am also working on several new museum displays and improvements for next year to improve the visitor experience.

There are always maintenance projects happening in the lighthouse keepers' quarters as well as in the museum. The hiking trails always have downed trees and branches after windy days. We are grateful for our volunteers with chain saws, and our maintenance person is kept busy with cleanup too.

If you are interested in volunteering, in any capacity, please email me at [missionpointlight@gmail.com](mailto:missionpointlight@gmail.com).

Below are some fun facts about our favorite local lighthouse that you might *not* know.

## Did you know?

This past summer, we had volunteer keepers come from as far as California as well as Nevada, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Florida, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Georgia, Texas, Missouri, and Arkansas.

Unfortunately, thanks to smart phones, the lighthouse gets many phone calls for other businesses with similar names, such as Mission Point Resort (on Mackinac Island), Grand Traverse Lighthouse in Northport, and the Lighthouse, which is a marijuana dispensary in Traverse City.

Our first keeper, Jerome Pratt, was part of the team that built the lighthouse in 1870 and is buried in the local cemetery about five miles from the lighthouse.

Our only historic female keeper, Sarah Lane, has been mentioned in several books about female lighthouse keepers. She is buried in Monroe, Michigan, in an unmarked grave near her husband's grave. He was keeper John Lane.

This past summer, we had ten dates scheduled for group visits from the Massachusetts Road Scholar tours.

Mission Point Lighthouse was the inspiration for an IT company called MissionPointAB in Stockholm, Sweden, which has a framed photo of our lighthouse in their office.

A new nonprofit association, Mission Point Lighthouse Keepers Association, is helping us attract local volunteers and fund projects. For more information, visit [www.MPLKA.com](http://www.MPLKA.com).

We received more than \$98,000 in fees paid in the summer of 2022 for visitors taking visiting the second-floor museum and taking the tower climb. The Google reviews were high for those who took the tour.

Peninsula Township residents and their guests can tour the lighthouse for FREE! Check in with the keepers in the shop for this benefit.

Thank you for your support of our lighthouse; we'll see you in 2023!

Ginger Schultz

Mission Point Lighthouse Manager