



SUPPLIED BY PAUL MORRALEE

Lori captures one end of the rainbow at Porphyry Island Lighthouse.

# Journey part of ritual

BY PAUL MORRALEE

**W**HETHER catching rainbows or chasing the northern lights, the summer at Porphyry Island lighthouse was one to remember.

Seasons roll-on from one to the next, and the summer is a time to reconnect with our natural surroundings, where this summer's Porphyry Light saw an influx of visitors from many places.

After entertaining 266 guests, contest winners, families, sailors, boaters, kayakers and canoeists, the summer had its surprises.

Like the laws of energy — energy in, equal energy out — and as I watched many volunteers clean, paint and restore, I was pleasantly surprised at how this work was reflected.

Reviewing visitor comments, keeping Porphyry Island “as is” was a prevailing theme, while others suggested ideas ranging from an adventure travel destination to an arts gallery.

There's a sense of freedom when communing with nature, that's deep in ones psyche, bringing us full cir-

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## LIGHTHOUSE DISPATCHES

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When I reflect on my summer, I found that many people visited the lighthouse as an annual pilgrimage. Some came for family reunions, others were part of the lighthouse family, and for others, it's the beginning of a ritual.

In 1872, through an act of parliament, Porphyry Light was conceived to safely guide a growing shipping industry. Now 142 years later, this gift is being delivered back new and improved to the hands of locals, visitors and tourists.

With comments like; “Wonderful spot to enjoy along the way” and “Fantastic monument for everyone . . .” there is still work to be done.

At every moment this summer there was always something to do.

When you poll people as to what they want, there is a wide range to contend with. How do you make improvements without changing anything?

It's a delicate balancing act, which

we considered daily in our summer journey.

As the group manages, maintains, restores and improves the current light station surroundings, more challenges will be faced.

To the former lighthouse families of Ross, Dick, Bosquet, McKay, McLean, Merritt and Graham, we owe it to them to celebrate their roll in history.

As a volunteer, sharing a moment in time while moving forward the light keepers role, is an honour.

Our work this summer pales in comparison to the past challenges faced by the keepers of the light.

As the ice forms around Porphyry Island and a blanket of snow covers the ground, I can assure you, people will return again next season.

Living with our history is an opportunity I am thankful to have engaged in and I thank everyone who supported the lighthouse and for the feedback.

*Paul Morralee is the secretary of the Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior. He shared stories from Point Porphyry Island Light Station throughout the summer.*