



August  
2020

ICEBREAKER MACKINAW MARITIME MUSEUM

USCGC MACKINAW WAGB 83

*Scuttlebutt*

**We're on the Web!**

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**From the Desk of the Executive Director**



Executive Director  
Lisa Pallagi

It is another sunny, warm and beautiful day on the Straits of Mackinac! One might call it a perfect "Chamber of Commerce" day. It truly couldn't be any more picturesque. As a recent bonus, we had a dockside seat to watch the new Shepler ferry, the *William Richard*, lifted out of the water and into the building for painting and fitting out.

I hope that this edition of the *Scuttlebutt* finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. It has been quite a challenging year for so very many people. In one way or another, we have all been affected.

The museum is facing its share of challenges. All of our Educational Tours (for school groups) and Overnight Encampments (for scouts) were cancelled. During the month of May, that accounts for a significant portion of our income. We opened as soon as we were allowed to on June 8. Staff worked on the ship, prior to its opening, thanks to the PPP funds. We were able to employ our staff and tackle many maintenance and cleaning chores.

As August approaches, we are unsure of what the remainder of the season will bring. Right now, our income is down 51% compared to this time last year. Overall, tourism is down, and we just aren't getting the number of visitors that we normally have.

I don't want to sound so gloomy, but the decline in income is concerning. We are working to keep expenses down and create new ways to generate income. Soon we will announce a raffle of Mackinaw memorabilia which will include items such as a Budweiser Mackinaw mirror (white hull), a life ring from the ship and other unique items. I was hoping for a freighter cruise raffle but haven't been able to acquire one. Darn!

Please know that we appreciate your support and are proud to keep this great piece of history alive. Donations are greatly appreciated, especially during this challenging time. I hope that you will consider making a one today. It can easily be done via our website [www.themackinaw.org](http://www.themackinaw.org) and clicking on the "Support the Icebreaker" link.

Thank you and Semper Paratus!

—Lisa

