



April 2020

Dear Mackinac Associates Members:

First and foremost, we hope you and your family are well during this time and the rapidly changing environment we are dealing with. We have been holding off on our spring appeal until we had a better idea of what the impact of COVID-19 and the stay at home order would have on Mackinac State Historic Parks. We apologize that this letter is less individualized than normal but with staff working remotely we are trying to simplify the process to be able to share this update and request.

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission and Mackinac Island State Park. This is not how we planned on celebrating. We know many of you are also missing the opportunity to celebrate personal and family milestones in the way you had planned, and our hearts go out to you in this time.

One of the hallmarks of Mackinac State Historic Parks has been the tremendous success it has had in protecting, preserving and presenting the history connected to the various sites they manage. This success is due in large part to the continued support of Mackinac Associates members through membership dues and donations.

Due to the uncertainty of when Mackinac State Historic Park sites will open for the 2020 season, we are shifting the focus of our spring appeal. We appreciate that you prefer to support specific projects during our appeal campaigns and had originally planned to support the production of the publication *Through an Officer's Eyes: The Photo Album of Edward B. Pratt, U.S. Army, 1873-1902*. This album assembled over the career of one of Fort Mackinac's officers, Edward Barton Pratt, provides a fascinating and candid window into the life of a typical late 19th-century infantry officer.

We are still supporting this project and others but are choosing to ask for unrestricted donations during this time to be able to be as flexible as possible in assisting Mackinac State Historic Parks to continue the critical functions of protecting, preserving and presenting Mackinac's rich historic and natural resources.

Approximately 70% of Mackinac State Historic Parks revenue comes from the operation of its historic sites. Delayed opening of the historic sites and museums is resulting in the loss of more than \$500,000 in admission and museum store revenues. Mackinac State Historic Parks doesn't expect to fully open sites until sometime in June at the earliest. It is hard to say what the season will look like once it is safe to open but know that the staff is working hard to have plans in place to make sure staff and visitors are safe when it is safe to open.

While it is too soon to say what the full impact will be, Mackinac Associates is prepared to offer additional support to Mackinac State Historic Parks to ensure important interpretation and preservation projects continue to move forward.

We know these are uncertain times and there are questions we don't have clear answers to. We know our members are dealing with a variety of issues and understand that those that have supported us in the past might not be able to do so at this moment. For those that are able to support us during this time, know that every donation matters regardless of the size.

For current updates as to how Mackinac State Historic Parks is being affected and any changes in operation, please visit www.mackinacparks.com or www.mackinacassociates.com.

Your support is important now more than ever. By providing an unrestricted donation, you will help ensure critical interpretation and preservation projects continue.

Sincerely,



Peter Pellerito, President
Mackinac Associates



Phil Porter, Director
Mackinac State Historic Parks