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## **Sea Cadet Ship Grayfox to remain in Port Huron - MiningGazette.com | News, Sports, Jobs - Houghton, Michigan - The Daily Mining Gazette**

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PORT HURON, Mich. (AP) — The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Ship Grayfox is expected to remain based in Port Huron after resuming training at the beginning of this month.

A board of governance has taken over management of the ship following the September death of Bill Barnhardt, its captain, the Times Herald of Port Huron reported (<http://bwne.ws/1cvJ60u>). Grayfox Board of Governance chairman Jim Semerad said training will continue into the foreseeable future.

A review in October determined that the ship has at least 15 years of useful life, Semerad said.

The decommissioned Navy torpedo retriever originally called the Swampfox was brought to Port Huron in 1997 by Barnhardt, Semerad and others. It functions as a training platform for the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets, a program for those aged 13 to 17.

"It's very unique to the Great Lakes and it does keep with the character of the Great Lakes," Semerad said.

"Everybody from Toledo to Traverse City wants to see the ship continue, and they see it as something special here on the Great Lakes."

The ship also is used for Canadian Sea Cadets, Boy Scouts, training for U.S. Navy Reserve and the Michigan Navy Recruiting District and Coast Guard operations.

Gary Irons, an instructor and crew member on the Grayfox, said officials plan to remove a dock used by the ship and build a new one to fit with riverfront development in the area. It could take about two years if state or federal funding is lined up, Semerad said.

"That whole pier area is incongruent with the vision of the beautification of that waterfront," Semerad said.