



High Tide

AUGUST 2018, ISSUE 3



[http://
www.hbamaine.com](http://www.hbamaine.com)

HIGGINS BEACH - WHERE PEOPLE, SAND, SEAWEED AND BEACH CONNECT FROM THE EDITOR

Every month as I prepare the edition of the High Tide, it's fun to see emerging themes that pull each publication together.

This issue we celebrate milestone birthdays and anniversaries; we reminisce memories of Higgins Beach yesteryears, and we get up close and personal with our beach. Sand, seaweed, beach and people - we are all connected!

I am always grateful for the many contributors that send in little tidbits of news, information, and photos. In this edition, Bill Cox of 22 Ashton Street, celebrated his 80th birthday in January. His family celebrated his 80th and reflected on 100 years at Higgins - see pg. 3.



Higgins Beach is a special place, where long standing traditions are preserved and carried forward from generation to generation. Seaside communities are often tight knit. Living here, we know that it isn't always smooth sailing when stormy weather arrives.

Amid the many notices of family gatherings and celebrations, another theme emerged. Weather, sand, seaweed and people - how it impacts our beach.

Long-time resident Peter Naiden will be doing a presentation on the character of a beach and how beach sand cycles through the season and changes beach profiles each decade. He will discuss the sand and seaweed connection and how human behavior influences the amount of sand on the beach. Utilizing scientific posters and sand samples based on research and observations at Higgins Beach during the Cont. Page 4

INTOUCH WITH HIGGINS BEACH ALL THE TIME!

www.hbamaine.com is mobile friendly! Up to the minute info - tides, events, weather and more on your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

Additional websites of interest:

www.higginsbeachproperties.com

www.higginsbeachmaine.com

www.mainehealthybeaches.com



HBA

Board of Directors – Officers:

Roger Chabot – President
883-3925

Maura Gwyer – Vice President
883-2475

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Ceile Day 807-4878

Peter Rabbitt 883-6536

Giff Reed 883-6465

Tom Ferrucci 797-8630

Membership:

Steve Seabury
PO Box 6368
Scarborough, ME 04070

High Tide Editor:

Karen Vachon
25 Ocean Ave
kvachon59@gmail.com
730-2664

HBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2018

CLUB HOUSE EVENTS:

Wednesday Donuts: 9AM
Every Wednesday until August 29th.
Bring your favorite mug!

Monday Bridge: 1PM
Every Monday from July 9th -
August 27th. No partner needed! If
you want to learn the game, show
up at 12:45PM for a 15 minute
lesson.

Sunday Ice Cream Social: 6:30PM
Get the scoop! August 19th.

Peter Naiden Talk 7PM
The sand, seaweed, people
connection. September 7th.

Pumpkin Painting: 9AM
Thursday, September 20th.

BEACH RAKING 6AM:

Until August 23rd. Make the
ultimate sand, seaweed, people

connection! coffee, donuts or
muffins and tall tales. Meet at
the beach!

CELEBRATIONS

Happy 60th Birthday!

Sue Griffin of Higgins Creek was surprised in royal fashion



Higgins Beachers pictured L-R
Angelo Ciocca, Scott & Sunny
Townsend, Jeanine, Barbara,
Kathy & Caroline O’Brien, Maura
Gwyer, Sue, Rick & Annmarie
griffin.

Happy 60th Anniversary!

Vin and Barbara Bombaci celebrated their 60th Wedding

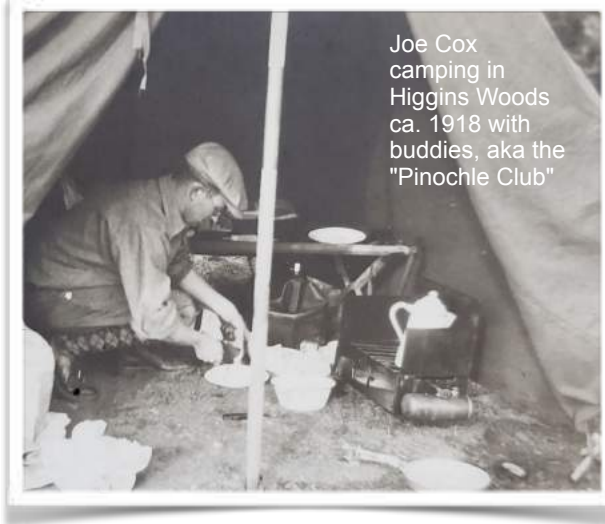


L-R: Matt Pappas, Vin,
Jacob Pedulla, Barb, Alex
Pedulla

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AT HIGGINS

BY BILL COX - 22 ASHTON STREET

The summer of 1918, my dad, Joe Cox, came up from Somerville Massachusetts on a motorcycle to camp in the Higgins Woods, which is now known as the Shell Street extension. His pinochle card club friend John Broughton invited him and fellow card buddy, Paul Keating of Ocean Avenue to dinner at his parents cottage on Ashton Street. Dad became a regular visitor, coming by train to the Grand Trunk Railroad Station in Portland. From Portland, he walked, or if good luck was on his side, hitched a ride on a wagon carrying luggage out to the beach.



Joe Cox camping in Higgins Woods ca. 1918 with buddies, aka the "Pinochle Club"

Turnpike in record time. In the fall of 1970, I came up from Delaware to bid on one of Bill Hamilton's cottages on Ashton Street, and quite unexpectedly, ending up acquiring #22!

The next summer, I proudly showed my Dad our new cottage, *The Nautilus*. He said, "That's the Broughton cottage. You ought to find a locker in the kitchen floor where they kept perishables during Prohibition!"

I remember the cottage having been renovated extensively in the early fifties; the locker is long gone, but the memories of four generations are still safely preserved.



Joe's wife and kids: Carol with sons Eddie, Billy, and Bobby with Silver Sands Hotel in the background ca. 1939

When he settled down to raise a family, we came up from Boston most every summer vacation. I remember riding up Route 1 on a rumble seat, then in a '35 Ford, and then in a '51 Ford on the Maine



Piping Plover Protection

The eastern end of Higgins Beach (down by the Spurwink River) is owned by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. Please note that this property is roped off with "No Trespassing" signs to protect our nestling and roosting endangered Piping Plovers. Beach walkers are asked to respect the roped off area. Department biologists and volunteer monitors are easily identifiable and happy to answer any questions you may have.

*****IMPORTANT*****

Dogs are *prohibited* from trespassing on the eastern end of the beach beyond Champion Street from April 1 - Labor Day.

Dogs are *welcome* on the west end of the beach. The following rules apply:

Dawn - 9AM: Dogs allowed off leash under voice command.

9AM - 5PM & Dusk to Dawn: Dog's are prohibited.

5PM - Dusk: Dogs permitted on leash. Thank You!

REMINDERS AND TIPS:

- Don't get locked in! The public parking lot is open 5:30AM – 9PM sharp!
- Make your reservations; Dinners sell out quickly! \$15/adult, (\$20 Lobster & Prime Rib)
- The clubhouse is available May 14th – October 10th (excluding HBA events). Members wishing to hold a private event should call Sue Naiden: 239-6421

WHERE DID OUR BEACH GO? BY PETER SLOVINSKY, MAINE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The winter of 2018 was highlighted by winter storm, Grayson in January, followed by a series of four back-to-back nor'easter storms in March. The results: Heavy erosion for most of Maine's beaches.

A Maine Geological Survey (MGS), analysis of many southern Maine beaches indicated that beaches and sand dunes eroded on average between 10 and 20 feet; some locations were even higher. Most of Maine's largest beaches are monitored by MGS and also profiled and monitored by volunteers, as part of several different monitoring programs.

Higgins Beach was particularly hard hit. Shoreline comparisons captured between the summer of 2017 and 2018 showed the entire beach, from Bayview Ave to Shipwreck experienced substantial erosion ranging from 10 – 60 feet in front of the seawall.

There was a significant decrease in dry beach – better known as the recreational beach space, between high tide and a wall or dune in 2018

versus 2017. Beach goers likely noticed that the beach was much narrower and lower adjacent to the seawalls. Sand shifted away from these areas closer towards the Spurwink River.

The east end of Shipwreck Road to the Spurwink river, in contrast, saw the beach grow up to 250 feet. Shifting of sand is a common occurrence during strong winter storms, with sand moving offshore into sandbars, or to different areas of the beach. Similar to the winter of 2018, In the winter of 2010, Higgins Beach experienced extensive erosion. It took several years for the sand to come back to the beaches along the seawalls.

It is expected that Higgins Beach will likely recover from the events of 2018 too. But, similar to 2010, it will likely take a few seasons to restore the recreational area of the beach Higgins Beach goers have come to know and love.

If you would like to learn more: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mgs/explore/marine/beaches17/contents.htm>

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summer of 2017, HB residents have expressed interest to learn more. You won't want to miss his presentation on Sept. 7th at the clubhouse.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of Barbara and Vin Bombaci's 60th Wedding Anniversary, I stopped by to congratulate them. Vin asked me if I was up on the latest FEMA reports and geological studies. I met Scarborough resident, Peter Slovinsky, geologist, who gave me a complete update. He is the featured guest columnist (Where did our beach go?) this month.

Nothing pulls a publication together better than a few good photos! What a blessing to find the Allard family - Catherine, Serge, Henri and William on the beach, enjoying the morning of sand and seaweed. It doesn't get more perfect than this! Catherine and family are from Montreal. Their family and generations before them, have been coming to Higgins Beach for 50 years. I caught them on the last day of their 2-week vacation, enjoying a beautiful morning on the beach.

Don't miss the last session of Beach Yoga - Friday, August 24th (End of Ashton).. Another great way to be one with Higgins Beach!

As the summer of 2018 High Tide comes to a close, I wish you all a safe winter and look forward to seeing and hearing from you in 2019! ~ Karen

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM SUSAN OSBORNE

Thank you to all the bakers and shoppers who made the bake sale a huge success. A special shout out to Mike Leatherbee - Higgins Beach Inn, for the cookies, Rodney Laughton - Breakers Inn, for the blueberry bread, and Bob Westburg for monster blueberry muffins brought early each morning. To all the bakers who baked despite the heat and humidity - a huge thank you! ~ Susan Osborne

News stories, announcements, photos are always welcome! All material is subject to edit due to timeliness and space. Deadline for material is the 10th of each month (June – August).

Send content via e-mail to: kvachon59@gmail.com. Please put HIGHTIDE in the subject line. Thanks!

