



winter
2014



Lifestyle

News, Personalities and Perspectives from

HIGHLAND GREEN

A masterpiece of Maine living for those 55 or better

THE
ACTIVITIES
ISSUE

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INTRODUCING
BASSWOOD AT
HIGHLAND GREEN
Back Cover

Highland Green enjoys continued strength while residents stay busy and enjoy life!

Highland Green displayed record growth in 2013 with a total sales increase of 140% over a very strong 2012. Nick and Wendy Poulton from Dripping Springs, Texas will close on their new home this coming May, bringing the total number of states from which new friends have moved to Highland Green to 27!

New residents found their new homes at Highland Green in many ways. 16 found a perfect match in already existing custom homes. The Red Maple Lane neighborhood, an eight lot cul-de-sac for new construction, sold quickly and will be filled up with new friends. Numerous homes are being built for committed customers over the winter and even more are scheduled to start in the spring. 2014 will

be another exciting year of opportunity at Highland Green.

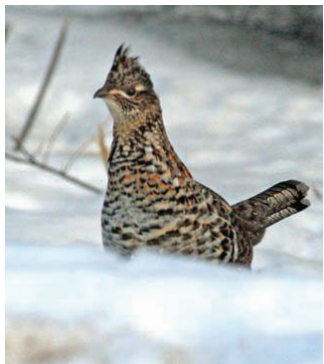
Regardless of their housing option, the house itself is clearly only one reason why new friends move to Highland Green. The overall vision of our founder; the spectacular Highland Green campus; the financial strength of the Highland Green cooperatives; the sense of security, community, and wellness; the low-maintenance living; the location that is easily accessible to all cultural, medical and other services; and the unprecedented incorporation of conservation and nature all factor into people's decisions. Perhaps the most convincing motivation for many is the chance to be actively engaged with others of similar interests. The complete Highland Green lifestyle is most compelling.



Cross-country skiing on groomed trails at Highland Green.

Tom and Ellie MacMahon, who moved to Highland Green from Pennsylvania in 2007, recently said: "We are very fortunate to live in this community – forming close friendships, giving support to others, having fun, and loving life!"

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HIGHLAND GREEN

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The McMahons first started coming to Maine in 1978 for summer vacations on Great Pond in Belgrade Lakes. After falling in love with the area, they bought a summer cottage there in 1990. Highland Green is a perfect location for their permanent home. Not only is it easily accessible to their cottage, the McMahons do not have to worry about arranging for lawn mowing, irrigation or weeding while they are away. It's all done for them through their cooperative's maintenance program.

Ellie, who grew up in Short Hills, New Jersey, earned a BA in Education from West Virginia Wesleyan University, and taught elementary school and special education, uses her organizational skills and love of "being with people" as chair of the volunteer Highland Green Resident Activities Committee. It is Ellie's and the committee's efforts that are at the heart of so many dynamic activities at the Highland Green Community Center. The Activities Committee currently has 18 members, and meets the second Friday of each month to go over the calendar of past and upcoming events and to hatch new and fun ideas. The result of their efforts is a long and diverse list of events that promote intellectual and social interaction, and bolster the Highland Green lifestyle.



Highland Green Resident Activities Committee with Chair Ellie McMahon pictured in the center.

There are periodic Coffee Socials on Saturday mornings with a chance to meet and greet new and old friends. Recently over 100 Highland Green residents attended a Holiday Party featuring hearty appetizers and holiday cheer. The annual "Remains of the Day" potluck gathering drew over 50 people to share Thanksgiving leftovers. The "Green Bag" lunch series is sponsored by the Activities Committee and features diverse guest speakers from authors, to historians, to celebrities, to business leaders

and occurs once a month with Highland Green residents bringing their own lunch to enjoy.

The Book Discussion Group meets at the Community Center. Led by Highland Green resident Alison Johnson, the group is routinely attended by nearly 30 people. Alison moved to the community in 2007 from nearby Brunswick, and is a published author herself and her credits include several books on Chemical Sensitivity Syndrome. One reason for her decision to move here was the "green" nature of the community.



Lobster Fest 2013 under the tent at the Wild Duck Pub at Highland Green.

"The Crafty Ladies" meet once a week at the Community Center. What began as a Highland Green quilting group grew into a gathering of those interested in any form of stitchery. Lovye Oesterlin has attended this very social assemblage since moving to Highland Green from Pennsylvania with her husband Rolf in 2009. "Some days, a lot of stitching actually gets done," jokes Lovye. Similar fun/social groups meet on a regular basis to play cribbage, mahjong and bridge.

Annual traditional events are highly anticipated every year. The 4th of July picnic, the Lobster Fest catered by the Wild Duck Pub at Highland Green, and the Chowder Fest at which many Highland Green residents offer their variations on the dish, are just some

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of the large scale gatherings that celebrate community and traditional Maine food.

This coming April will bring a revival of the Arts and Crafts Showcase where talented Highland Green residents, including painters, sculptors, jewelry makers, weavers, woodworkers and more will show off the fruits of their hobbies. May brings the biennial Kentucky Derby Party where friends gather with festive clothes and hats to enjoy a mint julep or other beverage, and to watch the big race on the high definition flat screen television.

Ellie McMahon is not the only member of the family to be highly active in their own way at Highland Green. Her husband Tom stays busy not only with some of the events at the Community Center but with his own special interests. Like his wife, Tom grew up in New Jersey. He attended Fairleigh Dickinson University and earned a BA in Business. After serving four years in the Navy on a destroyer, Tom worked in the insurance industry for 31 years. For 18 of those years, Tom commuted to Manhattan where he worked at the World Trade Center.

While Tom likes to golf, he also embodies the concept that just because Highland Green offers low-maintenance living, where one does not have to worry about arranging for things such as snow removal, it does not mean that one necessarily gives up working outside and staying busy. He likes to clear brush, to help contribute to keeping Highland Green neat and tidy, and is friendly with many of the workers helping to excavate, build roads, and landscape. Known by some as the “rock man,” Tom’s favorite hobby is collecting from the endless interesting rocks at Highland Green and arranging them as sculptures. He has ample opportunity as Highland Green is carved out of the natural landscape and its massive ledges made of granite contribute to Highland Green’s signature look. Likewise, the Highland Green golf course, with its natural terrain and striking outcroppings, is beautiful and challenging.

When asked about his favorite projects, Tom mentioned a wall that he built near his home. He then surprised by saying: “My favorite is



Tribute to the Twin Towers in Tom and Ellie McMahon’s backyard.

my tribute to the Twin Towers.” In his backyard, Tom erected two matching stone stacks buffeting a rare gold colored round rock that he found at Highland Green. The sculpture represents the towers and the gold sphere that sat in Tobin Plaza between buildings One and Two at the World Trade Center.

Tom is one of many Highland Green residents who are quick to point out that not all Highland Green residents are heavily involved in organized activities. Rolf Oesterlin agrees: “There is no social pressure to do anything. My wife is a social butterfly, a joiner. I am more laid back. Activities are there if I notice something I like. Otherwise, I enjoy my home, ride my bike, and do my own thing.”

One thing that most people agree on is that an important aspect of wellness and an active lifestyle at Highland Green is exercise. From working out in one’s custom-built home, to hiking alone or on an organized group on the well-maintained and marked trails of the 235-acre Cathance River Nature Preserve, to walking or bird-watching on the 30-acre Heath Sanctuary, to strolling with friends along the safe sidewalks or biking on the private roads, Highland Green offers something for everyone. Most importantly to some, the Highland Green fitness center offers treadmills, an elliptical trainer, an

exercise bike, a rowing machine, a universal machine, free weights and an exercise/aerobics studio. Just outside the locker rooms is the seasonal outdoor heated lap pool.

Ruth Ann Specht, who moved to Highland Green in 2006 with her husband Walter, is the Highland Green resident fitness guru and teaches organized classes at the Community Center. She grew up in Medford and Winchester, Massachusetts, studied Sociology and Social Work at Tufts, and became a medical research assistant there. Later, she went on to study Real Estate Appraisal at Bentley College before starting her own appraisal company. Her interest in fitness began in the 1960’s when she got into running. She took that interest to the next level when she and her husband Walter, a Cal-Tech Ph D in Electrical Engineering and Physics and a member of many choral groups, set the goal of becoming members of the 4,000 Footers Club by climbing all 48 of the 4,000-plus foot peaks in the White Mountain range of New Hampshire. In two years they had attained all 48.

After injuring a knee hiking, Ruth Ann’s rehab work furthered her interest in exercise. She signed on with Fitness Research

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Associates for three years of classes and a degree in Fitness Administration.

Compelled by the special Maine lifestyle that first drew their son to the state, the Spechts moved to a condominium in Portland in 2001. While they enjoyed the downtown life and the low-maintenance living, parking was hard, and there was little built-in sense of community. When they discovered Highland Green just an easy 20 miles up Interstate 295, it gave them an opportunity to be in a prime location, to build a custom-built home with a two car garage, and to have the sense of community.

“We love that Highland Green is filled with energetic people,” says Ruth Ann. “And no matter what happens to you, people are there, or you can be there for them; it’s a family.”

Ruth Ann has a regular following for her fitness classes at Highland Green, which are divided into three categories: “The Challenge” offers high intensity Boot Camp style drills, super-sets and more; “The Standard” is a moderate level class with aerobics, balance exercises, floor/core work and strength training with bars, weights, and bands; “Gentle Strength Training” offers light weight work, some while sitting, some while standing, and gentle balance work. In the warm season she offers Water Aerobics in the pool.



Highland Green fitness guru Ruth Ann Specht

Ruth Ann takes pride in the fact that her classes offers something for everyone. She also values the members of her classes. “These are people I care about and it’s satisfying to see improvements, and it’s a great way to socialize,” she says.

Another way to socialize and have fun is the croquet club that meets and plays on the professionally designed court behind the Community Center. Nancy Stencil, who moved to Highland Green with her husband Jay from a farm in Hanover, Massachusetts in 2004, is a founding member. Both she and her husband have a background in marketing, Nancy in the medical equipment field, and Jay in the hospitality industry, mostly at the Sheraton Park Hotel in Washington, DC. Starting in 2006, Nancy bolstered her interest in computers by taking classes in website design. She administers the Highland Green Residents Website, a password protected site featuring announcements, schedules, and one stop shopping for community information. Nancy also handles e-mail communication for the Activities Committee.

In the spring of 2014 a resident volunteer initiative, in cooperation with Highland Green Management, will

result in a newly built bocce court near the swimming pool. Several residents will offer their time, interest, and professional backgrounds to bring this fun new amenity to fruition. The effort is reminiscent of a group of handy volunteer residents building a stage last year for use at events under the tent at the Wild Duck Pub at Highland Green.

As Jay Stencil points out, not all Highland Green “activities” take place at the Community Center or even on campus. For example, Jay is a member of the Civil War Roundtable, a discussion group that holds a monthly lecture by scholars and experts at the nearby Curtis Memorial Library and is attended by 60 to 70 people. The Maine Maritime Museum, the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, the Association of Bowdoin College Friends, The Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program, and the Midcoast Chapter of the Red Cross are just a few of the endless array of nearby organizations with which Highland Green residents volunteer.

Started in 2003, Romeos is an offshoot of a number of such groups nationally. Parker Marden, a

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retired university president and writer who moved to Highland Green from Ohio with his wife Ann in 2004, is a current organizing member. He writes drolly about Romeos: “It is a men’s dining club that comes together monthly at various local establishments, with no standards for membership or organization...no rules, no dues, no commitment...it is limited to finding a good place for lunch each month; sharing a few hours talking with wise, compatible folks...with a tolerance for no reservations, no nametags and no singing at lunch...conversation is the raison d’être for Romeos, and many members are very good at it.”

Parker also points out that: “there is a dining club for women in Highland Green’s precinct, with a membership that overlaps with a Romeo in many households. Started in 2008, Juliets has a name choice that was inevitable...the Juliets and Romeos share a holiday dinner as Christmas approaches...the politics of when and where have lessened substantially.” Each attendee at all Romeo and Juliet gatherings throw one dollar into a pot which is donated to the Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program. Since July 2009, Romeos and Juliets have provided \$1,853 to the program which, with agency multipliers, has given MCHHP \$14,024 in purchasing power.

The Wild Duck Pub at Highland Green is one stop on the Romeos’ and Juliets’ schedule. With a comfortable atmosphere and Chef Rae Hebert’s innovative cuisine inspired by the quality products offered by Maine’s local farmers and artisans, “The Pub” is also another community gathering hub and puts on special events. Pub Trivia Night, Wine Dinners, and a special New Year’s Eve dinner are just some examples.

Other gatherings have recently occurred involving Highland Green residents, with their popularity promising



Bob Allen, Paul Wilson, Tom McMahon, and John Aliberto building a stage under the tent at the Wild Duck Pub.

repeat outings. A “Pub Crawl,” with transportation provided, featured stops at several local taverns, pubs and inns. The extension of the Amtrack “Downeaster” train line to Brunswick, right near Bowdoin College and just three miles from Highland Green, has facilitated stress-free group travel to Boston for lunch and cultural events.

The range of groups and activities at Highland Green is always dynamic and growing. January 2014 brought the formation of two new groups. The Highland Green Woodworking Society came together to discuss the art form, to display members’ work, to visit each others workshops in their custom built homes, and to plant the seed for the hopeful future establishment of a community woodworking center as Highland Green continues to grow.

With many residents who are experts in fly fishing, fly tying, and other types of fishing, and have travelled the country and the world, the Highland Green Fishing Club was a natural to also be established in January. This club, which may seamlessly expand to include

hikers, kayakers and all outdoors folk, enhances the synergy between residents and the Cathance River Education Alliance. CREA is the non-profit educational organization, co-founded by Highland Green developer John Wasileski and the local conservation group Topsham’s Future, that manages the conservation land and the Cathance River Ecology Center at Highland Green.

Another “activity” to which many Highland Green residents bring their considerable talents is the governance of the community. Through service on the various Cooperative Boards, the Finance Committee, or the Reserve Investment Committee, in cooperation with Highland Green Management, residents have the chance to use their vast experiences to be busy and have fun. They can also take pride in their role in ensuring the strength of Highland Green. “I have found great satisfaction serving on my Highland Green cooperative board,” says Ken Thorson, a retired attorney

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Seen around Highland Green...



The Highland Green Fishing Club's signature fly: "The Green Highlander"



Sandra Halverson provides exceptional customer service as Highland Green Design Coordinator.



Building custom homes for new friends all year long.



Topsham Police Officer Troy Garrison is also employed doing private security for Highland Green.



Lobster Pot Pie special at the Wild Duck Pub containing one whole freshly picked Maine lobster.



Nick and Wendy Poulton from Texas visit their new home with their daughters (and will be featured in the Spring issue of *Lifestyle*).

Featured Custom Built Homes

There are a limited number of beautiful Highland Green homes for resale and immediate move-in.

5 HERON DRIVE Always Admired

This showpiece that many have called their favorite house at Highland Green is on a prominent yet private corner site with a true gourmet kitchen. Many features have been used in Highland Green signature marketing photos. \$475,000



3 KESTREL DRIVE Sophisticated Charm

This is a fine combination of Maine country charm and sophistication in New England barn red. An open bright layout, a beautiful screened porch and a full daylight lower level are just some of the bonus features. \$445,000



from Virginia who along with his wife Eve made Highland Green home in 2006.

The Highland Green developer has a permanent management agreement with the community. As Director of Operations John Coughlin points out: “this agreement from the governing documents of Highland Green prevents turnover in management endemic to so many community associations around the country.”

The management agreement extends to marketing the community as well and gives Highland Green residents a unique opportunity to participate in interaction with guests. Highland Green Marketing puts on lively events designed to put people together to fully experience of the Highland Green lifestyle.

“From dinner gatherings at the Wild Duck Pub or at people’s homes, to specially themed open houses and events, we are extremely fortunate to have so many happy Highland Green residents who are willing to share their experiences and to be ambassadors for our guests. A lot of what we do is putting people together,” says Highland Green Director of Marketing and Sales Will Honan. “Who better to provide third party affirmation to our new friends than residents who have carefully considered all

aspects of the community and have moved here from all over the country?” asks Will.

The special relationship between the office staff (John Coughlin, Will Honan, Sales Associate Amber Grant, Marketing and Operational Assistant Brina Stairs, and New Construction Design Coordinator Sandra Halverson) and residents is best exemplified by the recent staff holiday letter. It states in part: “For us, our jobs are not just about sales or houses. We are a family, and dedicated to building community, to transparency, to connecting people, and to helping new friends find a great match for an enriching lifestyle. We find tremendous satisfaction in resident happiness and our ongoing relationships with the wonderful people who live here.”

Mutual feelings are best reflected in a New Year message to the staff from Paul and Linda Wilson, who have lived at Highland Green since 2009. It says: “We appreciate so much the care you each give us. Paul and I continue to be so glad that we chose to move here to this community.”

Come visit Highland Green. Meet the neighbors, have fun, and experience this truly unique and welcoming community, where you can be as busy as you want to be. ■



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Experience Highland
Green on video



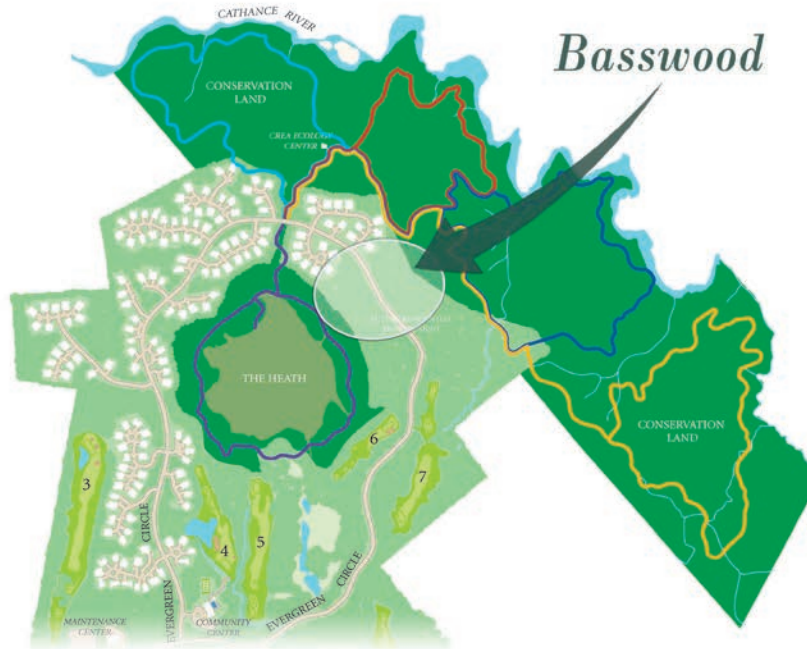
See our latest
“Meet the Neighbors” video
interview with scuba diving
Highland Green residents
Peter and Ellen Wood on our
website and YouTube page.

Left: Arts & High Tea at the
Highland Green Community Center



Introducing...

Basswood at Highland Green



Ensnconced between our two vast areas of conservation land, our exciting new *Basswood* neighborhood will embody the Highland Green ideal of community combined with nature.

Featuring 11 premium building sites, most of which will directly abut either the 235-acre Cathance River Nature Preserve or the 30-acre Heath Sanctuary, *Basswood* is an ideal opportunity for those with a goal of moving to Highland Green in early to late 2015.

Contact us to find out more details and how to get involved in something special. 1-866-854-1200 / 207-725-4549

Our beautiful Kestrel neighborhood has four home sites backing onto woods and available for immediate build.

Explore Highland Green's award-winning low-maintenance lifestyle combining custom homes, ecology, nature, neighborly ambiance, endless possibilities, strength and stability - all directly at the crossroads of Midcoast Maine.



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