

Linda Jenkins relates that: "Several years ago (2006) when I was Vice President of the Women's Club, part of my responsibility was to plan programs. Since I had experienced going to Tudor Beach and watching as children walked over rusted beer cans, it seemed to me that cleaning the beaches was a good idea. When driving into Nahant, it was very frustrating to me to see so many tires lying in our beautiful water, another reason I wanted to get a beach clean-up going! It had been done about 15-20 years earlier and the beaches showed it! We contacted many groups including divers from the New England Aquarium who found some very interesting things at the wharf area, such as fire-hydrants, scooters, lobster pots, lots of large logs, old Christmas trees, and even bikes. We filled up at least 2 bins with a front-end loader. We had the use of G.J. Towing's trucks and several disposal bins (at no cost to the Town) on the Causeway to remove tires and a boat with an engine that had sunk across from Dunkin Donuts. While on the causeway, using the largest tow truck G.J. Towing owned, its truck was struck by an incoming driver which caused a lot of damage! We finally did accomplish the removal of the boat and engine and approximately 25-30 car tires from the causeway area. We had a hot dog stand, an ice cream truck and we brought down grills to make hamburgers as well. It was a very gratifying three beach clean-ups and everyone worked very hard to clean our beaches, it was worth every minute!"

This quotation from Linda Jenkins describes the first of three large-scale beach cleanups in 2006-2008. In 2006 on June 3rd, the action was centered at the Lowlands parking lot. Volunteers cleaned seven beaches from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.. Short Beach, Black Rock Beach (Doggie Beach), Long Beach (the causeway), Canoe Beach, Tudor Beach, Marjoram Park Beach (Crystal Beach) and the Wharf area. The event was sponsored by the Town of Nahant and was coordinated by the Nahant Women's Club. Each year there was a Tee Shirt design contest and the winning design was printed on the shirts and given out the day of the beach clean ups. Girls Inc. was represented and we gave out community service credit for the day which was a significant addition to many students' requirements. Participants were Scouts, Girls Club, Open Space Committee, Recreation Committee, Nahant Garden Club and the Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach. The Nahant DPW and Harbormaster offered strong support as well as the MA Department of Conservation on Long Beach.

In 2007 the event became an all-day event including an Earth Fest located at the Nahant Life Saving Station with exhibits, activities, music, food and fun. Nahant S.W.I.M. Inc. joined the Town and the Women's Club in organizing the event. Deployment of the beach cleaners was again at the Lowlands parking lot and ran all day.

In 2008, the Nahant Preservation Trust sponsored the event.

There was a hiatus of five years and then the vital new 01908 community group surged forward in 2013 and 2014 with a format similar to the earlier cleanups. The date was moved from June to April, and the location was centered at the Nahant Life Saving Station with parking in the Lowlands lot and there were various new activities, including a touch tank of marine creatures from the Northeastern University Marine Science Center, art projects and displays, and exhibits. Three parks were added to the cleanup, Long Beach was subtracted, and Forty Steps Beach was added to the list.

This year, Saturday, April 11th will mark the third Nahant Beaches Cleanup Day in this recent series, running from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and will be organized by Nahant Safer Waters In Massachusetts Inc. – known by all as S.W.I.M. This non-profit group was created in 1967 as an environmental watch dog and a source of education for the public about Nahant's treasured beaches, land and the ocean around us. The 01908 group has provided all support needed to make this third cleanup in the series a great day for Nahant. Volunteers will clean six beaches with the help of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management's Coastsweep Program which will provide all materials.

A special new attraction this year will be the Nahant Fire Department's display of a magnificent fire truck for all to admire, and the Nahant Police Department will show off one of its high tech cruisers. As always, the Nahant Department of Public Works will carry away all the bags of trash.

Inside the Life Saving Station there will be a hands-on event suitable for all ages created by Salem Sound Coastwatch focused on explaining where all the water on Nahant ends up and how it affects our lives and that of our environment. Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach, Mass Audubon, Salem Sound Coastwatch and S.W.I.M. will have displays inside the Life Saving Station with information for the public to explore. Nahant community groups have been invited to have tables outdoors forming a mini information fair, and of course the scouts will be helping out too. Northeastern University Marine Science Center will provide its touch tanks as before. Cocoa, coffee and snacks will be served.

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