

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# UPDATE from the City Manager for Sunday, August 23, 2020

**Portsmouth Protection Plan:  
Do your part. Wear a mask.**

**Deaths to date from COVID-19: US: 177,013.  
NH: 423. Rockingham County: 99.  
Cumulative cases: US: 5,726,183. NH: 6,980.  
Cumulative cases: Rockingham County: 1,756.  
Portsmouth: 101.  
Current cases in Rockingham County: 85. In  
Portsmouth: Less than 5.  
For the complete, NH Department of Health &  
Human Services dashboard  
<http://www.nh.gov/covid19>**

Readers of the AP and NY Times stories continue to be inspired by the story of Portsmouth's Poet Laureate and her "poems in a pandemic," as was CNN <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/16/us/new-hampshire-coronavirus-poet-trnd/index.html> Click here for the entire Advisory collection of poems by Portsmouth Poet Laureate Tammi Truax: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city-manager/portsmouth-poet-laureate>

*Each spring since I was named Portsmouth Poet Laureate, I have named a student at my school to be the New Franklin School Poet Laureate. Currently the title is held by rising 5<sup>th</sup> grader Madison Whitaker. I invited her to write a poem for you and she worked hard on the following.*

*It reminds us of at least two important things: getting out in nature is good for the mind and body, and that sometimes you don't have to leave your home to take a trip. Well done Madi!*

**-- Tammi J Truax**

*Portsmouth Poet Laureate 2019-2021  
Maine Beat Poet Laureate 2018-2020*

## My Happy Place!

All of the trees swished in the wind.  
Can the view get any better than this?  
As I got there, I saw masks on people's faces.  
Bar Harbor was filled with people  
walking down the streets to shop and eat.  
I could not feel breathing on me  
as we passed by people.

As I was roasting marshmallows,  
I could feel the heat against my face.  
Nice meadows and trails to explore.  
As we were walking on the trail  
we saw the Atlantic Ocean all around us.  
The waves were crashing against the shore.  
I could see the sun drifting behind the hills.

On Cadillac Mountain at 1,529 feet.  
Nothing is better than this view.  
As I was going up, I saw Bar Harbor down below.  
Little by little we went up the mountain.  
Playful kids ran around the park.  
All of the stores were open.  
Racing down the sidewalk were kids having fun!

Keeping this beautiful place  
awake in my memory  
until next time.

*-- Madison Whitaker  
New Franklin School Poet Laureate*