

"The Landing" is a short stretch of the Kennebunk River where The School is located. It was once an internationally famous shipbuilding area and the home of more than 20 shipbuilding firms between 1766 and 1867. As the economic effects of the Great Depression descended over the country in the early 20th century, the shipbuilding business throughout Maine began to dwindle. In 1942, *The Landing* hosted its last official launching of a commercial vessel, a police cruiser. In December of 1978, three and a half decades later, the first class of students at The Landing School launched a Chamberlain dory-skiff, reviving the boat building trade along *The Landing*.

The Landing School was established in 1978 by John Burgess and Helen Tupper as a nonprofit, post-secondary institution dedicated to providing the highest quality hands-on education in boat building. The first year was attended by nine students who used a cow barn as a classroom and built two dories and two 18-foot sailboats as the curriculum. That program became the Wooden Boat Building Program and was eventually expanded to include both Small Boats and Cruising Boats.

Today, The School has grown to incorporate diploma and Associate's degree curriculums with concentrations in five areas: Wooden Boat Building (Small Boats), Wooden Boat Building (Cruising Boats), Composite Boat Building, Marine Systems and Yacht Design. The Landing School's driving force is to bridge the gap between theory and practice, providing graduates with the skills and understanding necessary for current employment opportunities and future career growth. In as quickly as ten months, our students are ready to enter the marine industry workforce with the skills necessary to not only succeed but excel.

