

walk

Zakim Bridge/WalkBoston shine in the rain

When can we do it again? That was the refrain heard over and over from the thousands who walked—or wished they had—on the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge on Mother's Day.

Co-sponsored by WalkBoston, the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and the Central Artery/Tunnel Project, the walk attracted upwards of 200,000 people who braved steady showers, chilly temperatures and long lines for a chance to step across Boston's newest icon. Judging by the smiles of the walkers as they came and went, most found the adventure well worth it.

"WalkBoston volunteers greeted thousands of walkers, who told us that they were thrilled with their experience of walking on the bridge and how moved they were by its beauty and presence," said Catherine Donaher, chair of our bridge walk committee. "It was a landmark day for one of Boston's newest landmarks. We were delighted to have played a part in this special experience."

Besides answering questions about the bridge and about WalkBoston, volunteers distributed 14,500 informative flyers, 5,000 souvenir stickers, hundreds of post cards, and sold commemorative T-shirts and other items.

Volunteering were Cameron & Connie Bain; Betsy Boveroux; Larissa Brown; Jan Engleman; Don Eunson; Sonie Hamel; Bob & Karen Hohler; Ken Krause; John, Mike & Sarah La Rue; Jon Seward; Bob Sloane; Dave & Evie Smith; Judy Wagner; and Anthony & Dolly Wilson. Their efforts still are paying off. Nearly 50 new memberships have come from the bridge walk.

So, when can we do it again? A second walk has not been scheduled, but Chairman Matt Amorello said the Turnpike Authority was planning ways to allow greater public access to the bridge. It plans to host a public walk through part of the I-93 tunnels on Sunday, Aug. 18, and to schedule a fun run through the tunnels before the formal dedication of the bridge in October

Annual Meeting has spirit

Health, safety and community building, the heart of WalkBoston's mission, resonated at the 12th Annual Meeting on April 9. Speaker Mark Fenton, who embodies the walking spirit like no one else, entertained the audience of 165 with an energetic endorsement of pedestrian advocacy, complete with poignant photographs and telling statistics. Fenton also lauded the work of Golden Shoe Award winners Dr. I-Min Lee and Dr. JoAnn Manson for their valuable research and writing on the importance of an active lifestyle; MBTA subway operations superintendent Jim Monahan for helping keep public transit safe and accessible to all; and Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau president Pat Moscaritolo for his commitment to WalkBoston and "America's Walking City." Also receiving Golden Shoe Awards were WalkBoston board members Erik Scheier and Judy Wagner. Special thanks goes to meeting host Hale and Dorr LLP, caterer Leonie Howard, and the many prize donors and corporate advertisers.



Golden Shoe Winners: Manson, Lee, Moscaritolo, Monahan, Scheier, Wagner

Photo: Erin Caruso

Much ado about Segway

One of the hottest topics at the Annual Meeting was what to do about Segway, the new motorized device whose owner has been lobbying state legislatures to approve its use on sidewalks. Several WalkBoston members have contributed opinions on how the Segway should be regulated, and a committee is close to completing a WalkBoston position statement. To read the full text of the proposed Massachusetts legislation (House 5127), visit www.walkboston.org and click on the Legislation link. Send opinions to info@walkboston.org.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a day! When we proposed that walkers be first over the Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge before it opened, Masspike Chairman Matt Amorello embraced the idea, scheduling a walk for May 12—only six weeks away. It was one of the decade's biggest communal events. We thank Chairman Amorello and the Central Artery Project for this splendid day.

More good news—WalkBoston has received a generous grant that will enable us to build office capacity and staff, and strengthen advocacy. We can now supplement, though never replace, member volunteers.

Milwaukee, Duluth, Sheboygan and Minneapolis/St. Paul have something important to teach a traveler. All are bringing life into downtowns, attracting walkers by narrowing main streets, widening sidewalks, and adding new trees and lights. As in Boston, their manufacturing areas are retooling with housing, restaurants, artists and shops. But most notable is how calming it is to walk in these cities. Walkers wait for the traffic signals, which are always programmed for an automatic WALK. Drivers hold back from crosswalks until pedestrians cross. A walker feels relaxed, not eyeing drivers for intent. If only we could change the mindset here that pedestrians are lawless, drivers heedless, safer walking impossible. Our smug pride about these local attitudes results in a "can't do" fatalism, and the pleasure of walking suffers.

Nonetheless, have a good summer and we'll see you on fall walks.

Ann Hershfang

Boston

A NON-PROFIT PEDESTRIAN
ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION

SUMMER 2002

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MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

WalkBoston promotes walking for transportation and recreation. Our mission is to create and preserve walkable, livable communities through education and advocacy.

MISSION

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events

Parthenon, Palladio and Paris in the Financial District-Sat. July 13
10:00 am | members free | others \$5
Includes admission to the Bostonian Society's exhibit, "Where in the World Does Boston Come From?" at the Old State House. Reservations are required; call 617-451-1570.

Walk to School Day Registration is available online for Walk to School Day 2002 to be held Wed., October 2. www.walktoschool-usa.org.

Big Dig Walk The Mass. Turnpike Authority plans to host a public walk through part of the I-93 tunnels on Sunday, Aug. 18. Updates: 617-951-6400 or www.bigdig.com.

Special thanks to Carol R. Johnson Associates, Inc. for sponsoring the East Cambridge/Kendall Square walk on June 2.

national news

America Walks has grown to 40 members. Newcomer WalkHouston immediately began tackling several major pedestrian safety issues related to that city's ongoing boom. Also, ten groups have joined forces to create California Walks to strengthen their advocacy efforts in the Golden State.

President Bush, introducing the new Surgeon General Dr. Richard Carmona, said, "The doc and I are going to encourage all our country to either run or walk or swim or bicycle for the good of their families, for the good of their own health, and for the good of the health of the nation."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 61% of adults in the U.S. are overweight or obese.

board news

New board members The board welcomed four members in April. They are **Tom Doolittle**, a landscape architect with Carol R. Johnson Associates; **Michael Hanna**, Physical Activity Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health; **Liz Levin**, an urban planner and senior vice president for Rizzo Assoc.; and **Tunua Thrash**, Business District Project Manager for the Dudley Square Main Streets and Madison Park Development Corp.

Liz Levin received the Stephen Lewis Environmental Merit Award for Service to the Environmental Industry on June 12. Given by the Environmental Business Council of New England, the award honors achievement, service and contribution to the environmental industry.

books

We are collaborating with the Appalachian Mountain Club on a book of urban walks to be published next spring. It will contain maps, descriptions, and photos of 30 walks designed by WalkBoston. For information contact Bob Sloane: r.sloane@verizon.net.

"The Limitless City: A Primer on the Urban Sprawl Debate" by Cambridge architect/planner Oliver Gillham, www.islandpress.org). Writes Richard Moe, of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, "[Gillham] provides a grimly fascinating history of the political, social and economic forces that created sprawl, describes the politics and practices that continue to encourage and even subsidize it, and offers valuable suggestions for loosening its destructive stranglehold on America."

membership application

Complete this form & mail along with your check made payable to:

WalkBoston, 156 Milk Street, Boston, MA 02109.

T: (617)451-1570 F: (617)451-6475 info@walkboston.org | www.walkboston.org

name(s) _____

address _____

phone:daytime _____ evening _____

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check one: STUDENT / SENIOR OVER 65 \$10 SUPPORTER \$50
 MEMBER \$25 FRIEND \$100
 DUAL / CONTRIBUTOR \$35 CORPORATE \$250 | \$500 | \$1000

circle committees you are interested in. (to contact them directly - see front)

membership advocacy education/pr/publications
 legislative fundraising programs

Your donation is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

Walk to lunch day

Thousands of people walk to lunch each day in Greater Boston, but on May 1, they had a little more incentive. As part of America Walks' first National Walk to Lunch Day, WalkBoston enticed people to the Faneuil Hall Marketplace area with a variety of restaurant discounts and coupons, plus an array of prizes offered in a raffle at our information table. A team of four graduate students from Tufts University's Nutrition Communication Program spent 10 weeks working on a creative publicity campaign for the event, stressing the physical and social benefits of walking. Plans already are underway for the second annual National Walk to Lunch Day on May 7, 2003.

Mortgage fit to a T

Here's some good news for people who regularly take public transit. MassHousing recently announced a new program offering qualified regular MBTA riders a chance to buy a home in close proximity to public transportation with no down payment. The "Take the T Home Mortgage Program" recognizes that users of public transit have fewer and lower costs associated with driving a car, and more discretionary income available for housing and other debt. Its goal is to reduce the barriers to home ownership and help to reverse the long-term trend that gives financial impetus to sprawl. For more information, visit www.mhfa.com or call MassHousing at 1-877-309-HOME.