

President's Corner

It's hard to believe July is almost over. That means we only have a few weeks until the Boston Signature Event on August 28 and 29! We have been working really hard on making this a fantastic event. There is a new walk that goes to Castle Island and 2 social events (one Friday night, one Saturday night) with snacks, board and card games, and an anniversary cake! People from all over the US have pre-registered. Have you? You will still be able to sign in for the Castle Island walk or any of the 3 Boston YREs on Friday or Saturday if you don't pre-register, but if you want to attend one of the social events (or both!), you need to send me your registration form and money by August 1. Please see the brochure for all of the information or go to our website at walknmass.org

We also need volunteers! This is a Traditional Event on steroids! We are going to have start tables for people who pre-registered and for walk ups. At the finish table, we are going to be stamping for the Castle Island walk and also for the 3 Boston year-round walks. The room will need to be set up for the start/finish and for the social events. There will also be 2 check-points and the specialties table that will need to be staffed. If you have any time to spare on that Friday or Saturday, we could use your help! If

by Mary Frink

you can help us out, please contact Beate Hait at beateh1@aol.com and let her know when you can work and at what area. Thank you in advance!

Have I talked you into going to our event yet? I certainly hope so! It will be great to walk somewhere we haven't been in ages. The socials will be a wonderful way to meet walkers from all over. There will be cake! Please send in your registration form!

Also part of the special Boston happenings, Rob McDaniel from Walking Waves II is organizing a **Fenway Park tour on Sat., August 29**. Pre-registering with Rob is required by Aug. 21 and cost per person is \$30 (rob@nwztravel.com). Tour participants will depart the Courtyard by Marriott at 8am on Saturday and take the T to Fenway. Following the 1-hour Fenway Park tour, registered participants can connect with the Back Bay walk route. Contact Rob if interested in more details before August 21 (rob@nwztravel.com).

Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Wed., Aug 5*
Group Walk:
Boston Freedom Trail 10:00 am
- ❖ *Sat., Aug. 8*
Group Walk:
Brunswick, ME
10:30 am (SMVA, see page 4)
- ❖ *Sat., Aug. 15*
Group Walk:
Newton, MA
10:00 am
- ❖ *Wed., Aug. 19*
Group Walk:
Boston Back Bay
10:00 am
- ❖ *Fri. & Sat., Aug. 28-29*
Special Events:
Boston Castle Island and more

See club or AVA website for starting location details on these events. For group walks, please aim to arrive 15 minutes earlier to sign-in.



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Report on the 2026 Canadian Volkssport Festival

by Carol Giesecke

On June 10, I boarded an Air Canada flight from Boston Logan to Toronto, Ontario followed by a much longer flight to Edmonton, Alberta, and, finally, a 1-hour flight to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (NT). This was the site of the 2026 Canadian Volkssport Festival. You may remember this was originally booked for the 2020 festival gathering, but that had to be cancelled because of COVID. Many of us already had our flight reservations and travel plans in place, but luckily all expenses were refunded and we awaited a new date. In 2022, the festival was held in Penticton, British Columbia and several of us in the Northeast attended the 2024 event in Kingston, Ontario. The biannual Canadian festival is held in even-numbered years, while the AVA's Convention happens in odd-numbered years.

I have been fortunate to attend all the Canadian Festivals since 2018, when it was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. At that time, I had recently moved to Cambridge and asked some



Walk 'n Mass members I had recently met if we were organizing a bus trip to Halifax. After I discovered we were not, I sought out friends from my former Dover, DE club (First State Webfooters) and was lucky to find several friends to go with me.

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[Cont.] 2026 Canadian Volkssport Festival by Carol Giesecke

Yellowknife is a city of about 50,000 with many large hotels & some beautiful parks and lakes.

Situated on the northern shore of Great Slave Lake, Yellowknife is the capital of the Northwest Territories and the largest city in the NT. Founded in 1934, the city is located in the traditional territory of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. The city gets its name from the copper tools historically made and traded by the local Dene. The most common Dene name for Yellowknife is "Somba K'e," which translates to "Where the money is." It's a fitting title for a town with a gold-mining history.

I enjoyed all the walks that the planners had ready for us, but the thing that I found most fascinating was that it never really got dark at night! Luckily the hotel rooms had room darkening blinds. At midnight, it seemed the sun was setting, and at 2:30 AM the eastern sky was beautifully red. The festival planners held "midnight walks" on two evenings. That was especially fun, because it was a lovely evening and we could see the paths very clearly. Many of the walks were rated 1A or 1B, but there were some hilly areas in the town and some of the walks around the various lakes included scrambling over a few very large boulders. The walk up to Cameron Falls, for example, made me very grateful that I brought hiking poles.

A particularly serendipitous experience happened one day when I was shopping in



Yellowknife residents love murals. This one is on a giant rock face & was the result of many community members from a variety of nations and traditions.

the Your Independent Grocer store very close to our hotel. As I was in the snack foods aisle, I heard an announcement on the PA system asking people to gather in the front of the store for the ceremony of cutting open a huge wheel of Parmigiano Reggiano cheese. This is something one doesn't hear every day, so I made my way to the spot. One of the store employees told me that

all the Your Independent Grocer stores across Canada, spanning 5 time zones, were going to be cracking open a giant wheel of this famous cheese at the same time. In Yellowknife, which is in the Mountain time zone, it happened to be twelve noon. A few of us got to witness this event and we were rewarded for our patience

(because it takes a while to open these cheeses!) by getting a generous sample of the cheese!

As Karen Plichta mentioned in her earlier *Footnotes* article about the Canadian Festival held in Kingston, Ontario in 2024, the Canadians are very friendly and also very generous with their meals and snacks. The walks were well planned and plenty of volunteers were on hand to answer questions and lead walks. We were very lucky with beautiful weather as well. In 2028, the festival will be held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. It would be so great if we had a bus load attending from Walk 'n Mass!!



View of Cameron Falls from one of many huge rocks



The opening of the cheese!!

Bulletin Board

For our Boston Freedom Trail group walk on **Wed., Aug. 5** and the Boston Back Bay group walk on **Wed., Aug. 19**, please meet in the eating area **under the dome at the center of Quincy Market**. Registration starts at 9:30 and we begin walking at 10:00.

As a reminder, SMVA asks that walkers please RSVP to Denise ahead of their Maine group walks (in case of any changes and so they know who to expect):
walkinginmaine@yahoo.com or text/leave voice message at 207-245-8233

Next Club Meeting Monday, August 3

6:30 pm

*Stop & Shop
40 Franklin Village Drive
Franklin, MA 02038
Up the stairs past
Customer Service Desk*

With Labor Day on the first Sept. Monday, our club meeting that month typically shifts. Final determination on when our Sept. 2026 meeting will occur still pending as this edition goes to press. Stay tuned.

Newsletter Submissions to:
footnotes.editor@gmail.com
Deadline for next issue: Aug. 21st

2027 Starting Point Photo Contest

AVA is seeking walk photos of People, Places, or Things taken between June 30, 2025 to August 31, 2026. **Entries are due no later than August 31, 2026.** Full rules and guidelines along with the entry form available through:

https://cb.ava.org/checkpoint/2026/Jun/Submission_Form.pdf

*misspelling in URL is the correct site

Do you have a volksmarching travel story to share?

Send it to footnotes.editor@gmail.com for possible publication in a future edition of **Footnotes**.

Welcome New Members! compiled by Diane Peterson

We are delighted to announce our newest club members:

- ◆ Shelley and Tom Sommer of Scituate, MA

We look forward to seeing you out on a trail soon!



I hope you enjoyed last month's word search! I had enough Boston ideas for a second search grid.

Karen Plichta originally suggested I create a Boston-themed word search to celebrate the AVA 50th events at the end of August.

Please note this grid has a few unconventional word placements. Have fun!

I	O	W	J	R	E	V	I	R	S	E	L	R	A	H	C	E
T	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	A	Y	O	G	L	U	I	A	W
E	C	A	S	P	O	P	N	O	T	S	O	B	R	D	P	T
E	A	T	B	E	G	E	L	L	O	C	V	A	E	D	I	E
Y	N	E	F	E	N	W	A	Y	P	A	R	K	V	E	T	E
O	X	D	N	A	L	O	G	E	L	C	H	E	L	N	A	R
A	S	O	D	W	P	L	E	K	A	L	O	D	D	G	L	T
Q	U	L	P	F	A	W	A	R	C	V	U	B	Y	E	O	S
U	L	N	L	I	U	F	N	S	G	O	Z	E	E	M	C	Y
A	D	E	M	O	L	G	X	R	T	H	C	A	I	S	A	R
R	N	D	L	N	R	R	Y	N	E	E	R	N	J	E	K	U
I	E	R	K	O	E	E	P	T	B	N	W	S	A	N	E	B
U	H	A	U	I	V	E	S	D	I	L	E	A	I	H	B	W
M	T	G	O	T	E	N	H	U	M	S	D	D	R	K	I	E
U	R	C	L	A	R	W	I	N	O	C	R	V	R	T	D	N
I	O	I	R	C	E	A	U	K	U	H	E	E	O	A	G	Z
R	N	L	O	U	D	Y	W	I	P	A	R	R	V	N	G	U
A	E	B	G	D	B	T	O	N	P	L	G	E	E	I	F	C
P	R	U	D	E	N	T	I	A	L	Z	O	Y	K	E	N	X
P	C	P	S	L	L	E	H	S	H	C	T	A	H	R	M	U
A	H	Y	F	I	N	I	S	H	L	I	N	E	P	L	A	R
M	I	D	A	W	J	Y	A	B	E	R	U	S	A	E	L	P

Aquarium

Baked Beans

Boston Pops

Capital

Charles River

College

Dunkin

Education

Fenway Park

Finish Line

Greenway

Hancock

Hatch Shell

Hidden Gems

Hub

Isabella Stewart Gardner

Legoland

Mapparium

Newbury Street

North End

Parker House Rolls

Paul Revere

Pleasure Bay

Prudential

Public Garden

T Station

University



Beate Hait

Beautiful scenes around Pleasure Bay from Castle Island workers' walk. Come explore for yourself August 28 & 29!



Beate Hait



Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Friday and Saturday (August 28 and 29) – Celebrate AVA's 50th Anniversary at the Castle Island walk event in Boston – While the deadline for pre-registrations was August 1, you may also register for any of the four Boston volkswalk routes in-person at the start location: Courtyard by Marriott – South Boston (63R Boston Street) on either day between 8:30 and 12:00; finish by 3:00. If you would like to walk with others on the Castle Island route, meet at 9:30 on either Friday or Saturday. Three distances are available: 6K (does not go to Castle Island); 7K (return by bus after leaving Castle Island); 11K (full walk). This is also an opportunity to register in person to walk any of the three Boston YREs. See full details in brochure on club website.

As this newsletter is being prepared, there are still openings for staffing the two checkpoints on the Castle Island route. Two-hour shifts are available between 9:30 and 2:00. Transportation to and from the checkpoints will be provided, so this could be a convenient option for club members experiencing difficulties with walking to help support the club. Both checkpoints offer lovely views of the harbor/bay and shoreline, as well as opportunities for people-watching! There are a few spots open at the Start and Finish tables, plus we could also use more people to

walk the Castle Island route with the 9:30 groups on Friday & Saturday. Please contact Bea to express your interest in helping with this event.

Save the Date – October 18 – Walk in Cambridge, MA – Details are being finalized and brochure will be available ASAP in late August/early Sept.

AVA Special Programs – There are three new programs for 2027: Craft Beers, Historic Places of Worship, and Historic Route 66. The last one will, obviously, not apply to any volkswalk in the Northeast, but it is very likely that you'd be able to complete books for either of the other two without leaving the Northeast region.

Of course, you could always plan to travel and discover new areas of this great land using volkswalks that qualify for an AVA Special Program as a guide to where your travels take you. See <https://cb.ava.org/specprog.php> for the complete list of current and future AVA Special Programs. The "Find A Walk" page through either ava.org or my.ava.org gives the ability to "Search by Special Event" so you can see where qualifying events are located.

Pictures:



Marianne Marshall

Left: Karen Plichta tries to get some directional input from a local, Ted, on the street outside of Fenway



Beate Hait

Above right: Carol Giesecke and Karin Marotta joined Bea for an Oak Bluffs group walk. Sisters Karin & Bea also enjoyed the Telegraph Hill lighthouse route.

Lower right: Bea and family along the Oak Bluffs route [Monica, Liz, Bea, Rayna, Priya, Theresa, Etta] with Nico behind the lens.



Nico Ahluwalia