

The Bob Dunning Memorial Bridge



Bob Dunning (1950-2007) was a preservation craftsman known for his work restoring historic houses and barns and creating fine furniture and carvings. He was also a devoted environmentalist who fully engaged in local politics, always trying to bring disparate points of view together. He was an outstanding parent who cared deeply about passing on an appreciation of craftsmanship and nature to all children. In short, Bob Dunning was a bridge within the community . . . so it's fitting that we build a bridge in our community to honor him.

In downtown Bridgton, Maine

Located behind the Magic Lantern movie theater in Bridgton and spanning Stevens Brook, the Bob Dunning Bridge will be the main entrance to Pondicherry Park. The 59-acre parkland is owned by Loon Echo Land Trust (LELT), which will continue to hold a conservation easement on the land when the town of Bridgton eventually assumes ownership—protecting forever a place for quiet nature observation, hiking, and relaxation right in the middle of town.

Built with thought, skill, & love

The design and construction of this 60-foot, New England trestle-style bridge



EACH SMALLEST ACT OF
KINDNESS REVERBERATES
ACROSS GREAT DISTANCES
AND SPANS OF TIME,
AFFECTING LIVES
UNKNOWN TO THE
ONE WHOSE
GENEROUS SPIRIT
WAS THE SOURCE OF THIS GOOD
ECHO, BECAUSE
KINDNESS IS PASSED ON
AND GROWS EACH TIME IT'S
PASSED, UNTIL A
SIMPLE COURTESY
BECOMES AN ACT OF
SELFLSS COURAGE YEARS
LATER AND FAR AWAY . . .

—Unknown



will be led by Bob Dunning's friends and peers—including master timber framer Andy Buck and gifted woodworkers Eve Abreu, Henry Banks and Greg Marston. Their stunningly beautiful design grew out of a thoughtful process based on love—for a man and for the Lakes Region. The roof is bowed and the sides taper like the hull of a canoe or kayak, the boats that will one day pass beneath it. The tie beams for the 13 bents will be logs from different native trees to provide a learning opportunity for children and adults alike. The bridge will be embellished with carvings and cut-outs, celebrating nature. Special care has been taken in the design to ensure that the bridge will be accessible and safe for everyone and will have a low environmental impact, as Bob Dunning would have insisted.

Thus thoughtfully conceived and built with love, the Bob Dunning Memorial Bridge will serve as an appropriate memorial to a man who dedicated so much

of his life to our community and the environment. It will also reign as a glorious example of the fine craftsmanship that exists here in the Lake Region and become a destination in itself.

Construction & fundraising

The total cost of the bridge and its approach walkways is estimated at \$210,000. We also anticipate generous donations of materials and labor. If fundraising is robust, pilings will be poured in the fall of 2008, when Stevens Brook is running low.

On-site construction will begin in the spring of 2009, creating an opportunity for all to enjoy the process of building a covered bridge in the heart of a New England town. Ribbon-cutting is slated for the fall of 2009.

It takes a town to build a bridge

With the building of the Bob Dunning Bridge, the town of Bridgton—in the center of the Lake Region—will now have a signature bridge in the center of town, making it truly a bridge-town.

While a stunning piece of architecture, the true beauty of this bridge is that both its process and result will be a monument to what Bob Dunning and so many other Lake Region people believe in and hold most dear: the extraordinary achieve-

ments of ordinary people engaged in communal effort.

The bridge would not be possible without the following:

- the uncommon vision of Peter Lowell, Director of Lakes Environmental Association (LEA)
- a partnership between LETT and LEA that created Pondicherry Park
- the generosity of the Keene, Cook, Worthington, and Flint families, Town of Bridgton, Bridgton Community Center, Howell family, and dedicated Dunning family members and friends.

You can be a part of the excitement

Help make this bridge a reality. Please:

1. make as generous a donation as you can
2. volunteer—call LEA 207-647-8580.

Anyone or any group donating \$200 or more may write a message on a peg, provided by the designers, to be pounded into the bridge—first-come-first-serve!

Whatever your contribution—financial or time—it matters. In the end, we will all have built a beautiful bridge that spans time and connects a community.



2006 artist's rendering prior to Dunning Bridge design

The Bob Dunning Memorial Bridge

With your help and generosity, this bridge will be a legacy for generations to come

Full Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email address (optional): _____

We/I are making a donation in the amount of \$ _____. We/I would like to make this a 2-year pledge (billed annually)

Check Stock Gift Credit card (Visa or Mastercard): _____ Exp. Date: _____

This gift is in honor of/in memory of: _____

Please notify the following person(s) of my gift (name and address): _____

Please make donations/pledges to:
 Loon Echo Land Trust Pondicherry Fund
 Memo: Dunning Bridge
 1 Chase Street, Bridgton, Maine 04009
 207-647-4352
 www.pondicherrypark.org

Stock Gift Instructions:
 A.G. Edwards, Portland, ME
 800-424-4452
 Memo: Dunning Bridge
 DTC#0201
 LETT Account # 4145-7429
 LETT Federal Tax ID# 22 2966924