



Where kids build the boats and the boats build the kids!

Compass Project Brings Boat Building to Monument Square

First Annual Family Boat Building Event a Huge Success!

On July 19th and 20th drills and saws buzzed away under the big tent where fifteen groups worked at building their own Bevins Skiffs. Master boat builders and volunteers from *The Compass Project* consulted and assisted as the boats took shape over the two days, and late Tuesday afternoon, despite sporadic rain, the parade of finished boats and proud families headed for East End Beach with the Duck Boat in the lead to launch their new skiffs, exultant when they all floated.



Photo by Jane Peterson

The Compass Project, in association with *WoodenBoat* magazine, brought the **Family Boat Building Event** to the Greater Portland community to promote healthy, fun, family activities and access to Portland's waterfront. It also introduced a sample of the practical and effective experiential learning programs *The Compass Project* offers to young people and the general public.

Passersby couldn't help noticing the positive atmosphere generated by the event as families and groups worked with great focus and energy, led by our talented boat builders, **John MacDonald** and **Nick DeSouza**. Several families included three generations among their ardent crews. Four scholarships were made available to other groups: **The Boys and Girls Club; Mainstay; Westbrook Alternative Learning Program**, a group headed by teacher **Tyler Thompson**; and one

Cont. on page 3

Grant Awarded!

\$100,000 Grant awarded to Compass Project by Jane's Trust

The Two-year Grant supports operational budget and offers matching funds. It was great news when *Compass Project's* Executive Director, Patricia Ryan, got a call from **Jane's Trust**, a new Boston based foundation, in April of this year awarding us a **\$100,000 grant**. From among hundreds of applicants, *The Compass Project* had been chosen for a site visit. Foundation officer Kathy McHugh must have been impressed by what she saw at our Anderson Street workshops, for even better news was to follow: the **Compass Project** had won a grant for **\$50,000 for 2005** and another **\$50,000 in one-to-one matching funds for 2006**. All new contributions and increases over past contributions will be eligible for these matching funds.

Cont. on page 4

Inside this issue:

Executive Director's Message	2
"Rowgatta"	2
Volunteer Spotlight	2
Family boat building Cont..	3
Compass Board Changes	3
On the Horizon	3
Donor Information	3
Fundraising News	4
Jane's Trust Continued	4
New Look for Compass Project	4
Youth Spotlight	5
Grand Banks Dory Purchased	5
Deering Oaks Launching	5
Paddle Making Demo	5
Board of Directors	5
Optimists Donated to Sail Maine	6
Calendar of Events	6
Wish List	6

New Dory Building Program Begins with Westcott Middle School

Fall 2004 marks yet another new initiative of the Compass Project. **The Alternative Learning program at Westcott School in Westbrook** will participate in a **three year Dory Building Program** with the *Compass Project* beginning in October. Working with our Master Boatbuilders, the Westcott students will build a dory each year for the next three years. **The boats will become the basis for a community rowing program serving Greater Portland.**

Open House
Thursday, October 28, 2004
From 5 to 7PM

See back page for details

Executive Director's Message:

As the Compass Project embarks on its third year, it's gratifying to look back at our incredible growth over the past two years. We have been extraordinarily blessed by very talented people whose commitment to helping at risk youth has produced vibrant boat building and rowing programs and exciting public events to raise awareness about the Compass Project. **The combined efforts and dedication of staff, board members, advisory council members and volunteers have turned the Compass Project into the little engine that could....**

Boat builders John MacDonald and Nick De Souza are the heartbeat of our youth programs combining professional expertise with an uncanny ability to get through to and engage young people in finding new directions. They also helped quite a few adults and families learn the joys of boat building at our Family Boat Building Event last July.

Our **board of directors** has been fearless in undertaking the challenges faced by a struggling young nonprofit. We have been most fortunate in our board leadership (please see the related article). Individual board members have rolled up their sleeves to make a real difference -- **Sarah Franklin's** writing talents have been a sure and steady help in fundraising and written materials of all sorts, **Carter White** has produced our newsletters, not to mention quite a few sails for our Optis! **Anita St. Onge** oversees our finances and **Barbara Smith** is our able secretary.

Some **very special people** have stepped up to help us produce the Family Boat Building Event, a huge undertaking for this small organization. The driving force was **Michael Ott**, whose leadership of the **Family Boat Building Sponsorship Task Force** resulted in a very successful event that more than paid for itself. Thank you to **Jesse Deupree, Merle Hallett, Jay Hotchkiss and Gretchen Kruysman** for their invaluable help on the Task Force. Another public event – the **Rowgatta** – was made possible by the dedication of **Burt Knapp and Anne Farrington's** many creative ideas with invaluable help from **Martina Duncan**. The Compass Project is privileged to have volunteers of the caliber of **Eric Topper, Polly Burke, Doug Scott, Don Stover, Tara Butler and Sive Neilan** who give so generously of their time and talents to help young people and the Compass Project. And finally a very big thank you to those who provide financial support to make our programs possible: we couldn't do it without your generosity. **Heartfelt thanks to all who have given so much in so many ways to help the Compass Project help our youth and to ensure a bright future for the program!**

"ROWGATTA"

The award winning *Compass Project* has been cited as an "Innovative Non-profit Organization," and innovation was again in evidence on August 22nd as shells, canoes, skiffs and dories gathered for our **first annual Rowgatta**. Portland's East End Beach was the starting point for a race to the Brothers Islands and back. Hard rains on Saturday the 21st had caused a reluctant last minute postponement of the event to Sunday, and we lost some eager participants from York and other communities, but Harpswell, Brunswick and New Gloucester were among the towns represented in the race. Energy, commitment, skill and high spirits were amply demonstrated by the race participants as they took to the cool waters of Casco Bay in the early morning sun.

The Compass Project extends special thanks to **Burt Knapp and Anne Farrington**, the behind-the-scenes organizers who made this event possible, planning for everything from timers to judging boats, prizes and refreshments. **Jeff Cumming of SailMaine** was on hand to help with the generous loan of two powerboats to facilitate the officiating. Thanks to our generous sponsors **Mister Bagel, Selzer & Rydholm, Northern Sky Toyz, Lucky Catch Lobstering, Shipwreck & Cargo, Bay View Cruises and Hannaford Brothers**. Thanks to **Michael Gowell, Maine Rowing Association** for technical support from and to volunteers **Hilde Bird, Deborah Luhrs and Emily Lusher**. **Special thanks to** Portland City Councilor **Will Gorham** and the **City of Portland**. Plans are underway for our **2nd Annual Rowgatta** to be held on **August 20, 2005**.

Volunteer Spotlight

Eric Topper, Outward Bound instructor extraordinaire, provided our young participants with his incredible talents and energy in a series of **teambuilding sessions** held in conjunction with our boat building program last fall and spring. Eric established a powerful rapport with kids who responded with enthusiasm to his challenging initiatives. In addition, **Eric generously donated time to organize** several fundraising and promotional functions including our **booth at the Maine Boat Builders show and two Open Houses held in the spring** at Anderson Street. **Both the kids and the Compass Project benefited greatly from Eric's many talents.**

Family Boat Building Event, Cont...

local family. Special thanks to volunteers **Pete and Janie Peterson, Doug Scott, Don Stover, and Rick Barkuff.**

"This was an ambitious undertaking for our young organization," says Executive Director of the Compass Project, Patricia Ryan. "But we had a lot of help. Foremost was **Michael Ott** who spearheaded the sponsorship taskforce. **Gretchen Kruysman** provided marketing and development expertise. **WoodenBoats Carl Cramer** and **Nicole Jacques** provided promotional assistance. The blueprint on how to run it came from **Joe Youcha** of the **Alexandria Seaport Foundation**. As always, our volunteers, **Fidelma McCarron** and family were there to help with planning and practical matters, and our corporate sponsors pitched in with generous contributions to support the effort. We are very happy with this achievement and look forward to making this event a Portland summer tradition."

Lead sponsor for the event was **Keller Williams Realty**, with additional corporate support from **Spring Harbor Hospital, Hamilton Marine, Maine Coast Lumber, Cole Haan, Lincoln Financial Group, Thomas Mosher Cabinetmakers, Boothbay Regional Boat Yard and Yankee Marina.** Others included **John Jay Marine, SAILMaine, Maine Bank and Trust, AG Edwards and the City of Portland.** Media coverage from **TV Channels Six and Eight** spotlighted the event which had intrigued so many Portlanders passing through Monument Square, raising the profile of the *Compass Project* in the greater Portland community.

Said one participant, "It was a very positive experience—hands-on learning with great supervision." Said another, "We're still married after building a boat together." And now they'll be able to go boating together as well, thanks to *The Compass Project*.

We are happy to announce the dates for our **2nd Annual Family Boat Building Event** to be held in **Monument Square** over two and one half days, **July 17, 18 and 19, 2005.** **Sign up now!**



Photo by Jane Peterson

Working hard at FBB

Compass Project Board Changes

Farewell and Thanks to Outgoing President Kachmar

Jon Kachmar served the *Compass Project* for two years as a highly dedicated President of the Board. Our young organization grew and prospered under his guidance, and we are grateful for his strong leadership. We wish him well in his new post as **Harbor Commissioner of Portland.**

Great Expectations for Our New President— Andrew Ingalls takes the helm as **Board President.** He found the *Compass Project's* excellent workshop space on Anderson Street which has made our growth possible. Head of **Ingalls Commercial Brokerage** which he started in 1995, Andrew knows Portland well and has served on the Compass Board for two years. A native of South Portland and a graduate of the University of Maine, he lives in Cape Elizabeth with his wife and three children.

Welcome Aboard to Our Newest Board Member— Burt Knapp comes to the board with a strong record of contributions already made to the Compass Project: he located a dory for us to purchase, helped to underwrite the purchase, and then helped to make the summer rowing program a go. He was also a moving force behind, and together with his wife Nancy, a participant in our first Annual Rowgatta.

Donations

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commodore | \$5,000 + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Captain | \$1,000 to \$4,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Navigator | \$500 to \$999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skipper | \$250 to \$499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Mate | \$100 to \$249 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apprentice | Up to \$99 |

Please make checks payable to the Compass Project, Inc. a 501c3 organization and send to 103 Pitt Street Portland, ME 04103. Thank you for supporting Maine's Youth.

On the Horizon

Adult Boatbuilding Classes: Beginning in January 2004, we will offer programs for adults. Possible programs include: kayak building, model building, rope work and knots, introduction to boatbuilding for women, build an Adirondak chair. Please send us your suggestions for courses you'd like to see offered. Call 828-5289 or email: pryan2@maine.rr.com

Fundraising News

Keller Williams Realty Offers Innovative Support to the Compass Project

Williams Realty has taken on the Compass Project as their **special community project** and will offer a series of events to help fund Compass Project programs. On Thursday, September 16th, music, fun and food were abundant on the *Bay Mist's* evening cruise to benefit the *Compass Project*. Vice President Linda Paolino chairs the Keller Williams Community Outreach Program which includes members Judith Reidman, Cory Gray, Terry Reagan, and Nichole Stebbins. Keller Williams was the lead sponsor of the Family Boat Building Event, and the cruise is part of their ongoing efforts to support the *Compass Project's* programs for at-risk youth. Their next benefit event is a tag sale on Saturday, November 6th. Please call Linda Paolino or committee members at Keller Willams for information on time and location, and stay tuned for future events. Thanks to you all at Keller-Williams!

Foundations Continue to Sustain the *Compass Project*

We are happy to number among our friends both foundations and corporations. Recent major donors to the *Compass Project* include the **Davis Family Foundation** and the **Morton-Kelly Foundation**, both of whom gave \$10,000. In addition, the **City of Portland** increased this year's contribution to \$10,000. The **Jane M. Timken Foundation** gave \$4,000 for a second year, and both the **Francis Hollis Brain Foundation** and **Shaw's Supermarkets** donated \$2,000. Upcoming grants include \$5,000 from the **Simmons Foundation**. At the *Compass Project*, we value our friends. Our thanks to you all!

Canoe Raffled at Maine Boatbuilders Show; Senator Susan Collins Visits Booth

In March the *Compass Project* made its second appearance at the **Maine Boatbuilders Show**, an annual major event for serious boatbuilders in Maine and the Northeast. Once again the generosity of **Phin and Joanna Sprague** provided us with a booth to display and raffle our Six Hour Canoe built by teenagers from Portland's Lincoln Middle School.



Pat Ryan Executive Director of Compass Project with Senator Susan Collins at the Boat Show

The booth was run by student participants, Compass Board members and Friends of the *Compass Project*. The combined sales force sold enough tickets to earn \$2,000 to support the programs of the *Compass Project*. Among the visitors who came to learn of the work being done by the *Compass Project* was Maine's own **Senator Susan Collins**. Impressed by what she saw, she pledged to request funding assistance to support the hands-on learning of this organization so in keeping with Maine's traditions and spirit of initiative.

Jane's Trust Grant Cont. from page 1

Grants to non-profits in support of operational expenses are unusual, so we especially appreciate backing for staff salaries. The matching funds provide a challenge and an opportunity for our supporters to make their next **contributions count double**. The Jane's Trust grant provides yet another measure of the quality of our innovative programs.

New Look for Compass Project

Melany Kuhn is the expert graphic designer behind the Compass Project's crisp new logo. It can be seen adorning the top of our new color brochure designed by **Karen Lybrand** and **Gretchen Kruysman** and featuring the wonderful photos of **Jane Peterson**. The appealing re-design of our marketing tools is already making a difference in our outreach efforts. We are very grateful for the expertise of these friends of the *Compass Project* as well as for the generous help given us by **Curry Printing**.

Anderson Street Workshops Reconfigured

Another part of the Compass Project's new look is the reconfiguration of our workshop space. **Boatbuilders John MacDonald and Nick DeSouza** have redesigned our space to make more room for the hands-on boatbuilding at the heart of our programs. Come to our Open House on October 28th and have a look at their effective approach to work space, storage and tool placement.

Web Site Expanded

Top ranked sailor, **Tom Hall**, a member of the 2003 U.S. Sailing Team, has generously donated the expertise of Hall Marketing to develop our web site. Thanks to him, you can get online for more information, pictures, and stories about us. Please visit: www.compassproject.org.

Youth Spotlight

James Okech, a student from **Uganda** is a **10th grader at Portland High School**, was timid and shy as he began the boat building program last fall. He, like a number of his classmates, participated in two of our boat building groups and showed great progress, becoming one of our best team players, a hard worker who gained valuable social skills. **Congratulations, James.**



Photo by Jane Peterson

James Okech is rowing in the very aft of the Dory at the Deering Oaks Launching

Paddle Making Demo

Participating for the second year in the **MS Regatta Harborfest**, this year the *Compass Project* gave a **paddle-making demonstration**. On Sunday, September 19th at the Maine State Pier, Boat-builder **Nick DeSouza** was on hand to show visitors to the event the finer points of making a new paddle. In preparation for the event, he and Master Boatbuilder **John MacDonald** had built a **shaving horse** at the *Compass Project's* workshop on Anderson Street. The shaving horse is a **traditional tool designed to hold the paddle so that it can easily be turned and manipulated as it is shaved and shaped**. The *Compass Project* was happy to be part of Harborfest Weekend and the battle against M.S.

Grand Banks Dory Purchased

Thanks to help from **Burt Knapp** who spotted a "for sale" sign on a boat on a Fal-mouth roadside, the *Compass Project* has acquired a Grand Banks Dory with which to continue its Rowing/Teambuilding Program. Burt followed up on his find and helped to make possible the purchase of this 20 footer with four rowing stations, space for a coxwain and two or three passengers. Anne Farrington and Don Carter found and donated two pairs of 10' oars for the dory. Dock space for this *Compass Project* program continues to be donated by the Maine Yacht Center, Portland's newest marina.

The Rowing Program began last year with youth from **Portland H.S., King M.S., the Teen Adventure Program, Youth Alternatives, and the Spurwink School**. It gives teams of six to seven youth the opportunity to master the rowing arts. East End Beach and Fort Gorges have been popular rowing destinations where kids explore and swim before rowing back. **Burt Knapp, Anne Farrington and Don Carter** have our gratitude for their help in making this summer's rowing program possible.

Deering Oaks Launching

On Wednesday, June 2 at 3:00 p.m. in Deering Oaks Park, the *Compass Project* held a festive end-of-season celebration to launch the boats built by students during the year. The young boatbuilders came from **Portland High School** as well as **King** and **Lincoln Middle Schools**. Families watched as five wooden boats were successfully launched and the participants showed off their newly acquired rowing skills.

A special part of the boat launching was the presentation to **Camp Sunshine** of a boat built by **young women from Portland High School**. As part of their participation in the *Compass Project* boatbuilding program, the students assessed community needs as part of a Kids Consortium Service Learning Grant. That assessment made them decide to donate the boat to Camp Sunshine to benefit its seriously ill children and their families. A representative of Camp Sunshine attended the launch to accept the boat.



Nick DeSouza working on a paddle

Compass Project Board Of Directors

Sarah Franklin
Andrew Ingalls, President
Burt Knapp
Patricia Ryan
Anita St. Onge, Treasurer
Barbara Smith, Secretary
Carter White



Compass Project, Inc.
 103 Pitt St.
 Portland, ME 04103

Open House
Thursday, October 28, 2004
From 5 to 7PM
170 Anderson Street Portland
(near Marginal Way)
Come for Refreshments and to see
the newly designed space.
call 828-5289 for more info...

Two Compass Project Optimist Dinghies Donated to SAILMaine

Thanks to the generosity of **Bob McLean of Fort Worth, Texas**, the **Junior Sailing Program of SailMaine** was the beneficiary of two student-built Optimist Dinghies. McLean purchased the two boats from the *Compass Project* with the express wish of donating them to a program for youth. Patricia Ryan, Executive Director of the *Compass Project*, was very pleased with the donation, saying, "Getting kids to build boats to be used by other kids is exactly the sort of collaboration we are seeking. **Thank you, Bob McLean!**" Sails for the two boats were donated by **Hallett Sails**. The two boats will be formally launched next spring at the beginning of the Jr. Sailing Program's summer session.



This collaboration is the first of what we hope will be many collaborations between the **Compass Project**, **SAILMaine** and **Rippleffect**. Last spring the three organizations wrote a joint proposal to the **City of Portland** for a **Community Boating Center**.

Calendar of Events at a Glance

- October: Dory Building Program
 with Westcott Middle School
 Small Projects with Lincoln Middle School
 Open House October 28th 5-7 pm at 170 Anderson Street
- November: Portland H.S. Boys Group
- December: Boat launching
- January: Adult Programs begin
- March: Maine Boatbuilder's Show
- June: Rowing Program begins
- July 17, 18 & 19, 2005: 2nd Annual Family Boat Building Event
- August 20, 2005: 2nd Annual Rowgatta

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO LAUNCHINGS EDITOR/WRITER **SARAH FRANKLIN** AND TO **CARTER WHITE** FOR PRODUCTION.

Compass Project Wish List:	Projector	printer	fax	cordless drills	vise grips
	heat lamp	levels	drill bits	utility knives	power tools
					Laptop