

# Bridge walk has feel of 'small town'

Despite a cloudy day, dozens of people showed up to walk across the bridge Labor Day in Lake Leelanau.

The group, led by a Leelanau County Sheriff's Office patrol car, walked in unison from Fig's over the bridge to Peddling Beans. Those successful in the well-under-a-mile endeavor were rewarded with fresh, hot coffee. Breakfast burritos and latte drinks were also enjoyed by many.

Lake Leelanau residents Jim and Karen Rink participated in the community walk for the second time. Karen said they got involved for the first time last year, thanks to a suggestion by friends.

"It's great to see members of the community out and supporting the community," Jim said.

"I like to see people we know in passing and I'm a big fan of Peddling Beans," Karen said. "I also like to see all the dogs."

The couple has a dog they thought about bringing along, but Karen said she didn't know if the 16 year-old would be up for it. Next year, however, Karen said they would bring her. "I think she would enjoy it," she said.

Son of well-known wine-maker Bernie Rink, Jim was born and raised in Bingham Township and said the county hasn't changed much over time — and that's a good thing. Both he and Karen moved back to Leelanau County six years ago, and now they can't imagine living anywhere else.

"Lake Leelanau still has that small-town feel," he said. "And that's the reason we live here."

— Story and photos by Jen Murphy



A CROWD of walkers strolled down the street during the Labor Day Lake Leelanau Bridge Walk.



ENJOYING A cup of coffee after the Labor Day Lake Leelanau Bridge Walk, Karen and Jim Rink are glad they came out on a cloudy Monday to participate in the community event.

# Bridge Builds Community

Short, sweet and constructive. Those are words describing the three major County. While short in stature to that little hiker, Leelanau's walks none-the-less seemed just the ticket. Following are overviews and photos from the Narrows, Glen Lake Narrows and the Leland River had by all.

## Leland bridge walk

The 20th annual Leland Labor Day Bridge Walk was a rousing success, according to the chair of the Leland Committee for Holiday Excitement.

Committee chair Patricia Soutas-Little said excellent weather and strong community spirit prompted a good turnout of local residents and visitors for an annual celebration dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers.

The first Leland Labor Day Bridge Walk was held in 1999 when the bridge after the Leland River was rebuilt by the Michigan Department of Transportation. Originally built in 1929, the bridge is part of state highway M-22, known in downtown Leland as Main Street.

"It's great to see this tradition continue," said Lee Bowen, one of the original organizers of the event. "Dick Kerr (the late publisher of the Leelanau Enterprise) and a few of us were having breakfast at the Early Bird one morning in 1999 when this whole idea was conceived," Bowen said.

As always, a color guard from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7731 in Lake Leelanau led the march. New this year was the addition of two golf carts provided by the Leland Lodge carrying "royalty" from the Leland Fourth of July Parade and other local dignitaries.

Those who completed the walk — all of

## Yogi's happy; 200 attend

Who else but Yogi Bear would help organize a bridge walk set in the middle of National Park Service land?

Welcome to the 23rd annual Glen Lake bridge walk.

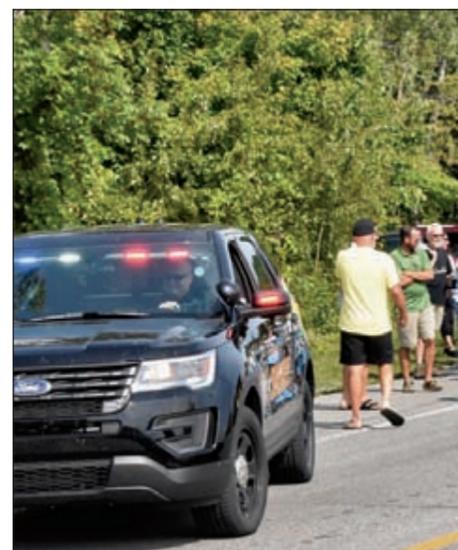
Beare, whose first name is really JoAnne, joined Tom Plasman and Bill Thompson in putting together a short walk that served to unite the community after a busy summer.

Beare and Plasman are from Empire, while Bill and Dottie Thompson of Glen Arbor helped to organize the first Glen Lake parade.

Donations were taken and T-shirts sold, with proceeds helping the Empire Area Community Center with its causes of helping community members through rough times and organizing Empire Anchor Day.

A Sheriff's patrol car and a vehicle from the Glen Arbor Fire Dept. provided escorts.

— Photos by Don Miller



WITH A patrol vehicle in front, about 200



PARTICIPANTS WAVE and walk while traversing the Glen Lake Bridge.

**Chili Cook Off**

Sat., Sept 15, 2018 at 4:00 PM

at the **Noverr Farm Barn**

7981 S Lakeview Rd Traverse City MI 49684

Do you make a great chili??!

Enter a pot for the contest!

**\$25 ENTRY Fee**

Call Karan or Steve below for an entry form

Come taste the chili!!

You get to vote for the BEST

**\$10 per person**

gets you IN to taste every Chili, 3 tickets for voting, cornbread and beverage.

Pepper Eating Contest

Karaoke

For more info contact Steve: 231.233.3470 or Karan: 231.929.1620

Benefits the Leelanau County Republican Party