

# In MY Town...

*Alumni tell about where they live*

## BOSTON, MA (pop. 589,281)

by paul fletcher '88

### What do you have to see before you leave town?

Boston is so historic, it's quite challenging to pick just one thing. I'd recommend one of two tours. The traditional trolley tour takes you throughout Boston, with approximately 20 different stops where you can get out and wander around. The tour includes the historic North End, Beacon Hill, Charlestown and many other spots. You can see the "Old North Church" ("One if by land, two if by sea"), the Bunker Hill Monument, and many others.

The second is the "Duck Boat" Tour. It is a bit more interesting, since it's a similar tour with the added attraction of having the trolley turn into a boat for a brief ride in the Charles River. Children seem to prefer this over the trolley.

### What is your city's claim(s) to fame?

Once again the challenge here is so much history. You can start with the late President John F. Kennedy and work your way back to Paul Revere. Of more recent note, the Boston Red Sox and their World Series championship is perhaps the point of most pride within the city right now. Interesting to note is regardless that the New England Patriots have won three out of the last four Super Bowls, the Red Sox are clearly the most popular sports team in all of Boston.

### What is its best-kept secret?

The theater district is one of the best in the country. I have had the privilege of attending many live shows including "Mamma Mia!" and "Blue Man Group," the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and Boston Ballet. (If you come around Christmas, "The Nutcracker" ballet is a must-see.) There is clearly a great deal of first-rate entertainment outside of the Red Sox, the Patriots or the Celtics.

### Any unique phrases or expressions from your area of the country?

This is simple. "Bahhston" instead of Boston. "Pahk the cah" instead of park the car. "Cahn't" instead of can't.

### Where's the best place to eat, and why?

Actually, I prefer Sonsie on Newbury Street. It's not a traditional tourist restaurant, but has very good food including outstanding brunches and awesome dinners. Newbury Street is an added-value for people watching. You will see people from

all over the world quietly walking along window shopping at some of the trendiest stores in all of Boston.

### List the two best streets to drive down to get a feel for the place: charm, architecture, maybe residences.

Beacon Hill and Back Bay have the most historic and interesting homes. I actually owned a home in Beacon Hill for the past three years and found it extremely charming. There are no two places alike – each residence has its own look and feel. The buildings are very old, but for the most part well-kept. The building I lived in was over 100 years old but obviously had been renovated. You'll see people walking up and down the streets all the time. You truly are in a major city but in some sections in Beacon Hill or Back Bay it is very quiet and quite peaceful.

### What's your favorite time of the year?

For me, the best time of year would be the early fall, in mid- to late- October before the dreaded winter starts to rear its head in November. I particularly enjoy a sunny day, late in the afternoon, taking a long run on the banks of the Charles River. The trees are showing their autumn colors, the air is crisp and cool. People are lounging on the banks of the river or walking or riding their bikes. There are sailboats on the Charles. Rowing teams from Harvard, MIT or Boston University are practicing for upcoming events. You may even see the Duck Boats on the Charles with tourists from all over the world inside. Children laughing and playing with their parents – and me – running through this incredibly peaceful scene. On days like this, in that environment, I feel like I could run forever.

I hope all of you make the trip to Boston one day. It really is quite a wonderful place to live and work.

**Paul Fletcher '88** works for Biogen Idec in the Boston area. He got a chance to see the Boston Marathon this year – one more advantage to the city he loves.



# HUNGRY HORSE, MT (pop. 934)

by meg weaks lindberg '79

## Best nature spot?

Too many choices! We live in a broad, fertile valley formed by glaciers surrounded by six mountain ranges with tens of thousands of acres of national and state forest lands and Glacier National Park and wilderness areas with an abundance of rivers, lakes and streams. Come see Hungry Horse Reservoir, and Flathead Lake – the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River.

## What is the area's claim(s) to fame?

There's wildlife, meaning the animal varieties: grizzly and black bears, wolves, mountain lions, bobcats, lynx, Wolverines, pine martins, elk, moose, whitetail and mule deer, bald eagles and osprey. I've had most of these in my backyard. Flathead Valley is rumored to issue more hunting licenses than any county in the U.S. Hunting is a "family" activity with schools closing on opening day each season. And then there is outdoor recreation, big time! Fourteen public golf courses, vast quantities of rivers and lakes for anglers, whitewater rafting, countless backcountry trails for horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling, downhill skiing ([www.bigmtn.com](http://www.bigmtn.com)), and bird and wildlife watching. The common feeling around here is that work is the "necessary evil" to support our play habits.

## What is the best-kept secret?

Renting out forest service cabins will really get you away from it. Rentals are handled by the Hungry Horse Ranger District (406-387-3800). There is a three-night limit on most stays. Also, outdoor educational classes and camps are available through the Glacier Institute, a private nonprofit. Choose from classes such as Spring Mushroom Extravaganza and Wild Medicinal Herbs. ([www.glacierinstitute.org](http://www.glacierinstitute.org))

## Any unique phrases or expressions from your area?

Any motorized vehicle is called a "rig." "Fill your tag" refers

to killing wild game. "The Bob" refers to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. You'll hear, "Eh?", since we're a popular weekend destination for our Alberta neighbors to the north. "Silvertip" is in reference to the fur of grizzlies.

## Where's the best place to eat, and why?

Tough question – LOTS of quality restaurants in the valley. Try the Coyote Roadhouse Inn in Ferndale – exquisite country setting, menu changes nightly based on availability of fresh, seasonal ingredients, and the chef creates Cajun, southwestern, Mayan and Italian cuisine. Close to the village of Bigfork, which was named one of the 100 best small art towns in America. ([www.bigfork.org](http://www.bigfork.org))

## Best night spot?

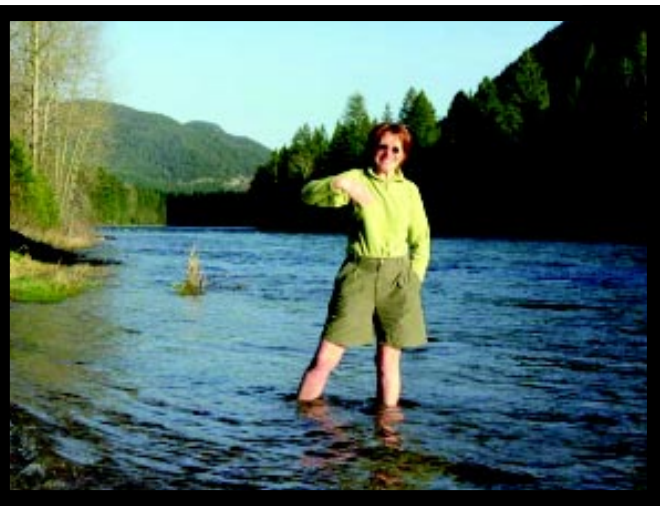
A good choice is Whitefish, a resort community. Because of so many vacation homes there, the social scene is active seven days a week. Folks don't wait for the weekend to socialize. In the summer, try Polebridge, a community with no electricity, a dusty 37-mile drive north from Columbia Falls along the western border of Glacier National Park. The historic Northern Lights Saloon, a small log structure, has outdoor seating and views of Glacier National Park and the Canadian Rockies. See the northern lights for yourself. Do not leave without having the homemade fresh pastries baked daily at the Polebridge Mercantile.

## Good streets to drive down to get a feel for the place?

Going-to-the-Sun Road, the only road that traverses Glacier National Park. Open in summer depending on weather. The best ride is a narrated tour on one of the 1930s vintage red "jammer" touring sedans. ([www.glacierparkinc.com](http://www.glacierparkinc.com))

## Favorite ice cream spot?

The spot isn't as important as the flavor. It has to be the locally-produced huckleberry ice cream available throughout the area. Six to seven varieties of huckleberries are native to our forests and can only be harvested in the wild as it is impossible for them to be domesticated. Bears love huckleberries, so if you elect to pick your own then be sure to take bear spray along – I call it cheap life insurance.



**Meg Weaks Lindberg '79** has lived in the Flathead Valley with her husband, Fred, for 14 years working in the travel and tourism industries. She is currently marketing manager of the Kalispell Center Mall in Kalispell, Mont. As a promoter of sustainable agriculture she has a home-grown business, 2-Eagle Culinary Products (named for her two stepsons who are both Eagle Scouts) raising 27 varieties of garlic as well as providing fresh produce and flowers to area businesses and individuals. She takes advantage of the multitude of recreational opportunities in Glacier Country.