

2013– FINAL REPORT OF THE WELLESLEY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE (WCC)

The 45th Annual Veterans' Parade and the 15th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend, which included 23 events, were held over the weekend of Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19, 2013. For the fifteenth year the Annual Parade was a spring event rather than, as in the past, a fall event. The weather was bright as the Parade began, but became cloudy as the day progressed and was completed on schedule.

The highlight of the Weekend, the Annual Parade, was dedicated "To Those Who Serve" with the 2013 theme being "**The 60th Anniversary of the End of the Korean War**". 37 Wellesley Korean War veterans were honored during the Parade, riding through the Parade route in a train from Lookout Farm.

There were 123 Parade units recorded as entries with 18 bands and other musical groups providing music for the over 2,000 marchers; representing civic, military, militia, school, service, specialty and veterans groups. Additionally, 12 floats were entered, 10 of which received award recognition. The Best School float trophy went to the Hunnewell School, for the third time in four years, which will hold the award until the next Parade.

The 23 events under the umbrella of Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend actually started on Saturday, May 4th with the 2013 Wellesley Kitchen Tour hosted by the Wellesley Hills Junior Woman's Club and on the afternoon of Friday May 17th the Annual Hunnewell School Fun Fair was held.

Later on Friday evening an 18th Century Military encampment was set up on the hillside in front of Town Hall by the Royal Irish Artillery, who fired their cannons on the half hour all day on Saturday, while tours were conducted showing how folks lived in Revolutionary times. This lasted until after the Parade on Sunday.

Saturday morning began with the Wellesley Rotary Club's Annual All-Day Pancake Festival at the Wellesley Middle School (WMS). During that time the Needham Lion's Club Eye Mobile was stationed at the WMS for free eye exams. A "Dog Contest" was coordinated by the Board of Health and the Wellesley Animal Control at Warren School Park.

For the thirteenth year, the Wellesley Trails Committee hosted a walk, which was held this year at the Town Forest around Longfellow Pond. The Wellesley Historical Society hosted a guided walk showing "How Transportation Shaped Wellesley"

From mid morning through late afternoon, numerous Open houses were held throughout town; for the fourteenth year at the Wellesley Police Station, hosted by the Wellesley Police Department and for the twelfth year at the main Wellesley Fire Station #2 on Route 9, hosted by the Wellesley Fire Department.

Additionally, the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant and the Wellesley Department of Public Works hosted Open Houses.

The Wellesley Community Art Project and Wellesley Women Artisans had an "Art in the Park" display all day long at Simons Park, which was left up for the following two weeks.

For the first time the Wellesley Community Center hosted an all day "Wheels of Wellesley" car show featuring exotic, antique cars, motorcycles and bicycles

A display of Korean War materials was made available for the entire Weekend at the Main Library and the Wellesley Conservation Council held a "Build Your Own Fairy House" at the Cochituate Aqueduct.

Finally, at 4:00 PM the Fifteenth Annual Veteran's Ecumenical Memorial Mass, hosted by the Wellesley Veterans' Council, was held at St. Paul Church.

In order to recognize Wellesley's support of the Boston Strong commemoration, recognizing those lost and hurt in the Boston Marathon bombing, a permanent symbol recognizing "Wellesley Strong" was painted on Central Street at Abbott Street, on the Boston Marathon route, by Alexander Golob, Katherine Sample, Joann Jones and others.

All day on Sunday a "Gardener's Fair" was held at Elm Bank, sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

At 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 19th, the Wellesley Celebrations Committee under somewhat cloudy skies and temperatures in the 70's, started the 45th Annual Veterans' Parade with a step-off of the Parade along Washington Street, continuing from the Wellesley Community Center, at the junctions of Routes 9 and 16, and ending at about 3:15 P.M. over the Crest Road Bridge to the Tailby Parking Lot.

From 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM the 54th annual Grace Knight Babson Fund for Religious Education program was held at Knight Auditorium on Babson College Campus.

At 5:00 PM the Picnic in the Park at Hunnewell Field began, with food provided by the Charles River Rotary Club and other food vendors. Rides for kids were available until dusk, including among others the "Moon Bounce", "Merry-Go-Round" and "Big Slide"; face painting and balloon twisters added to the festivities. The Wellesley Rotary Club presented a Dunk Tank, with many town officials being dunked during the festivities.

At 6:30 PM the State Police helicopter, that was used to find the Boston Marathon bomber in Watertown, MA, landed on the Wellesley Little League Field, for inspection by all in attendance.

Then the skies opened, with a downpour, which caused the cancellation of the Annual concert featuring "The Reminisants" and "The WHS 2 O'clock Jazz Group".

The weather cleared in order to allow the Piece de Resistance of the evening, the final celebration of the 15th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend, the annual spectacular Fireworks display, to be completed as a wrap up of the entire Weekend.

Honorees of the 2013 45th Annual Wellesley Veterans' Parade:

Grand Marshals--- Korean War Veterans, "Not Forgotten"

Distinguished Service Award -- Janice G. Coduri, retiring Director Wellesley Free Library after 18 years.

Chief of Staff— Edward B. Williams, Wellesley's oldest Veteran, 102 years of age.

Community Service Award --Suzanne G. Suzy Littlefield, retiring from Wellesley School Committee after 12 years, former Advisory Committee member, Wellesley High School Building Committee member, longtime TMM.

Community Service Award-- Mary Ann Cluggish, retired from Wellesley Free Library Board of Trustees after 12 years, Wellesley Natural Resources Commission, Wellesley Recreation Commission, Open Space Management Study Committee, Advisory Committee, Permanent Building Committee, longtime TMM.

Community Service Award-- Mark Antonelli, retiring from Wellesley Recreation Committee after 6 years, former Advisory Committee member, Town By Law Committee, TMM.

Dedicated Service Award—Peter Bracken, retiring after 40 years at Municipal Light Plant and Department of Public Works.

Dedicated Service Award -- Dr. Robert Callahan, retired art teacher after 25 years at Wellesley High School.

Dedicated Service Award -- Lynne Johnson, retired art teacher after 33 years at Wellesley Middle School.

Dedicated Service Award--Richard A. (Rick) Weaver--retiring after 37 years at the Wellesley Police Department.

Special Recognition Award—Marcia G. Weaver, recognized by the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad Company (MBCR) for her efforts to bring the "Gold Star Memorial Coach" train to life.

Special Recognition Award—Wellesley Hills Branch Library, 100 year Anniversary of founding.

Special Recognition Award—Wellesley Boy Scouts, Troop #182, 100 year Birthday.

Special Recognition Award—St. Mary's Church, 200 year Anniversary.

Special Recognition Award—Richards of Wellesley, Mr. Richard Foote, 50 Years in Wellesley business.

Special Recognition Award—The Family of Francis Cummings, a former Wellesley resident who was a crew member of the USS Thresher, a nuclear powered submarine, which sank 50 years ago in 1963.

Special Recognition Award --Wellesley League of Women Voters, 75th Anniversary

Donations for this year's events received from citizens, local merchants, civic groups and service clubs and from many along the parade route and at Hunnewell Field amounted to \$46,620.74 from over 270 donors. A town appropriation of \$4,700.00, plus the donations, were all used toward the \$46,272.42 cost of conducting the 15th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend and the 2013 Annual Veterans' Parade, most of which was for fees of the bands, specialty units, transportation and the Fireworks.

Special thanks go to all of the members of the Wellesley Celebrations Committee who coordinated all of the activities of this year's Wonderful Weekend: Mark Antonelli, Adele Beggs, Jim Bishop, Cathy Brauner, Salvatore "Tory" DeFazio, Diane Duddy, Lindsay Ellms, Laura Fragasso, Rowie Gray, George Johnston, Pete Jones, Joann Jones, Richard McIntosh, Missy McCarthy, Carl Nelson, Debbie Reynolds and Tom Ulfelder.

Many others helped, particularly from among Wellesley's wonderful town employees, including the Police and Fire Departments, the Engineering, GIS, Highway, Municipal Light Plant and the Parks and Recreation Departments, who unselfishly gave much of their personal time and energy in order to make this year's Weekend's events a success. Additionally, The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society once again offered invaluable help in coordinating the individual units from the start to finish of the Parade, through their communications network.

An additional thank you goes to all the donors and sponsors, who each year come to the assistance of the Celebrations Committee; particularly the Roche Brothers/Sudbury Farms Supermarkets and The Wellesley Dental Group, Dr's Ali and Ali, for their donations, that made the fireworks display possible. All of their help is most sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

Royall H. Switzler, Chairman
Wellesley Celebrations Committee