

2007 – FINAL REPORT OF THE WELLESLEY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE (WCC)

The 39th Annual Veteran's Parade and 9th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend were all planned and ready to be completed with the Parade dedicated "To Those Who Serve" and the 2007 theme being "Looking Forward—Looking Back". But the weather, in the form of rain, caused cancellation of the parade and the evening events on the original date of Sunday, May 20th and forced the same outcome on the "rain date" of June 3rd.

After efforts during the summer to reschedule the parade for September proved to be impossible, because of conflicts with many parade units and support groups, it was decided to schedule only the "Final Quarter" of the Weekend, including the annual fireworks display, Picnic in the Park, concert, barbeque supper and other events at Hunnewell Field for the Labor Day Weekend. The Parade was formally cancelled for 2007 with funds raised for the event kept, to be applied toward the 2008 Annual Veteran's Parade.

Of the 15 events scheduled under the umbrella of Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend many were completed, starting on Friday evening May 18th when an 18th Century Military encampment by the Royal Irish Artillery was set up on the hillside in front of Town Hall, which continued on Saturday with cannons firing on the hour during the day and with escorted tours available for visitors.

Starting on Saturday morning May 19th the Wellesley Rotary Club's Annual All-Day Pancake Festival was held at Wellesley High School. But, the Bike Safety Day planned to be held at the Tailby Parking Lot and hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Wellesley had to be cancelled by the weather.

For the fifth year, the Wellesley Trails Committee coordinated a walk, which was held this year at the Beard Trail Walk.

From mid morning through late afternoon, numerous Open Houses were held throughout town: for the eighth year at the Wellesley Police Station, hosted by the Wellesley Police Department and for the sixth year at the main Wellesley Fire Station #2 on Route 9, hosted by the Wellesley Fire Department. For the second time the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant held an open house which drew great interest from the public, who were shown all of the varying aspects of operation of the department and for the second year tours of the Main Library were offered throughout the day hosted by Library personnel.

Additionally a micro-chip clinic for household pets was hosted by Stray Pets in Need (SPIN) at the Wellesley High School parking lot. Saturday's events were completed at 4:00 PM with the Ninth Annual Ecumenical Memorial Mass for all veterans, hosted by the Wellesley Veterans' Council at St. Paul Church.

On Sunday, May 20th with weather forecasts showing a high percentage for rain during the afternoon and evening, the parade and the evening events were cancelled early in the morning and all parade units and support groups were contacted of the cancellation and given notification of the rain date for all events, that was planned as Sunday, June 3rd.

Most units were available to be in attendance on June 3rd, but again because of weather forecasts showing a high percentage for rain during the afternoon and the evening, the parade was again cancelled in the morning with notification again given to all participating groups.

Finally, on Sunday September 2, 2007 the "Last Quarter of the Weekend" began at Hunnewell Field at 4P.M. with the Picnic in the Park highlighted by a Barbeque Supper hosted by the Interfaith Community for Action in Wellesley (ICAW) with help from the Wellesley Kiwanis Club; rides for kids until dusk, including among others the "Moon Bounce", "Big Slide" and "Obstacle Course"; face painting and balloon twisters added to the festivities that were topped off with free ice cream for all, donated by the Hood's Ice Cream Company.

A swing band Concert featuring the “Westwood Swing Band” played throughout the evening until dusk, when the Piece de Resistance of the extended Weekend, the annual spectacular Fireworks display at Hunnewell Field went off under clear skies.

On that evening, the Honorees of the 2007 Parade, listed below, were finally presented their awards:

<u>Parade Grand Marshal</u>	Vincent Juliani, Jr., retiring 12 year Wellesley Selectman
<u>Distinguished Service Award</u>	Dr. Matthew King, retiring Superintendent Wellesley Public Schools
<u>Dedicated Service Award</u>	Rena Mirkin, retiring Principal of Wellesley High School
<u>Dedicated Service Award</u>	John P. D’Auria, retiring Principal Wellesley Middle School
<u>Dedicated Service Award</u>	Ellen Cunniff, (posthumous) retired Principal of Sprague and formerly Hunnewell School
<u>Community Service Award</u>	Lamont “Len Seipel, Jr., (posthumous), former Chairman Wellesley Library Trustees
<u>Community Recognition Award</u>	Dr. Joseph E. Murray, Nobel Prize winner for first kidney transplant
<u>Parade Chief of Staff</u>	John L. Saunders, Veteran and Community activist
<u>Special Recognition Award</u>	Anderson’s Jewelers, 60 th Anniversary, three generations in business
<u>Veteran's Honor Award</u>	Robert H. Lubker, Legion of Honor Award from the Republic of France

Donations were received from citizens, local merchants, civic groups and service clubs and many at the Fireworks show at Hunnewell Field totaling \$37,295.73 from over 275 donors. A town appropriation of \$4,700.00, a balance of \$7,727.96. and the donations were all used toward the \$23,014.14 cost of conducting the 9th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend and the preparations for the 2007 Annual Parade. A balance of \$37,837.07 will be carried over toward the expenses of the 2008 Parade and Weekend.

Special thanks go to all of the members of the Wellesley Celebrations Committee who planned and coordinated all of the activities of this year’s extended Wonderful Weekend: Mark Antonelli, Jim Bishop, Cathy and Hyacinth Brauner, Steve Castellini, Marcey DeChristofaro Salvatore "Tory" DeFazio, Lindsay Ellms, Jackie Gauthier, Greg Leach, Sarah Murphy, Irene Palmigiano, Debbie Reynolds, John Saunders, John and Dwin Schuler, Harold Sheldrick, Teresa Touey and Joellen Toussaint.

Many others helped, particularly from among Wellesley’s wonderful town employees, including the Police and Fire Departments, the Engineering, 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 extended Weekend's events a success. Additionally, The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society once again offered invaluable help in coordinating the cancellation of the two parades. Special thanks to Veteran's Service Officer Richard Dillon for his valuable assistance toward the Weekend's success.

An additional thank you goes to all the donors, who each year come to the assistance of the Celebrations Committee; particularly the G. Drew Conway Family and Roche Brothers/Sudbury Farms Supermarkets 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