

Marlborough Rotary Club

P.O. Box 186 ▪ Marlborough, MA 01752

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For immediate release

Marlborough Rotarians win Mayor's Trophy in Labor Day Parade

The members of the Marlborough Rotary Club built a float to epitomize this year's Labor Day Parade theme, "Memorable Moments". Rotarians conceived the idea of putting together a collection of giant photos of past parades and thanking current club President George Whapham who has been the Director of Marlborough's Annual Labor Day Parade, which is the largest parade in the Commonwealth. The planning and building was complete in total secrecy from President George and the team of non-Rotarian judges awarded the club the Mayor's Trophy for the best float in the annual event.

The front of the float had a giant Rotary wheel suspended from the frame. The sides held a collage of three-foot wide or tall photos of happy memories of the parade going back many, many years. They also included front pages of the local newspaper heralding the club's winning another trophy. The back of the float proclaimed, "Surprise George!" It was followed by a giant photo of George on duty as Parade Director with "Thanks for 28 Years as Parade Chairman." Finally, they arranged for President George to ride in a convertible behind the float.

The ever-modest President George commented with a wry downcast smile, "I was actually a little embarrassed. I had to ride behind it and look at my larger-than-life photograph all the way!"

Committee chair Emily Greenwood was delighted with the success of surprising George and the big win of the Mayor's Trophy. She said, "Nancy [Marlborough Mayor and Rotarian Nancy Stevens] wanted to be sure she was not one of the judges so no Rotarian was involved in the judging. I'm really thrilled with the results. The float turned out better than I dreamed it would."

She continued, "I want to be sure we thank the many businesses that contributed to the building and success of the float. MetroWest Printing helped with last minute enlarging and laminating of the photos; Holland Woodworking contributed the work space and conceived the PVC structure to hold the photos; MegaWatt Stereo provided sound and drove the float for the Rotary club, Marlboro Nissan provided the convertible driven by Billy Rocco; and Jake's Auto detail provided the car trailer that became the base for the float."

A small group of Rotarians that included Emily Greenwood, Bonnie Doolin and Peggie Thorsen brought family and friends together to assist in the final building of the float on Sunday, August 31. Final touches were completed just before the judging on Monday morning and noon was “showtime”!

Several Rotarians and Interactors joined in the final preparations and walked the parade route with the float. They included Toni Wolf, Brad Hodgkinson, Bonnie Doolin, Maggie Doolin, Alex Swanson and Committee Chair Emily Greenwood.



Rotarian Toni Wolf and Interactors Maggie Doolin and Alex Swanson admire the completed float Labor Day Morning as they awaited the beginning of the parade.



Back of float honors Marlborough Rotary Club President George Whapham for his 28 years producing the largest parade in Massachusetts.



President George Whapham rides in honor as part of the Marlborough Rotary Club's entry in the annual Labor Day Parade.

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