

Many, Many Thanks

There are so many people to thank and it is certain that someone will be forgotten. Please forgive us if we do! It is only because this event has been a whirlwind to plan and so many people were involved. We are eternally grateful for all those who were a part of this 150th Birthday Celebration for Lopatcong.

In order to honor all of our volunteers who have helped in so many ways over the years, we attempted to contact everyone for recognition at our Pep Rally. If you were forgotten, it was only because we could not reach you. We value all of our volunteers immensely and we could not run the programs of Lopatcong without you. We cannot thank you enough!

The 2013 Sesquicentennial Committee would like to give special thanks to Greg Carbone of Peacefield Gardens for providing us with a hay maze; to Dave Kish for providing us with his wonderful DJ talents; to the Boy Scouts of Troop 54 for sprucing up our flag pole landscaping; to Brian Weeks and his crew for donating their personal time to make this weekend happen; to Pilgrim Presbyterian for dedicating one of their masses to our town; to Konrad Mellert, Jr. for building and donating our time capsule; to the Lopatcong 7th grade teachers for choosing our King and Queen, Matthew Koeller and Marissa Brink; to Dr. Caldwell, Ms. Roncoroni, Ms. Dutt, Mr. Bonney, Ms. Kondikoff and the Lopatcong School Board for their ideas, support and help in planning our Friday night events; to Kyle Fleming and the Phillipsburg Marching Band for taking time out of their very hectic schedule to march in our parade; to the Lopatcong Student Council for conducting our school tours; to Mr. Crevani and the Middle School Jazz Band for performing at our Friday night event; to the Math Rocks 2 + 1 band for their Friday night performance; to Lori Fiore for being daring and crazy enough to teach us Country Line dancing; to Kayla Avitabile, the current Lopatcong Idol, for singing our 'Lopatcong Song' and the National Anthem; to the NJ State Color Guard for their participation in our parade; to Warren County Freeholders Edward Smith and Jason Sarnoski for attending our event in their official capacities; to Brian Hoey for sharing his bag piping talents with us; to the LAA executive directors, their coaches and their players for all of their help, contributions and support for the entire weekend; to all the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and their leaders for their help and participation; to the LEA and the PTA for supporting our event; to Nancy Lihan, Kim Doyle, the many teachers and competition students from Showbiz Kidz for their participation and performances; to the Lopatcong Cheerleaders and Twirlers for their participation and performance; to Vision Soccer for their demonstration; to John Bodnar, Mike Nardella and Jim Ciesla for running our Quoit Tournament; to the 4-H club for their participation and help; to Genesis Healthcare for their involvement and assistance to the residents of our care centers; and to the Lopatcong Police Department, Fire Department and EMS for their dedicated support and participation. Many thanks are to be given to all the vendors and sponsors of our

weekend long event that have donated their time, goods and/or financial support to our celebration.

As Chairwoman of the Sesquicentennial Committee, I do not think I can ever possibly thank my committee members enough for all they have done! I offer my most sincere thanks to former Councilman Jim Mengucci for agreeing to be our Master of Ceremonies; to Jesse DeGroff for the countless hours he spent researching, writing and editing our history book; to Konrad Mellert, Sr. for agreeing to be our Honorary Parade Marshal; to former Mayor and Councilman Bill Baker, Sr. for agreeing to be our Parade Marshal; to Carlie Viemann for volunteering her time and photography skills to capture the memories of our weekend; to Robin Wodzisz for stepping in as the new PTA president and keeping us all on track and organized; to Becky Johnson for working with both the school district and Pilgrim Presbyterian to make things happen; to all the contributors and editors of the 150th History book - it is a treasure trove of information about Lopatcong; to Kathy Devos, Lisa Nash, Valerie Lusardi, JoAnn McGann and Gary VanVliet for sticking with us from the beginning of this committee and being vital resources to the committee; to Lisa Viemann, MaryAnn Carducci, and Connie Drake-O'Brien for their great ideas and support of their groups; to Yvonne Reitemeyer and Dee Heinrichs for working all hours of the night with me planning everything from tents to elephants(maybe next time!); to Ana Grundt for being my musical liaison with both the Lopatcong and Phillipsburg school districts; to Melissa Saykay and Jackie Hlinka who helped me behind the scenes and did their best to keep me calm; and my family, Jim, Nick, and Juli, for putting up with me these last few weeks!

Of course, without the support and hard work of Beth Dilts, Betty Dobbs and Phyllis Coleman, we would not be having this event. I cannot thank them enough for spending their free time on this committee. Their dedication to our town is endless, and so is that of our mayor and council. Doug Steinhardt, Victor Camporine, Maureen McCabe and Lou Belcaro have been huge supporters of the committee and have jumped in and helped where needed. They have been very generous donors to this event, and have essentially agreed to do whatever I have asked them to do – at a moment's notice! Thank you all so much!

I must also give an extra special thanks to some wonderful kids who helped me make a musical tribute to Lopatcong with the help of Dave Kish. Thank you so much and thank you for supporting your parents over the years as they served our town

With best wishes for the next 150 years,
Lori Ciesla,
Lopatcong Councilwoman and Chairwoman of the Sesquicentennial Committee