



The reading of the Declaration of Independence in front of the Cilley D.A.R. Building
Nottingham Celebrates July 4th 2022 Two Ways

Steve Soreff, MD

Monday, July 4, 2022, proved to be a glorious day in many ways. First, it was a magnificent early summer day with a temperature between 75 to 85 degrees with a slight breeze. A very pleasant weather day providing the ideal scene for the two celebrations-the reading of the [Declaration of Independence](#) and the boat parade on Pawtuckaway Lake.

The day started with the 300th reviving of the town's tradition of reading the Declaration of Independence. For many years folks have gathered at Demmons Store, 368 Stage Rd, West Nottingham on the morning of July 4th to hear music played by local musicians, to enjoy breakfast, and to hear the Declaration of Independence. However, in recent years, this has not occurred. Recognizing that gap, the 300th Committee decided to re-institute it for this year at Nottingham Square.

The 300th Committee served free egg sandwiches, orange juice, and coffee at 8 AM. There was music. At 9 AM folks stood for the National Anthem. Then Chris Reagan read the [Declaration of Independence](#). The gathering of over 125 folks listened attentively. This was followed by Judy McGann on the trumpet leading everyone in singing several patriotic songs. It was a great revival of this Nottingham tradition. Many attending hoped it would be continued.



One of the many decorated boats in the 4th July Boat Parade

Meanwhile, on Pawtuckaway Lake, boats began to assemble at the Twin Islands in the North section of that lake. They were there for the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association's (PLIA) annual [July 4th boat parade](#). “Every year, to celebrate Independence Day, the PLIA organizes a boat parade around Pawtuckaway Lake on July 4th. People decorate all kinds of boats—from pontoons to kayaks to power boats to jet skis—with patriotic or fanciful themes, and congregate at the north end of the lake for our annual parade. Residents and vacationers turn out on their docks, rafts, beaches, and decks to cheer and wave as the boats pass by.”

After assembling at 10 AM, the flotilla started off heading south on North Lake. Along the route, boaters waved to folks gathered on the shore, moored boats and docks, engaged in super-soaker skirmishes, and played music. They motored through South Channel, circled clockwise the South Lake, and completed the circuit just off the Pawtuckaway State Park beach. They not only celebrated the 4th but also Nottingham's 300th anniversary, as this boat shows.



Royal Charter 1722 celebrating the Nottingham's 300th Anniversary

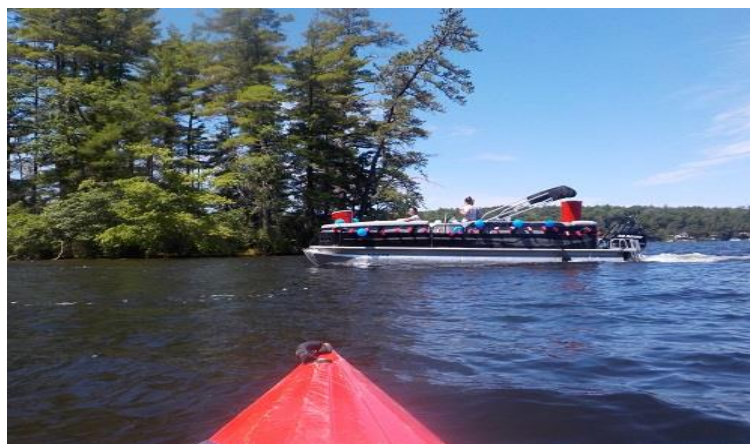
There were many colorfully decorated vessels in parade. Here are three more examples.



Very colorful and patriotic.



Eaten by jaws!



A salute to red plastic cups.

What a great boat parade and super celebration of the 4th and the 300th.