

# Parade marshals 'walk the talk'

*Nature lovers and adventurers Ginny Wilterdink and Jim Peters, both longtime members of the town Trails Committee, will lead the 2007 parade.*

By **AMY CAVALIER**

Messenger Post Staff

**G**inny Wilterdink is an adventurer. A native of a small town in Maine, she was a registered nurse, an airline stewardess and she served as an Army nurse in the Philippines with the 314th General Hospital Unit during World War II.

"I think I was always an adventure-some spirit, even when I was a kid," said the mother of three.

Now, Wilterdink's passion is nature, initially developed as a youth growing up on 200 acres in the town of Calais. It was wild and wooded, with a swimming hole and a brook similar to Irondequoit Creek running through it.

Her many pursuits now include leading and taking hikes in Penfield, serving on the Penfield Trails Committee, which she helped launch, serving as a master gardener for Cornell Cooperative Extension and being a steward of Honey Creek Trail, which is located right near her apartment in the Four Corners.

Wilterdink said staying active "nourishes" her spirit.

"I think there's never a time in your life that you should stop," she said. "If you do, you're going to get in trouble. Whatever it is that interests you, whatever it is that draws you, you need to embrace."

Wilterdink is gearing up to take on her next big adventure. She's been selected as co-marshal of Penfield's 2007 Independence Parade on Saturday, June 30, along with longtime Town Board member Jim Peters.

"They came out on top this year of



STAFF PHOTO/VASILY BAZIUK

**Avid hikers and members of the Penfield Trails Committee, Ginny Wilterdink and Jim Peters of Penfield have been chosen this year's parade marshals for the town's annual Independence Day Celebration. The event is scheduled to take place Friday and Saturday, June 29 and 30.**

some of the other nominees based on their many, many years of activity in their community and their town," said Recreation Supervisor Mike Cooper.

Cooper said Wilterdink and Peters

have been involved with the Trails Committee since day one.

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Wilterdink's co-marshal has led an equally adventurous life. Well known in Penfield for his 10-year stint on the Town Board, Peters, a retired Kodak researcher, has served on the town Planning Board, the town's Comprehensive Planning Committee and is a member of the Penfield Trails Committee and Ethics Committee.

Additionally, Peters and his wife Nancy embarked on a six-week hiking trip in New Zealand this year. In 1994, they hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back up again. The pair also hike and ski.

Peters is so adventurous, he plans to travel the parade route twice.

"It's half the distance this year, and it's a huge parade, so it'll probably take two hours for it to go from start to finish," he said.

This year's parade route is slightly shorter, running from Penfield High School to the Penfield Community Center. Peters figures that gives him enough time to fulfill his duties as parade marshal, leading off the procession — and then he

said he plans to walk from the finish of the parade at the Community Center to the start of the parade at the high school to walk the route with the Trails Committee float.

Peters said Wilterdink's dedication to the outdoors makes her deserving of the honor of being selected as parade marshal.

"There's a woman who walks the talk," he said.

On the other hand, he said, he was totally surprised to be asked to be parade marshal.

"I thought there must be more deserving people," he said, "but of course, I said yes."

### Celebrating Independence Day 2007

The following is the schedule of events for the town of Penfield's Independence Day celebration. All events, save the parade, take place in Harris Whalen Park, on Harris Whalen Drive, across from the Penfield Road Wegmans.

#### Friday, June 29

- Chicken barbecue — 5 p.m. until sold out
- Music by The White Hots and Ruby Shooz — 5:30 to 10 p.m.

#### Saturday, June 30

- Parade from Penfield High School to the Penfield Community Center — 10 a.m.
- Mint Jam with Gabe Condon — 4 p.m.
- Mike Kornrich's Jumpin' Jazz Band — 5:30 p.m.
- Brass Taxi — 8:15 p.m.

Although she has picked out an outfit for the parade, Wilterdink said, she hasn't thought much more about it. For now, she's focusing on the adventures at hand.

"I've decided not to think about it, because before that time I have a lot of other things to take care of," she said. "I can't go too long term. I can just write it on my calendar, and then it's there when the week comes."

One place you can be sure to find Wilterdink before the parade — hiking Honey Creek Trail and watering the trees she's planted there.