



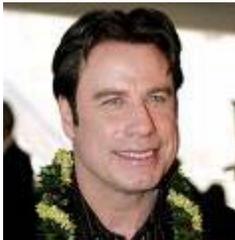
# The Friends & Neighbors of Putnam Memorial State Park



## Aug./Sept. 2007 NewsLetter

Bethel/Redding CT

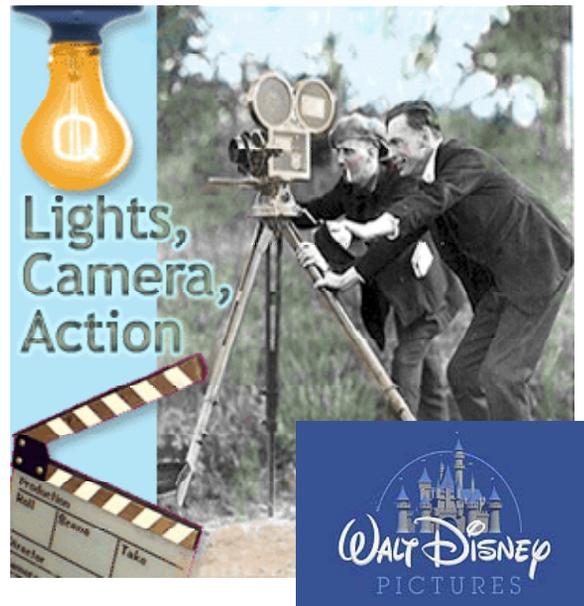
### Disney Films Comes To Putnam Park



John Travolta



Robin Williams



Putnam Park was closed to the public during the entire week of August 13<sup>th</sup>. Disney Pictures was using the park as one of the film locations for scenes in the up coming movie *Old Dogs*, which stars John Travolta and Robin Williams. Though the security was tight, a few of the important politicians did get in to shake hands with the stars. We're sure that Nate and his crew were on a first name basis with the cast that week!



Danbury News-Times

Gov. M. Jodi Rell talks with John Travolta at Putnam Park in Redding on Thursday. Rell traveled to the film set of Disney Films *Old Dogs*, starring Travolta and Robin Williams, to sign into law an expansion of film tax credits.

The park is one of three locations in Redding that was used to film scenes. The film crews were also at Redding Community Center and Redding Country Club. Redding First Selectman Natalie Ketchum also attended the park for the bill signing which provides incentives for the film industry if they will use Connecticut for film productions, and build infrastructure in the state. Motion pictures can place a lot of dollars into the communities used in filming. The production companies expenditures in CT have grown from \$1million in 2005 to about \$430 million this year.

# Disney Productions Take Over Putnam Park For Entire Week

Park sealed off to the public.....



The parking lots across Lake Putnam, on the recreational side of the park, were full of Disney Productions trailers, trucks and motor homes ..... all used to support the movie being filmed at the Scout Area atop the historical side of the park.



The parking lots on both sides of Rt. 58 were jammed with cars belonging to the film crews. All lots and park property was well guarded by both uniformed DEP Conservation Police as well as private security working for the film company.



The mess tent was erected to feed the hundreds of people in the film crew, cast and support services.



The caters of the tons of gourmet food served to the Disney troops. Generators, frozen food trucks, lighting and sound for the main tent.



Guard Duty

**NO CAMERAS**  
Picture taking  
Is positively  
Forbidden



The film company's personnel carrier delivers another load of Crew members to the dining tent. First class ride!



Caught in the act ..... He sees my camera!



## Constructing Putnam Park - Beginning in 1888

The first thing done in the construction of Putnam Park was the erection of the obelisk monument in 1888. It can be seen through the mist in the old photo below. The year was probably 1889. I.N.Bartram, the man in the long black coat, was the head contractor. Note the “tractors” used in the 1800’s!



Photo loaned by Brent Colley

### Creation of the Israel Putnam Memorial Camp Ground

When the army broke camp, in accordance with custom, the barracks were burned\*, the chimneys fell in different directions which is still distinguishable in most cases, and then with time became apparently only heaps of stone. (Commissioners Report 1903: 8) \*Note: Recent research indicates the barracks were not burned, wood was valuable back then.

The deserted camp ground was left to its former solitude, and in the course of a few years, became overgrown with trees and a thicket of underbrush; and it was not strange, that after the passing of a few generations, even the location, or the history of the camp ground, was almost unknown. (Report 1915: 8)

The movement to preserve and memorialize the site of the winter quarters of 1778-1779 in Redding began in the late 19th century. Although the details of this movement are not recorded, it is likely that the initial efforts were made by local citizens of Redding, especially Charles B. Todd, the local historian, and Aaron Treadwell, the landowner who donated the first tract of land that would become the Israel Putnam Memorial Camp Ground. Another key player was Isaac N. Bartram who lived on Lonetown Rd. north of the country club, a close neighbor of Aaron Treadwell and Charles Burr Todd. Bartram was one of the donors of land for the park. He was also one of the first Park Commissioners. He also was in charge of the construction of the park. His name is listed on both of the plaques on the block houses at the entrance to the park. Bartram relocated to Sharon CT shortly after the park construction.



1. Jeanine Herman opened meeting.
2. Visitors Center Planning update by Steve Levine .
3. The October Living History event was cancelled due to low registration of reenactors. Invitations for 2008 will go out asap.
4. December Winter Walk is still on schedule for first Saturday in December. CT 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment will participate again this year.
5. Two resignations were submitted by president, Jeanine Herman, and Treasurer Rosemary Payne.

Two mainstay FANs executives submit their resignations



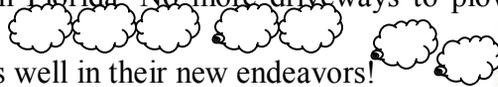
Jeanine Herman, President



Rosemary Payne, Treasurer

Not one, but two of our organization's officers have tendered their resignations. Both of them are charter members from when the Friends of Putnam Park began 10 years ago. Jeanine cites a couple of distractions which have just made the position too much to handle (Jeanine is holding one of the distractions in the photo above). Rosemary is getting closer to becoming a year round snow-bird and changing her permanent address to their place in Florida. No more driveways to plow, or deer and turkeys to chase out of her yard!

All of the Fan's wish these two founding members well in their new endeavors!



The next FAN's Meeting will be on **Tuesday Evening, October 9th**  
**at 7:00PM** at the Visitor Center at Putnam Park.