

# ****Needham, Wellesley Team Up for Annual Football Banquet****

In true Rotary spirit and camaraderie, The **Rotary Clubs of Needham** and **Wellesley** gathered recently at the Sheraton Hotel in Needham for their annual **Football Banquet**, hosted this year by Needham Rotary. After a welcome, the Pledge of Allegiance, song and prayer, Needham President **Ted Shaughnessey** and Wellesley President **Scott Secrest** gave the audience the background about Rotary and their respective clubs.

Guests were introduced, including the superintendents, principals and athletic directors of the **Needham** and **Wellesley High Schools**. Amid much applause, the head coached introduced their staff and senior players, including the captains.

Ted Shaughnessy then introduced guest speaker, **Tom** **Leyden**, sports director of **Fox 25 News**, who showed **“Needham/Wellesley: More than a** **Game.”** The superb 22-minute play-by-play video, which recalls the 2015 rivalry game played at Fenway Park, **can be viewed** on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vs2MZ_BF7Q).

Leyden, who was the executive producer and narrator, made final comments, giving insight into making the production. Included were two views on “how to win:” one, from Wellesley’s point of view; and the other, from Needham’s.

Leyden spoke from the heart and from experience after “meeting, knowing and watching the kids,” he said. “On Thanksgiving morning, harness the power to understand. This is your final time. You know how to win.” As inspirational advice, he offered, “Soak in the emotion.” He concluded by urging the players to remember the details, remember the game, and “play your heart out.”

(On November 24, Thanksgiving Day, Wellesley defeated Needham by a score of 34-14.)

To **learn more** about **Needham Rotary**, [click here](http://portal.clubrunner.ca/3694).

To **learn more** about **Wellesley Rotary**, [click here](http://wellesleyrotary.org/).

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[**WATCH VIDEO**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vs2MZ_BF7Q)

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