

# Marquis of Granby Jr. Ancient Fyfe & Drum Corps

Newsletter

May, 2009

## RECENT EVENTS –

**American Legion Pancake Breakfast -** The pancakes were flying and the crowds were out the door! Thank you to everyone who showed up to help with the American Legion's efforts at supporting our organization. We have received a very nice sized check from Shannon-Shattuck Post NO. 182 in support and recognition of the Marquis of Granby's 40th Anniversary season. This was an extraordinarily generous gesture on their part and we are all very grateful for the continued support of the American Legion.

**Granby Little League Parade -** After a mad uniform swap-fest the night before, this parade went very well and was a great start for our 2009 season! Your Director would just like to say that as I walked behind you, it was great to see how from the start of this parade and through to the finish, the entire corps gradually slipped back into their parade groove. By the time we turned the corner into Salmon Brook Park it was



the familiar site of tricorn hats swaying back in forth in unison to the cadence of the Corps that told me summer is here.<sup>1</sup> We are going to have a blast this year! Congratulations to Hannah J., Brianna, Casey L., Clayton L., Colin W., who all marched in the playing line for their first time! Congratulations to Joe B. on his first parade ever, and to Ezra L. for his first parade in the flag line. Everyone did a great job and we have received several emails from members of the Granby Community to thank us for our performance and congratulate us on our professional look and sound. As one person put it, "it was just so wonderful on a beautiful spring day to hear those drums coming down the road before the corps was even in sight!"

<sup>1</sup> Ok, I know summer isn't actually here yet.. but it is now in my mind!  
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## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON NOW:

**The 2009 Parade Schedule is now out!** You can also link into a live version of our calendar through the Marquis web site (which is now working again.) Clicking on the specific parade or event will pull up notes to tell you things like where and when we'll be leaving, what to bring and so forth. This is also the time to start letting your Director know if you cannot make a specific parade or performance (NOT the day before!!!!) Mrs. Lampert is always happy to answer questions about a specific parade, but please consider checking the web site first before calling her the morning of a parade to ask "what time do we leave?" since she's usually running around like a mad woman trying to get the bus packed and so forth.

You can link directly to the calendar by bookmarking the following link into your computer "favorites" - <http://www.localendar.com/public/lampertam>

**Marquis 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Muster** – The number of Corps responding continues to grown and at this point we are clearly going to have one heck of a muster! Updates on what's in store can be found on our web site.

**Summer Trip** – We're headed for America's "Historic Triangle" with stops in Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown. There will also be side trips to Busch Gardens and Virginia Beach as the Marquis Summer Trip returns! We'll be leaving on Friday, July 31st to travel to Virginia will return to Granby on the following Thursday evening. THEN we're off again the next day at noon for Lake Carmel, NY and their annual Fireman's Parade that Friday evening. We'll camp overnight in Carmel, and participate in the Young Colonials Muster the following day (Saturday) before heading home. Phew! Details on trip costs and so forth have already been distributed, but if you need more information please contact Mrs. Lampert and she'll bring you up to speed. [If you plan to come on the trip to Virginia, a \\$50 deposit is due now!](#) There are a few members who have indicated they will be coming, but have not yet submitted their deposit money. If you want to come on the trip but are worried about the cost, please see Mrs. Lampert. We're planning plenty of fundraisers between now and then so everyone who wants to come will be able to! As of right now, we have extra space still reserved and will hold on to it as near to our date of departure as possible.

**Uniforms** - Well, things don't always go as smooth as we would like them to and we had some uniform fit issues to deal with during the "mad spring rush" to get everyone in well fitting uniforms for the start of the parade season. At this point, if you do not have every single piece of your uniform in your possession, or some piece of it does not fit well, please see Mrs. Lapointe and/or Mrs. Garcia to find out the status of your uniform! As a reminder, there are no extra uniforms, hats, or shoes on the bus anymore so please don't show up for parades assuming that we can provide these things at the last minute.

**Fundraising** - There are three fundraising events coming up! The annual Lemon Shake Up booth on the Granby town green on Memorial Day, a bake sale at Geisslers

on June 6th (probably 8 am to 1 pm) and a tag sale on June 27th. More details will be forthcoming, but please save the dates and help out if at all possible. Proceeds from these events will go to individual member's enrichment accounts, which you can use to pay for membership, instruments, and of course..the summer trip! Even if you are not planning to come on the summer trip this year, you never know what kinds of things are coming down the road. It's a great opportunity to start building up your account for future events and trips.

### *HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Corps members born in May!*

Mollie B. - 21st  
Sophia J., 4th  
Robert N. - 19th



#### **Parents Corner –**

**Parents Meeting- We held a parents meeting on the 18th** to update everyone on the upcoming parade season, the summer trip, fundraising efforts, and chaperones. We will have a chaperone training evening in May, and the sign-up sheet for chaperones and food providers for the 2009 parade season still has some openings. If there is a specific parade you are interested in chaperoning, please go to the on-line calendar and click on that parade. Details will pop up, including who is signed up to chaperone and how many people we are still looking for.

Our next parent's meeting will be May 18th. We try very hard not to have too many meetings and to keep them short so please make every effort to be there if you can. We will be discussing:

- Open slots for chaperones and snack/drink suppliers for the parade schedule
- Upcoming fundraisers - Lemon Shake Ups, Bake Sale, Tag Sale, Chico Bags
- Update on the summer trip.

The next meeting after that will not be until July. I would also like feedback from parents as to how often they would prefer to have parent meetings. Do you want to keep it to only a few each year? Would you prefer every month so you can keep up to date on what's happening more? Please just let me (Mrs. Lampert) know so that I can take that feedback and plan accordingly. I am also available via phone or email so please don't hesitate to contact me if you have a question or comment.

**2009 Performance Schedule – be sure to keep checking each month for updates!**



Date	Event	City	State	Depart	Est Return
Saturday, May 02, 2009	William Diamond Jr Muster	Lexington	MA	7:30 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 16, 2009	Duncaster	Simsbury	CT	10:00 AM	12:00 PM
Saturday, May 23, 2009	Memorial Day Parade	N Haven	CT	8:15 AM	2:00 PM
Sunday, May 24, 2009	Memorial Day Parade	Ledyard	CT	10:30 AM	4:00 PM
Monday, May 25, 2009	Memorial Day Parade	Granby	CT	-	-
Monday, May 25, 2009	Memorial Day Parade	Simsbury	CT	12:30 PM	3:00 PM
Saturday, May 30, 2009	Memorial Day Parade	New Britain	CT	3:30 PM	9:00 PM
Sunday, May 31, 2009	Williamstown History Days	Williamstown	MA	11:00 AM	5:30 PM
Saturday, June 13, 2009	Gaspee Days Parade	Newport	RI	6:00 AM	6:00 PM
Sunday, June 14, 2009	Hadley 350th Anniversary	Hadley	MA	10:30 AM	4:30 PM
Saturday, July 04, 2009	4th of July Parade	E. Longmeadow	MA	8:00 AM	1:30 PM
7/14-7/17, 2009	Fyfe & Drum Camp	Ivoryton	CT		
Saturday, July 18, 2009	Deep River Ancients Muster	Deep River	CT	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday, July 25, 2009	Nathan Hale Muster	Coventry	CT		
Sunday, July 26, 2009	Nathan Hale Muster	Coventry	CT		
Tuesday, July 28, 2009	Performance at Company	Ivoryton	CT	3:00 PM	9:30 PM
Friday, July 31, 2009	Summer Trip				
Saturday, August 01, 2009	Summer Trip	<= Performance			
Sunday, August 02, 2009	Summer Trip	<= Performance			
Monday, August 03, 2009	Summer Trip				
Tuesday, August 04, 2009	Summer Trip				
Wednesday, August 05, 2009	Summer Trip				
Thursday, August 06, 2009	Summer Trip				
Friday, August 07, 2009	Lake Carmel Fireman's Parade	Lake Carmel	NY		
Saturday, August 08, 2009	Young Colonials Muster	Carmel	NY		
Saturday, August 15, 2009	Hartford County 4-H Fair	Somers	CT	11:30 AM	
Friday, September 11, 2009	The Big E	W Springfield	MA	2:30 PM	
Saturday, September 12, 2009	Windsor Fife & Drum Corps	Windsor	CT	9:30 AM	
Friday, September 18, 2009	The Big E	W Springfield	MA	2:30 PM	
Friday, September 25, 2009	The Big E	W Springfield	MA	2:30 PM	
Saturday, September 26, 2009	Founders Day Parade	Lee	MA	8:30 AM	
Sunday, September 27, 2009	Mum Festival	Bristol	CT	11:30 AM	
Saturday, October 03, 2009	Marquis 40th Anniversary Must	Granby	CT		
Sunday, October 11, 2009	New Haven Columbus Day	N Haven	CT		
Sunday, November 08, 2009	Veterans Day Parade	Enfield	CT	11:15 AM	
Wednesday, November 11, 2009	Veterans Day Parade	Springfield	MA	11:15 AM	
Sunday, November 15, 2009	First Church Performance & Co	N Granby	CT		
Wednesday, November 25, 2009	Town Wide Thanksgiving Eve	Granby	CT		
Saturday, December 12, 2009	Old Saybrook Torchlight Parade	Old Saybrook	CT		

**Marquis hotline: 860-604-5070**

Winning the Muster  
*By Heather Carroll*

As we drown out the birds and crickets with sounds of our fyes and drums outside our quaint and beautiful church in North Granby, it is easy to not realize or forget that the Marquis is part of a much bigger fyfe and drum community throughout Connecticut and New England. There are about 100 corps in this community and many of them gather often at idyllic New England events called musters each year.

To me, musters are like family holidays. They are a time when everyone gathers to share time, stories, food and music. It is a time when everyone hopes to put their best foot forward and try to look good without overshadowing anyone else. It is a time when we embrace the people that we know well, and a time to reach out and meet others we may not know at all, but with whom we share something very meaningful. The Marquis is a long-standing member of this family.

Just as we unconditionally love and appreciate *all* members of our families, it is vitally important for us to appreciate *all* corps in the fyfe and drum corps community. The Marquis has a very unique history and style. We were created by a group of people who wanted the Marquis to be as historically accurate as possible in its portrayal of an actual group that was part of the Revolutionary War. The group that we replicate had a style that was well known in our area. For that reason, we high step with precision, hold our hands just so, keep our eyes straight at all times and hold our elbows at just the right angle when we play the fyfe. This is part of our heritage and what we are trying to be. However, if you look at other corps, you will not see this style.

I have been to a lot of musters over the years, and I am sometimes surprised to hear kids say, "oh, I don't like that group, they don't even high step!" It surprises me because the comment indicates to me that person is missing the point of the muster! If we think of it using the example of a family holiday, imagine if a person were to say, "Oh, I don't like that cousin because she doesn't have red hair like me?" It wouldn't make sense would it? That cousin is not *trying* to have red hair and simply failing at it! That cousin would not have red hair only because she came from a different set of parents than the person making the statement. Fyfe and drum is sort of like that. Each corps in our community comes from its own history and its own tradition, and is not trying to be like any other. Each corps, like each cousin, is unique and should be appreciated for what it brings to the gathering and to the family.

Some corps are competition corps whose style matches the competition criteria for success. Some corps are based on minutemen who wore and played whatever they could to get to battle. Their uniforms are rag-tag, their music is very casual and they often do not even march in step! That is their style and their history. Some corps allow their members to talk in line, some barely have lines! Some corps are made only of adults, some only of kids, some are a mixture. Some are based on a musical tradition, some on a military tradition. Some are brand new and have no tradition yet!

Each corps contributes something unique to the whole community and as we watch their performances, it is up to us to decipher what that gift is.

Which brings us to a sarcastic phrase sometimes heard at musters. When a corps appears to be trying to beat other corps or is just a bit too ostentatious in its actions or cocky in what its members are heard to say, it is said to be trying to "win the muster". This is not usually a compliment. It generally means that a corps has lost sight of the family gathering and is trying to compete with others. Very simply put, musters are not competitions.

The best way NOT to fall into that "trap" is to approach each corps' performance as an opportunity to find what gift that corps contributes to the larger fyfe and drum community. What about their style do you like? What lesson can you learn from that corps? How can you engage members of that corps so you can get to know the larger family? Maybe stay in your uniform for a bit longer and use it as a way in to talk to other corps members. A simple, "hey I saw your on-stand performance and I thought you did a great job!" goes a long way in creating an atmosphere that is cooperative, inviting and warm. A simple comment like that shows others that you are invested in the larger community and are not trying to "win the muster". Have fun out there and watch out, you may just see your instructors doing the same thing!

A note from Mrs. Lampert -

Heather's comments on "Winning the Muster" are right on. I want to make sure that when you hear me tell you that "showing off" *during* performances is fine, even desired, that you understand this is not at all a contradiction to Heather's point. This is because *while you are performing*, having attitude and confidence actually helps the performance. Whenever we perform we are trying to be the very best at what we do and we want to put it out there with gusto! The thing we all have to understand is that our performances represent only about half of how our Corps will be viewed in the overall. The other half is how we behave the rest of the time. Taking time to congratulate other corps on their performance, as Heather mentioned above, is a great way to demonstrate a good attitude. If you aren't comfortable being that forward, then something as simple as looking someone in the eye and smiling can go a long way.

Of course, we can't ever forget that when another Corps is performing, it is crucial that we show respect and give them our attention. We have to be careful to remember that running around or talking loudly amongst ourselves while another Corps is performing will create a distraction, and is not at all respectful to their efforts. It will also mean that we miss the opportunity to find out what the rest of our fyfe and drum family is all about. The Marquis will be attending several musters this year, and we will be hosting a very important one right here in Granby. As we head out to our first muster of the year in Lexington, let's all remember that we are ambassadors for a Corp with a 40 year tradition of excellence in performance, kindness and respect in our attitudes, and honored membership in a broader fyfe and drum community at large.