



5th Annual Gran-Bee will have whole family buzzing

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By Judi Hauser

What is all of this buzz about fun, laughter, costumes, brain-teasing trivia, and a giant bee? It's the Fifth Annual Gran-Bee Trivia Contest, and it's sure to have the whole family buzzing with excitement. Sponsored by the Granby Education Foundation (GEF), the event will be held on Friday, April 4 at 7 p.m. in the Granby Memorial High School Auditorium. Proceeds from the event will benefit the GEF, a non-profit, all-volunteer organization whose mission is to promote and enhance educational excellence by raising funds in support of innovative educational initiatives for people of all ages in Granby and surrounding areas.

Teams of three people compete in seven swarms (rounds) for the right to advance to the final swarm where the winners will be crowned. Theme teams, costumes and friendly competition are highly encouraged in the quest for the coveted BEE trophy. The event includes approximately 40 teams made up of local businesses, schools and organizations.

"The Gran-Bee is such a fun event," said GEF Board Member and Gran-Bee Co-Chairperson Rebecca Brewer. "Each year the auditorium is filled with hundreds of people who are there for an evening of entertainment. It's a real family event with lots of good-natured humor and family friendly trivia." To date, the event has raised nearly \$60,000 in support of GEF programs.

One of the evening's many highlights is Granby's own Bill Percival, who serves as Master of Ceremonies. In 2004, he made his debut as the Nutty Professor, walking in on the unsuspecting crowd dressed in a lab coat with glasses, messy hairdo and hilarious false teeth. The crowd is no longer unsuspecting but rather anticipating because everyone knows that Mr. Percival will not disappoint. He has since taken on the roles of Boston Red Sox batting coach Ron Jackson, Carnac the Great, and last year, he made his grand entrance complete with a bagpipe procession, as "Snape," the potion master at Hogwarts from the popular Harry Potter books. Each and every year, he plays these roles to perfection. There are still plenty of opportunities to be a part of this worthwhile event:

*Bee on a trivia team. Each team of three adults (high school junior or older) pays a tax-deductible entry fee of \$200 to compete in the Bee.

*Bee a sponsor. Local businesses, organizations or groups of individuals are invited to sponsor the Bee or pay a team's entry fee. Business sponsors will be listed on the GEF website, in the Granby *Drummer* and acknowledged through signage and in the printed

program distributed the evening of the event. Sponsors are also invited to submit promotional items as “giveaways.”

*Bee in the audience. Suspense and silliness reign, making the Bee entertaining for children and adults alike. Join your friends and neighbors in an evening of laughter and friendly competition.

For additional sponsorship information, please contact Jim Marlor at 653-0484 or at Jmarlor@Hartford.NEFN.com ; Larik Hall at 413-9461 or at lhalkhall@cox.net; Rebecca Brewer at 653-6340 or at rdbrewer5@cox.net; or Therese Mulvey at 653-7073 or at trezmulvey@gmail.com. For more information about forming a team or the Gran-Bee itself, please contact Rebecca Brewer or Therese Mulvey.

The GEF is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization that works to promote and enhance educational excellence by raising private funds in support of innovative educational initiatives for people of all ages in Granby and surrounding areas. To find out more about the GEF, please visit www.granbyeducationfoundation.org.