



Bee-Dazzled, Bee-Crowned, New Winners in Town

by Barb Cashman
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Most people go their entire lives without setting foot anywhere near the famed red-carpet of the Academy Awards. For those lucky enough to have attended the Granby Education Foundation's 7th Annual Gran-Bee Trivia Contest on April 9th, new emcee Carolyn Taylor's treatment of the evening brought to mind all the dazzle and hype of Oscar night. From the witty opening video, with special-guest star and comedic talent Brad Field, to the soft crooning that filled many tense post-question silences, Ms. Taylor comfortably filled the size 13 shoes handed to her by retired master of ceremonies Bill Percival.

Thirty-one teams took to the stage in six ten-question swarms, answering questions which ranged from the ingredients of Mexican dishes to the names of Roman gods. How many bones in the human hand? What couple married on December 17, 1969 on the "Tonight Show?" Which state has the highest overall elevation? These are the questions that chipped away at the final six teams of the championship round until only Bob Wielgoszinski, Jim Pillow, and Duncan Rowles, aka team "BEEen There, Done That", remained standing behind their whiteboard to collect the coveted Gran-Bee Winner's Trophy.

Despite Ms. Taylor's tongue-in-cheek insistence that this evening was all about her, many of the evening's participants had their opportunities to shine. The winner's trophy was almost eclipsed by the dazzle of the tiaras worn by judges Dr. Ginny Austin, Kerry Kielbasa, and Susan Sojka. Team "Think Tank" won cheers of near rock-concert volume to win the first "Yellow Jacket" costume award. Each of the teams, representing student groups, teachers and administrators, local businesses, and church and civic groups, were the recipients of cheers and sincere applause for their participation in yet another successful Granby Education Foundation event.

Once again, the Gran-Bee raised nearly \$15,000 to benefit the GEF's General Fund, the primary source of funding for the Community Grant Program. Such success would not have been possible but for the support of the Granby community. Sponsorship reached a new height for the evening with the generous contribution of "Hive Sponsor" GoodWorks Insurance. "Queen Bee Sponsor" The Simsbury Bank continued their support for the fifth year. Other long-term supporters include "Swarm Sponsors" Farmington Valley YMCA and Meadowbrook of Granby, and "Honey Bee Sponsors" Northwest Community Bank and Granby Pharmacy. Their support, along with the donations of team sponsors and the night's attendees, all combined to exceed the expectations of the event organizers.

Dressed in an elegant beaded black gown and flip-flops for her post show interview, Ms. Taylor expressed her sincere thanks to Paparazz-Bee John Adams for care in providing bright flash and flattering light in his recurring role as the evening's photographer. Wiping a tear from her eye, Ms. Taylor also expressed her thanks to Mr. Field for his role in launching her career on Granby's red carpet.

To learn more about the Gran-Bee, the Community Grants Program, or the Granby Education Foundation, please visit www.granbyeducationfoundation.org.