



■ **Thursday, July 23**

Midway Opens.....6:00 p.m.  
 Fireworks.....9:30 p.m.

■ **Friday, July 24**

Chicken BBQ at the Casco Village Church.....5:00 p.m.  
 The Jerks of Grass (Bluegrass Band).....5:30-6:30 p.m.  
 Midway Opens.....6:00 p.m.  
 Children's Parade\*\* .....7:00 p.m.  
 German Band Concert.....8:00 p.m.  
 Grand Prize Drawing.....11:00 p.m.

\*\*Please see our website for all Road Closures on 7/23, 7/24, and 7/25

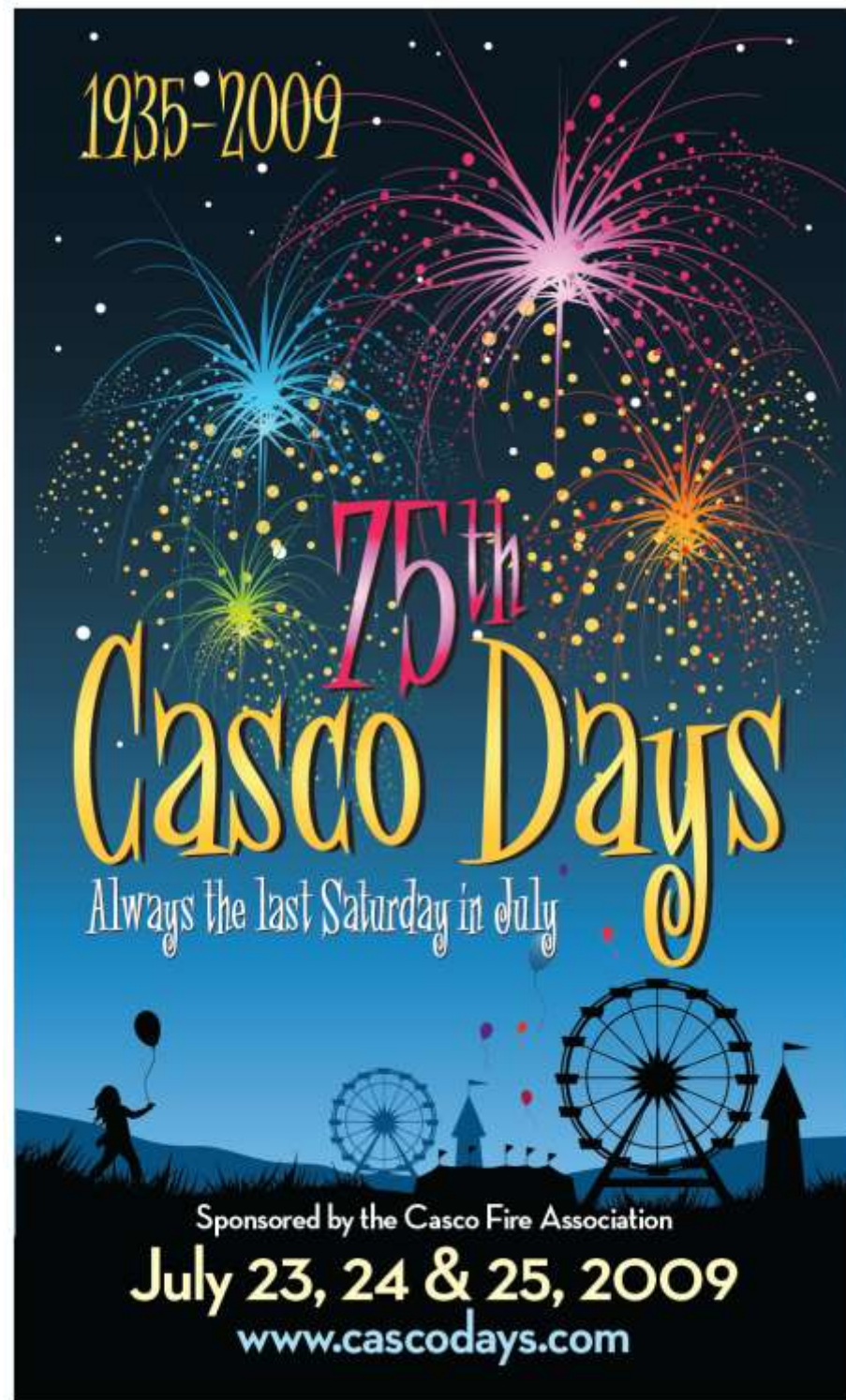
■ **Saturday, July 25**

Benefit Breakfast for Project Graduation 2010 at the Casco Village Church.....8:00-10:00 a.m.  
 31st Annual Road Race\*\* .....9:30 a.m.  
 Midway Opens.....10:00 a.m.  
 Grand Parade\*\* .....1:00 p.m.  
 Midway Volunteer Supper Break (midway closed)....4:30-5:30 p.m.  
 Church Supper at the Casco Village Church.....5:00 p.m.  
 Rick Charette & the Bubble Gum Band.....7:00 p.m.  
 Grand Prize Drawings.....11:00 p.m.

**Concessions ★ Beano ★ Rides ★ Games ★ Entertainment**  
**All Proceeds Benefit The Casco Fire Association**

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**July 23, 24 & 25, 2009**  
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## Happy Birthday Casco Days!!!

### 75 Years of Tradition

Sponsored by the Casco High School Alumni Association, the first annual Casco Days celebration was held in 1935. The grand total earned that first year was \$374.04. The earnings were divided between the Alumni, the Grange Hall, the Casco Village Church, the Fire Department, and the South Portland American Band for coming all the way to Casco to play.

Many changes have taken place since 1935 when there were horse pulls on Leach Hill Road, water sports on the shore of Pleasant Lake, and baseball games played between town teams. The Grange Hall served meals, plays like "The Old Peabody Pew" were performed in the church, and the penny pitch proved to be the biggest attraction on the midway. Today, the Casco Fire Association owns their Ferris Wheel and Merry-Go-Round, the Road Race challenges runners of every age and ability and in 2008, we took in over \$115,000!

The Grand Parade draws the largest crowd thanks to Tom Hancock, long time past chairman, and Kevin Hancock, the current grand parade chairman. Floats and marchers come from surrounding towns and in recent years a new category of "Family and Friends" has brought local families together in creating the float most viable for first place. The local camps also have very creative floats that often receive first place recognition. This year we are celebrating Casco Days through the years.

Ralph Maines and Roxanne Craig now run the food booth, after over 50 years of management by Richard Frank. The food booth first was first located on the church lawn. It then moved to the front of the Town Laundry and is now situated in the Casco Days Barn where it requires the largest staff to sell and cook all of the delicious food sold at Casco Days. Where else can you buy a burger, fries and soda for less than \$5?

The midway has grown over the years and much of that growth can be attributed to long time chairman Dave Hancock. Dave was particularly passionate about the midway and the games. We now have more games than we have ever had, the best prizes, and the friendliest "carnies" around operating the games since we use all local volunteers! After years of anticipation, we finally have a new ride on the midway that kids will love and it is fashioned after a fire engine! In celebration our roots we still have the old "penny pitch" somewhere on the midway.

Dave Morton has recently taken over for Ralph Maines manning the Beano Tent, letting Ralph focus on the food both with Roxanne. Game and Beano prizes are purchased on a buying trip in June to Boston where the dealer has been the same for many, many years. Ralph and Dave Hancock had gone on this traditional trip for about 46 years, at first as children with Dave's father. Now, Ralph and Kevin Hancock continue this tradition with the midway crew. Casco Days grew with its 16<sup>th</sup> year of sponsorships, a great fireworks display, Rick Charette and his Bubble Gum Band, the old-time favorite penny pitch—and, we're excited to welcome back the Jerks of Grass bluegrass band for Friday night dinner entertainment! Casco is the only area town that has successfully and continuously staged this type of Carnival. All the proceeds benefit the Casco Fire Association and the association owns all of its games and rides. And, of course, we need to thank our hundreds of volunteers who staff the event and help it flourish more and more each year!

Excerpts from the above material were taken from Melissa J. Kluge's book, The History of Casco, Maine.

## Past Dedications

- |             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| <b>2009</b> | • | <b>All past &amp; present Casco Days volunteers!</b>              |
| 2008        | • | <i>Cliff Akers</i>  |
| 2007        | • | <i>Liz Michaud and Chris Herrick</i>                              |
| 2006        | • | <i>Wayne York</i>   |
| 2005        | • | <i>Tom and Holly Hancock</i>                                      |
| 2004        | • | <i>Karla Swanson-Murphy and Rich Merk</i>                         |
| 2003        | • | <i>Skip Watkins</i>   |
| 2002        | • | <i>Connie Hall and his family</i>                                 |
| 2001        | • | <i>Tom Harriman</i>   |
| 2000        | • | <i>Hancock Lumber Employees</i>                                   |
| 1999        | • | <i>Tom and Micki Mulkern</i>                                      |
| 1998        | • | <i>Richard Frank</i>  |
| 1997        | • | <i>Dave Hancock and Carmine Morelli</i>                           |
| 1996        | • | <i>Rod &amp; Priscilla Strout, and the So. Casco Fire Brigade</i> |
| 1995        | • | <i>Ralph and Pat Maines, and Ora Strout</i>                       |
| 1994        | • | <i>Gil Avery and Bill Combes</i>                                  |
| 1993        | • | <i>Babe Flanigan and Dave Hancock</i>                             |

### **Dedication 2009**

#### **This year's program is dedicated to all the volunteers who made Casco Days possible over the last 75 years!**

Casco Days owes its history and longevity to the "army of volunteers" who set up the rides and games, work in the food booth, work at the games, organize the road race, coordinate two parades and a huge list of other jobs. We have volunteers who work year-round on Casco Days, and even a few who travel from out-of-state just to come and WORK at Casco Days.

Casco Days has an incredible generational component to our "army", as well. Some families have been volunteering at Casco Days for over 4 generations and perhaps more - most of us just don't remember 1935 so well!

Casco Day "locals" start out their young lives attending Casco Days, playing the games, riding the Ferris Wheel and dressing up for the parades. As children get older they volunteer a shift to work at those games they loved and played when they were little. Casco "grows" its "carnies" young, creating the distinct charm that defines Casco Days.

Casco Days would not exist without our "army of volunteers". Each and every one of you is appreciated and needed! Thank you!



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### 2009 Road Race Dedication

This year's road race is dedicated to Dr. John Painter. John, who passed away in June of 2009 ran in every road race since its inception 31 years ago, and was always a local favorite as he crossed the finish line. This will be the first Casco Days Road Race without John leading the local runners. We will miss John very much both on and off the race course!



Second-generation volunteer Miranda Potvin (left), now runs the games she used to play.



Roxanne Craig, also a second-generation volunteer for Casco Days, helps with lots of behind-the-scenes jobs, including making the fabulous Casco Days hand-made hamburgers. Thank you to Roxanne and the entire food booth crew!