

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR BICENTENNIAL PARADE

MARCH 17, 2017—MILTON, PA Today, the Milton Historical Society announced plans for the Milton Bicentennial Parade. The multi-month celebration of Milton's 200th anniversary will culminate with a Celebration Week to be held June 10 through June 18, 2017. The week-long series of events will lead up to a Bicentennial Celebration Day, featuring a large Bicentennial Parade that will step off at 1 pm on Saturday, June 17, 2017.

According to Milton Historical Society President John Meckley, "we are extremely pleased to present a huge parade that is fitting for this occasion. A parade is about bands, and do we have the bands! The Bicentennial Parade will be headlined by several world class drum and bugle corps, award-winning mummers or string bands, and many other marching units. The final band in the parade will invite the public to literally join the parade as it marches down Front Street in Milton."

Confirmed headline bands include the 2015 World Champion Reilly Raiders Drum & Bugle Corps, of Willow Grove, PA, the award-winning Lancers Drum & Bugle Corps, of Hanover, PA and the world-ranked White Sabers Drum & Bugle Corps, of Rochester, NY. Joining these drum corps are a number of nationally-recognized Mummers (or string bands) from Philadelphia, PA including the 2017 New Year's Day champion Quaker City String Band, the 2015 New Year's Day champion Fralinger String Band, the 2016 and 2017 Viewers Choice Award-Winning Woodland String Band, and the Irem String Band of Dallas, PA. Eight high school bands have also committed to perform in the parade, which will conclude with the popular Deacons of Dixieland, of Houtzdale, PA, who will invite the public to join the parade as the bands make their way to the Milton State Park.

The parade route will begin at the north end of Milton, and march down Front Street to Mahoning Street. At the river bridge, the headline bands will march across the bridge to the Milton State Park. The public will be invited to follow the bands onto the "big island" for a one-of-a-kind, post-parade concert. "We are fortunate to be able to offer the public this kind of a parade and concert experience as part of our celebration," said Meckley, "and we are very grateful to our parade sponsors for making this possible." Parade sponsors include lead sponsor Conagra Brands and band sponsors Milton Savings Bank, Hudock Capital Group, the Woodcock Foundation for the Appreciation of the Arts, the West Milton State Bank and a gift in memory of the late John Shreyer of Milton.

Individuals, businesses and organizations are invited to participate in the Parade with floats, vehicles and other marching units. Registration for the Parade is free and prizes will be awarded for the top three floats that best depict a particular historic period or decade. The registration form can be accessed at milton2017.com. The registration deadline is May 20, 2017. Food vendors are also invited to register at milton2017.com for the Celebration Day activities in downtown Milton preceding, during and following the Parade on June 17.

Additional Celebration Day activities will include a Bicentennial 5-K race, live music and art performances, the dedication of a historical marker and a time capsule, a special postage cancellation stamp, an evening Gala Concert and fireworks. To learn more about all of Milton's upcoming Bicentennial activities, visit milton2017.com.

* * *

The Milton Historical Society is a nonprofit corporation that is dedicated to educating the public concerning the history and origins of the greater Milton community, collecting and preserving historical material and artifacts and encouraging the preservation of local, historic sites and structures.