

Induction of Jim Jennings

by John Fox



Jim Jennings Marion Shearer John Fox
Inductee *DCAT President* *Presenter*

Jim Jennings played French horn with the Port Credit Saints Drum Corps and I first met him in 1960 when the Saints merged with Canada's Marching Ambassadors Drum Corps. Jim was immediately recognized as a leader by his peers and highly dedicated to everything he joined and supported.

Jim knew a lot about almost every subject and his opinion on new ideas or suggestions were always sought. He is a very loyal and dedicated person and an asset to any organization. When a plan was submitted, Jim would always see the big picture and point out areas that needed improvement or change to make the end result more attainable and easier to achieve.

In 1967, Dolly and I were transferred from Toronto to Montreal and always stayed in touch with Jim and Barb. We were invited to the Ambassadors Ball each year – an event that Jim and Barb were always actively involved in. Jim's efforts with the Ambassadors contributed to their survival until the early 1970s when they finally ceased to perform.

The Jennings were very socially involved and Barb supported all of Jim's endeavours. We would often get together at parties and dances to keep our valuable friendships alive and well. It was at one of their infamous pool parties in the summer of 1994, after a group returned from the 1994 GAS Convention hosted by Preston Scout House that the original six, lead by Don Gill, suggested we organize a singing group, musically directed by Ted Key, to perform at future GAS reunions – and this was the beginning of DCAT.

Jim and Barb were among the first to join and many others followed – Jim's personal involvement contributed to DCAT's success. To help raise money for music, instruction and equipment, Jim helped to organize numerous Halloween dances and social events along with his Entertainment Committee consisting of Barb, Lyn and John Connell, and the Foxes. Jim was always a great organizer, working tirelessly and not quitting until every detail was looked after. All of the events were lots of fun for all as well as raising funds for DCAT.

When DCAT hosted GAS in 1999 and in 2008, Jim was instrumental in the smooth running of both venues – organizing the bar, snack bar and setting up for both the daytime and evening shows. He always ran a tight ship and made sure everything was just right – DCAT always received glowing comments from our American friends in attendance as well as those close to home.

In addition to the attributes just mentioned, Jim's dedication is also reflected in his family life as a devoted husband of 53 years, loving father of 3, and grandfather of 7, and he is very proud of his family. When they get together on special occasions (and there are many) it is evident how close he is to each and every one, and in turn, he is well respected by them all.

Your votes have demonstrated the recognition of Jim's effort and invaluable contribution to DCAT. It is with great pride and pleasure that on your behalf, I officially announce the induction of Jim Jennings into the DCAT Hall of Fame for 2009.

This honour is well deserved, Jim – my heartiest congratulations!
