

Induction of Gord Irvine

by Orty Beaumont



Marion Shearer Gord Irvine Orty Beaumont
DCAT President Inductee Presenter

I was asked to speak about someone I have known for a long time and someone I am very fond of. This inductee goes back to the meeting we had at the Moose Lodge in 1994 attempting to start the chorus. He elected not to join at that time (a poor decision). In 1997 he took the plunge and became an Associate member and in 2003 took the big step and became a full member. This certainly was an excellent decision for both he and DCAT.

He's pretty old: we both went to Brock Avenue Public School in Grade 3 but had different teachers. Although we went to different high schools we were both members of Leaside Lions Drum Corps. After Leaside he joined Army Service Corps also known as Jolly Jesters Drum Corps and then graduated to Canada's Marching Ambassadors Drum Corps and currently with The Toronto Signals Band. He was part of the dynamic cymbal duo: I will

come back to this point in a few moments - Killer and Swampy.

Over the years DCAT has had some issues with money, specifically a sizeable sum walking away on us. After this incident Paul Kelly took over as Treasurer for many years and when Paul became President a very capable person took over the position for the next 6 years. With his audit partner Tony Casciato we were very fortunate to have so much knowledge, honesty to the nth degree and a passion to perform the job in microscopic detail. He handled all of the finances for one Hosted GAS Reunion, now 5 Love of Music's, all of the details of planning the cost of GAS reunions, collecting the money from all of us, arranging accommodations with the hotels, doing the room assignments, table assignments and making sure we all had our ticket packages. You would think all of this work would keep him busy but not so: we still had to listen to his one liners, some good some not so good but you can always count on him saying something. Joyce must have a really good sense of humour to put up with him for so many years. He is a fast learner and had to be following in the steps and guidance from Ann White for the GAS activities. Ann always uses the initials F U with us. We are a couple of swift guys and really don't need all that FU or follow up stuff – at least I think that's what she means. I will go back the dynamic cymbal duo: Killer and Swampy.

He paves the way for the Queen's entrance. He is sometimes known as Sgt. Swampy but I preferred it when the name Corporal Punishment was used. You have to visualize this pale face peeking under a black bearskin busby trying to get the crowd going. Sometimes it is just better to have that stern look on your face and be a stage prop. Like every job there are always the perks – how many people can say they have helped dress and undress the Queen?

He was always there managing the canteen and administering the 50/50 draws for us and although he would sit there not saying a word you could always tell from his facial expressions how he felt about the particular numbers we were singing.

He almost got a year of retirement from the Treasury tasks but is again helping us out in Dan's absence. Just last week he and I were discussing some Love of Music ad problems that had occurred. After a couple of phone calls on the details he performed his forensic search and had the problem solved within a few days and provided an outline to leave in the files for others to understand and not have to go back through the records again.

It is my honour and pleasure in announcing to you that Gord Irvine is now a member of the DCAT Hall of Fame.
