



# The DCAT Purr-spective

The Newsletter of Drum Corps Alumni Toronto • 55 Barber Greene Road, North York, Ontario M3C 2A1 • November /96

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## **HALLOWEEN DANCE**

The DCAT membership turn out for the dance was disappointing. When you have to count on returned empties and selling off the leftover beer to make a profit, something is wrong. **These events are fund raisers.** It is a lot of organizing and hard work by the social committee for very little return. If these events are not well supported, there is no point having them. We will have to get funds through membership fee increases, additional charges for G.A.S., and charging for things such as the cost of our rehearsal hall, decorating of the hall, upkeep of the hall, construction of risers, carpeting, music books, music stands etc. A fair number of these items were donated by DCAT members who would be less inclined to do so if the membership body does not support general fundraising.

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*Although the dance was not one of our best attended affairs, it was definitely one of the most fun. For the benefit those of those who weren't there and those who were there but can't remember, I will describe a few of the highlights. Barbara, Barbara, Barbara... Barb Jennings not so much crashed the party as penetrated it. She was dressed as a large foam rubber penis (isn't there another name for that?) No Joanne, it's not a giant mushroom! Jim was dressed as the Hunch Back of Notre Dame; I'm still trying to make the connection.*

*O.K. lets put "Elegant" Ellie to bed (so to speak). How about "totally outrageous" Ellie? She was a combination of Tina Turner, Mae West, Gypsy Rose Lee and Julie Newmar. The character was so much the real her that she came to Sunday rehearsal still in costume. Orty said that Dave woke up Sunday morning and figured he better get the hell home. She was a vision in red tights, red go-go boots, satin boxer shorts with red hearts, a tight red sweater covering a pair of 44 Double Ds, a red glitter wig, a mask, a walk and an attitude!*

*There was Fred Flintstone (John Fox) and Wilma, his Bedrock Beauty (Dolly). It's amazing how some people in real life really resemble the characters they dressed as. (Barb excepted).*

*There was Laura Moffatt who came as a web site and a monster couple with an ugly green baby. Ort & June, obviously inspired by their trip to Greece, came draped in Greco-Roman evening wear. (bed sheets) There were Wyatt and Tara "miming" there own business. What with all their hand gesturing, Tony (aka the ace of spades) thought they were "really pale" Italians. Santa and his helper were there, reminding us Xmas is only 7 weeks away.*

*David Partridge, our DJ, whipped the crown into a frenzy with his chicken dance, complete with costume.*

*There was the usual splendid pot luck buffet.*

*Thanks to Barb and Jim Jennings and the social committee for organizing this event.*



## DCAT BUSINESS

- **Membership Renewals 1996-97.** There is a two tier membership structure;
  - i) Full (Chorus ) Membership of \$65 to be paid by March 31, 1997.
  - ii) \$30 for an Associate Membership (newsletter only).
- **DCAT Wear.** Anyone needing DCAT golf shirts (\$30 or \$35), jackets (\$60) or hats (\$15) should talk to Brian Hill (445-6757). The new golf shirts are available and have the crest embroidered rather than silk screened. The silkscreened shirts we have on hand will sell for \$30, the new embroidered ones sell for \$35.  
Brian also has samples of the new winter jackets for sizing, they are really nice. They sell for about \$120 crested if there are at least 12 people interested.

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### **G.A.S. 1997, Baltimore, MD... Update**

Your third installment of \$60 is due.

Any person going with to G.A.S. as part of the DCAT group should at least be an associate member (\$30). This would apply to friends relatives etc.

We are booked into the Ramada Hotel with the Princemen.

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### **UPCOMING CHORUS EVENTS**

Sunday rehearsals have started on alternate Sundays from 11:00 am til 2:00 pm. The dates for the balance of the year are Nov. 10th, Nov. 24th & Dec. 8th. Plus every Wednesday night up to Dec.18th. from 7:30 til 10:00 pm. Non chorus members and DCAT guests are encouraged to drop in anytime.

**DCAT Xmas Concert...** Sunday, December 1st at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club. There are very few tickets left. **CHORUS MEMBERS MUST HAVE A TICKET.** If you need tickets see or contact Ort Beaumont now! (905-881-1668) Children will not need tickets. Please don't take any more than you need and return those you don't need.

**Evening with Sig's...** Monday, December 2nd at the Fort York Armories. Plan to be there about 7:30 p.m. Sig's will do their show, we will do ours, followed by socializing in the Mess.

**Chorus Xmas Social...** Wednesday, December 18th (last rehearsal before Christmas). A traditional social evening for friends, relatives and associate members.

**St. Joe's Winter Classic...** Saturday April 26th at the Kodak Centre in Rochester. This is the weekend before G.A.S. This will be a great tune-up for G.A.S. Details as they become available.

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### **G.A.S. 1999, TORONTO**

Please let Tom Hamilton (416) 282-0981, Chair G.A.S. '99 Committee know on which committee you will participate.

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## **"We'd like to know a little bit about you for our files."**

### ***This month we add to our files; Stan Babiarz - second tenor DCAT Chorus***

When I was a young boy, I can remember running to the school yard to watch and hear St. Mary's Boys Band during their practice. I remember the band as they appeared in full dress in street parades. It seems to me we had quite a few street parades in the old days. The band was mainly local grade school and high school boys. The instruments were snare, tenor and bass drums, bell lyres and triangles for the tone deaf guys. At a major parade, I believe the percussion numbered 30-60. The rest of the band played b-flat bugles. An attachment known as a crook was used to give more variety of numbers you could play. The blend was quite remarkable. Do you remember "Susan Jane", "Indian Chief", "Powerhouse?"

As I became a mature child of 11 or 12, I started practicing in the basement of the school on a wooden plank with my treasured drum sticks. I bought the kind that the dance bands use. What did I care? What did I know? Anyway, a few years later, Brother Walter, who taught music, suggested that because of my unusual rendering of a flam and paradiddle, I might not crack the 36 man drum line. They gave me a mouth piece. Leo Doyle, the drum major, would come down at lunch time to the kids. In about a month or two some notes were recognizable. About a year later, I was given a bugle to take home and polish, my god what a grungy colour it was. Brasso was what we cleaned the sucker with. It soon looked as good as new, and even sounded better. They outfitted me with a uniform, dark blue with brass buttons that also had to be polished and a reversible blue cape. I looked beautiful. We didn't have a camera, so we have no pictures to remember me by.

I recall the year 1950 or 51 when a new fangled single valve trumpet was introduced to us. It was called a soprano horn; there was also a tenor horn which was given to guys who were weak on soprano. A really new innovation was the baritone trumpet. God it was enormous, the older bigger guys carried that. Fancy drill took over from standstill and was soon renamed M&M (marching and maneuvering).

My last year in St. Mary's was 1955. In 1959 I joined the Jolly Jesters which became Jesters in 1961. The Jesters then amalgamated with the Viscounts from Hamilton in 1964, to become the Canadian Commanders. I left at the end of 1964. After a 29 year Rip Van Winkle pause, I joined the 2nd Sig's just after Joe Watson. We have been there ever since.

Going to the GAS reunion in Preston was to be one of the most memorable events in my drum corps life. Joe and I participated in the individuals. Joe was serious as hell and I didn't give a damn. We were the best, no doubt. We played in the first mass horn line and marched in our uniforms at the end of the evening to a wild reception. I will never forget it.

That, of course was the motivation to get involved with the formation of the Drum Corps Alumni Toronto (DCAT).

It may not be history, but they are my memories.

**HISTORICALLY SPEAKING...** Did you know? - On a cold November evening in 1983, six people gathered together at the New Dutch Mill Bar in Greece, New York with one idea in mind. To form a senior drum corps whose main focus would be to entertain with familiar music and have fun with the audience, something that was missing in the drum corps idiom to some extent at that time. The outcome of that initial meeting was the formation of the Empire Statesmen. Two of the six people attending that night are members of our own DCAT. Bob and Diana Bond. Bob became assistant director for one year and Diana taught guard.

**- Joe "the historian"**

*(If you have any interesting anecdotes from the past, let Joe (Radar) Watson know!)*

That's it for this month. Cheers!



Dave Cook (416) 757-2403