



The DCAT Purr-spective

Newsletter of Drum Corps Alumni Toronto • 55 Barber Greene Road, North York, Ontario M3C 2A1 • August 197

DCAT is an organization dedicated to the preservation and joy of Drum & Bugle Corps camaraderie, bringing together past members, relatives, friends and associates in a social environment for the purpose of companionship and musical activities.

First of all, HAPPY 3rd BIRTHDAY TO US! It doesn't seem like it was 4 years ago that the seed of an idea started to grow. (It started a year before DCAT was formed at the GAS reunion in Cambridge, hosted by Preston Scout House). Who knew it would grow the way that it has? We have a fantastic rehearsal hall thanks to the generosity of Don Gill and Communicorp. We have Ted Key, an incredibly talented (*a little off-the-wall maybe!*) musical arranger/director for the chorus. He continues to make things challenging, interesting and, above all, fun! We have a dedicated Executive. We also have a number of hard working committees and a newsletter to keep members informed. Aside from the formal structure of DCAT, there are the *people who just do things* like bringing donuts and baked goods to Sunday rehearsals or food when we have guests, contribute memorabilia for our wall and volunteer for workparties. All of these things are what keeps the "good ship DCAT" afloat.

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"CADRE" DRUM WEEKEND Saturday September 20 & Sunday September 21.

"Cadre" is the brainchild of Fred Johnson. It is the umbrella group for 3 drum clubs that were recently formed: "Heritage Hands" from Ottawa, a group from Toronto and a group from Hamilton both of which are unnamed. Paul Kelly suggested that we call ourselves "Toronto Union of Rudimental Drummers" (T.U.R.D. I don't think so Paul. We would always be known as the shitty drum line... oh! oh! ... I think it's already started).

The first get-together with the three drum clubs was held on Sept. 20 & 21 at the DCAT practice hall. In attendance on Saturday were Fred Johnson, Roch St. Jean, Paul Mosley from Ottawa, Paul Kelly, Dave Cook, Ordy Beaumont, Tom Mellors and Brian Andersen from Toronto. Brian Anderson showed up carrying his non-matching sticks in a brown paper bag. Paul Mosley showed up with his red wine in a brown paper bag. Ann White played the bass part to Grand Father's Clock and then became the videographer. I liken this first drum session to the very first DCAT chorus rehearsal - a lot of enthusiasm, a lot of confusion and a lot of fun! Sunday was a busy day at the hall, the chorus rehearsed from 11am until 1pm entertaining some of the out-of-town drummers. We were entertained by "Goush de Goush" a tribute to the drum god. Then, the drum clubs took over. Now totaling 17 with the addition of Gord O'Halloran, Bill Selfe, Gerrie Leebody and even Jim Bartholomew jumped in on bass parts plus Jim Enrig's Hamilton group. There were 18 when Ted Key joined in contributing greatly to the "The Downfall of Cadre".

The members of the chorus and guests were very receptive to the presentation, although there were a few hecklers. I know, I know, to the untuned ear all the traditional drum solos sound like Army 2/4 but they're not, ... not totally. But, I will admit that if you get lost in any solo, start playing Army 2/4 and it will fit in somewhere. Seriously, it was great to jam with a bunch of guys who have been there, done that and are doing it again or still. (*Get those chops in shape Leebody*). After the drum presentation, we socialized for a while, enjoying some much appreciated food.

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NEW CHORUS UNIFORM...

The chorus is ready to move beyond the golf shirts & dickies. We are seriously pursuing a new design for our chorus uniform. We are looking for a design that is more distinctive and professional. The uniform committee is chaired by Gord Moffatt assisted by Marg Gill and Dave Cook. Ideas are to be submitted in the form of a sketch or picture with suggested colours and materials.

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There will be Sunday rehearsals on October 26th, November 9th and 23rd in preparation for our Christmas Concert. They will start at 11:00 am and go until 2:00 pm.

DCAT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The Annual General Meeting and Elections were held on Wednesday, Sept. 24th, 1997 at the DCAT Rehearsal Hall, 55 Barber Greene Road. Marg Gill (secretary) read the minutes of the last A.G. M, August 7, 1996. Brian Hill (treasurer) outlined our financial status. The elections were chaired by Ellie Cameron. The Executive Committee for 1997/98 is as follows: President - Orton Beaumont (2 yr. term) • Vice President - Don Gill (1 yr. term) • Gord Moffat - past president (2 yr. term) • Secretary - Marg Gill (2 yr. term) • Treasurer - Paul Kelly (2yr. term) • Business Manager - John Fox (1 yr. term) • Publicist - Dave Cook (1 yr. term). The executive welcomes its two enthusiastic new members Paul Kelly and John Fox. The new executive met on Sept. 30th at Don and Marg Gills, to start setting policy and direction for the coming year.

YOUR DCAT EXECUTIVE FOR 1997/98



Orton Beaumont
president



Don Gill
vice-president



Gord Moffatt
past president



Marg Gill
secretary



Paul Kelly
treasurer



John Fox
business manager



Dave Cook
publicist/historian

President's Remarks - Another year has passed and we are now entering our 4th year as DCAT. We have been very active in performances, administrative behaviors, fund raising, learning and having fun.

To sum it up we have had 8 performances, 5 fund raising events, grown our membership to 81 (full members 60, associate members 21). We have made major revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws and we now have a Mission and Vision Statement. We have expanded our skills in singing and directing. The epitome though is the way we performed in Baltimore with difficult scores written by our Master (Ted Key). We just blew the roof off. It was a very proud moment for us, our directors, and the audience, and even the Pope's messenger giving us our final preparation in the dressing room. Wow!!!

The bar goes up in 98'. They expect more and we will give them more. Ted has written fantastic music for our new show, with I might add a few innuendoes here and there. (can't give away any secrets).

Apart from our DCAT Show for GAS, we are looking at running our own concert in the spring - that will be a challenging undertaking.

It will be a busy year as we prepare ourselves to host GAS 99'. We will close the 20th Century of Drum Corps with the event of all events. We will need your help and assistance in running this event so please be prepared to raise your hand as we request volunteers.

There are many people to thank. The Social Committee, the Fund Raising Committee, Ted Key and our assistant directors, the Property Committee, the Membership Committee, Communicorp, to the Executive Committee for their long hours in managing this organization and for their support to me, and to you the members who have helped and assisted as required. We have put it all together into one cohesive organization of entertainment, friendship and a whole lot of fun.

In closing I would like to welcome Paul Kelly and John Fox to the DCAT Executive Committee in their newly elected positions as Treasurer and Business Manager respectively and to say thank you to Brian Hill and Joe Watson for their contributions to the growth of this wonderful organization during their term as Executive members.

Ordy

DCAT BUSINESS

The DCAT garage sale scheduled for October 4th. was cancelled due to work commitments at Communicorp. It will be rescheduled for the spring.

MEMBERSHIP - The Executive has decided that the membership fee structure remain the same as last year. Full chorus membership is \$60.00 if paid by December 31st, 1996 or \$65 after December 31st, 1996. Associate membership is \$40.00 for a 1 year period from time of joining.

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DCAT FLAG - Ordy and June Beaumont are donating a flag to DCAT for use when performing.

The design will be similar to the one pictured at right. It will have red stripes on either side and the DCAT "thumbs up" logo in the centre. If anyone is interested in purchasing a flag for their rec. room, cottage or whatever, let Ordy Beaumont or Don Gill know. The flag for the chorus will be full parade size, but the flags for members would be smaller. The cost will be based on the number of flags ordered.



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DCAT SOUVENIR ITEMS - DCAT pins sell for \$5.00, Chorus tapes sell for \$7.00 for members, \$10.00 for non-members. There are chorus photographs still available for \$7.00. Also for sale is the tape of last years Baltimore G.A.S. performances of all choruses (2 tape set) for \$25.00. Reta Morrison will be looking after the sale of these items.

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HONOUR ROLL - We are creating an honour roll to be displayed in the our hall. It is to honour friends and relatives that were a part of our drum corps past that are no longer with us. This is an idea brought forward by Agnes Miller. I will look after assembling the honour roll. Please pass pertinent information on to Dave Cook. ie. Name, Date of Passing and corps affiliation.

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DCAT HOSTS GAS 99 - We have finally selected a venue. It will be held at St. John's Hall at Hurontario and the Q.E.W. This facility can accommodate all the functions that will take place over the GAS week-end. Details to follow in the next newsletter, with a report from Tom Hamilton our GAS 99 Chairman.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hallowe'en Dance - Saturday, October 25th - 8:00 pm till 1:00 pm

Held at the Etobicoke Masonic Temple, 596 Renforth Dr., Etobicoke, Ont. • \$15.00 per person (includes buffet) • Cash Bar • Prizes for best costumes. DJ Dave Partridge. The chorus will probably sing a tune or two.

Annual Christmas Concert - Sunday, November 30th - 1 pm till 4 pm

This is a wonderful event for family and friends. It is held at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club, 7994 Yonge Street. Although it is free, tickets are required. Chorus members must have a ticket plus each DCAT member will have 2 guest tickets. Some will need more and some will need less, hopefully it balances out. Let Ordy Beaumont know what your ticket needs are a.s.a.p. Tickets will be distributed two weeks before the concert. As in the past, children will not need tickets. Once again Dave Cameron is generously sponsoring this event.

Evening with the Sig's - Monday, December 1st at the Fort York Armories. Plan to be at the armories about 7:30 pm.

Chorus Christmas Social - Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 pm (last rehearsal before Christmas). A traditional social evening for friends, family and associate members.

