



# 'The DCAT Purr-spective

Newsletter of Drum Corps Alumni Toronto • 55 Barber Greene Road, North York, Ontario M3C 2A1 • December 1997

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.



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In the new year we will become a MEGA CITY. Maybe we could sing at Mell's coronation. Maybe we could sing "How Great Thou Art". Maybe I better shut-up before I get into big do-do. It wouldn't be the first time. Que sera sera.

The past few weeks have been a social blurr for DCAT, as you can see by the summary of events. The DCAT calendar year wraps up with our rehearsal/Christmas social on Wednesday, December 17 (where most of you are right now). Our first rehearsal of the new year will be on Wednesday, January 7, 1998.

Gord Moffatt (past president) represented DCAT at the October G.A.S. (Great Alliance of Seniors) meeting in Hawthorn N.J. Gord said that there was considerable interest as to what our chorus was up to for G.A.S. '98 in New York. Don't worry, Gord didn't let DCAT out of the bag.

Ted Key got careless whilst pull-starting his Briggs & Stratton and got the tips of his fingers nipped - was that before or after the funny haircut?

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## **Halloween Party/Dance!** October 25, 1997

Excellent costumes (see photos), excellent food and a heck of a good time! The assembled witches, ghosts, freaks, clowns, weirdos and just plain folk were in the mood to partaaay.

DJ Dave did his usual great job, keeping the crowd hoppin' and boppin', jumpin' and jivin'. Plus his toilet paper mummy wrapping contest.

Agnes Miller came as a pregnant drum corps groupie (some day my "Prince" will come). Nurse Joan (English) suspected the culprit might be in the hall so she went around administering a battery of tests to the attending males. John Connell seemed to enjoy the test involving a rubber glove and bending over. Fortunately all tests were negative. The search continues.

Dracula, his bride and their entourage arrived in a "stretch" limo looking very scary. Ted Key came in his best party frock. Dan (the flasher) Moloney was shuffling around wearing a trench coat with his trousers around his ankles. If ever a whiz there was, was there - the straw man and the wicked witch (Dave & Sharman). Sheik Tom arrived with his evening's selection from his

harem (Rae). There was a squeegee kid, with a bad attitude. We had to explain to Gerrie Leebody what a Squeegee kid was because they don't have any in Simcoe, dontcha know. There were two escapees from Taco Bell (Dave & Ellie). Marilyn came dressed as a pumpkin and Jim was Peter, Peter. Fred and Wilma were there in their new duds (aka the Fox's). Marv (*bite me*) Albert, and Dracula seemed to have something in common. There were a couple of, if not Jolly certainly very happy Jesters (Jim & Barb). Best entrance went to Joe Watson. He came as a horny gardner (*don't ask, it's a Joe thing*). He arrived when there was a slow dance, he stood at the entrance of the hall, fired up a gas powered leaf blower and started walking across the dance floor. A great time was had by all.

Thank you to the social committee and thank you to the members who contributed to the splendid buffet.

The following day at rehearsal, some people looked more scary than they did at the party. Ann Watson was a double winner, the most creative costume at the party and the biggest hangover at rehearsal.

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**DCAT Xmas Concert**, November 30, 1997. *Simply the best!* Once again a capacity gathering at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club. What a wonderful way to start the Holiday Season. A chance for the chorus to entertain family and friends and participate in a rousing carol sing directed by Wyatt Gill with "Fingers Tickling the Ivories" (*aka Ted playing the piano*). The chorus musical presentation was very well received, culminating in a standing ovation. (*okay, they were family and friends, but it still counts eh!*) A very special thanks to Dave & Ellie Cameron for their generosity in sponsoring this event for the third year.

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**Evening with Second Sigs**, December 1, 1997. This annual gathering is always a fun opportunity to share a good time with our friends at Second Signals. Several of our chorus members and old drum corps cronies play in Sigs.

## DCAT BUSINESS

**MEMBERSHIP** - 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 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 year's Baltimore G.A.S. performance 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** - I have had four names brought forward for the honour roll that will hang in our rehearsal hall. Doug Saunders, Ted Riley, Wilf Blum and George Arnold. If you wish to add to this list please give pertinent information ie: birth, death and contribution to drum corps to myself (Dave Cook) or to any member of the executive who will in turn give it to me.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**GAS '98 - New York** *May 1st - 3rd, 1998* .....

John Fox reports that our plans for GAS '98 are almost set. The bus (same as last year) will be a Great Canadian Coach. There are two hotels under consideration for our lodgings. The first one is the Holiday Inn in Saddlebrook N.J. (approx. 10 miles from the venue) and the second is the Days

Inn in N.Y. (approx. 1 mile from the venue). John is investigating the quality of the Days Inn as it would be the hotel of choice based on it's proximity to the G.A.S. venue. All events for G.A.S. '98 will take place at Swinson Park (think that's how you spell it) in Manhattan. There may be an opportunity to perform at a venue other than G.A.S. while we are there, this will be investigated. The cost for this year's trip is \$320.00 (based on double occupancy). **We must have a \$100 deposit from everyone going by January 15th, 1998.** This is necessary to cover deposits and up front money for the event.

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## **Spring Show '98 May 30 or 31, 1998** .....

John Fox , DCAT business manager, is negotiating with another group (non-musical) to share a venue for an evening of entertainment. More details as they become available.

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## **GAS '99 - Toronto - hosted by DCAT 1999** .....

*Report from Tom Hamilton (G.A.S. '99 Chair)*

G.A. S. '99 How're we doin'? We're doin' O. K! The hall in Mississauga has been given approval by (almost) everyone who's seen it. We expect to actually sign the contract (and put up 25% of the rental fee) just before Christmas.

Jim & Barb have negotiated with the ladies of St.John's for dinner and yummys. They seem well satisfied that they have made a good deal. (How's your Lithuanian Jimmy?)

Trevor Yuille, who recorded the DCAT Chorus for posterity, has been contacted to record all the performances at G.A.S.'99 He will be examining the hall very soon and will be giving us his recommendations as to any sound system upgrading which may be required.

We have not yet started negotiations for someone to videotape the (G. A .S. '99 proceedings but we have a line on the crew who do this sort of thing for the Pickering Concert Orchestra, so this task is moving along.

We are still hopeful that a corporate sponsor will pick up the bill for the "free" beer on the Friday night and possibly Saturday. However word has not yet reached us on the latest state of negotiations.

Ideas are coming out about decorating the hall and for "favours" (little gifts ?) for those attending There is a great deal of work to be done on these in the new year.

And the "BIGGIE"! What will be the "theme" and/or logo for G A S.'99? No ideas, suggestions or anything else has been forthcoming to date. Here's hoping that everyone has been holding back until the deadline! If there are no suggestions from the troops, then the troops will have to be satisfied with whatever cockamamie scheme the G.A.S. '99 committee dreams up.

We must all bear in mind that we will be expected to present a brochure of sorts with a program outline, registration form and hotel recommendations for G.A S '99 at G. A.S. '98 in New York/New Jersey.

We're looking for ideas here! See you at the Christmas Party!

Tom

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*Karen and I wish all DCAT members, their families and friends the happiest and safest of holidays.*

*David Cook & Karen Kerr*

*see over for halloween photos*

# Haloween 1997...



The Wood man is really a Straw man and the wicked witch (Dave & Sharman)



Ted in retirement, my oh my



Midnight at the Oasis, send you camel to bed. (Tom & Rae)



Droopy drawers Moloney!



The two newest Taco Bell franchise owners. (Ellie & Dave)



The horny gardner and the law suit. (Joe & Ann) I hope you can't read the sign around Joe's neck!



Marvin the Bitemeister!



Nurse Joan... don't let the smile fool you. She could be your worst nightmare.



A bad ass squeegee kid and his main squeeze. (Dave & Karen)



Peter, Peter pumpkin eater. (Jim & Marilyn)



The weirdest table goes to...



I've heard of tying a pork chop around your neck, but, dog biscuits? (John & Dolly)



Motely Crew.. Edna, Agnes, Ann and a very startled Minnie Mouse.



So cuuuute! (Jim & Barb)