



# *The* **DCAT Purr-spective**

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*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.*

## **St. Joe's "4th Annual Classic"... Saturday, April 26th.**

It was a great concert, featuring the DCAT Chorus, Racine Kilties, Syracuse Brigadiers, Bristol Generations, Boston Crusaders Senior Corps, Rochester Crusaders and, of course, Mighty St. Joe's.

Our rehearsal was a little strange because they were testing the lighting while we were on stage singing. We had trouble seeing Ted except in silhouette. It's surprising how much we get from his facial expressions, as well as his flailing arms.

The cheap beer at the little pub across the street was almost too great a temptation as we had too much time on our hands between our rehearsal and show time. Most of us resisted.

DCAT sang the Canadian and American national anthems and then opened the concert with our show. The acoustics in the hall were amazing. It was a perfect tune up for the G.A.S. reunion the following week. There was a great party afterwards with a DJ.

## **Once again it's time for... "Sober Reflections on G.A.S." 1997**

Congratulations to the Yankee Rebels on a very successful and well organized reunion.

It was a weekend of "Plan B's" for DCAT, because "Plan A" never seemed to work out. We went to Fort McHenry but we couldn't get in because President Clinton was there. We were going to sing at Baltimore's Harbor Place, that didn't work out. We were supposed to eat together at a Harbor Place restaurant but that didn't work out. We were listed to sing first on Saturday night, but it was really second. At the rehearsal for the super chorus after the individuals we were the only ones there and had to wait. Ordy Beaumont (*agenda-man*) was having a hell of a time trying to keep on top of things!

Thursday afternoon at the hotel bar (*action central*) was gathering time. First to arrive were the people who had driven down. Then the bus and it's contents. And then the people who flew from Toronto and Bermuda (Don and Marg Gill).

Friday morning we had our rehearsal outside so that we could practise for the street parade that would take place on Saturday morning. After the rehearsal we went to Baltimore's Harbor Place for the afternoon. It was a beautiful, sunny day. How did all the shiny bald heads get so sun-burned? Sitting on the deck at Hooters in the noon day sun. Gord O'Halloran was saying how intelligent their waitress was. Yeah, and you buy Playboy for the articles right? Tony was seen running from shady spot to shady spot with his coat wrapped around his head and buttoned under his chin. His head was so tender that he couldn't comb the hairs on the top of his head for the rest of the weekend (did anyone notice?!). Then, back to the hotel to get ready for the welcoming beer bash. Great fun, but not the best venue for choruses to perform. The Skyliner, Caballero, Princemen and Bon Bon alumni choruses performed.

On Saturday the street parade got rained out. *The lure of the Mall...* Karen Kerr (*a.k.a. the wife*) took a van load of ladies and John Connell on a card maxing shopping expedition. The rest of us



went to the Legion Post for the individuals. There were lots of horn and drum presentations. Preston Scout House did their marching thing. Joe Watson (Jolly Jester horn playing guy) assisted by Lois Nicholls (scantily clad, dancing, flag waving lady) did there schtick and were well received as usual. The Princemen did there mock tribute to the host corps. Those guys really get into it, and nothing is sacred. After that, it was the super chorus rehearsal then back to the hotel to get ready for the banquet that evening.

The choruses performing at the Saturday night banquet were Archer Epler, DCAT and the Yankee Rebels followed by the super chorus. The DCAT chorus had to use restraint to resist the temptation of the open bar. We were performing near the end of the evening. In our warm up room Ted told us the long awaited "Pope story". Then he talked and we listened. He has a way of priming and focusing us. That evening we gave a hellava performance. In Ted's words we raised the bar. Next year, with Ted's challenging arrangements and the same hard work, we will raise the bar again. When we finished our show, we were asked to sing "Stout Hearted Men" which Ted dedicated to the Princemen. After the banquet we went back to the hospitality suites at the hotel and partied 'till the wee hours.

Each G.A.S. reunion leaves us with something different to remember. 1995 was special because it was our first (*I remember my first, but I digress...*). We were the new kids on the block, we performed reasonably well and were accepted. In 1996 we improved so much and surprised even ourselves. In 1997 (*at the risk of sounding schmaltzy*) we really came together like a family. One of our family, Wendy Arnold couldn't be with us that weekend. We missed you Wendy!

### ***Some additional vignettes...***

The hottest rumor of the weekend was, DCAT and Scout House are going to merge, and it will be called DCAT HOUSE.

The group that flew down did a little celebrity spotting. Marilyn Mighton spotted Jon Voight the actor who consented to being photographed with Marilyn and Evelyn. I understand the flight attendants didn't know quite how to deal with the group. I guess they don't have many sing songs on their airplanes. John Connell's "are we there yet" didn't cut it with the pilot. But some how he ended up being co-pilot on the way back.

The bus was a rolling euchre game. All weekend Ted was saying "ladies don't play euchre very well". (*The best defense is a good offense.*) I finally got to the bottom of the story. It turns out that he was beaten by a lady (Ann White) and a Mennonite (Ross) who neither drinks or plays cards. Ann even bought him a deck of cards with larger numbers, thinking that maybe it was his eyesight that was the problem. Nothing changed. They left him stunned and humiliated... totally euchred. *White men can't jump and Ted Key can't play euchre. Yo mama!* But to Ted's credit he does know how to rebuild and pull-start his Briggs & Stratton.

Terry Nicholls - *BFC (Big Fu \_ \_ \_ ng Cymbals)*. Terry, Terry, Terry, those "snake bites" that you were drinking on the bus can sure sneak up and kick you in the butt, or was it Lois that kicked you in the butt? Everything in moderation. Terry Nicholls *BFH (Big Fu \_ \_ \_ ng Hangover.)*

Ross went out for his walk on Saturday morning and ended up in an undesirable area. He had to be escorted out of it by the police. The cop said "obviously you don't live around here". Ross said that he didn't notice anything unusual. He just chugged along... mornin' folks, mornin' folks, just in town to sing a few songs, see ya around.

At the banquet Karen spilled some of her spritzer into Wyatt Gill's lap. While apologizing, she leaned over and spilled the rest of it in his lap. *Stop apologizing already!*

I understand that the toilet on the the bus returning to Toronto backed up and gave as good as it got! Stinky!!



## DCAT BUSINESS

### **Garage Sale...**

Saturday, May 31st, rain date being June 7th. It's suggested that you bring your contributions to the sale to rehearsal on Wednesday, May 28. We need people to help on the Friday night before the sale to sort and price the items. Then, on Saturday morning it's all hands on deck to set up and attend the tables, sell refreshments etc. We will start putting the tables out about 7:00 a.m.

### **DCAT Audio Tapes and Pins.**

The audio tapes are for sale for \$7.00 to members and \$10.00 to non-members. The pins are selling for \$5.00. Both these items sold very well in Baltimore.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Barbeque Social at Jim & Marilyn's... Saturday, June 14th, at 6:00 p.m.**

A food sampling and demonstration of unique kitchen tools will be presented by "The Pampered Chef". These unique tools will be offered for sale and the profits will be donated to DCAT.

**Please note, it's B.Y.O.B.** If you are not a chorus member and are interested in attending please call Jim or Marilyn at (416) 621-7441.

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### **Annual Orillia Concerts & Barbeque... Saturday, June 28th**

Dolly and John Fox are once again organizing this annual Orillia invasion. Dolly handed out information sheets and maps at last rehearsal. If you are a non-chorus member and don't get to the rehearsal hall to get the information sheets you can phone Dolly or John at 1-705-327-5162. They have arranged for overnight accommodation for those interested. This year there will be two performances: the first at the Birchmere Retirement Residence and the 2nd at the Legion. Always a fun affair!

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### **DCI Show Performance... Tuesday, July 8th, Kitchener, Ont.**

It will be an early evening start and will probably mean some members will have to take some time off work. Details when they become available.

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### **The Jennings Pool Party... Saturday, July 19th.** Details to follow.

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### **Trip Pic's**



*The good, the bad and the ugly!*



*Brian, if you make all the payments, they let you ride up top.*





*John brought his Dolly and favourite stuffed animal as well.*



*Evelyn and Marilyn with the big guy, Jon Voight!*



*One size does not fit all!  
Ann White has enough room  
for another person of her choice  
inside Dave's jacket.*



*Sharman Wood, one of the ladies auxiliary  
working on our new uniforms*



*After numerous  
attempts, the  
traditional  
pyramid.*

*That's it for this month. (thanks Karen)*

*Cheers! Dave Cook (416) 757-2043*