



# 'The DCAT Purr-spective

The Newsletter of Drum Corps Alumni Toronto • 55 Barber Greene Road, North York, Ontario M3C 2A1 • July /98

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.



**G.A.S. '98 is a wonderful memory.**

**G.A.S. '99 "DCAT's MEOW" is a reality.**

Now it's our turn! We are planning to take this fun annual event to a new level. Committees are hard at work. If you haven't been called upon to help, you will be. For members who do not come out regularly and wish to volunteer, please give me a call (Dave Cook 757-2043).

## Pot Pourri .....

I'll take this opportunity to make some acknowledgements.

- to our business manager John Fox who has done a great job lining up "gigs" for the chorus. Exposure to a variety of audiences is important because "gigs beget gigs".
- to Jim Bartholomew and Ross Eckensviller for generously donating garment bags to the chorus. They are really sharp, black emblazoned with the DCAT Logo.
- to Ann White (*fund raiser extraordinaire*) for her pro-active efforts for DCAT. As well as being the organizer of our always successful garage sales, Ann started making earrings that are musically themed which she sells at events. Ann bought the materials out of her own pocket, the initial sales went to cover the costs and now she is selling them for a DCAT profit. They make unique gifts, place your orders with Ann.
- to our equipment manager Terry Nicholls who makes sure all our "toys" get to the events, get set up and are returned to the hall.

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**DCAT's WEB** - We will be on the world wide web very soon. Our web-site is almost complete.

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**THE NAME GAME** - It is time for the chorus to have a proper name. The chorus is performing more and more for non drum corps audiences. To save having to explain who we are and what the acronym (DCAT) stands for, the executive feels that we have a proper name. The name could incorporate DCAT or be completely different. Submit suggestions to any executive member.

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**DCATWEAR** - Our uniforms are now complete with the addition of the black tuxedo trousers, *avec* suspenders to keep the from sliding down the the satin shirts. There is a list on the wall for the re-ordering of caps and DCAT golf shirts. Everyone must have a grey shirt (*it's a part of our uniform*), but we can also order colours for personal use if there is enough interest. Anyone who has ordered a DCAT flag and not picked it up, please do so.

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**Have we been busy or what?** Here are some highlights of the events since G.A.S. 98 in New York.

**DCAT Garage Sale** (Ann White)

We can give ourselves a big pat on the back for the success of our third garage sale. Despite garage sale fever which swept through the city and gave us a great deal of competition, we added almost \$900 to our DCAT Kitty (excuse the pun).

We began with a team of workers on the Friday evening who unpacked, sorted and priced. The next morning, they turned into an aggressive sales force, determined to sell everything we had.

One of the perks of working on the garage sale team, is that those involved get first shot at the best stuff. I think that we are our own best customers. We were a bit disappointed that there weren't any sex toys this year, but we did have everything else including the kitchen sink. We did find a special treasure, a stuffed toy kitten, and our mascot DCAT now has a baby, Dkitty.

So, many thanks to everyone for your help, and start collecting for next year. -Ann

**"THE BIG CHILL" Chorus performance at Shrine Club Ladies Night (Monday, June 1)** at the Port Credit Yacht Club. It was a little nippy (cold) on the lake shore that evening. The chorus performed outside on the patio, under a canopy. The audience was inside with the patio doors open. The music coaxed some of them out. As a result of this performance, the Shrine Club booked us for a Christmas concert and promised we would be performing indoors.

**Chorus performance at the Catholic Women's League banquet (Monday, June 8).** It was the largest audience (approx. 500) we have performed for to date. The chorus was very well received.

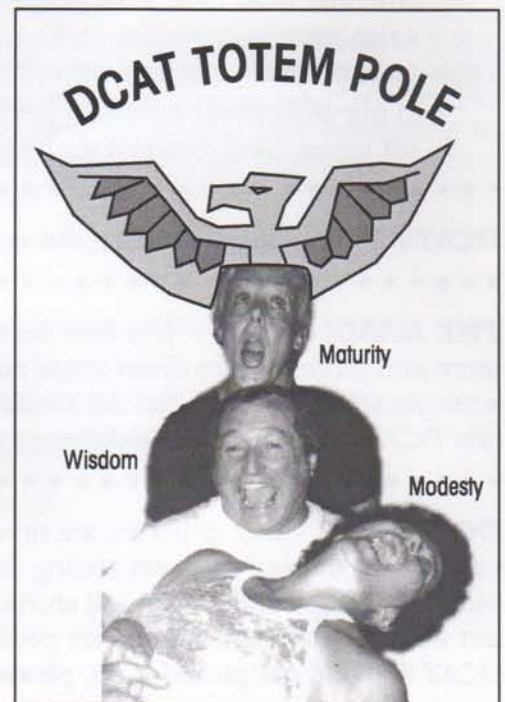
**Andover NY, Saturday, July 4th...**

So, your driving down the road and you expect that a few bugs are going to get schmucked on your windshield, right. John Parkinson (*a.k.a. the tooth fairy*) knows how they feel, he got schmucked on the inside of the windshield. John was standing in the aisle near the front of the bus, the bus turned left and John kept going, right into the windshield. Gunther said "John looked like one of the flying Wallendas". He's the new poster child for seatbelt safety. John was taken to the hospital just to be safe. Fortunately the only damage done was to the windshield of the bus. John said at the hospital they told him to rest his back and drink rum. **Sit down John!**

The weekend was typical drum corps, hurry up and wait! While waiting for the parade to move off our ladies came up with about half a dozen new ways to use red dickies, ranging from head gear to underwear. It rained on our parade, but our spirits were not dampened. Some of us took shelter under the flag. The crowd along the route was very receptive. At the reviewing stand (*flatbed truck*), when we finished singing the "Stars and Stripes Forever", the Master of Ceremonies said "if that doesn't bring a tears to your eyes, nothing will".

Then rain held off in the afternoon so that we could do our show dry. There was a bit of a glitch with the unfurling of the banner during Stars and Stripes. The bag that holds the banner would not release, I took a quick look back and saw Terry flailing at it as if it was a pināta. It finally opened at the end of the number.

Alice was on the bus again (Alice, Alice, who the ---- is Alice). There was a hellava party afterwards at a little pub owned by one of the members of St. Joes. We sang for St. Joes. Then St. Joes got their horns out and played. My gawd it was loud. Good fun!



**Orillia, Saturday, July 11th...** What can I say, it's always one of the best weekends of the summer. We were blessed with great weather and great hosts, John and Dolly Fox. The weekend was made even better with Rik Robinson & Betty Cannon hosting a barbeque at their cottage on Sunday. The chorus performed at two retirement homes and the Orillia Legion. It was really gratifying performing at the homes. It was wonderful how the chorus members mingled with the residents during the sing-along. It was also nice that Mary Moloney and Judy Kelly (non chorus members) accompanied us and mingled with the residents encouraging them to clap and sing along. The residents at both homes really enjoyed the performances & sing alongs. Then, on to the Legion where friends and relatives were waiting for our performance. At the Legion Eli Cameron was reacquainted with a woman that she went to high school and played in drum corps with; it truly is a small world. After the Legion, it was back to the Foxes for a barbeque. The DCAT flag was flying proudly in their backyard. There was the usual incredible spread of food. Good conversation and a lot of laughs.

On Sunday about 30 people went to Rik & Betty's for a barbeque. Many enjoyed a boat ride around the lake. Anybody for a Pinã Colada? *OOOPS... CRASH! Rik mixes a great drink... but, he should let Betty do the serving.*

Thanks to John & Dolly Fox for organizing and hosting the Orillia affair and to Rik & Betty for hosting the wind down party on Sunday.

## *Upcoming Events!*

### **Splash-o-rama '98 - Jennings Pool Party! - Saturday, August 8th**

Plan to be there at 2:00 p.m. B.Y.O.B. An annual not to be missed

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### **Tuesday, August 18th - Roy Thompson Hall**

Jubilee Concert, part 1. Lobby Show, we get a half hour to do our show. Be at Roy Thompson Hall by 9:30 a.m. The concert is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

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### **Thursday, August 20th - Roy Thompson Hall**

Jubilee Concert, part 2. Stage Show. Be at Roy Thompson Hall for 9:30 a.m. The concert starts at 1:00 p.m.

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### **September - Optimist Reunion -**

Details to follow.

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### **•September - Markham Fair -**

Details to follow.

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### **•Saturday, October 31st - Halloween Dance -**

Details to follow.

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### **•Monday, December 7th - Shriners (indoor show)**

Details to follow.



*Wyatt & Tara Wed  
June 20th, 1998*

*The wedding of Wyatt Gill and Tara Lee was held in the back garden of Wyatt's home, followed by a reception at the Palais Royal. Congratulations from all your friends at DCAT.*

**An article that appeared in  
Drum Corps World after our  
G.A.S. '98 performance**

A chorus from "DCAT" (Drum Corps Alumni Toronto, who will host the 1999 GAS reunion) was a showstopper that had the audience stamping their feet, pounding on tables, shouting and screaming for more.

With all due respect to the polished professionalism of other choruses exhibiting, this chorus stole the show. Their fast paced, immensely varied stage show, brilliantly acted out in skits as well as sung, was meticulously planned and executed down to the smallest detail.

The mere fact that so many of Canada's senior corpspeople could get together often enough to perfect such a demanding show, then make the long trip to New Jersey in such large numbers, speaks volumes about the strong bonds of common purpose and comradeship our northern neighbors share with us. The impact of this experience was heartwarming and sobering.

**Fred Johnson (DCAT member) to be inducted in to the World Drum Corps Hall of Fame.**



Fred Johnson, Canada's pre-eminent drum instructor, arranger and judge over the last fifty years, will be inducted into the World Drum Corps Hall of Fame in a ceremony to be held during the DCA Championships at Allentown, PA on September 5. Fred is the fourth Canadian to be hon-

oured, the others being Bernie Beer (1978), Stan Biggs (1980) and Wilf Blum (1985).

Fred's credentials are extensive. As a drummer, he won the Canadian Drum Corps Individual Championship. He instructed and arranged for The Second Signals, Canada's Marching Ambassadors, Niagara Memorial Militaires, Preston Scout House, York Lions, Sarnia Sertominaires, La Salle Cadets over a twenty year period from the fifties to the seventies. As a judge, he was caption head for drumming and later Chief Judge of the Canadian Judges Association of the CDCA. He was caption head for drumming for Drum Corps Associates (DCA). He is the co-founder of C.A.D.R.E, Canada's two year old association for rudimental drummers, and a member of DCAT. This year he arranged and played percussion parts in DCAT's highly regarded "Stars and Stripes Forever" and "Lord of the Dance". As a composer he wrote many memorable drum corps scores and solos, including among "The Mice and the Elephant", "Magoo", "The Drunken Ambassador", "Running the Flam Accent" and "The Elephant's Curse."

For those of us who played in his drumlines, he is best remembered as the man who encouraged and taught us to become drummers. Fred, on behalf of DCAT and the many drummers who owe their development to you, we salute you. Way to go, Elephant!

- Paul Kelly

That's it for this month. Cheers!

Dave Cook (416) 757-2043