



# *The DCAT Purr-spective*

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



## **Debut of new chorus uniform at G.A.S. 98, Friday May 1st**

Before I get into the G.A.S. stuff, I have to mention a couple of things. The first being the audition we did on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> for the *Royal Bank Seniors Jubilee Concerts* at Roy Thompson Hall. I have to tell you, I was more nervous performing for the two talent scouts than I was at G.A.S. on the weekend. We did our show and during it there was no reaction, just note taking and the occasional smile. Did they like us? Were they good notes they were writing? I did notice that the first whip crack in "I've Been Looking" startled the begeebers out of them. We performed well, then waited for some reaction or comment. One of the scouts stood up and after a pause said "that was really wonderful" and his companion said "and that's a compliment". He said that they were impressed with our musicality, our presentation, our arrangements, our discipline and the fact that we were obviously enjoying ourselves. Now for the verdict: they want us to perform on two separate days one of them being an opening act for the second half of the stage show (eight minutes). The other is a lobby performance (30 minutes). They said they had other acts to see, but they wanted to book us right now. Ted Key was ecstatic, he said that this changes everything. This could send the chorus off in a whole new, exciting direction. Thanks to Ted Key and to all members of the chorus for making me really proud of "our little chorus that grew". I love you people!

***Business Women's Banquet at Thornhill Golf & Country Club on Wednesday, April 22nd.*** It was our last performance before leaving for G.A.S. the following week. They were a fun group to perform for, they really got into it. Ordy in his preamble talked about who we are and mentioned that we were performing in New York the following weekend. They really enjoyed the show, wished us well in New York and made a donation to the chorus.



## Sober Reflections on G.A.S. '98

Karen and I drove down on the Monday, April 27 and had three days in New York. Two days actually, the third day (Thursday) we spent scouting out shopping hot spots for Karen to take the ladies. She says that next time, we'll put the back seat in the van so that she can take more people. Our hotel was ideally located for getting into Manhattan quickly.

Late Thursday DCAT arrived by bus, plane and cars... *let the party begin!*

Friday morning we had a rehearsal at Schutzen Park Hall. As it turned out there was more room on the stage than we thought. After the rehearsal we were off to South Street Sea Port in Manhattan. Our bus driver/tour guide was pointing out some of the New York landmarks "on your left is the Chrysler Building", "not" -hollers Kelly from the back of the bus- "Not unless they moved it". He may have flaws as a tour guide, but he sure can drive that bus. We sang some tunes at the Sea Port pavilion; it went really well for an outdoor performance. We then had some free time to eat & souvenir shop.

We had a group meal before heading over to the Schutzen Park for the Friday night event. There were only two choruses performing on Friday, Hawthorne and DCAT. Hawthorne was scheduled to sing last but they indicated that they would rather not follow DCAT. We were pumped, with our new uniforms and new show. The stage had a curtain, so we were able to form on the risers, hide the toys and instruments and have the curtain open to present the new uniforms with maximum impact.

We performed very well, even with our accidental free-form intro. The Stars and Stripes had the effect we wanted it to! When the banner unfolded the audience was on it's feet, hands on there hearts cheering and punching the air with there fists. They thought that it was our finale, but noooo! A number of people said they didn't think we would be able to top the Stars and Stripes for a finale, but we did! Being down on the floor with the drums I could hear comments from the table of eight to my left. During "Lord of the Dance" they were surprised when the brass joined in and when the dancers moved forward into position during, the group at the table said "there going to dance, there going to dance"! Yes damit there going to dance. Once again the audience was on its feet cheering. What a finale! Comments from some of my friends in Scout House "you brought the roof down". We should be very pleased with ourselves, we worked hard and it paid off. The dancers deserve a lot of credit for all the extra work they put in as well as the brass and yes, the drums too! *We didn't raise the bar this year, we brought it home with us.*

Our work was done... PARTY TIME!

Saturday morning was the street parade; the usual hurry up and wait. They placed a flute & drum combo right behind DCAT. I guess the combo thought that they were there to give us music to march to (not realizing that we were singing) and they stuck to us like glue. I thought they were going to follow us around all day. Like Dan Moloney said, we were just blown away by 2 flutes.

DCAT was represented at the individuals by Joe, Lois and Parky. Joe played his sweet horn, Lois was flitting about the stage being ethereal as hell and Parky *a.k.a. the tooth fairy* did his sugar plum fairy thing in his outfit that was tu-tu small. They did us proud?

After the parade, we rehearsed the "Lord's Prayer" with the Bon Bon girls (ladies). Both groups had been practising it on their own; what a sound when we sang it together. They were blown away because they aren't used to singing/hearing it with male voices. We performed it Saturday evening as a tribute to fallen members of all alumni corps. I don't think that there was a dry eye in the house when we finished.

**Bus Stuff...** The bus was appropriately named Spirits of Canada (*see pic*). My spy on the bus "Deep Trout" is still a little fuzzy from the trip, but the details are coming back slowly. Here's what I have to date. There was Aggie's audio tape of Irish music, with the wonderful Irish ballad





"Who the F---k is Alice" which became the anthem for the bus ride. Stan Babiarz makes a new friend, Joan English. Before the bus reaches the border they met, fell in love, got married and got divorced. At what point did Stans pants end up around his ankles? (see back cover) We're not buying his story that he lost so much weight that he has trouble keeping them up. *More in next newsletter.*

## *Upcoming Events!*

**May 23rd (Weekend) - C.A.D.R.E. Drum Club Gathering in Ottawa**

The Ottawa group is hosting the spring get-together of Heritage Hands. There will be groups going from Toronto and Hamilton and a number of other guests. It should be a fun weekend if you are a lover of things percussive. For more information call Paul Kelly (905) 472-0854.

**May 30th (Saturday) - GARAGE SALE**

Ann White is the coordinator. You can bring donated items with you on Wednesday, May 27th and **bring them into the hall after rehearsal. Please do not bring any more pocket novels.** After the garage sale on Saturday May 30th please retrieve any unsold items or they will be thrown in the garbage. Ann will need help sorting and pricing on Friday night and on Saturday for setting up and looking after the tables.

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**June 1st (Monday) - Port Credit Yacht Club**

Concert at the Shriners Barbeque. Plan to be there for 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome.

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**June 8th (Monday) - Catholic Women's League Banquet**

Concert in the main ballroom of the International Plaza Hotel (the old Skyline Hotel). This will be good exposure for the chorus as there will be a large number of people attending.

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**ANDOVER NY Parade and Concert - Saturday, July 4th**

We will be leaving on Friday evening. The chorus will be put up dormitory style and given breakfast. We are trying to get a consensus on whether we car pool or rent a bus, come home Saturday night or Sunday. This will be resolved shortly and you will be informed.

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**ORILLIA '98 - Saturday, July 11th**

Meet at John and Dolly's at 12:00 noon.  
 2:00 p.m. performance at the Champlain Retirement Residence • 3:00 p.m performance at the Birchmere Retirement Residence • 4:00 p.m. performance at Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 34 • 6:00 p.m. barbeque at the Foxes. Dolly will be handing out maps and all the information you will need, including hotel arrangements.

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

Plan to be there at 2:00 p.m. B.Y.O.B. I understand that the inimitable "Pool Watch Babe" will be in attendance.

That's it for this month. Cheers! Dave Cook (416) 757-2043





*Parade formation.. lead, follow, get the hell out of the way!*



*Stanley, you've got some 'splaining to do!*



*Aggie didn't have all the fun!*



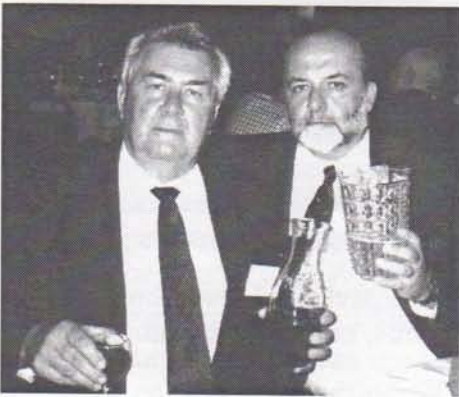
*There not pitchers, they're jugs!*



*No jokes, just six of our lovely ladies.  
(but,they do clean up real good!)*



*Lick Macina  
(sorry I had to do it!)*



*OH... MY... GOD!*



*DCAT in the hat*



*I can see right through you Key!*



*This is a scary guy!  
(no, not Gary)*



*Party, Party, Party!*