



'The DCAAT Purr-spective

Newsletter of Drum Corps Alumni Toronto • 55 Barber Greene Road, North York, Ontario M3C 2A1 • March/2000

DCAAT 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.

Visit the DCAAT Website www.interlog.com/~dcaat

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The chorus is well into it's preparations for "GAS 2000" in Valley Forge PA. hosted by "Bon Bon" and "Archie". The chorus numbers over 60 singers this year with by far the best balance of voices we have ever had. Ted Key has put together an incredible show for us this year; from our special "Hello GAS" opening, The King and I, I Have Dreamed, to an all new dance number and choreography. It is a very exciting show that I think will move many of our fellow GAS members.

Please get your "GAS 2000" money to Paul Kelly as soon as you can. We have some upfront expenses that have to be covered.

The chorus is currently looking for a new home. There is a committee scouting prospective locations. We are deeply indebted to Don Gill and Communicorp for providing space for us to rehearse over the past five years, but as their business grows they need the space. Thank you!

The Ted Key Memorial Euchre Party report by Ann White

What can I say about the Euchre Party. I was euchred, skunked and blame it all on the guys. When I thought that there couldn't be a worse partner than Rick Hosie, 2 points for 8 hands, I got to play (cards that is) with Stan Babiarz, 0 points for 8 hands. I had the dubious honour of sharing ladies low score with Doris Broadbridge and Joan English. Joan got the actual prize after a drawing of the cards. I think that Joan and Doris must have had Rick and Stan as partners at some time during the evening. Even Ted plays euchre better and that is saying something. Other winners for the evening were Edna Allen and June Beaumont, who tied for the ladies high score and Ordy Beaumont, men's high. Nothing like keeping it in the family. Robert Martin won the booby prize for the men's low score. Ann Watson went home with the raffle prize.

In spite of the crabbing, the evening was a lot of fun. Thanks to Laura and Gord Moffatt for arranging for us to use their condo's party room. The setting was lovely. It came complete with comfy couches and a burning fire.

Once again the social committee of the Jennings, Foxes and Connells did a great job in planning a great evening. Thanks guys.



*Any idea who these people are?
...see back page.*

Heading into the new millennium, it's a perfect time to look back.



Photo taken at GAS reunion in Cambridge May 1994.
Back row, left to right: Dan Moloney, Don Gill, Jim Bartholomew, Dave Jewell, Tom Hamilton, Joe Watson, Brian Anderson, Bob Bond, Roly Formica Front row: Dave Cook, Paul Kelly, John Connell, Dave Shano, Stan Babiarz and John Parkinson.

Before DCAT. May 1994 a few of us heard about this GAS (Great Alliance of Seniors) Reunion that Preston Scout House was hosting. Most of us had no idea what it was all about, but it sounded like a good way to reconnect with old drum corps friends.

Well, the weekend was a blast. A few of us wondered if there would be any interest in starting an alumni in the Toronto area. A group of us got together to get the ball rolling: Don Gill, Marg Gill, Joe Watson, Stan Babiarz, Brian Hill, Tom Hamilton, Dave Cook and the Canadian representative for GAS Brian Schmidt.

It was decided that the alumni be called **Drum Corps Alumni Toronto (DCAT)** a non partizen alumni covering southern Ontario. The first executive was President, Tom Hamilton; Vice

President, Don Gill; Secretary, Marg Gill; Treasurer, Brian Hill; Publicist, Dave Cook; and historian, Joe Watson.

To reach our potential membership we used old drum corps lists, made phone calls and used word of mouth. Years spent in drum corps were obviously very special because people were eager to rekindle friendships formed in this period of their lives. The alumni grew to 42 members very quickly. Our members were from Toronto, Aurora, Guelph, St.Catherines, Ottawa and even Nova Scotia and Washington.

We decided to start a chorus. We needed a musical director and Ted Key was approached with the idea. Our first rehearsal was in the filing cabinet room at Nubar Graphics on Comstock. Ted asked the group (about 12 of us) what parts people sang. Everybody said tenor and Ted sorted it out from there. We sang our first chord which lead to our first number "Roving Gambler". We sang, Ted stomped and did his hee haw thing as we all just looked at each other. We had no idea what he was asking us to do! It was truly a song never to be forgotten, never performed but never forgotten.

DCAT's first newsletter was put out in October 1994. At that point we were 4 months old and we had grown to an alumni of 49. Wyatt Gill was named assistant chorus director. We applied for and were granted membership in G.A.S. (Great Alliance of Seniors).

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We worked towards our first real performance At GAS '95 in Hawthorne New Jersey hosted by Hawthorne Caballero Alumni. Our first GAS show consisted of The Old Songs, Special Angel (*oink doink boink*), Scarborough Fair, Battle Hymn, Waltzing Matilda and Walking Along. The DCAT chorus performed very well at GAS and were very well received (*the new kids on the block*). At the Governors meeting in Hawthorne we were awarded the 1999 GAS Reunion.

In 1995 we had our first Christmas Concert and Carol sing at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club. It has since grown to be one of the highlights of the year.

Our first fundraising event was a Dance at the Parkview club November 12/94 where the chorus performed in front of an audience for the first time. Our first uniform consisted of grey golf shirts with red dickies and black pants/skirts and shoes.

June 1995 we adopted a Constitution (boy was that a fun meeting).



Over the years we have seen some great costumes at our annual Halloween Dances. The funniest costume bar none was Barb Jennings dressed as a giant penis. Didn't think I'd ever get a chance to say Barb and giant in the same sentence. It was a classic.

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In 1996 the executive put together a survey and had chorus members fill them in. The results of the survey helped shape the future of the chorus. GAS 96 was held in Boston Mass. hosted by the Princemen Alumni. This was also the fiftieth anniversary of the Princemen Drum Corps. The DCAT chorus performed on Friday night and did an excellent job. We were also asked to sing "Stout Hearted Men" on Saturday night, a tribute to the

Princemen.

Who knew that we couldn't have beer in our hotel hospitality suite. The hotel confiscated our beer from the hospitality suite... bad move... we confiscated it back. Do not separate DCAT from its beer.

How long did it take for the DCAT bus to make the 20 minute drive from our hotel to the GAS venue? Would you believe 2 1/2 hours. How the hell could we have gotten that lost? Who was the navigator? ... Tom? We missed the cocktail hour and were escorted right to our seats for the banquet. Bob Bond pocketed a cool \$2600 in the GAS 50/50 draw.

Other performances in 1996 - **Concert in LeRoy** (LeRoy NY) • **ODCA Individuals** (Hamilton) • **Communicorp Party** (Toronto) • **DCAT does Orillia** • **DCAT Christmas Concert** (Thornhill) • **Evening with Second Sig's** (Toronto)

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GAS 97 in Baltimore MD hosted by the Yankee Rebels. The chorus performed on Saturday evening and gave hellava performance. The hottest rumor of the weekend - DCAT and Scout House are going to merge and it will be called DCAT HOUSE.



Lyn Connell and Marilyn Mighton meet actor John Voight at the airport enroute to GAS.

Ross Eckensviller went for a morning walk near the hotel, 'morning folks. 'morning folks. He didn't realize that he was the only white guy in the 'Hood. (ooops) He had to be escorted by police out of an undesirable area. The police said "you obviously don't live around here".

In 1997 DCAT put out its first audio tape.

Other performances in 1997 - **Winterguard Show** (Toronto) • **Concert in LeRoy** (LeRoy NY) • **St. Joe's Classic** (Rochester NY) • **DCAT does Orillia** • **DCAT Christmas Concert** (Thornhill) • **Evening with Second Sig's** (Toronto)

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GAS 98 in New York hosted by the Skyliners Alumni. This was the year that the chorus really raised the bar. The most innovative addition was the "Lord of the Dance". What a production number - brass, percussion and dance! This was also the debut of our new uniforms. The new show knocked them dead. We were no longer just a chorus but a musical entertainment package.

Excerpt from *Drum Corps World* - report on GAS 98 "A chorus from DCAT (Drum Corps Alumni Toronto, who will be hosting the 1999 GAS reunion) was a show stopper that

had the audience stamping their feet, pounding on tables, shouting and screaming for more. With 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 skits as well as sung, was meticulously planned and executed down to the smallest detail. The mere fact that so many of Canada's corps people 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 heart-warming and sobering.

Other performances in 1998. **Business Women's Banquet** (Thornhill) • **Shriners Barbeque** (Port Credit) • **Catholic Women's League Banquet** (Toronto) • **Andover 4th of July Celebrations** (Andover NY) • **Breakfast TV** (CITY TV Toronto) • **Royal Bank Seniors Jubilee** (Roy Thomson Hall) • **Optimist Reunion** (Toronto) • **DCAT Christmas Concert** (Thornhill) • **Shrine Temple Christmas Concert** (Toronto)



1999 - DCAT hosts GAS "99



It was a lot of hard work and meticulous planning. We were determined to make this the best GAS Reunion ever. It took two years of work by the organizing committee and the various subcommittees. It was a huge success and can be attributed to the teamwork of DCAT members and friends who volunteered their time, resources and expertise.

Other performances in 1999 **Rameses Shrine Temple Past Presidents Night** (Toronto) • **Town of Ajax Home Week Celebration** (Ajax) • **DCAT does Orillia** • **Royal Bank Seniors Jubilee** (Roy Thomson Hall) • **Promenade Mall** (North York) • **DCAT Christmas Concert** (Thornhill)



Upcoming Chorus performances

- Sunday, April 30 - Dutch Boy "Canadian Classic" Waterloo Recreational Complex.
- May 4th - 7th - GAS Reunion Valley Forge PA
- Saturday, June 24th - Annual Orillia Performances & Barbeque.
- July 4th - Andover NY 4th of July Celebration.
- August 14 - 18 - Royal Bank Seniors Jubilee - Roy Thomson Hall Toronto. (actual date to be confirmed)
- September 2 - 4 - DCA Championships - Syracuse NY



Lyn and John Connell

That's it for now.
Cheers
Dave Cook