



'The DCAT' Purr-spective

The Newsletter of Drum Corps Alumni Toronto • 131 Broadview Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4M 2E9 • Oct./2000

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.

Hi, it has been a while since the last newsletter! We've had a very busy summer and in this issue we will highlight the many chorus performances and social events.

The chorus is ensconced in its new rehearsal facility (see below). The hall is large enough that we no longer have to ask guests to imagine a straight line. We are also able to hold social events in the hall, the first being our Halloween Dance on Saturday, October 28 (details in the "upcoming events"). *Although we have a new home, correspondence should still be sent to DCAT, 55 Barber Greene Road, North York, Ontario M3C 2A1.*

Ted Key worked with us through the summer on the music for next year. He has really given us a musical challenge; it is going to be quite a show.

The DCAT Chorus has a big year ahead with a number of major events including . GAS 2001 in Hawthorne NJ, and the North American Airstream Convention which will be held in Markham. We have been asked to do a 90 minute performance. There will also be the Royal Bank Seniors Jubilee at Roy Thomson Hall plus all our regular gigs.

Our thoughts are with Shirley Douglas, Alex MacKenzie, chorus members and Rip Burnert, musical director of the Bon Bons, all recovering from surgery. We wish them a speedy recovery.

The Big Move - Ann White

Spring saw the DCAT Chorus move into our new quarters at the Royal Canadian Curling Club on Broadview Avenue, just north of Queen Street. Once again we got the job done with many helping hands. The only hitch was when 14 "engineers" (all men of course) couldn't figure out (and admitted it) how to move the soft drink machine. They didn't. We are now settled in our new home and will be doing some tiding up now that the cooler weather is on its way. We are still practicing on Wednesday evenings 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. and on alternate Sundays and invite all our Associate Members to come out and enjoy a practice with us.

The Orillia Weekend - Ann White

The DCAT crowd enjoyed another weekend in Orillia. Our rendition of Amazing Grace brought tears to the eyes of an elderly resident of Birchmere Retirement Home and at the Legion, an appreciative crowd which included two old Service Corps friends, Al Boyce and Kenny Wegg let us know that they enjoyed our show. After the performance, Marg Gill was heard giving the 2nd tenors royal sh-t for not knowing the words to I've Been Lookin'. They didn't know what they were lookin' fer. Was it love, or someone to keep them warm? It was a mystery. Once again, after the performances, we had a wonderful time at the B.B.Q. graciously hosted by John and Dolly Fox.

The next day, we all tramped to Kahshe Lake for another B.B.Q. hosted by Rik and Betty. The weather was wonderful and we were all in good voice. The residents of the lake were treated to many of our old songs. The singsong was lead by Wyatt Gill, complete with keyboard, doing his Ray Charles impression. We had several seniors' moments trying to remember words, particularly the Lord's Prayer. We should know that one. At one point, Rik was seen mentally adding up the weight of each DCAT member to see if his deck was safe or was about to collapse.



The sextet



The quartet



The duet



Our hosts Rik & Betty

Visit the DCAT Web site www.interlog.com/~dcat

Canada Day Celebration, Canadian Legion Branch 258 - Dave Cook

Edna and Jim Allen were involved in organizing this event - Edna was keeping the workers focused and Jim was busy cooking hotdogs and hamburgers.

They were laying the outdoor dance floor for our performance as we arrived, plywood leveled with sand. The Corps. of Engineers could not have done a better job. As well as the chorus performance, our thespians performed their version of Master of the House from "Les Miz".

John (*the body*) Parkinson added a new element to "Betty and Dupree". During the number he appeared as "Betty", prancing around in his now infamous pink tutu, flashing a huge diamond ring to the audience. It was a surprise even to Ted.

After the performance the chorus adjourned to the Legion (surprise, surprise) and had a great time singing and socializing. A good time was had by all.

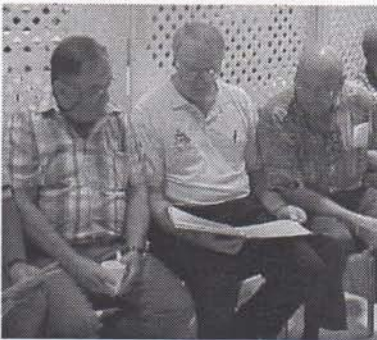
Royal Bank Seniors Jubilee, Roy Thompson Hall - Dave Cook

This is a first class production and it's a thrill to be a part of it. It was a long day, lots of time for playing cards and reading. We shared a dressing room with a Banjo Group that was doing the lobby show. The Chorus was very well represented with 54 singers, which was excellent because it meant taking time off work for most people. There is nothing like performing to a full house especially at Roy Thompson Hall.

Prior to our performance Ordy on behalf of the Bon Bons presented the DCAT 10 (*the 10 DCAT ladies that sang the anthems with them at the DCA Championships last year*) with honorary membership in Bon Bons.

When the concert was over we gathered at the Texas Lone Star. We ate, sang and had a great time.

Behind the scenes at The Royal Bank Seniors Jubilee, Roy Thomson Hall



Checking out the centre spread



Picking the ponies



Gord tuning his axe.



Bookworm killing time



The dance line, line dance



Enjoying the brown bag cuisine



The DCAT 10 (minus 1)

Unwinding at the Lone Star



Jennings Pool Party - Dave Cook



Damn sun was so hot!



Ok! So it rained.



Jim enjoying the great outdoors

It was a typical summer 2000 weekend, it rained. Despite that, there was a good turnout and the partiers' spirits were not dampened. The weather started out fine, then the sky opened up and we broke out the umbrellas to keep the drinks from getting watered down.

Jim Bartholomew was communing with nature, trying to stay warm and dry.

Jim Jennings commented that more people got wet at this pool party than the previous ones.

Some people ventured into the pool, but most were concerned with keeping dry, on the outside anyway.

There was a cake to celebrate Norm Jackson's birthday. Great food, great drink, great friends. Thanks to Jim and Barb for hosting this fun event.

DCA Championships, Syracuse - Dave Cook

Let me see what I can remember from the weekend.

The bus trip to Syracuse went quickly the usual floating euchre game and videos helped to pass the time. The bus left Toronto on time and arrived in Syracuse on time - they were the only things that went according to schedule. After we got settled in our rooms the bus took us to eat. Those who chose the Red Lobster were getting their food order when we were supposed to be getting on the bus to return to the hotel. You should be able to get in and out of a restaurant in 1 1/2 hrs. I chose to eat in the Italian restaurant and sat with a bunch of DCAT rowdies in the Frank Sinatra Room. Joan English was doing it her way, drinking litres of draught. If you order the house wine you got it in a coke glass, if you order the good stuff you got in a regular wine glass (*lots of coke tumblers on the table*).

Saturday evening we performed at the Drum Corps Hall of Fame banquet. It was typical Drum Corps "hurry up and wait". When it was finally time to perform the DCAT Chorus put on an excellent show. John Pratt (*rudimental drummer extraordinaire, and drum instructor of the U.S. Marine Corps. Band*) was talking to Ordy after our performance and said "the U.S. Marine Corps Chorus has always been my favorite but after seeing the DCAT Chorus performance, you are now my number 1".



Sleeping Beauty

We were under the impression that there was a party after the banquet, but not so. No matter, DCAT is its own party. We went back to our hotel and took over the common area on the second floor for our party area. There was a small problem, the only room on the second floor not occupied by DCAT was in the party zone. The young woman on the hotel desk came up to tell us about a noise complaint. But, she said that we could move the party down to the lobby. So, down we went. She even pulled out extra chairs from storage for us. She was great. While we were partying in the lobby somebody came in looking for a room and she said "see all these people, they're all waiting for rooms". John Parkinson made the mistake of falling asleep in a chair at the party.



DCAT Chorus on the field

The next day we were the opening performers at the Drum Corps Classics show. Ted Key told us before we went on the field that the crowd was here to see Drum Corps and not to be concerned about their reaction. React they did. The Chorus got a great ovation. Some of our members did double duty, performing in Second Signals as well as DCAT. At the DCA Championships that evening I had my DCAT cap on and people were stopping me saying how much they had enjoyed our performance



Cheering on the Alumni Corps

that afternoon.

It was an excellent weekend fun wise and performance wise.

Tid Bits... my roomie found a love note from his wife in his shoe (awwww). Never let John Fox have a microphone in an enclosed area. Ellie Cameron beat her husband Dave at euchre (1st time). The one blemish on Ann White's euchre dominance was losing a euchre game in three hands, two lone hands and a euchre (must have been her partners fault).

DCA Championships, Syracuse - Ann White

It was a real thrill to perform at both the Drum Corps Hall of Fame Dinner and the DCA Alumni Classic held on Labour Day weekend in Syracuse. An additional thrill for me personally was to once again march and to be part of The Toronto Signals Trumpet Band. DCAT has many members still struttin' their stuff. There are 16 DCAT members in Sigs. Jim and Joan Tufts (*former DCAT Chorus members*) march with St. Joes. Gord Moffatt and Bobby Bond (*former DCAT Chorus members*) are with the Statesmen. They were all part of the DCA weekend. Way to go guys.



*Toronto Signals Trumpet Band,
that's me carrying a flag.*

It was great to see associate members Ross Eckensviller, Gary Chick and Garry Smith at the show. Once in love with Drum Corps, always in love with Drum Corps.

The show was great The afternoon Alumni Classic with perennial favourites Hawthorne and Skyliners and of course Sigs., was wonderful. There was even a touch of romance. In front of the crowd a Hawthorne cymbal player proposed to his lady. She said yes, I had tears in my eyes. Does he have a brother?

The evening show brought out the big guns. Syracuse Brigadiers, The Empire Statesmen and (I can't remember who).

We didn't all agree with the judging and the point spread but... we aren't judges.

Upcoming Events

- **General Meeting and Elections** - Wednesday, October 25, to be held at DCAT's new home, 131 Broadview Ave. Positions open for nominations are Vice President, Secretary, Publicity, Business Manager.
- **DCAT Hallowe'en Dance** - Saturday, October 28th, 8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. at the Royal Canadian Curling Club, 131 Broadview Avenue. Loads of fun and prizes for best costumes.
- **DCAT Chorus - Party Performance**, Orillia - Saturday, November 11.
- **Annual DCAT Christmas Concert** - November 26 at Thornhill Golf and Country Club. A great way to start off the holiday season.

That's it for now.

Dave Cook & Ann White