



# The DCAT Purr-spective

Newsletter of Drum Corps Alumni Toronto • 55 Barber Greene Road, North York, Ontario M3C 2A1 • January/2001

*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.*

Happy New Year to all and welcome to the real new millennium (according to some).

DCAT held its Annual General Meeting and elections on Thursday October 25, 2000. There were no dangling chads, dimpled ballots or appeals. The only irregularity was the black paper ballots that John Connell (*Election Officer*) supplied to be marked with black pencils. See page 2.

The DCAT Executive thanks John Fox for his hard work as business manager. Also thanks to Marg Gill for her contribution last term. She stepped back into the position of secretary when it was vacated mid-term.

The new executive held it's first meeting prior to rehearsal on Wednesday, December 6th. New members Ellie Cameron, Secretary and Terry Brackett, Business Manager were welcomed.

The executive set the membership fees for 2001 at \$50 for chorus members and \$35 for associate members, the same as last year.

The cost for the trip to G.A.S. 2001 in Hawthorne NJ is \$350 per person. An installment plan has been set up: \$80 per month from December to April. The final amount (\$400) will cover your trip as well as your membership fees.

2001 should be another exciting year for DCAT. The chorus has grown in members and proficiency. We have been working on our new music and also polishing up some of the old. Ted, with his expertise and energy, continues to move up the bar and motivates us to be the best we can be. In addition to our regular Wednesday evening practices, we began on January 14th to practice on alternate Sundays at 11 a.m.

Upcoming chorus events: • **Saturday, February 10th - Nokia Men's Curling Championship** - Woodstock, Ontario • **May 4, 5, 6th - GAS 2001** - Hawthorne NJ • **Friday, May 25th - Mason's event** - Burlington, Ontario • **Sunday, May 27th - Airstream Convention** - Markham, Ontario • **August 16 & 17th - Royal Bank Senior's Jubilee** - Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto.

The DCAT chorus has been asked to replace the stage band at the Senior's Jubilee for two days. We will be on stage for the whole concert and will have the opportunity sing five or six numbers. This will be a wonderful showcase for the chorus.

Rik Robinson has volunteered to co-ordinate a DCAT Variety Show. Details will follow.

## The 6th Annual DCAT Christmas Concert

Another wonderful affair. An opportunity for the chorus to share the joy of the holiday season with friends and relatives. The chorus was very well received. After our performance, the audience wanted more, calling for us to sing "Rhonda". This is not one of Ted's favourites, so he started us off then went to the dessert table.

Santa and Mrs. Claus were there with gifts for the kiddies. Many thanks to Dave and Ellie Cameron and Dave's company D.W. Cameron and Associates, for sponsoring this event.



Visit the DCAT Website [www.interlog.com/~dcat](http://www.interlog.com/~dcat)

## General Meeting & Elections

### The newly elected DCAT Executive



President  
Orton Beaumont



Vice President  
Don Gill



Secretary  
Ellie Cameron



Business Manager  
Terry Brackett



Publicity  
Dave Cook

### President's Remarks - from the General Meeting, October 25, 2000

#### Summarizing our 1999 - 2000 fiscal year.

First, I would like to thank Don Gill and Commuicorp for the many years that they have allowed us to use their facilities for practices, meetings and socials. Our finances continue to be in an excellent position through good management by the executive and the controls and records of Paul Kelly and Tony Casciato. With the controls, the fund raising and paid events DCAT has been able to share some of the costs with you. We now have a promotional brochure to hand out to sell our organization. Thanks to Dave Cook, Dan Moloney and Frank Parker for creating this very professional document. Our Web Site continues to be kept current with new information being added - thanks to Dave Cook. Take a look when you have a chance you will be surprised it even has music.

We have been busy with 17 events during the year, 10 performances and 7 socials. Thanks to our Business Manager, John Fox, our Social Committee and you the members who have organized events for us. We have had fewer paid jobs this year. We worked some good leads but they did not materialize. I will cover what we did do. *October* - Halloween Party, *November* - Thornhill Country Club Christmas Party, Promenade Mall, *December* - DCAT Christmas Social, *February* - Euchre Party, *April* - Waterloo Guard Show, *May* - GAS 2000, *June* - One Senior Citizen Retirement Homes, Orillia Legion, Fox's BBQ, Rik Robertson BBQ, Toronto City Hall, *July* - Highland Creek Legion, Jennings Pool Party, *August* - Watson's BBQ, Roy Thompson Hall Seniors Jubilee, *September* - Syracuse DCAs Hall of Fame Dinner, Opening of the Classic.

We have such a powerful family-like organization. Throughout the year many people have assisted the organization by donating funds, skills or services, donations from members companies and associates, personal fund raising projects, providing snacks for our rehearsals, looking after the canteen and draws, cleaning our practice hall, moving and setting up and taking down our equipment and the assistance in moving into our new quarters. We truly have something unique. Let us just take a minute to thank each other.

In closing I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their hard work and support, our Musical Directors' for the wonderful scores we sing and their efforts to get us prepared for our performances and certainly all of you who volunteer your time and skills to make this the wonderful, friendly and growing organization that we share together. I extend also a hearty welcome to the newly elected Executive Committee members.

**Orton C. Beaumont**  
DCAT President

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The following is a list of DCAT subcommittees and their leaders: **Fund Raising Committee** (Leader Ann White), **GAS 2001 Committee** (Leader Don Gill), **Housing Committee** (Don Gill), **Membership Committee** (Leader Dan Moloney), **Properties Committee** and the **Social Committee** (Leader Jim Jennings). If you are interested in getting involved or find out more about any of these committees please contact the committee leaders.

### **The Birthday Party...**

Our trip to Orillia to help Daniel Raymond Kiley celebrate his 65th birthday was very successful. In addition to our usual repertoire, we sang Wyatt Gill's wonderfully directed and arranged version of Danny Boy, to honour the birthday 'boy'.

After the birthday party we adjourned to the Orillia Legion where we are no strangers, having performed there on a number of occasions. We grouped some tables together and wetted our individual whistles. Before long Don Gill gave the signal... "*Theeeeeeeeeee old songs, the old songs*" and we started singing our pub songs. After the pub songs we started to sing some of our performance numbers conducted by Wyatt Gill. Every time we finished a number the patrons would shout for more. A representative of the Legion took a microphone and called up Wyatt and thanked the chorus for the wonderful entertainment adding to their Remembrance Day ceremonies. Our final number was Amazing Grace and I don't think there was a dry eye in the house.

Then it was on to Kelseys for dinner, where the singing continued. The other patrons of the restaurant didn't know their dinners came with live entertainment. Tom Hamilton, who hasn't heard a song he doesn't like, kept things going and going. Did someone put an energizer battery in him?

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### **The very memorable, Forgotten Summer Event** - Ann Watson



*The parade of hats*

The day dawned bright and sunny. Joe and I set about turning our garden into an outdoor café. Our neighbours had kindly lent us several patio tables complete with umbrellas and chairs. It all looked quite lovely and inviting. The people started arriving late morning - (*I was still doing kitchen duty*). As the day wore on and the crowds ascended, so did the clouds. A game of croquet was played (*I'm not sure who won*) hats were displayed. Teresa came equipped with Hawaiian décor including flowers and lei's. There was a small parade of costumes and then, as last year, the rain came. We all crowded into our humble abode and of course the obvious choice of entertainment was drum corps tapes along with a copy of "Blast". I know it was shown more than once. Ellie had a video of the "early years" at practice. What a hoot to see the way we were. After the rain let up the boys barbecued and some folks braved the wet, damp grounds to eat out in spite of mosquitoes. Gord and Edith O'Halloran

arrived at about 11:00 pm, when only the "stay overs" were left. Some more beers were consumed and I (*Ann*) bid them farewell very late (*the wine made it impossible for me to read the clock*).

The next morning dawned bright and sunny again BUT STAYED ALL DAY. After everyone had their first two cups of coffee it was determined that a good, greasy breakfast at the local restaurant was necessary. I called Ed Snorro, (*the local name given by residents*) and asked if they could accommodate 16 for breakfast. At first there was silence and after a minute or so, I was told yes but not sitting together. We walked into town, ate well, checked out the stores and by about 2:00 pm all had left for home. Joe and I finished cleaning up, put our feet up, he had a cigar and I another glass of wine (*ouch*).

Many thanks to those who helped with dishes, cleaning up and moving our borrowed furniture back to the neighbours. The head count was 29.

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### **NEW ARRIVALS**

Several of our DCAT members welcomed first-born grandchildren into their families. Congratulations to: John and Evelyn Connell on the birth of their grandson. Little Aiden Connell Rossi was born in Burlington on January 8th, and weighed in at 7 lbs. 13 oz.

Tom and Teresa Mellors on the birth of their granddaughter. Erin Mellors, who weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz., was born on December 28th, in San Antonio, Texas.

Dave and Sharman Wood on the birth of their grandson Jack. Little Jack Bennett was born on December 28th, in Parry Sound and weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz.

### **OUR CONDOLENCES**

Our condolences go to Ann Watson on the death of her mother Ann Barnett. She was lovingly eulogized by her family at a memorial service held on January 8th. Joe Watson played a moving tribute, on his horn, to his mother-in-law. His rendition of Amazing Grace moved everyone in attendance.

## Scary Things - Ann White

*The Annual Halloween Dance* certainly brought out the weirdness of our membership. This event, the first held in our new quarters, was an overwhelming success.

There were a few moments of panic when DJ Dave Partridge hadn't arrived with the rest of us. After struggling with the traffic on the 401, he made it and kept us dancing all night. He also gave a wonderful rendition of 'I am Joe Canadian', proudly holding the Canadian Flag and, a bottle of Molsons.

Creativity was visible everywhere, in the costumes, the decorations and the wonderful mural done by Teresa Mellors. Edna and Jim Allen won the best costume prize. They came as Henry V111 and his Headless Wife. My co-editor, Dave Cook was charming as a blond, and wore a ravishing shade of pink on his lips. He claimed that he wasn't wearing party hose, but I did wonder. Dan Maloney was also very pretty in his long hair, lovely lipstick and carried his love child with him. He claimed that this was our love child. I don't remember the incident and wasn't having anything do to with a creature that had a cute human-like head and a mouse head for a bum. We'll have to keep our eyes on these guys. Our youngest 'member' little 5 month old Peyton Rose Gill enjoyed every moment of the party. She is a real sweetie and certainly takes all DCAT events in her stride.



An em-bare-assed patient with Dr. Feelgood



On the Road to Bali



Her cup runneth over.



The original pokemon



Off with her head!



A statue-esque grandma and baby Peyton .



The Three Hoods

DCAT would like to thank the following businesses who contributed prizes for our Halloween Dance.

Businesses in Riverdale Area - **Jumbo Video** 17 Leslie St. • **Shopper's Drug Mart** 970 Queen St. E. • **Village Wine Shop** 1172 Queen St. E. • **Finders Gallery** 1093 Queen St. E. • **On Site** 245 Carlaw Avenue • **Joy of Java** 884 Queen St. E. • **Hargrave Restaurant** 1106 Danforth Avenue • **Gee's Bar & Restaurant** 82 Gerrard St. E. • **Chada Import Gallery** 1015 Queen St. E. • **Lucid** 1184 Queen St. E. • *etc...* **news** 852 Danforth Avenue • **lisa shamia** 245 Carlaw Avenue

Business in Queen Broadview Village - **Dangerous Dan's** 714 Queen St. E.

Business in Downtown - **Baton Rouge** 218 Yonge St.

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All the best in he New Year  
Dave & Ann