



The DCAT Purr-spective

The Newsletter of Drum Corps Alumni Toronto

June/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.

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DCAT's new mailing address is: DCAT c/o Paul Kelly, 17 Lindisfarne Way, Markham, ON, L3P 3W8
or email: kerrcook@home.com

Busy, busy, busy! Right on the heels of GAS 2001 in Hawthorne NJ, May 3rd - 6th came a two-hour performance in Burlington for the Order of the Amaranthe Banquet on Friday, May 25th. This performance was our first major choral presentation, a two-hour mix of music and schtick by Brother Ted. It was very well received. With our variety of music we pushed some emotional buttons. It was an international audience and when we sang "Dixie" a group stood with hands over heart. We also got a reaction when we sang "Over the Rainbow", it turns out that one of the groups is called the "Double Rainbow".

You make just one mistake. I turned south when the rest of the parade was going north. "I am the Weakest Link, Goodbye!"

Brother Ted knows how to work an audience, he had them singing and doing choreography and they loved it. His presentation of *The Cremation of Sam McGee* was a classic. It was a little chilly in the hall and some of the ladies in the audience were fighting over his parka after the routine.

Our finale was wonderful, going out into the audience joining hands, and singing and finishing off with *We'll Meet Again*.

After the performance we went to the Burlington Branch 60 Legion. There was a three piece band playing and a dance floor. Barb Jennings lead our ladies in shaking their booty's. Dennis Juneau wasn't doing too badly either. The things you see when you don't have a camera.

Sunday brought another extended performance at the Air Stream Convention (WBCCI Region Rally) in Markham. The Markham Fairgrounds were turned into an Air Stream village.

One word to describe our changing facilities in Markham is spacious, another would be cold, then barn-like. But, that would have been luxury in our drum corps days. .

When we were told Markham Fairgrounds were dry, I was hoping that it was a weather report but alas .. no.

I have never seen so many Tilley hats in one place. I really think they are quite spiffy - **NOT!!** I'm sure that they were all elephant tested. Kidding aside, I'm sure the people that wore them are all very nice.

It was a cavernous venue and I'm not sure how the sound carried to the very back, but I know the people that I could see were enjoying themselves and gave us a rousing standing ovation at the end of our performance. Did I mention that I don't like Tilley hats?

We now seriously start to prepare for our two-day performances at the Royal Bank Seniors' Jubilee on Thursday, August 16 and Friday, August 17 at Roy Thomson Hall.

Visit the DCAT Website www.interlog.com/~dcat

The DCAT Euchre held on Sunday, June 3rd was a great success according to Jim Jennings of the Social Committee. There were members, friends and some people from the community. There were 44 in attendance and 36 played euchre. The winners' names were not available at time of printing. Many thanks to the Social Committee for organizing another successful event and to those who brought food to the event.

The Jennings Annual Pool Party will be held on August 11. Details will follow.

Congratulations to Drew Kellas and his wife Dee on the birth of their 2nd child, a little girl. Little Kathleen Edna came into the world on May 7th and weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. She is new sister for Elizabeth and a new granddaughter for Edna Kingsley.

I understand that Bob Bond, former member of DCAT, is being inducted into the Drum Corps Hall of Fame in Syracuse NY on the Labour Day weekend.

Sober Reflections on G.A.S. 2001 - Dave Cook

I must admit that I did not miss the ten hour bus ride to and from Hawthorne. Flying is a good thing. Thursday night in the hospitality suite was the calm before the storm, very civilized and relaxing. Friday night turned into doo-wopp night, the place was jumpin', great fun. Saturday night was a big drop in night, very crowded but fortunately smoke free. Edna Allen was the perfect barmaid, assisting John Moffatt behind the bar and scurrying around the room seeing that nobody was in need of a libation. The hotel had a low party tolerance and found it necessary to shut us down, go figure.

Claire Beatty lost her purse at the mall. All that was in it was a small amount of cash and drugs. I can picture some young thief tripping out on HRT.

Gord and Doris Broadbridge shared the celebration of their 33rd wedding anniversary with the chorus. (*part of it anyway*)

It must have been the heat. While lounging on the patio on Friday some of our ladies started entertaining us (*themselves*) with available props, a construction barrier & Do Not Enter sign. Oh! My! God! It was hilarious.

Friday night Ted unwittingly became a victim of Bob-Bons maurading chorister Joan Craven. During Bon-Bons performance she came into the audience and creamed him (*shaving cream*).

The Princemen and Skyliners also performed on Friday night. Prince has come a long way in the past couple of years.

At the banquet on Saturday night Ellie was showing us at the table how to make a spoon stick to her nose. All of a sudden she ran from the table, grabbed a woman from behind and it looked like she



Reluctant hero

was trying to throw her to the ground. It turned out that the woman had something stuck in her throat, was choking and unable to breathe. Ellie gave her the *heimlich manoeuvre* and dislodged whatever was caught in her throat. Way to go Ellie! Medical personnel arrived and the woman was fine.

The DCAT Chorus dedicated its performance to the late Jim Costello of the Hawthorne Caballeros.

It was nice to see ex-chorus members Ross Eckensvillere and Gord and Laura Moffatt.

The Canadians certainly were a big part of the GAS weekend with the DCAT Chorus, The Canadian GAS Ensemble and Preston Scout House Band.

Ann's notes...



Ann White

It was a GAS in Parsippany, N.J. We must all love going to GAS because we all get up at the crack of dawn or even before it has cracked, to get to the bus for the 6 a.m. departure time. What can we say about the bus trip? Almost before the door of the bus was closed out came the cards and the games began.

Now Ted Key who thinks he is the king of the deck, made many comments prior to the trip regarding the lack of the skills of the female euchre players or as he calls them the broads. Well the broads showed him a thing or two. He had his butt whipped and whipped but not without many postmortems on the lost hands and games. As one of those, who with my partner Edna Allen, did the whipping, I can only say that victory was sweet. We DCAT Chicks are not just pretty faces.

Because of the location of the hotel, we didn't see much of the area. Unfortunately, we were confined to eating in the hotel. The very high restaurant prices combined with the exchange rate made any meal bloody expensive. You almost had to mortgage your house to eat.

Everyone had a great time. Some sang too much, some drank too much and apparently one person talked so much that her teeth kept talking - on the dresser - in a glass, after she had gone to bed. Her identity will remain a mystery. The hotel security people were no fun and closed down our hospitality suite three nights in a row. We weren't rowdies we just talked at double forte.

It was reported that a male figure was spotted entering the hotel in the wee hours of the morning carrying an inflatable woman. We hope it wasn't one of the DCAT guys.

My co-editor Dave Cook, whose initials D.C. stand for directionally challenged, got lost in the halls. Fortunately I happened to see him wandering around and knowing about his little problem helped him find his way. The map he had drawn on his hands didn't help one little bit. (*I wasn't lost I was exploring! D.C.*)

The weather was amazing for the first weekend in May. The high temperatures brought out the bathing suits and shorts and many spent the afternoon bathing in the pool and the sun.

It is always a wonderful feeling to stand on stage and sing O Canada and a thrill for those of us who have been privileged to join and sing the Star Spangled Banner with our Bon Bon Sisters. The Chorus was very well received and we put on a great show. The audience loved it when we went out onto the floor for our final number and encouraged them to join us.

We were all extremely proud of the Canadian Gas Ensemble and their great performance. It was exciting for those of us from DCAT to perform with the Ensemble and it was nice to see the Canadians do it with class. Great work guys. Another Canadian group CADRE also showed their stuff and what rudimental drumming is all about. Associate members Fred Johnson and Paul Mosley are part of CADRE and they and the group were fantastic.

Of all the Alumni Drum Corps that performed, my favourite was the Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Corps. They were, are and always will be number-one in my heart. They make my hair stand on end. It was all over too soon and before we knew it, we were back on the bus for the return trip. Although we didn't get into a real sing-song on the trip home, we did sing O Canada at the suggestion of our bus driver Jim Mac Donald when we crossed the bridge into Canada. WE ARE CANADIANS and damned proud of it.

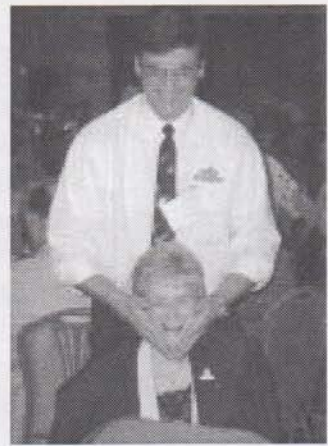
I think that we who were members of bands in the 50's and 60's and who are still in love with Drum Corps, feel so lucky to have this ongoing relationship with the what we did in our youth and continue to do in one form or another, as we march into our senior years. It keeps us young, vital and movin'. It also keeps the friendships we had as teenagers alive and adds so much to our lives. It is a kinship and a special bond that not many people are privileged to have. We are so lucky.



Doo-Wopping in the Hospitality Suite



wanna see my foam finger



Ann gets a helping hand or two.



Ted gets slimmed.



recognize anyone?



girls will be girls



Ann being dogged by Snoopy!



Stanley with a wedgie.



far too serious



Canadian Ensemble colour guard rehearsal



parade of uniforms



*That's it for this issue
Dave & Ann*