



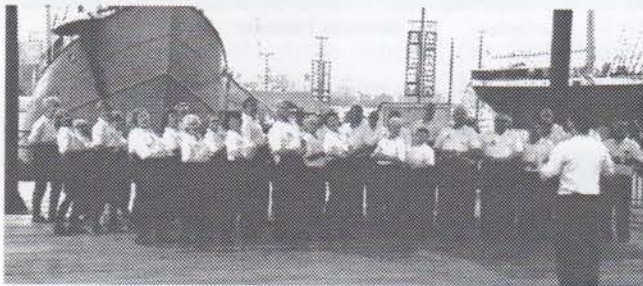
The DCAT Purr-spective

Newsletter of the Drum Corps Alumni Toronto

December, 2002

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.

As the year 2002 winds down the chorus is working on its show for GAS 2003 Reunion. It will be hosted by the New York Skyliners Alumni on May 2nd to 4th. As well as performing at the GAS Reunion, the chorus will also perform at the South Street Seaport in New York city. The chorus performed there in 1998. (see below)



The cost for the GAS 2003 Reunion is \$340. This includes your GAS ticket all events, hotel accommodation and transportation and as much fun as you can handle. DCAT will cover the cost of the bus.

Membership fees are now due, \$50 for full member and \$35 for associate members.

Other upcoming Events

Jimmy Simpson Fundraiser - Date to be decided, April

Hamilton International Tattoo - June 7th & 8th.

John Jones has had talks with the Scarborough Civic Centre regarding another performance there. Date to announced.

Holy Family Church performance November 16.

Billed as "An Evening with DCAT", it was a fundraiser for the church. The first snowfall of the year didn't dampen the spirits of the audience.

Ted came armed with his list of jokes for the evening: the prostitutes' lawn sale, the old guy that had a relationship with a parrot, the two old veterans who's salt

peter wore off and the naked guy in the fridge.

We sang Amazing Grace (*nothing to do with the lawn sale*), tickled tongues with Rhonda. Ted's organ stopped functioning (*performance anxiety*). We sang and sang, we danced, we had a great time.

There was a royal visit from the Queen and some stand up comedy from Jean Key (a.k.a. Blanche, a.k.a. The War Department.) Ted did some audience participation to give the chorus a break.

At the end of the evening, the priest thanked the chorus for a "wholesome" presentation.

Seriously, it was a fun evening with a fun audience and the chorus performed exceptionally well.

There were also the back room antics. When we were backstage changing into our "Up on the Mountain" costumes, I turned around and there was Edna Allen with her long dress hoisted up over her shoulder (*she had her uniform pants on under it*) and was rubbing her legs with a metal coat hanger to get rid of static cling. Ordy forgot his costume so, we all chipped in pieces to make him look presentable. It's usually me that forgets things.

The following is a note from Holy Name Church.

To the DCAT Chorus

Hi Paul;

"On behalf of the Rejoice and Hear Committee for the sound systems fundraising at Holy Name Roman Catholic Church, I'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to you, Terry Brackett and of course Ted Key and the DCAT Chorus for the wonderful show you put on Sat., Nov 16, 2002.

We are so thankful that your show helped us reach our goal for the sound system.

We wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with love and joy! Best wishes to everyone.

Rejoice and Hear Committee

Holy Name Church

Arlene Banic

Chairperson

The Annual General Meeting and Election October 23, 2002

The meeting was held at Estonian House. The election nominating committee were; Dan Moloney, Sherry Luloff and Ellie Cameron. Positions open Vice-President, Publicity and Business Manager. Elected were Dave Wood, Vice-President, Dave Cook, Publicity and John Jones, Business Manager. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Ellie Cameron. The financial report was given by Gord Irvine.

Your 2003 DCAT Executive



Paul Kelly
President



Ordy Beaumont
Past President



Dave Wood
Vice-President



Gord Irvine
Treasurer



Ellie Cameron
Secretary



John Jones
Business Manager



Dave Cook
Publicity



Don Gill the vice-president of DCAT since it's inception decided not to run for re-election. Many thanks to Don for his outstanding contribution to the DCAT executive committee over the years. Don is also one of the founders of the DCAT organization. He continues to be an enthusiastic chorister and vice president of GAS (Great Alliance of Seniors) which DCAT is a member organization.



Terry Brackett the Business Manager of DCAT for the past two years decide not to run for re-election. Terry has been instrumental in working with show sponsors and coordinating the many details involved in Chorus appearances. She continues to be a voice to reckoned with.

Message from the President

2002 was a year which saw the Chorus extend its entertainment capabilities and performance experience, the DCAT organization be dispossessed from one home but find a new one, several major changes and developments within the membership, and, sadly, two of our beloved members pass away. All in all it was a rather stressful, emotional but, I hope, spiritually rewarding year.

It began, in the fiscal year sense, in November 2001 with our performance in a drum corps organized fundraiser for the 9/11 victims fund of the New York City Fire Department. The show was held in Hamilton Place, a major theatre, and was the DCAT Chorus' first performance in an alumni drum corps show held in Canada (that may sound a little strange given that we've been performing since 1995, but it's true.) During the year we performed in nine events. At the G.A.S.

weekend in Maryland, we again presented innovative material, this time introducing a comedy skit through "A Royal Visit" from Gillian Maloney and Swampy Preston, sorry, Irvine. The 2002 show featured more extensive solo work than in the past and an expanded role for the "band" in Hair. We now have the most variety we've ever had in repertoire and effects.

In July, we moved from the Royal Canadian Curling Club (they turned us out in favour of a day care center; it sure won't help their bar receipts) to new digs at Estonian House about two miles north on Broadview Avenue. In our new home, which has it's own restaurant/bar and a large auditorium for performances, we have free parking, and heating/air conditioning that works, so we came out all right.

In August, John Connell, a charter member, passed away after a brief fight with cancer. Johnny, we knew

ye well, and you are missed. In November, Betty Cannon-Robinson passed away unexpectedly. We grieve with Rik at her absence. They both parted from us too soon and we're still adjusting to the loss of good friends.

As we worked on finding a home, we did an analysis of the chorus by location of residence. We found that 25 of 64 members lived in the GTA East and 3 more in Eastern Ontario beyond the GTA, that 19 members lived in the GTA Central and North, and 12 members lived in the GTA West, with 5 more in Western Ontario communities outside the GTA. We're a spread out bunch and location with Expressway convenience is important. We're also still basically a Toronto centered organization with 45 members, or some seventy percent, living in the mega city itself.

As we approach 2003, we have a challenge to build on our successful past and present. The focus will still be on having fun and working to please our audiences. But we will also be stepping up our efforts to add members, enrich the membership experience, broaden our external funding base and maintain our performing quality and impact.

To everyone associated with DCAT, my personal Best Wishes for a pleasant Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year. To the membership, thanks for your belief and dedication. Let's keep moving forward.

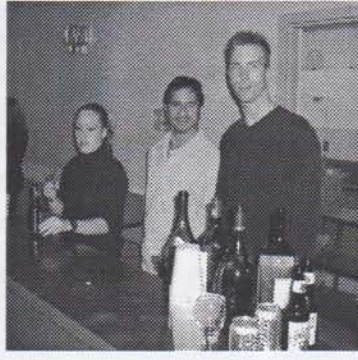
Paul Kelly

The DCAT 8th Annual Christmas Concert • November 24th

The eighth annual christmas concert, the first at our new home, Estonian House was a splendid affair. The hall looked great thanks to the setup and the decorating groups. There were over 200 in attendance, a wonderful mix of friends and family with a sprinkling of kiddies. The chorus performed some of its' standards, some Christmas carols and a couple of new numbers that we are working on for our performance in New York. The Queen was there to extend her Christmas greetings. Mr. & Mrs. Claus (a.k.a. Jim & Edna Allen) arrived and handed out gifts to the delighted children. Marilyn Mighton worked the room and did a great job selling our 50/50 tickets. The winner of the \$250 door prize was Margaret Oldfield.

Thanks to all who organized, decorated and donated. This event is one of the highlights of the year.





A thought for the Holiday Season

A philosophy professor stood before his class with some items on the table in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, about 2" in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He then asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "Yes."

The professor then produced two cans of beer from under the table and proceeded to pour their entire contents into the jar - effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The rocks are the important things - your family, your

partner, your health, your children - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter - like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else. The small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, he continued there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life.

If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal.

Take care of the rocks first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just "sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cans of beer."

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season
Dave Cook