



# 'The DCAT Purr-spective

The Newsletter of Drum Corps Alumni Toronto • January 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.

## A Healthy and Peaceful New Year to all! One down two to go. (2001-02)

DCAT has a new web presence; it can be found at [www.dcatchorus.ca](http://www.dcatchorus.ca) Your comments and suggestions are appreciated.

The fundraising concert for New York Relief in Hamilton was a great occasion for a great cause. The DCAT chorus really showed up to perform, it was one of our best performances ever. The crowd was really into it, standing, cheering and clapping. It was magic. There was a video made of the whole show and it will be available for sale very soon. It can be ordered through the GAS Ensemble website ([www.cangasensemble.com](http://www.cangasensemble.com)). After the show, we went to the Branch #58 Legion in Hamilton for the afterglow (corps party). It was good fun and of course we sang some more. The president of the Legion tried to postpone our leaving by plying Wyatt with liquor. You know you're getting old when you leave a drum corps party at 7:30 pm. See *John Jones' excellent accounting of the event inside.*

DCAT membership has been set at \$50.00 for chorus members and \$35.00 for associate members and they are due immediately.

The cost for G.A.S. 2002 in Baltimore is \$325.00 per person. You can pay it all at once or installments. Talk to Gord Irvine if you want to do installments.

We will once again be ordering DCAT winter jackets. Drew Kellas is in charge of this and he will announce when he's taking orders.

## Upcoming Events

- Plan to attend the **Annual DCAT Euchre Party**. It will be held at our Rehearsal Hall located at 131 Broadview Avenue on Sunday, **February 3** at 1:30 p.m. \$5.00 per person • prizes • light refreshments.
- Chorus performance for the Occident Chapter Rameses, **February 16** at 9 p.m. A 1 hr performance.
- G.A.S. Weekend **May 3rd - 5th**

## Election Results from General Meeting • October 10, 2001

Positions up for election were: president, treasurer and secretary. Elected were: Paul Kelly, President; Gord Irvine, Treasurer; Ellie Cameron, Secretary.

Ellie Cameron made an emotional speech and presented a special DCAT pin to Past President Orton Beaumont. During her speech she recounted some of the things accomplished during his four year presidency. She finished up by saying "we also experienced GAS with Ordy".

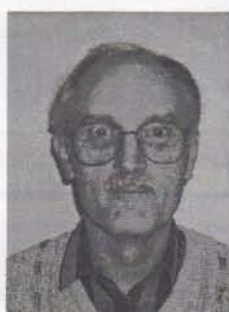
## Your 2002 Executive



Paul Kelly  
President



Don Gill  
Vice-President



Gord  
Treasurer



Ellie Cameron  
Secretary



Terry Brackett  
Business Manager



Dave Cook  
Publicity



Ordy Beaumont  
Past President

### You'll Never Walk Alone • by John Jones

A wonderful song and a sentiment that surely characterizes November 10, 2001 when hundreds of members of the music and marching fraternity from across southern Ontario gathered at the magnificent Hamilton Place Theatre to join together in a benefit concert for the victims of the September 11 tragedy.

For DCAT, a beautiful sunny day started as we loaded onto the buses and made our way across the city to Hamilton. Bus talk revolved around the excitement of being a part of a great event. For many of our members, there were logistical concerns as they were playing in multiple events at the concert.

Upon arrival in Hamilton, we were met by what seemed to be an unending stream of friends and family pouring into Hamilton Place. A lot of backslapping, hand shaking and hugs. Soon the sounds of drums and bugles rehearsing reverberated filling the area. To a stranger this must seem at times like mass chaos. To many of us it's like coming home. We must be crazy. Every nook and cranny filled with people playing. Yet out of the seeming disarray, groups soon took their places on stage to begin rehearsals for the show. Since good rehearsals usually give birth to great performances, you could tell this would be a special day.

For DCAT our time on stage was well used as we fine-tuned the moves we have been practicing. The acoustics in Hamilton Place are superb but for a chorus these larger venues do present some challenges. For one, you can hear yourself sing which for some of us (me) is a revelation. Luckily our experience at Roy Thompson Hall during the Summer helped. I feel that DCAT is maturing, as we seem to be able to adjust quickly to these situations and deliver the performance quality we expect from ourselves.

After rehearsal, lots of time to watch other groups, to socialize and to find places to eat. It was great to see many old friends arriving to watch the show. Seemed like a homecoming in some respects as people stopped by to chat and to catch up on old stories. Great thing about our activity is that years can go by and then you see someone and it's like you just talked yesterday. Saw some people wearing jackets that seemed to have shrunk over the years. Soon it was time for the show to start. I could feel the excitement building.

DCAT opened the show with the national anthems of the United States and Canada. An old friend attending their first show in years told me that when the curtain raised and he saw DCAT standing there he got a lump in his throat. Got real positive comments on the arrangements of the anthems. Singing them seemed to have new meaning given the nature of the event. . It was a great opening for the show. It sure made me feel proud to be up there on stage and a part of DCAT.

The show was a tremendous success. Each group seemed to rise to the occasion and give a performance that had that something extra. I think it is wonderful that so many groups with long histories and bonds of friendship and fraternity were giving of themselves to help others. I am certain that each participant felt that they were a part of a special event giving back to our American friends and neighbors in a way that only our activity can do. This is a time when friendships and family take on new importance.

DCAT's performance was a highlight of the afternoon. Lots of positive feedback on the calibre and the emotion of the performance. I never felt so proud as when we started to sing "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and the crowd began to clap along with us. Emotions building right through the number as the American Flag took centre stage. Standing ovation from the crowd as our flag was presented to the stirring sounds of "The Maple Leaf Forever" and "Oh Canada". Saw more than a few people wiping away tears as we came off the stage. Few other groups can generate this kind of emotion. What a great feeling. It is something that every member of DCAT can all be proud of.

The show ended with the massed brass of the Canadian Brass Ensemble performing "America The Beautiful" and "You Will Never Walk Alone". What a picture as the curtain came up to reveal a huge horn line in many different uniforms including DCAT. All of the performing groups joined together for a final tribute to those who lost their lives. That sight alone brought cheers from the crowd. Interestingly, I was standing with a group of ushers from Hamilton Place. Although these people are not a part of our fraternity, they became a part this afternoon. At the end of the performance, I heard one word from this group "unbelievable". It was an emotional finale to an unbelievable afternoon.

DCAT joined in a post-performance bash at the Canadian Legion Post near the centre. This was a terrific conclusion to a great day. Members of DCAT celebrated together with many other performers and friends. Time to socialize and as usual with most DCAT events, the group was soon entertaining others and ourselves with songs. Brings back memories of some of those bus trips. It was great to see others joining in the singing. Seems like sometimes our most enjoyable performances are in these more relaxed settings or maybe the lack of pressure just makes them seem better. In any case, I had a wonderful time.

Lots of good-byes and hugs as we started to leave to return to Toronto. As usual, the bus ride back is full of a lot of jokes and requests to stop at every Beer Store along the way which soon turned into requests to stop at any store. I think that the afterglow when a great day is coming to an end and you are feeling really successful is great. Everyone was tired after a long day but truly proud of the contribution DCAT made to a fantastic day. I believe all of us felt that there was new meaning to the phrase "You Will Never Walk Alone".

## DCAT Chorus Annual Christmas Concert



As traditions go, the DCAT Chorus Christmas Concert held at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club is one of the best. It is the one time of the year we get to perform for our family, friends and non chorus members of DCAT. Friends of mine and Karen who have been to every one of them say "The holiday season starts with the

DCAT Chorus Christmas Concert". Paul Kelly DCAT President welcomed the audience. The chorus was directed by our Musical Director, Ted Key and Assistant Directors Wyatt Gill and Drew Kellas (it was Drew's directing baptism and we didn't give him too hard a time). If our finale did not bring down the roof, it almost brought down the chandelier. Our national colour bearer who shall remain nameless, paraded the flag pole crashing into the chandelier adding to the drama of the finale.

Santa and Mrs. Claus were there as well as a very tall elf. They handed out gifts to the kiddies adding to the festive family atmosphere.

*This splendid annual affair is generously sponsored by Dave and Ellie Cameron. Thank-you! Thank-you!*

## The Halloween Bash • submitted by The Email Female

Another contribution from the Email Female

News Flash: The Jumbo Shrimp have returned after a visit to Buffalo - it was wonderful to see them - oops! I mean Marilyn and Jim.

The social/decorating/get the goodies for the party/food committee did a splendid job in all categories. The hall was festive, the prizes looked inviting, the music and ambience were great and the food was tantalizing.

We had lots of angels and devils in attendance in all shapes, sizes and genders. There was Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee (or dumb and dumber). Gilligan's Island, aka The Jennings Ensemble, complete with costumes, theme music and sing along sheets. All that was missing was the surf and sand. The lovely Dutch couple - how did they dance in those wooden shoes? Foxy, the mark of Zorro, and Dolly the beautiful spanish lady without castanets (did she have them surgically removed?) John and Evelyn were Roy Carrothead and Dale Evans. The Queen Mom made an appearance (what a hat) with her own fanfare and Kavalier guard. She spent part of the evening pursuing biker chick Agnes whose bodyguard Joan kept a close watch. Perhaps the Queen Mom want's to "come out of her closet" if she can find the door amongst the gin bottles. The Teleban thug won a prize, we're such generous people. All photo-ops were perfectly managed by Dave and Karen. There were many more creative costumes, cats, skeletons and whatever.

The bar was under the control of Brian and Gord ever congenial and smiling. Late arrivals were Gary and Janet L. their son and friends sans costumes but it was great that they came.

The down side - much smaller attendance - where where the others? Did Ted go to Dickey Lake to trick or treat? The upside - more room to dance, more prizes (some received two) and seconds at the beautifully decorated and yummy buffet. A great time. Many thanks to those who came and contributed.

