

The DCAT Purr-spective

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.



Sadly, we lost Terry Nicholls on Thursday, May 27, 2004

Terry performed in two shows at GAS 04 in Hamilton on May 1st. He was admitted to hospital two days later and passed away 26 days later.

Terry was drum corps to the core. He was an ex-Guelph Royalaire, and played cymbals with the Rochester Crusaders, Hamilton Firefighters and the Canadian GAS Ensemble. One of Terry's fondest memories was participating in the mass drum corps in Macey's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. He had a vision of a mass drum corps in the Toronto Santa Claus parade, perhaps some day.

Terry and his wife Lois were original members of the DCAT Alumni. Since 1994, Terry had been involved with the chorus, initially as canteen manager, statistician, supporter and recruiter. When the chorus got larger and added toys (equipment), Terry became our equipment manager. Terry and Lois and their trusty van would haul our equipment to each and every event. Terry would set up and test the sound system and the keyboard and when it was over take it all down and pack it up. When the chorus added some instruments Terry (a.k.a. BFC) became our cymbal player.

Terry was also known as the happy hooker. He had created many intricately detailed corps flag wall hangings that adorned our previous rehearsal hall. Another one of his many skills was baking especially with chocolate. Chocolate cake, brownies and cookies.

A celebration of his life will take place on Saturday, June 19, 2004 at the Hamilton Firefighters Drum Corps Banquet Facility at 175 Dartnall Road, Hamilton. It's still in the planning stages right now, but the DCAT Chorus, Hamilton Firefighters Drum Corps and GAS Ensemble will be performing for sure. It will be starting around 4:00pm, with the performances around 7:00.

We have lost a member of our DCAT family, Terry will be missed.

GAS 2004, Hamilton or "Does everyone have a place to sit?"

This is the time of year we all look forward to when we gather with old friends and comrades to socialize, entertain and party.

Most of the guests in the Howard Johnson included drum corps people, hockey players, transvestites and some bikers. The transvestites were there to put on a fund raising show and party. Every elevator ride was an adventure, you never knew what combination of hotel guests were going to be on board. Wyatt met an old friend on the elevator and they were sharing a manly hug when one of the transvestites got on the elevator and said "you boys must be here for the party."



Our hotel was located in the Entertainment District of Hamilton with its varied cultural activities and scenic attractions. Alison Robson took guided tours of the cultural adult establishment across the street from our hotel. A couple of our guys, who shall remain nameless, were there (on the tour) and ended up closing the place. The manager of the establishment said that they had run out of ladies to work the poles and unless they were prepared to get on stage, it was closing time.

On Thursday evening there was an early bird gathering at the Firefighters Hall located about a half hour drive from the hotel. There was a problem with the timing of the shuttle bus so most people found their own way up the mountain to the hall. There was food, drink and socializing, a taster for the weekend ahead.

Friday saw the arrival of the remainder of the GAS reunion participants. The day was taken up with orientation, how to get from one hotel to the other and chorus rehearsals and reuniting with old friends. Unfortunately we were not allowed to have beer in the room we rented as a hospitality suite so it was just used as a rehearsal hall. We had our rehearsal time and then we worked on "Our Father" with our friends the Bon Bon Alumni Chorus under the direction Rip Bernert.



Rehearsal with Rip and the girls

Friday night was the official beginning to the weekend. The Bon Bons opened the entertainment part of the evening with an excellent performance followed by DCAT. The DCAT chorus put on a show that was probably our best performance to date. We got a tremendous audience reaction right from the

opening number and it continued to build throughout the performance. It was magical, a number of standing ovations and a rousing finale.

After the performances, we retired to the hospitality suite with the (*un*)usual cast of characters. We partied till the wee hours.

Saturday was a long, hot day. The hall where the all day talent event was held was very hot even though they brought in fans and floor dryers to try to move the air around. The Saturday talent event was more like an alumni drum corps show. Kudos to the DCAT 4 for living up to the spirit of the event. Joe Watson was a vision of Scout House. John Parkinson was a vision of beauty; me thinks he enjoys wearing that TuTu far to-to much. Edna Kingsley charmed the audience with her vocals and audience mingling and Lois dancing around stitching it all together.

Unfortunately, "The Castaways" cancelled their performance due to the death of one of their members. The Cadre Drum Club put on an excellent drumming exhibition followed by some cool rope drumming.

Scout House was well represented with both their Colour Guard and their Alumni Corps performing. They were very impressive staging 53 horns and a lot of drums. They are always a crowd pleaser. The Archer Epler mini corps was enjoyable. They play our stuff! Also performing were the Hamilton Firefighters (*host*), Simcoe United (*host*), Toronto Signals, Kawartha Cavaliers, Toronto Optimist Alumni corps and the Canadian GAS Ensemble.

During the Saturday events, John Fox went up to his hotel room to change into something cooler to find the shower head had blown off and was gushing water into the tub. There would have been a flood had he not felt the need to shed some clothing.

Saturday evening (after everyone found a seat) was the opening ceremony. The anthems were followed by the visual tribute to fallen comrades and the singing of the Lords Prayer with the combined voices of DCAT and Bon Bon choruses.

The family style banquet was not consistent table to table with some tables not getting all the courses or and/or not enough to go around. In the end, everybody did get something to eat.

The Bon Bon chorus opened the performance part of the evening followed by the Skyliners chorus and the DCAT chorus. One of the highlights of DCAT's performance was the Royal Visit. Rule Britannia... enter her Majesty The Queen (Gillian Maloney) escorted by Sergeant Swampy of the RCMP. Queenie had the audience rolling in the aisles with her stories of The Policeman's Ball, The Viewing and the burying of the hokey pokie guy plus stories about dear Philip. Well done Gillian, what a fabulous addition to our entertainment package.

The formal part of the evening wrapped up with the parade of uniforms and the turning over of the GAS banner to next years hosts.



"Purrfect Harmony" March 28

The Chorus performed at another successful fund raising event for the Jimmy Simpson Recreational Centre in Riverdale. It was titled "Purrfect Harmony". Also on the program were the Naditu Belly Dancers who got Dennis Juneau up for a lesson. Maybe we should do belly dancing instead of Irish Dancing, it's easier on the knees. This is an annual event, sponsored and organized by ETC. News, the Riverdale community newspaper whose owners Bruce & Terry Brackett are also members of the DCAT chorus.

The DCAT Dinner Dance held on April 17th

It was a fabulous success thanks to Edna Allen and her hard working committee.

Members and friends turned out in their finest for an evening of dining and dancing. The hall was beautifully decorated and it set the mood for the evening. The evening was directed by Edna Allen and MC'd by Orton Beaumont. There were draw prizes galore and a silent auction. At first glance it appeared the meal was going to be Kentucky Fried Chicken but it turned out that they were just containers for the draw tickets. We are already booking the hall for next year. *See back page for photos.*

Upcoming Events

- Terry Nicholls celebration of life, Saturday, June 19, 2004 at the Hamilton Firefighters Drum Corps Banquet Facility at 175 Dartnall Road, Hamilton. The event starts at 4:00 pm and the chorus will perform at about 7:00 pm. The performance time could change.
- Performance - Scarborough Civic Centre performance July 18, 2004. The event event is from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm please be there by 1:30 pm. We will be joined by the Ulster Accordion Band.
- Performance - Roy Thomson Hall lobby show Wednesday, August 18th
- Performance - 50th Anniversary of the Rexdale United church, Sunday, October 17, 2004
- Corn Roast at the Alpaca Ranch, September 25th - Pat and Gillian Maloney are once again hosting this event. Details to follow.
- DCAT Annual Christmas Concert - Sunday, November 28th at the Jimmy Simpson Recreational Centre.

***Please note - There will be no rehearsals on the following dates
July 21st, July 28th. August 25th and September 1st.***

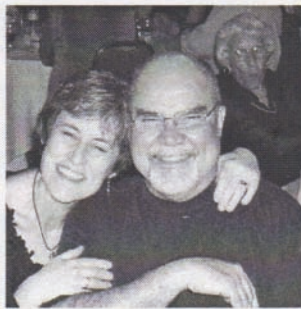
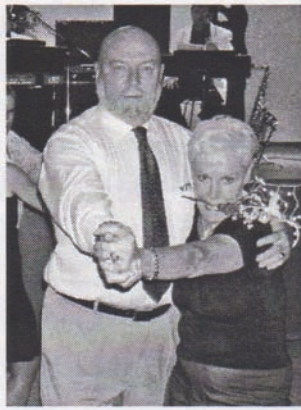
Just out of interest, the drum corps on the barge in the 649 lottery commercial is the Florida Wave. I understand that the Optimists Alumni will be in the next commercial.

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Visit our web site at www.dcatchorus.ca

The DCAT Dinner Dance April 17th, Estonian House



GAS Reunion - Hamilton - 2004

