

# 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.*

After 10 years of being the publicist for DCAT, I decided it was time to step down. It has been an honour and pleasure to have served on the DCAT Executive and produce the newsletter. I have a lot of memories: from the early years when we were the new "cats" on the block at the GAS reunion to now where we are a major entertainment force. I remember DCAT hosting the 1999 GAS reunion "DCAT's" Meow; performances on CITY TV, at Roy Thomson Hall, at the Comunicorp indoor golf tournament and the South sea port in NYC. I recall the fund raising garage sales and the many dances we had in the early years. I also want to thank everyone who contributed to the newsletter.

As part of the publicity role Don Gill takes over as editor of the newsletter and responsibility for content. I shall continue to work with Don doing the layout of the newsletter. - *Dave Cook*

Hi and welcome to 2005. I would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year and may all your hopes and dreams be realized. This is the new format of Purr-spective and I hope it is an enjoyable and informative change. I have invited members of our chorus who belong to other alumni organizations to write an article about their alumni group. The hope is to keep everyone informed about what has happened and what will be happening in the near future (3 months) and the fun stuff going on in our groups. We are also going to try to distribute the newsletter electronically wherever possible. Not only is it faster, it should save a lot of the expense of printing and mailing. To that end, I would appreciate anyone who does not wish to receive it by email to contact me and have his or her name removed from the list. Just a sidebar about the email list, be assured that it will

be used solely for the distribution of Purr-spective and will not be shared with anyone. It is the intention to issue Purr-spective more or less quarterly in the coming year and deliver it to all the associated groups either by snail mail or email.

If anyone has suggestions about content or opinions on past articles we welcome your contact.

It has been suggested that we devote a section to list all people who wish to extend their email addresses so that other people may get in touch, especially with the expanded coverage. Please let me know your feelings about this. We also will try to organize an events calendar. If everyone will let me know of upcoming events we will put together a co-ordinated calendar of all the groups involved.

**This is the beginning of DCAT's 11 year.** It is with pride that I look back to the meeting on my balcony with Tom Hamilton, Stan Babiarz, Dave Cook, Joe Watson, and Brian Hill, to start the process of forming a chorus similar to the ones we had just watched at our first GAS in Cambridge, Ontario with Preston Scout House as host. The first order of business was to contact Ted Key who agreed with enthusiasm to be the conductor, mentor and arranger for the new chorus. And the second was to organize the phone patrol. The rest is history. **We came We sang We conquered.**



Don Gill



Tom Hamilton



Stan Babiarz



Dave Cook



Joe Watson



Brian Hill

Ted has written and we are now working on the 2005 DCAT repertoire with 5 of the hardest, and in my opinion the nicest arrangements so far in his list of memorable arrangements.

The songs of our 2005 are:

**Curtains Up** – A medley of Broadway songs

**Superman** – Music by John Williams with lyrics by Ted

**Tribute to Princemen** – Some of their favourites from the past

**Feelings** – A rework from our past

**Beatles Medley** – Three of their favourites featuring  
Yellow Submarine

We have a gig on March 30th in Markham to entertain the Shriners. This will be an international gathering of past potentates, some 500 or 600 people apparently, and of course our trip to King of Prussia and our visit with all our friends at GAS 2005. It promises to be a good one as we were here 4 years ago and the hotel and food were good then and I'm sure will be even better this time. With our hosts Archer-Epler and Bon Bons being joined by St. Lucy's.

It would be remiss of me not to thank Dave Cook for his years of toil, publishing and virtually inventing DCAT Purr-spective and for his continuing work of assembling and creating all the graphics as well as organizing the printing and electronic distribution of Purr-spective.

I would like to thank all the contributors to this issue of Purr-spective and look forward to their continuing assistance.

## New DCAT Executive

We have had an election since the last issue of Purr-spective and our new executive board is made up of



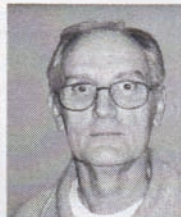
Paul Kelly  
president



John Jones  
vice president



John Dickinson  
business manager



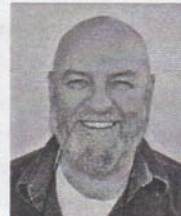
Gord Irvine  
treasurer



Edna Allen  
social director



Ellie Cameron  
secretary



Don Gill  
publicity



Linda Norton  
membership



Orton Beaumont  
past president

We wish them good judgment and enthusiasm in their efforts for this term.

## Vineyard Alpaca/DCAT BBQ

On Sep 25th they descended on Beamsville with their chairs, coolers, assorted libations (both alcoholic and non) and various layers of clothing. They came to see the Alpacas, enjoy the country atmosphere (mosquitoes, trains, manure, heart-stopping bangers in the vineyards), sing a little, and to Eat Drink and Talk a lot. Oh, and to also burn stuff. Did you know that a peanut butter sandwich will burn longer than a cord of wood?

*It's a bird, it's a plane, it's superm...no, it's a mosquito!!*

The weather was pretty good this year being sunny and fairly mild. It was great to be outside after a disappointing summer. Unfortunately our local mosquitoes thought so too and invited

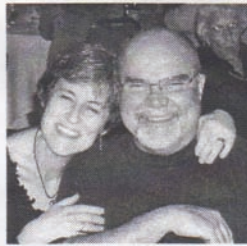
all their friends. Fortunately the hosts (who are cottage country survivors) were able to provide large quantities of insect repellent. Aaaaah..the Canadian summer smell of grilled hamburgers and Deet!

Some of the guys brought out their inner Italian and indulged in very competitive game of Bocce Ball. It was pretty good fun, so next year we hope to have more games to play. Horseshoes and Croquet anyone?

The alpacas were pretty tolerant of the partying, and Taffy and Malbec, who were only a few days old, scampered around and were generally pretty cute.

A huge thanks to Edna & Jim with their traveling party tents, cooking apparatuses and "make it happen" attitude. Big thanks also to John Moffat and Jim Allen for manning the grill and providing us with a perfect feast of burgers, corn and dogs. Also thanks to Don and Marg for their work in getting things set up and also for help with the day after clean up and and general sort out.

You are all invited back next year for more fun, more games and



an even bigger fire (Joe, our furniture, fences and standing trees are off limits as fire fuel).

Thanks for being such appreciative guests

*Queen and the Bear*

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## De La Salle Reunion October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004

I was very proud to be a member of DCAT when we performed at the De La Salle "Zack Nite" in honour of Brother Xavier.

This event had much meaning for me personally. I marched in De La Salle. It was the most amazing experience of my life. Also Brother Xavier was someone I admired greatly. He was a friend.

There are many similarities between DCAT and De La Salle although they are very different organizations. Both are composed of people who have a deep love of the organization and what it stands for. There is an inner strength that comes from this.

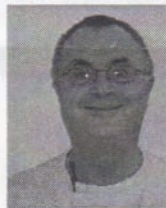
Since I am a member of both organizations, this event was great. It allowed me to perform with friends in front of friends. Also, the people in Del got to see what a wonderful performing ensemble DCAT has become. Helps me a lot when I try to explain what we sing. In addition, both groups enjoy a good time so I knew that the post performance party would be great.

In retrospect, the actual night of the event was kind of a blur for me. There were so many people that I wanted to speak to. Friends who I had not seen in years. It was almost too much of a

good thing. Standing in the hallway waiting to perform seemed like an eternity. I wanted to get on stage and let them hear us.

We did an excellent performance. When we sang "You'll Never Walk Alone", I had a surge of emotion. I was surrounded by people that I care about performing in a building seeped in our history. A rare experience.

I received many compliments on our performance in person that night and in emails and conversations since the event. All shared in the emotion of the performance with us. It that ability to emotionally engage the audience which is a mark of greatness. It is that special thing that we bring to these drum corps events. Not many can do it as effectively as DCAT.



In closing this article I want to express to all of the members of DCAT on behalf of the De La Salle Alumni our deepest thanks for your support. It was a major factor in the success of the event.

You helped make memories. - *John Jones*

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## A DCAT in Hamilton Firefighter's Drum Corps

I joined the corps in the fall of 2001 after doing some guard work with the Canadian Gas Ensemble that year. Terry and I went all out with the Corps until his demise in 2004. During that time a lot of things happened...some were Great.. some were so-so and some were.."Did we really pull that off???" The great things were the performances we did in Maine in Sept 02 where we swept in right after a hurricane swept out and we WOW'd the firefighters in York and the residents of Andover. This year was the first year of the working color guard for the Firefighters and this was a concept they were not used to and some were less than enthused about. They soon found out that the guard was a positive for the unit and all was well within. Firefighters are a diverse group but a family none the less( something like DCAT). 2003 saw the corps perform in the Metro St. Patrick's Day parade as well as an America Days Parade in Rome, N.Y. We also participated in a Benefit concert for the Hamilton Burn Unit. In addition to all of the regular parades of course because the corps is a parade and concert unit according to it's promotional material. 2004

brought about the GAS reunion in Hamilton which the corps co-sponsored. Shortly after that event the corps participated in the Hamilton International Tattoo and were very well received. The summer was full of parades and shows in Ontario as well as New York . We paraded the Stanley Cup into the new Andreychuk Arena and did a pre-game show at the gates of a Ti-Cats game and then watched (in our own inimitable style) from the end



zone. I'm sure I've left things out but when I look back over the last three years those are the events that stand out in my somewhat disorganized mind. Onward and upward for 2005..... hopefully.

*Lois Nicholls (your DCAT in HFFDC)*

## The York Lions Drum Corps

Being a member of the York Lions Drum Corps in the sixties was probably the best time that a teenager could ever have, at least it was to me. Yes, there were more successful corps in the area but it was the York Lions that I chose. Some forty years later and I still have friendships that were forged in those early years.

The number of times we spoke of having a reunion are countless, (we being Rick Smith, Bob Nelson and myself John Dickinson) there were always excuses why it would be just too hard to achieve. Trying to find all the members (140 in total) and organizing such an event just seemed impossible. In the early 90's someone tried to have a reunion and ended up with eight people having a BBQ in a backyard.

In June 2002 one of my best buddies Mr Bob Nelson passed away and on the morning of his funeral I made a promise to him that the reunion we spoke about for so many years would take place. As we were toasting Bob properly in the parking lot after the funeral I broached the subject again with those who were there and once again it seemed like it would be just too much work.

One week later I contacted Tom Stelling and together we organized a reunion committee that was second to none and together we made those impossibilities smooth out like silk. Along with Tom and myself Gord Moffatt, Rick Smith, Pat Maloney, Dave Kirton, Ted Huston, and Dan Skelding the reunion took shape and in Sept. 2003 we had our special day.

A BBQ that started at lunch time with entertainment provided by The CADRE Drum Line, The Optimist Alumni Drum Corps and The Hamilton Firefighters Drum Corps and this followed by a semi formal dinner and dance and the highlight of the entertainment The DCAT Chorus Of Toronto.

All of this made for a great day but nothing could surpass reacquainting ourselves with those people that we spent so much time with and also with those who influenced us as we were growing up.

Upon seeing such a success we decided that this should not be a one time effort and have decided to have a yearly get together as well as a major reunion every four or five years.

It's true when they say that good memories and good friendships will last a lifetime. - *John Dickinson*

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## Preston Scout House

Canada's Famous Scout House Bugle Band

Greetings from Cambridge! All of us in Scout House hope that everyone in DCAT enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and we wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

2004 and was certainly an exciting year for Scout House. At year end the band had grown to 122 "marching members" including 61 bugles, 35 drums, 7 glockenspiels and 15 in the color guard.

Some of you may recall that the Scout House "Alumni" Band made its very first significant appearance in front of a drum corps crowd at "DCAT's Meow" in Mississauga in 1999. And it was at the first Canadian G. A. S. convention sponsored by Scout House a few years earlier that DCAT first got its start. As so often happens at G.A.S. a small group of drum corps alumni from Toronto had so much fun that they decided to participate on a regular basis. And shortly thereafter, the first DCAT Chorus meeting was called. As the saying goes, the rest is history.

The band rehearses every Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Steelworkers' Hall in Cambridge, 510 Collier-MacMillan Drive. The Drill Team is at Preston Legion 126 at 334 Westminster Drive every Thursday evening. The Colour Guard works out at Galt Legion 121 every Wednesday at 4 Veterans' Way and the newly formed "Silver Leaves" (the Scout House elite musical bugle ensemble) also practices on Wednesday at the S. W. Naval Association Hall at 30 Cambridge Street.

Why not join us on April 2 at the Preston Legion for our Annual Dance and Social? This year Scout House is working on a 50's Theme so dress the part if you can still find those old clothes. Just a word of caution. Tickets are *very* popular and the last two years they have sold out very quickly. You can order tickets through:

Nancy Weiler at: [prestonscouthouseband.adm@sympatico.ca](mailto:prestonscouthouseband.adm@sympatico.ca) or  
Eleanor Cherry at: [eleanor.k.cherry@fritolay.com](mailto:eleanor.k.cherry@fritolay.com)

The Scout House web address is: [www.scouthouseband.ca](http://www.scouthouseband.ca)

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## The Toronto Signals Band

The Toronto Signals Band ends their busy Christmas Season of parades. Which included Cambridge, Niagara Falls, Brampton, Guelph, Fenlon Falls, Markham, Streetsville and Peterborough. In which the Band donated \$1000.00 to the Peterborough Disaster Relief Fund; and the Province of Ontario doubled our donation which gave \$3000.00 to help the flood victims in Peterborough.

We also honoured this past season our long-standing members with service badges. Badges start at 5 years of service to up to 50 years of service. Bill Selfe (snare drummer) received the 50 year service badge and Eddie Robinson (snare drummer) 45 years. And they are still going strong!

In this past year we also launched our new web site [www.torontosignals.com](http://www.torontosignals.com) It's worth a visit!!

Sylvia Fordham lost her battle with cancer on January 6th, 2005 - She will be missed.

John Parkinsons Mother passed away on January \_ 2005. She was 101.