

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.

Since our last issue we have attended GAS in King of Prussia and performed in a benefit performance in Waterford. Both were great events. I think this year's GAS was the best since DCAT hosted in 1999. Friday night reverted to a 'Beer Blast' and the DJ provided the catalysts for some 'whacky' dancing by our Entertainment Team. Go Barb!!!! Watch- out for Swampy.

The Saturday afternoon presentation was as much fun as I can remember for a very long time, and the sing-song in the Hospitality Suite was fabulous. Congrats to all involved in organizing the 2005 GAS.

Next up was our trip to Waterford where the Simcoe Alumni sponsored a benefit for the rebuilding of the music department of the local high school which was destroyed by fire(?) DCAT and the Alumni Corps donated their time and I understand about \$10,000 was raised. Another 'Well Done' to the Simcoe group. I was very impressed with the Alumni Corps who participated.

We are now preparing for a 2 hour show at the Scarborough Civic Centre on August 28th with guest belly dancers and CADRE'. Also coming up is our "Last" annual Alpaca Ranch Outing' August 13th.

The Executive is working hard at planning the future of DCAT as reflected in John Jones' and Linda Norton's reports in this issue of *Purr-spective*.

In the last issue I prompted any and all of you to contact me with any opinions, etc. and then didn't tell you how to contact me. Well here it is, my email is marggill@synpatico.ca. I didn't hear from any of the other Alumni groups who received the last issue so I presume there is little interest. I will continue to make copies, printed or electronic, available to all, if requested.

Enjoy! Talk to you in the next issue of *Purr-spective*. - Don Gill

Message from John Jones

For some months the Executive has been engaged in discussions to determine how we can strengthen DCAT for the future. The perpetuation of the organization is the primary responsibility of leadership. This article is my personal perspective on some of the issues we should consider as an organization.

DCAT is a strong organization well respected by its peers for its organizational strength, its musical ability and it's willingness to help others. It is a leader in the activity today.

I believe that DCAT is first and foremost a social organization. Members value the camaraderie and friendships which are developed inside DCAT. In fact, many of the founding members of DCAT were friends before the advent of the organization. That tradition of friendship and concern for one another is a foundation of the organization and one of DCAT's fundamental strengths.

DCAT is a musical organization of caliber. High levels of performance capability have been developed. The organization is respected for its technical abilities among our peers. There has been serious internal discussion about the type of music; the amount of music; the complexity of the music; and the entertainment value of the music. I take pride in belonging to a high quality organization. The question here is can we get better? How do we get better? And, do we want to?

I believe we must take every opportunity to improve communications internally. We started the process with the membership survey in order to ascertain what people inside the organization are feeling. The members indicated that improved communication from the Executive is important. Although communications in a large group is difficult, I agree that this is an important area for us to work on.

We have a diverse membership. Although many

members have their roots in the drum corps activity, we have a growing segment of our membership that does not have drum corps roots. What unites us regardless of our background is a love of singing, our friends inside the organization, the DCAT experience and working together towards common goals. I believe that diversity is strength of an organization.

We must operate the organization in a manner that ensures that all people are treated with respect and in the same manner that we would like to be treated. Regardless of our background we are all members of DCAT. Each of us by our actions must reflect upon the organization in a positive way.

We are an aging group. This is an issue facing all drum corps alumni organizations. There is a need to recruit another generation who will carry the torch forward. We must ensure that all members new and old can see themselves inside DCAT. The people who marched in the 70s may not have the same links to the drum corps of the past as we do. We must provide an experience where all people from all backgrounds can see themselves reflected in the organization.

We must ensure that DCAT operates on a sound financial basis. We have been very fortunate over the years that people have donated facilities, time and energy to the organization. However, costs have escalated. This will continue. We must ensure that we maintain the sound well managed financial position that is ours currently.

We must also ensure that the major positions of leadership in all elected and appointed positions are backed up so that we reduce the risk to the organization in the event that anyone has a problem

such as their health, that forces them to withdraw from or reduce participation in the organization. Development of a replacement is a primary responsibility of each leader. This is a difficult task.

We need to encourage more people to serve and participate of the management team, committees and other initiatives necessary to operate DCAT. I believe that each member has an obligation to put something back into an organization for what they get out of it. DCAT is fortunate that we have so many people willing to help. I feel that if you belong to something you have a personal responsibility to make a contribution to the organization.

We must reach out to the drum corps community particularly other alumni organizations. DCAT is one of the few alumni organizations that is not tied to one specific drum corps history. I feel that with the growth of alumni type organizations, there is the potential for DCAT to assist in this growth and also to benefit from it.

From my experience, the old adage "if you don't know where you are going then any road will get you there" is a good analogy. Consequently, it is my plan to work together with the executive team and the membership to craft a picture of the future. I believe this will assist us as we move forward. It will help us make better decisions and to communicate more effectively.

It is my plan that this discussion will be ongoing. I want to engage the members of the organization in the development of what we all see as our future because in reality the organization exists to serve its members.

Thanks for listening. - *John Jones*

Reflections on GAS 2005 *Valley Forge Hilton, Valley Forge, PA.*

By Annie in the Tundra

Late on a Saturday night in early May, many of us were singing, laughing, talking with friends in the hospitality suite or jamming in the banquet hall and not wanting to let go and give in to the exhaustion we were feeling as another reunion was winding down. How quickly those past 4 days had gone, AGAIN.

After a long bus ride, hotel registration and a quick shower, we boarded another bus. This time on an old school bus that shuttled us to the Archer Epler Post in Upper Darby, PA. The Post was opened in 1938 and has a rich history. Such incredible memories in the form of pictures, uniforms, stories of the early years. If only the walls could talk! To add to this, Mark and Bill are delighted to tell the story of the

ghost that roams the post, moving articles about, making strange noises on the second and third floor, to any visitors this definitely adds to the mystique of this wonderful old place. The very generous buffet meal provided by Archie was a welcome bonus after a long trip and the biographical movie put together detailing the many years of good times was a visual delight and a history lesson for most of us. Back on the bus and another quick trip back to the Hilton. The hospitality suite was officially opened. The crowd was small as the long days journey had caught up with most people.

Friday was a "do your own thing" day for the most part and full advantage was taken by either shopping, some went to Victoria's Secret and then displayed their purchases to a few of us? The boys

were impressed! Many took the tour to Valley Forge, which Ortie Beaumont stated he was glad he did not miss, others just wished to reacquaint with our friends from other drum corps. This was high on the agenda for many of us and the staging area for this activity was the lobby, or hallways or (surprise) the bar. Poor Jerry, the day time bartender who was not used to being so busy at just after 12.00 noon, became quite perturbed and rattled with so many thirsty customers to serve and commented it usually didn't get busy until at least 4.00 p.m. He had a few verbal confrontations with individuals who shall remain nameless and said he could not handle all this. Bucky Swan volunteered to bring in a bartender from New York City who could handle with precision the overflow crowd. We did have old Jerry smiling, by the end of the afternoon. Perhaps it was the tips! After a rehearsal and a rest period, it was time to eat and prepare for the beer bash and a heck of a bash it was. The DJ started to pump out the tunes shortly after 8.00 p.m. Marg Gill, I believe was first on the dance floor followed almost immediately by the remainder of the DCAT's at that particular table. We are a shy lot. Before 10 minutes was up the floor was packed with gyrating bodies and that set the tone for the rest of the evening. Some highlights: Jim Jennings making a valiant attempt to learn the line dance with the Bon Bons girls – but some how always turning opposite to the way he should turn, way to go Jim - Swampy and Barb Jennings performing a sensuous duet of bumps and grinds ON THE STAGE, (next year, Barb we will provide you with a pole), there were many variations of the jive, the twist, line dances with people doing strange moves when their turn came to strut, and Who Knew, Janet Leebody, always so pretty, could, in her bare feet yet, shake her booty in such a way the guys were speechless. Tony and Connie Casciato movin' and groovin' to many different beats and Swampy and Hosie (not together) just getting it on to the music. What a night and then to top it off, for those who still had stamina or their B12 shot recently, the hospitality suite, food, every kind of liquid you could want in all colors as well as bathtubs full of beer and always singing. From war songs to corps songs and the infamous Don Gill arrangement of "Swing Low" which always puts Bucky Swan into orbits of laughter. A standing room only crowd, it doesn't get much better than this. Bed 1.45 a.m. and we left early I am told.

Stepping out of bed Saturday morning the Fred Astairs and Ginger Rogers of the previous night could not understand why we could not walk or for that matter stand for more than a few seconds. There is nothing like a hot shower, hearty breakfast and happy faces greeting you to set you straight for yet another day. Off we go to the talent show, for me

it is the highlight of the weekend as it showcases the talent, dedication, ingenuity and down right courage it takes to participate. Some of the highlights: 11 year old Johnny Bistline III, carrying on the family tradition of playing a trumpet – he'll march DCI some day no doubt; Barbara Flowers – cymbals/accessories, what a great idea; The Romeos, complete with drum set – always funny and talented to boot; solos by Mike DelVecchio, Mike Snow; The "Me and My Shadow" routine, so clever; Cadre, superb; The DCAT Five with Parkie's ending!; the surprise feature with all those lovely ladies or drag queens; Archer Epler playing with Radar in the line (perhaps he can rent himself out to a different drum corps each year). The whole show was terrific and very well attended. The formal banquet in the evening was well organized and how nice to see everyone looking fabulous – we do clean up well, don't we? The tribute to those who have passed on during the year is always very poignant and aside from the technical difficulty went well. The performances by the three chorus', Bon Bons Alumni, Sky Chorus and DCAT were well received and each unit presented a unique style. Of course Our Queen, was a huge hit, way to go Gillian. This was followed by the parade of uniforms which seems to grow each year as well. Afterwards the hospitality suite was a packed house with lots of laughter, singing, visiting and general nonsense. Boy can we party. I understand the jam session in the banquet hall was bigger and better than ever with approximately 60-70 brass and assorted color guard activities. All this was co-conducted by Rick Dixon, Rip Bernert, Duke Terreri, Phil Gentile, J.D., and Jimmy Russo. It was a real blast from the past! Bed, 2.30 a.m. and we again left early I understand.

Sunday morning and the reality of what we had done and experienced over the past four days took hold of our brains and body. The breakfast area was quite subdued with quiet conversation and sad faces as we knew once again, GAS was coming to a close.

As a member of DCAT but not a performing member this past year I had more time to observe and focus on the concept and reason GAS started in the first place by having some very interesting conversations with some members who have been attending GAS since its inception in 1985. It is a time to be with friends and associates to reminisce and yet still dream about the future. To listen and enjoy the talent being displayed which seems to increase each year whether it be instrumental, vocal or whatever other form it takes. Our love of drum corps is why we gather each year. Next year GAS 2006, BOSTON. But, we won't get lost this time, will we?

Cheers from *Ann Watson*

• • • GAS 2005 • Valley Forge • • •





Membership Update:

In the membership survey this year, members indicated that they wanted to have more communication with the Executive regarding ongoing issues and discussions. This article in Perspectives, is one way to foster that communication, and seek your feedback.....so read on.....

My focus at the moment is recruitment. In conjunction with the executive, potential groups of singers have been identified (e.g. drum corps alumni, members of other choirs etc). For each group of singers, a number of factors have been identified including what they may be looking for from us, and ideas as to how to recruit them. Bear in mind that these are ideas and suggestions only – they will not necessarily be implemented, but they are intended to stimulate discussion and feedback. Over the next few months we will work towards implementing the best ideas.

Your help is both needed and appreciated. Please provide me with any feedback on these or other strategies.w

Group	What do they want from us	Marketing Ideas	Plan/Responsibility
Drum Corps Alumni	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Camaraderie• Recapturing Drum Corps Spirit• Performing within a group• Reconnecting with old friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote the Drum Corps roots of DCAT in our promotional material (brochures, website etc)• Establish a link to DCAT's web site from the other alumni sites• (?) come sing with us invitation night—with a cash bar. Inviting the alumni from other corps...we could give a short informal concert, then have more of a sing along format (may help people make the connection between music and camaraderie)• (?) Put an add in the newsletter of other Drum Corps• Look for opportunities to sing at other drum corps events to increase the profile and do personal recruiting• Profile some of our members on the website with their Drum Corps history	

Group	What do they want from us	Marketing Ideas	Plan/ Responsibility
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Do you belong here?” recruitment section of the web page, including pictures from the perspective of singers in the chorus. Include here the expected commitments 	
Singers (Member of other choirs looking for a second choir or a change)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camaraderie Good music to sing Information about our director, the type of music we sing, and to hear our music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music sample on the web site Invitation to join us for a rehearsal to other vocal groups Search web site for choir listings and get our information added Profile some of our members on the website with their musical backgrounds 	
Performance Attendees		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information table with pictures and resources at each event, including an invitation to join As appropriate include a membership “plug” when we are being introduced at concerts 	
Local Community		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flyer delivered to local community introducing our selves and inviting participation. Deliver Invitations to concerts 	
Friends		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each member of DCAT is given a recruiting package to pass along to an interested party. Maybe we could do an incentive...If a member recruits a new member that stays for at least 6 months gets a free set of 50/50 draw tickets. 	
Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	

If you would like to get involved, and help with any recruiting strategies please talk with me at rehearsal or contact me at nortonl@sympatico.ca or 416-234-8138.

CADRE NEWS

MISSISSAUGA MARATHON

Sunday, May 15th, Mississauga, Ontario

They ran to the beat of the drums.

CADRE had participated in 2004, and we were all looking forward to another great event.

The special aspect of the marathon is the overwhelming response from the runners.

It provided an impetus to keep going... a boost... that extra lift when they need it most.

MUHTADI 6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DRUMMING FESTIVAL

June 3, 4 and 5th
– Toronto, Ontario

CADRE was the “opener” at the Royal Ontario Museum on Friday, June 3rd – the prestigious venue for the festival’s kick-off event.

CADRE performed again on both Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Our style of precision, rudimental drumming on ancient rope drums as well as modern high tension drums was a real crowd-pleaser. Many people stopped by to ask us about rudimental drumming.

Upcoming

10th Annual SHAKE - 2005

Friday, September 30th & Saturday, October 1st
Firefighters Hall 175 Dartnall Road, South Hamilton, Ontario

Massed-drumming, special guests, hi-level performances...

Friday, September 30th - don’t miss the “Shake ‘n Bake Jam”. Bar facilities available.

Saturday, October 1st - please bring your practice pad, pad stand and music stand to Saturday’s session.

Entrance Fees:

\$20.00 (CDN\$) per adult drumming participant

\$10.00 (CDN\$) for adult non-drumming attendees.

DCAT Upcoming Events and Performances

Alpaca Ranch BBQ	Aug. 13/05
Scarborough Town Center	Aug. 28th
Royal York Hotel	Sept. 16th
Donway Place	Sept. 28th
DCAT Dinner/Dance	Oct. 22nd
Zack Night (Del La Salle)	Oct. 29th
DCAT Christmas Social	Nov. 20th

DCAT Executive

Paul Kelly - *president*

John Jones - *vice president*

John Dickenson - *business manager*

Gord Irvine - *treasurer*

Edna Allen - *social director*

Ellie Cameron - *secretary*

Don Gill - *publicity*

Linda Norton - *membership*

Orton Beaumont - *past president*

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Ted Key - *musical director*

Dave Cook - *webmaster/newsletter design*

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