



# The DCAT Purr-spective

DCAT (Drum Corps Alumni Toronto) 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.

The Newsletter of the Drum Corps Alumni of Toronto - November 2006

## From The President *John Jones*

**D**CAT recently completed its twelfth year as an organization. It was a very successful year from all aspects.

Over the past year, DCAT has progressed musically and technically. Our performances at GAS 2006 and at our recent show "For the Love of Music" demonstrated that the organization has matured as a musical unit. Congratulations to Wyatt Gill, our Musical Director for his work and energy. It created these results.

We were also pleased to announce that we have added David Wicken to our musical staff in the capacity of Assistant Musical Director. David brings to us a background in musical theatre and drum corps which we feel will compliment Wyatt and provide the back up which we have been seeking.

I would also like to recognize the tremendous effort of the team that put together our recent show. This team, under the leadership of John Dickinson, did an amazing job. The show was a resounding success from all aspects.

DCAT faces challenges as our operating costs have increased but as was reported at the recent general meeting we ended the year in good financial health primarily due to the revenue generated by our show.

At the recent General Meeting, the following people were elected: John Dickinson (Vice President), John Fox (Business Manager), Linda Carscadden (Membership Director), Edna Kingsley (Social Committee Director). I want to congratulate each of them and thank them for agreeing to serve the organization.

I also want to thank the outgoing members of the executive: Dave Woods (Vice President), Linda Norton (Membership Director) for their hard work and effort over the past year.

Next year GAS will be held in Johnson City, New York. Plans are underway to make this the best GAS performance that DCAT has ever done. In addition, we are also putting together plans for GAS 2008 which DCAT is hosting. John Dickinson, Vice President is chairing this project and we will be providing more information as it becomes available.

Finally I would like to acknowledge our Associate Members. Many people from this group have been a great support to DCAT over the course of the past year(s). You are a very important part of DCAT.

On behalf of DCAT I want wish all of our friends and fans a wonderful holiday season and every possible best wish for the New Year.

## The DCAT Executive



President  
John Jones



Vice-president  
John Dickinson



Treasurer  
Gord Irvine



Secretary  
Lois Nicholls



Business Manager  
John Fox



Membership Dir.  
Linda Carscadden



Publicity  
Don Gill



Publicity  
Dave Cook



Social Com. Director  
Edna Kingsley

### Important:

DCAT Dues - full membership \$75.00/associate \$35.00

GAS Reunion fees 2007 - \$200 double occupancy

Payment should be sent to Gord Irvine at:  
388 Highcroft Road, Oakville, ON. L6M 4Y6

## John Dickinson

*president of the organizing committee*

This was an evening long anticipated by myself and a group of dedicated individuals who strived to create an event that would leave the audience wanting more. By the responses of both the audience members and also the entertainers themselves we certainly succeeded in this venture.

The one comment that was repeated time and again was that the concept of having each performing group so different in their presentations made this a very enjoyable show. The added presence of Her Majesty the Queen (Gillian Maloney) was just the icing on the cake to them.

The success also was due to the generosity of individuals such as Frank Parker (Parker Printing) and Dave Cook who gave of their time and expertise to create a programme that was second to none. I owe a lot to these two individuals.

Can we or should we repeat this event on an annual basis will be left up to the executive board to decide. The one thing I know for sure is that DCAT benefited in so many ways from this event and when you have something that works so well then you should obviously stick with it.

Much Thanks to All

John Dickinson



*Back row: John Fox, John Dickinson, John McTaggart, Jim Jennings, Don Gill, Bob Cunningham*

*Middle row: Dolly Fox, John Jones, Orton Beaumont, Barb Jennings, Tony Casciato*

*Front row: Dave Cook, Gord Irvine*

## Bob Cunningham

*master of ceremonies*

Being an associate member of the DCAT Chorus I was asked to take on the MC position for the LOVE OF MUSIC show.

I must say that I was very nervous and concerned about accepting, the last thing I wanted to do was to embarrass myself and of course the DCAT Chorus.

Like every successful organization there was a committee formed to plan the show. A group of dedicated people that had one thing in mind and that was to have fun and put on a quality show.

I was told that I would be able to add a little humor to my comments as MC (*very little according Don Gill*).

I have had the opportunity to speak at weddings, funerals and business meetings in front of maybe fifty people at the most. Standing behind the curtain watching the seats fill up, I must admit I was very nervous.

John Dickinson reminded me that it was to be a fun night

and from the moment the curtain opened and I started my presentation I was having a lot of fun.

The groups that participated in the show were all very good, and the audience enjoyed the evening.

A great many of the audience were attempting to get me to sing, but I did not want to steal the show from the groups, so declined to do so.

My wife Linda and several personal friends were in attendance. They had no idea of the Drum Corps life but really enjoyed the show and were very impressed with the fact that after all these years we (Drum Corps Folks) are still together.

I must say that I really enjoyed the opportunity to work with a great group of people on the committee and of course the Great, Great, DCAT Chorus.

I had a great time and want to thank the DCAT CHORUS for the opportunity to take part in the show.

After all is said and done, I hope I have the opportunity to work with you folks in the near future. (Let's do it before I am on the other side of the grass.)

When I finished my comments the night of the show, I made mention to the audience, as long as you have a DRUM CORPS friend, YOU WILL NEVER WALK ALONE

And I believe it.

Many thanks... Bob Cunningham

## John McTaggart

*the director*

**M**y friend John Jones drags me into all sorts of things.

Years ago, he dragged me into his family. I got a life-long friend, a sister I never had, and two children that I will treasure as long as I live. Children?

They're both over 30 and Darra got married on November 4 this year.

Over the 36 years I've known him he has dragged me into a bunch of other stuff so when he dragged me into For The Love of Music, it really didn't surprise me. It was typical of him.

I went to a meeting and, except for Jones, the only other person I had met was Don Gill. It soon became evident that I was among friends and they were truly dedicated to the project at hand.

Suddenly, after numerous notes, trips to the theatre, meetings and more meetings, and phone calls, the day was upon us.

**NO MORE PREPARATION!**

From 9:00 a.m. to midnight, the day was fully planned. I was busy in the booth with the theatre staff and did not really see much of the choirs in the sound check. It ran one hour longer than planned and I never got to go to dinner.

Promptly at 7:00 p.m., the concert began with DCAT performing our national anthem.

First to perform was the Alexander McKenzie High School Choir, a group that claims not to have performed in such a venue before. I have my doubts. If there was a

lack of polish, it was overshadowed by the fervour of their director and the choristers alike.

Harmonious. Vivacious. Practised. Consummate. Need I say more? York Highlands was all this and more. I had not seen them before. I want to see them again.

Arresting. Self-assured. Formidable. All the qualities you want in a cop. Toronto Police executed a well-rehearsed raid on our sense of humour and our sense of hearing with their western motif. Somebody calm that Mexican hombre down!

Her Majesty IS Her Majesty!

Too bad her escorts had four left feet between them.

Cro-Arte is a force to be reckoned with. A distinctive Eastern European sound and the acoustic quartet made for a production that I will not soon forget.

DCAT! The advance in this chorus is astonishing. They sense their music. They have gone from a group of singers to a true chorus under Wyatt Gill. I was pleased with them and their animated presentation.

After presentations to the directors and others the audience adjourned to the lobby for Afterglow where the Cro-Arte quartet and the ladies from York Highlands entertained.

All to whom I spoke – performers and audience - said we have to do this again.

I want to.

For The Love Of Music was an enormous accomplishment.

---

## **DCA 2006** - *Agnes Miller*

Armed with umbrellas, raincoats and storm jackets we boarded the bus Saturday morning for our trip to the DCA 2006 Drum Corps Championships in Rochester NY.

There were the usual group of card players and a lot of smart remarks thrown about but they never came to blows. The border crossing went unbelievably well considering it was a long weekend. I think the rain kept a lot of people home.

It was a stormy drive down but we arrived in time for the show. Very few people (2) were interested in sitting in the freezing rain to watch the preliminaries. So, our bus driver (Chuck) dropped Jim Jennings and myself off at the stadium and drove the others to a nice, dry shopping plaza. Jim braved the elements in the stands while I watched it on a TV monitor under the stands. A couple of hours later a few more plaza people joined us.

We gave it a couple of more hours then called some cabs and headed back to the hotel for a warm shower and a

good meal at an English Pub. The hotel was situated within walking distance of several restaurants.

Sunday morning we woke to a nice dry day. A little damp, but dry. There was a great treat ahead of us and that was breakfast at a family restaurant called Gitsis. Reasonably priced and fast, pleasant service. We even had the owner, George, come out and greet us. We arrived at the stadium in



time for the Alumni Show which I think is a favourite of all of us. It was great. I love to watch Scout House proudly hold our flag up high in front of them. They did a wonderful job.

Then it was back to the hotel for something to eat and then back to the stadium for the finals. Our seats were good. Great view, but that was because we were in the nose bleed section. Poor Wilf, with his sore knee, braved the stairs and made it to the top without complaining. The show was marvelous. It did get quite cold as the night went on but we just all sat closer and enjoyed the talents of those great corps on the field. The Empire Statesmen came onto the field and after a count of three, we all gave Bobby Bond a rousing cheer as he drum majored the corps.

Returning to the hotel was a challenge for the bus driver. He got lost. Shades of Boston past. We didn't care, we just sat back and chatted and let him sort it out. The small streets

made it difficult to maneuver the bus but Chuck handled it amazingly well.

After one more breakfast at Gitsis the ride home was quiet. That was until Bobby Carruthers put on his new CD of the Caballeros from the 60's. Boy did that ever wake us up. The music is magic in the hearts of us old drum corps types. Thanks Bobby.

All in all, John Dickinson and John Fox arranged a great weekend for us. Hotel, restaurants, bus rides... all went according to plan. Many thanks to both John's for your efforts. Will we go again next year? Well I hope so. Even walking back to the bus after the night show and marching along to the beat of the drum corps, playing their music and making their way back to their buses, makes one remember... I for one will be there?

---

## From The Membership Chair *Linda Carscadden*

**A**nother fun-filled, eventful year has gone by and we are just beginning the next one. I'd like to remind everyone, members and associate members that the 2006/7 membership fees are due. We have kept the membership fees to a minimum for the last few years but now find it necessary for a modest increase. Membership fees are seventy five dollars and associate membership will stay the same at thirty five dollars.

I would like to ask chorus members for their help recruiting

new members. Friends and workmates could be potential members. Talk about the fun times, new friends, trips and performance events. Tell them how special the DCAT chorus is to you. I know first hand how this works. That's how I got involved. So the next time someone asks you what you do in your spare time or that they like to sing but can't find a chorus, go for it.

Do you have other ideas on how to find new members give me a call at 416.266.4002.

## CADRE - Paul Kelly presentation *Fred Johnson*

**T**he eleventh annual CADRE SHAKE was held October 12/13 2006 at the Hamilton Firefighter's Corps Hall in Hamilton. Approximately 230 people attended. It was a great drumming weekend. Drummers came from New York State, Pennsylvania, Alberta, New Jersey, Michigan, Quebec and Ontario. Even our drumming buddies from upper NY State made it despite the snow storm and a closed NY State throughway.

On Saturday, presentations were made to Bill Selfe for his 60 years of drumming service in Canada, and to Judy Kelly in respect of her late husband Paul.

Many of you have read the article I wrote about Paul Kelly on the CADRE and/or DCAT web site. We all wanted to do something for Judy and wanted her at the SHAKE to once again talk with some of the people Paul had drummed with. Having revisited that article, I recommended that an appropriate presentation should relate to the last solo I

heard him play. I can still see Paul standing there in Scranton PA playing Running The Flam Accent for me on a rudimental bass drum. So, the music was framed and presented to Judy



*Fred Johnson making presentation to Judy Kelly*

along with a CADRE Gold Medal from the 2006 DCA Ensemble Championship. Gary Lichti, Paul Mosley and Gerry Hemsley played the solo for Judy and her daughter Meghan.

It was a very emotional experience for all of us. The three drummers said it was the toughest job they ever played. I have since talked with Judy. She tells me that the framed music and the gold medal are hanging proudly in her new home in the Beaches. All the best to you Judy.

At this time CADRE would like to thank all the DCAT members for their support at the SHAKE. We wish you continued success. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

**DCAT mailing address:** DCAT c/o John Jones, 107 80 Mondeo Drive, Toronto M1P 5B6, Ontario

Visit our website: [www.dcatchorus.ca](http://www.dcatchorus.ca)