



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 - June 2007

Great Alliance of Seniors Reunion 2007 *Dave Cook*

Caution! This edition is full of GAS.

It's hard to believe that DCAT has attended GAS reunions for the past 12 years. "Walking along our merry way, singing a happy song". What a mature group we have turned into, not!

The six hour bus ride to Johnson City NY was a piece of cake compared to some marathon endurance trips we have had in past years. It's like burning your finger vs being roasted over hot coals.

Ann White, Madame Ambassador (she is officially the Canadian Ambassador to GAS) or Bus Bitch as she prefers to be called ran a tight bus. Also, a big thanks to Ann for organizing the hotel and deciding who slept with who.

The bus departed at 6:30am, with Christians at the front of the bus, heathens and card players at the back. Thank you to Linda Carscadden for arranging a place for the bus pick up and a safe parking area for our vehicles.

It was an uneventful ride down, nobody went crashing into the bus windshield, nobody forgot their travel documents, nobody got left at a rest stop, nobody dropped their drawers in the parking lot, everyone drank in moderation, we didn't get lost.

Edna Allen had a collision with the big side mirror of the bus. No damage done, Edna was fine too.

You haven't lived until you hear Joan English's heavy breathing on the phone. I answered the phone in the room and I wasn't who she expected so she started heavy breathing or hyperventilating, it was hard to tell. I didn't know whether to be excited or call 911. Also, Joan managed to survive the bus trip with out passing out surrounded by beer cans.

By all accounts, the chorus performance at GAS 07 was, bar none, the finest we have ever given. Not having access to a change room or the desire to change on the

bus, we performed without uniforms.

I was pleased to see some new chorus members who do not share our drum corps background, totally embrace the events and spirit of the weekend.

Thanks also to Chuck our bus driver, he went above and beyond to get us to parties, rehearsals and performances. He was truly one of us.

Our condolences to the Moffatts, John, Gord and Joan (Tufts) who, upon arriving at GAS, received the sad news that their Mother had passed away.

Wyatt thought he'd lost his passport on the trip. He found it when he got home. He had put it in his briefcase for safe keeping. (I guess this CRAFT thing is catching)

So I thought to myself, why is Barb Jennings coming out of the men's washroom. She said: "there was no sign", "the sign was to high to see", "the sign wasn't lit up". Yadda, yadda, yadda.

Another GAS has passed, onward to GAS 08 sponsored by DCAT.

A reminder that payment of \$25 each for the new shirts should be given to Edna Kingsley A.S.A.P.

Wednesday, July 4th is a recording session at the Vaughn Theatre

***September 16th, 2:00pm - 4:00pm
performance at Scarborough Civic Centre***

***September 29th, 7:00pm
FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC***

Gig for the Shriners

Friday, June 1st, the DCAT chorus did a performance for the Shriners in Burlington. After a painful 2 1/2 hour drive to Burlington we arrived just in time to grab something to eat and be ready to perform at 8:00 which turned out to be 9:00 (true drum corps hurry up and wait). Gord Moffatt, our new roadie, went into the banquet hall and paced off the performing area. We had to put a half dozen people from the front row into second row, some from the second into the third and make a fourth row. It started to look more like a street parade than a concert.

The tight singing quarters made it impossible to change into our spiffy new Hawaiian shirts for the

Beach Boy Medley so we just went with the sun glasses.

A temperamental keyboard made things even more interesting (pick a note, any note).

The Queen was her irreverent, crowd pleasing self.

As usual the chorus rose to the occasion and got the job done

After the performance, we went to the Legion arriving to the strains of "Boot Scootin Boogie" avec line dancing. There was a DJ and we sang a bit when he took a break.

Leaving the legion, it was a much faster drive home.

Looking back on the GAS event this year I have to say that I could not be more proud of belonging to this organization as I am now. We witnessed a very low key event that we are not used to and as a result many were disappointed in the lack of formality that was provided.

On the brighter side, Wyatt deserves all the credit in the world for having us so prepared for what was to be the best show that I have been part of since I joined in 2004. At the I&E show the Divas did us proud and Lois deserves a lot of credit. Rumor has it that the men are going to try and have an entry for this show next year.

The big part of the weekend was getting away and spending time as a group. Getting to know each other better and to show our new members what all the GAS hoopla is about. Even our bus driver Chuck has said that he will attend GAS each year from now on whether he's driving or not.

With the transfer of the banner at GAS 2007, we, the organizing committee, have been officially given the responsibility of preparing for GAS 2008.

We started back in Dec. /06 with these preparations. To date, we have booked the venue (St Johns Hall) and

also secured the hotels, The Stage West and The Toronto Delta West. Both of these are located at the corner of Dixie Rd. and Matheson Blvd. There is still much more to do. Everyone in DCAT should come forward and participate in these preparations wherever they can. As of June 27th we will display an easel at practice to keep you all updated on the overall progress that we are making. The committee heads will be posted and you can approach these individuals for volunteering your time.

I want to thank everyone who is on my committee for all of their hard work to date and all of the members of DCAT for their ongoing support.

John Dickinson
Chairman
(GAS 2008)



ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER GAS *Ann Watson*

Since our first introduction to GAS Reunions 14 years ago in Cambridge, many of us have been privileged to attend every one. The pictures from that year show happy (younger) faces, sharing time with friends many of whom we had not seen in years. The idea was born. "We can do that, we can sing." Did we know how much enjoyment and pleasure it would bring us, probably not. Did we realize how good we could become, no. Now 14 years later we are a close knit

family. We work hard to achieve our goals and have great fun in the process.

This year's GAS in Johnson City, New York had a much shorter travel time (remember Quincy) and this was a huge plus. Upon arrival the bus group looked quite relaxed and ready to party although some had obviously done their fair share already. After settling in, an impromptu party was born on

the small hotel bar patio. The beer flowed (in moderation) and winter white legs shone in the bright sunshine. At four o'clock we were off to a rehearsal at the St. John's Ukrainian Church Hall where Wyatt put us through a disciplined hour of fine tuning and sound checks. We all had a feeling that Saturday nights performance would have the crowd on their feet cheering.

After a meal, it was off to the beer bash to reacquaint with our drum corps friends from the U.S. and Canada. It has become a close fellowship. We now talk with them about family, grandchildren, share pictures, and ask about their health. We don't just talk drum corps. How fortunate we are to have this extended family in our lives.

Skyliner Chorus did a good job singing both anthems. Audubon was the only chorus presentation of the evening. We missed not singing with them. After that, the rest of the evening was open for visiting and some did remark they missed music and/or dancing. Back to the hotel and the bar became the choice of many. Jokes, singing, laughter, and a pint or two. Surprise, Surprise. I understand the father/son duo from DCAT closed the bar at 3.00 am and had a little sleep-in Saturday morning.

Our divas and tap dancing ladies did themselves proud performing at the individuals and had a great response from the audience. Tom Swan and some members of Sky did a rendition of "I want a beer, just like the beer..." very funny indeed. The varied entertainment included individual performances, duets, sextets, full blown drum corps and of course Scout House who received their usual standing "O". The weather cooperated fully with lots of sunshine and warmth and the line up at the bar outside was a great meeting place. Agnes Miller worked her charms on members of both Sky and Cab's. She had a busy day, Way to go Aggie.

Back at the hotel a spontaneous "cocktail party" took place late afternoon in Dave Wood's room. Well okay, it was 8 guys drinking beer and 2 gals drinking wine, Joan E and yours truly. The jokemeisters Tom Swan, Swampy, Parky, and Snoopy story telling and reminiscing with Jim Bartholomew laughing so hard tears were running down his cheek.

Off to the hall for the dinner. According to our resident Polish member, Stan B., the food and style in which it is served is called a peasant meal and is often offered at Ukrainian and Polish weddings and other celebrations. I am not sure who won the count of most cabbage rolls consumed but Brian Anderson did himself proud. Plastic wine glasses and Styrofoam salad bowls were the only complaint I heard of. We all ate well.

The Passing Parade is always an emotionally charged time and to see Al Biggs and Gord Broadbridge's picture up there was indeed very sad.

Our performance was amazing. We had the crowd with us from the moment we turned around with the sun glasses on and hit the first note. What a tremendous feeling of accomplishment "such a high". The Queen was regal and

funny with more new material. Gillian is a treasure and the crowd loved her. Wyatt, thanks for all your encouragement and the wonderful music you have given us to sing. You inspire us and we love you.

Skyliner Chorus' salute to Gershwin was a difficult book to learn and Tom Swan was able to draw out the best in the chorus for their performance.

The final party back at the hotel had the traditional sing a long, chatter, laughter and general "love in" long into the night. IT HAS TO BE DONE.

Sunday morning breakfast is always more somber as we are saying good bye to all our friends, lots of hugs, lots of ,see you next year conversations.

BUT as we all know, next year will come quickly and as hosts for 2008 we have lots of work to do. Hopefully the organizing committee will call on each and every one of us to help put it together. We want it to be a well run and enjoyable fun time. GAS 2008 – BRING IT ON!

Regards, annie in the tundra.

For the Love of Music

Presented by



Supported by

The De La Salle Oakland Crusaders Alumni

Featuring:

Unionville High School Choir
Toronto Estonian Choir
Cro-Arte Toronto Croatian Choir
York Highlands Chorus (Sweet Adelines)
The DCAT Chorus
And a very special Guest

Saturday September 29th @ 7:00pm
City Playhouse Theatre
1000 New Westminster Drive City of Vaughan

*In memory of our friends...
they'll never walk alone!*



Allan Biggs



Doris Broadbridge



Gord Broadbridge

On a Happier Note

Evelyn (Lyn) Connell is very happy to introduce her little granddaughter Ava Alexandria Rossi. Born April 6th 2007 a little sister for big brother Aiden. Ava's parents Sherry Connell and Carm Rossi are so delighted to have such a beautiful, healthy, happy little girl.



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GAS REUNION 2007

JOHNSON
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