



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 2007

The DCAT Annual General Meeting and Elections was held on October 24th at Estonia House. There were three positions up for election; president, treasurer and secretary. John Dickinson was elected President; Gord Irvine was elected Treasurer and Lois Nicholls was elected Secretary. Pat Maloney was appointed vice president by the board to fill the position vacated by John Dickinson.

Board of Directors



President
John Dickinson



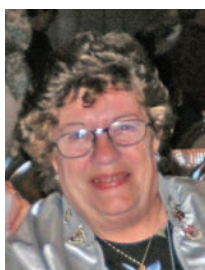
Vice President
Pat Maloney



Treasurer
Gord Irvine



Secretary
Lois Nicholls



Membership
Linda Carscadden



Bus Manager
John Fox



Publicity/Web
Dave Cook



Publicity
Don Gill



Social Director
Edna Kingsley

First of all I would like to thank John Jones for his term as president of DCAT. Being a member of the executive I have to say it was a genuine pleasure to work with John. He continues with his involvement as part of the GAS 08 Organizing Committee as chairperson, marketing and promotion.

Our Annual Christmas Party is Wednesday, December 12th for family and friends. The chorus will sing a few tunes then it's party time.

Wednesday, August 29 the chorus performed for the veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital. It was very well attended and received. Well, maybe there was one exception, you had to be there.

Saturday, September 29th we presented the second annual "For the Love of Music" supported by the De La Salle Oakland Crusaders Alumni. It was very successful. *See inside.*

DCAT is saddened by the passing of John Longstreet. John was the assistant drum major for the Toronto Signals and friend to DCAT. John participated with DCAT at a GAS reunion as part of the finale of the chorus presentation, planting the flag on Iwo Jima. He will be missed.

Membership fees are due. Members \$75 and Associate members \$35. Add to that the cost of your GAS ticket \$85 for the weekend events and your good to go. Don't forget to book you hotel rooms.

The Brampton Senators are planning a reunion in 2008. For information contact Timothy (TJ) Stevens (senatorsdrumcorps@hotmail.com) or check out the Brampton Senators Facebook page.

The chorus will perform and record the Booze Brothers Number at the rehearsal on Wednesday December 5th. This is a paid performance. NOTE; you will require full uniform and sun glasses.

- Dave



It has been my pleasure and great honor to have served as the President of DCAT for the past two years. It has been a time of change and growth for the organization and for me.

When I was elected, I was blessed to have been mentored by Paul Kelly who as President gave me a keen insight into the needs of DCAT based on his

long term experience in the organization. In many ways, my term of office was a continuation of the good work done by Paul, Ortie Beaumont, Don Gill, and their predecessors. They created the DCAT organization which has as its foundation a reputation for solid, professional, operational and financial management.

In fact, as the first President who was not one of the founding members of the organization, I felt a special sense of responsibility to maintain the high standards they had established.

I have always felt that the special bonds and friendships that connected the founding members of this group have given DCAT a unique family like atmosphere where people do genuinely care for one another. This is strength of DCAT which I recognized and have worked to preserve.

One of the major changes in my term of office was the transition of responsibility for musical direction from Ted Key whose enormous contribution to DCAT must be acknowledged. The change to Wyatt Gill, who had served his time in the trenches, was significant for DCAT. I believe that Wyatt's enthusiasm and talents have given DCAT the opportunity to achieve a new level of artistic and creative maturity. It has been exciting to be a part of this process.

Another area of concern has been the predominate position that GAS has in the overall life of our organization. DCAT believes in and fully supports fully the GAS organization. It is the major performance and social experience for DCAT

annually. It provides opportunities for our members to renew old friendships, share experiences and perform for others. DCAT is recognized as a solid contributor to GAS. This shall continue.

However, we have recognized as an organization that there is a need to balance our emphasis on GAS with other performance opportunities that will allow DCAT to have an alternative to the GAS performance particularly in the period following GAS when maintaining interest can be challenging

To address this issue, we have created our own show "For The Love of Music." We have just successfully this project for the second year. Due to the hard work and efforts of John Dickinson and his committee, we have created an event which has been successful on both the financial and artistic levels. If the year over year improvement in the show is any indication, we have a diamond in the rough which we can develop for years to come. We plan to do this.

In 2008 DCAT will host GAS for the second time. I have been pleased to watch the planning group lay down solid foundations for a great event. Early indications are that we will have the largest and best reunion ever held in Canada. This is a great opportunity for DCAT to demonstrate its organizational strength and friendship to the entire drum corps community.

I am proud of what we have accomplished as a team during my time as President. I played a small role here. As I said in my address at the annual meeting, DCAT is blessed with capable and committed people who contribute to the organization. They make DCAT work. The new management team led by John Dickinson has solid experience and leadership. They will serve DCAT well. I look forward to working with them as we go forward.

Finally I want to thank all of the members of DCAT for their support and encouragement over the past two years.

The Greatest Drum Corps Reunion Ever May 2nd, 3rd & 4th - 2008 St. Johns Hall, Mississauga, Ontario



The event kicks off Friday, May 2, with the Opening Ceremonies, a huge drum corps party, stage performances and social evening including dancing.

On Saturday there will be Individual, ensemble and group performances by many of the GAS members.

Saturday evening, there will be a more formal banquet; a tribute to those who have passed on; performances by the GAS member choruses including DCAT, the parade of

uniforms, and the Closing Ceremonies with the transfer of the GAS Banner.

Sunday May 4, breakfast and farewells.

All members of DCAT are advised to book rooms at the Stage West Hotel early if they plan to stay. When booking at the Stage West please quote the DCAT code **DRUM**.

Room rates are set at \$119 per night. Members will book and pay the hotel directly.

Cost for the weekend ticket is \$85.

For the *Love of Music*

My sincerest congratulations to all who participated in this the second annual For the Love of Music concert. The event was well attended and DCAT and all the other performing groups put on a very crowd pleasing show. From the emails and phone calls that I have received on the show it is obvious that this format we're using is a crowd pleaser.

To Bob Cunningham and John McTaggart thank you very much for your continued input and hard work which helps to make our show the success it is.

I want to also thank Her Majesty The Queen for another stellar job that we have become so accustomed to seeing from her, and to her personal guards of course Sergeant Swampy and Private Moffatt.

My thanks also goes out to DOCA (Del La Salle Oakland Crusaders Alumni) for their help in our venture this year.

I would ask if anyone has an idea that they think would help to improve the show in any way please don't hesitate to talk to me about it.

Sincerely, John Dickinson



Discovering DCAT - reflections of a "newbie" by Marion Shearer



When Linda Carscadden and Lois Nicholls suggested that I might like singing with DCAT my first reaction was - what on earth is DCAT?

My curiosity was peaked when I heard of the amazing distances some members of this singing group were prepared to travel every week just to practice. What made DCAT worth this

kind of dedication?

To find out more I allowed myself to be dragged to a rehearsal and was touched by the warm welcome and friendly atmosphere.

I loved the choice of music. It was catchy, the challenging

arrangements were fun, and when the music came together it was awesome just how good we sounded.

What completely sold me on DCAT and made me want to work harder than I thought possible, was experiencing their conductor in action.

It is not an easy task to inspire such a diverse group of people and manage to keep them on track. Obviously pleased at the never failing praise for their efforts, they also waited expectantly for the inevitable "but" that followed. I found Wyatt Gill not only musically gifted, but also a conductor worth following.

Needless to say, now I'm one of those members driving long distances to practices and looking forward to every minute.

Northern Highlights by Ann Watson



The first hour proved interesting - the toilet next door backed up so we had 28 people and one usable bathroom.

Marg Gill fell off the dock into the lake fully clothed while watching her grandchildren to make sure they did not fall into the lake!

Parker Gill was stung by a wasp - boy did it hurt and he let us know it - but thankfully there was no allergic reaction and he was a brave little boy.

Sweaters and jackets were the order of the day as our traditional weather did not disappoint us, a little rain, lots of cool wind. We partied hearty in spite of the clouds. The only ones brave enough to go in the lake were Wyatt and Tara's little ones, our granddaughter and Ellie who paddled her feet and instructed the kids on proper stone throwing. I did mention Marg didn't !

Our stand-up bar was a very popular spot (any bar with this group is a popular spot). People gathered around the sunroom window to listen to a couple of CD's that Gord Moffatt brought, a fabulous barbershop group and the Ten Tenors.

We heard that Dave Cameron had celebrated his 65th birthday the previous Monday so Joe put on his clown suit and played happy birthday. Everybody sang along and a red faced Dave received hugs from the ladies and handshakes from the guys.

The food went quickly... no leftovers. Our son-in-law commented that every time he tried to get at the nibblies there were too many hands in the way so he opted for some chips from his own kitchen.

What would a drum corps party be without a few videos of drum corps shows. This prompted everyone into our tiny little room squished together but many cheers and clapping was heard and of course constructive criticism. The last people left at 10:00pm and bed was a welcome sight. One final note, in the morning our next door neighbour Ann had hung her rosary on her clothes line to ward off the rain and it almost worked.

Many thanks to all those who braved the drive, the detour and the weather to make it a fun and successful day. Next year... we'll see!

Annie in the Tundra and Joe the Jolly Jester.

DCAT mailing address: DCAT c/o John Dickinson, 55-407 Trayborn Drive, Richmond Hill, Ontario. L4C 4K6.

Visit our website: www.dcatchorus.ca



The Greatest Drum Corps Reunion Ever

May 2nd, 3rd & 4th, 2008

All events will be held at beautiful St. Johns Hall, 2185 Stavebank Rd., Mississauga. This spacious facility with plenty of free parking is an ideal location to stage the event.

The Great Alliance of Seniors (GAS) is a fraternal organization composed of former members of both Senior and Junior Drum & Bugle Corps from across Canada and the United States. DCAT (Drum Corps Alumni of Toronto) is a proud member

All of the weekend's events are designed to provide maximum opportunities for people to meet, be entertained, socialize, and renew old friendships. The cost for the weekend will be \$85CDN. This entitles you to attend all events and the banquet which will be held on Saturday night.

For further information please contact Pat Maloney, Vice Chairperson,
GAS 2008 at patmaloney@sympatico.ca or Write to: GAS 2008,
4660 Greenlane Road, Beamsville, Ontario. L0R 1B1
Visit our website: www.dcatchorus.ca