



# 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 - July 2008**

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## ***GAS Reunion May 2nd, 3rd & 4th, 2008***

All the planning, organizing and months of work paid off in spades, it was a wonderful affair. All the committees did an outstanding job. Yeah for us!

The DJ at the Friday night dance was great. The food at the banquet on Saturday night was wonderful.

A very special thank you to David Beaumont for providing the sound system. He had it tuned and customized for the size of each of the choruses. The performing groups never sounded better.

***Tara Gill's GAS Reunion photographs can be seen at [www.taragillphotography.com](http://www.taragillphotography.com)***

**Did people enjoyed themselves? Read on.**

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**All** were correct that DCAT did a marvelous job of planning , scheduling and maintaining that plan and schedule throughout the weekend with each individual fully and professionally carrying out their assignments. Like I said to Ortie afterwards " I didn't recognize you without your headset on". I agree with Wyatt's assessment that DCATs performance was one of , if not their best of all times. I know that your ladies that sang our Star Spangled Banner with us had put time in rehearsing it as it was surly the best that we had done since we have been singing it together and I'm certain that given the chance to sing O Canada it would have been equally as good. Same goes for our combined efforts singing The Lords Prayer as it gave me chills standing in front and conducting such a talented group of singers. It deserved a loud " WOW !!!!!"

And finally, what a thrill it was hearing your chorus sing "All The Things You Are". It was beautifully interpreted and performed and how fortunate I am to have the DCAT chorus sing and make my arrangement sound so wonderful! I know that our Bon Bon chorus performed well but hearing your chorus sing All the Things You Are was truly the Hi-lite of the weekend for me personally. Thank you for that.

*Rip Bernert (Director of Bon Bon)*

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**The** G.A.S. Reunion was a blast! Lots of old friends; made some new friends; incredible array of performers... Congratulations to DCAT for organizing a world-class event.

Congratulations to you and all the DCAT folks who worked hard to organize G.A.S. 2008 - one of the best G.A.S. events ever!

In addition, thanks to the G.A.S. committee for inviting CADRE to perform at your prestigious event. The CADRE Drum Ensemble has 3 new Members this year and G.A.S. 2008 was only our "2nd gig" (in our new configuration). The opportunity to drum for the enthusiastic G.A.S.

audience was a real confidence builder for us. Please consider the CADRE Drum Ensemble for any future DCAT events.

DCAT always 'does it right' and last Saturday was no exception. I'm proud to be a DCAT Member.

Best personal regards.

*Paul Mosely*

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**J**ust wanted to thank you for all your hard work last weekend. It was well organized. Also, if a DVD or video becomes available we would definitely like to purchase one. Thanks again.

*Barb & John Flowers*

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**I** guess you can now relax. A job well done at the DCAT G.A.S. 2008. I can speak for our YRA (*Yankee Rebels Alumni*) group, we had a great time.

Again, Hat's Off to you and your Committee and the rest of DCAT members for being the great ambassadors of this Fantastic G.A.S. Organization!

*Charlie Kammer*

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**O**n behalf of the York Lions Alumni, and attending members from York Lions, I would like to congratulate you on the G.A.S. 2008 reunion. It was very well organized and everyone in attendance seemed to be having a good time. It was great to see many of the familiar faces from the past and especially the ones we marched with. We certainly enjoyed ourselves.

DCAT should be proud of the way it all came together, and have set the benchmark for next years host.

Again, thanks for the memories.

Regards

*Rick (Jose) Smith*

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**T**hank you, thank you, thank you

What a wonderful weekend you guys planned for us! I think this G.A.S. was the best ever! Especially loved the dancing on Friday. The DJ was the best!

The Saturday program was organized and managed superbly all day, and we all know those musician/creative types can become out of hand thinking they're entitled to the stage as long as they please... which is sometimes longer than the drum corps attention span.

The DCAT chorus performance on Saturday night was wonderful. A gift to us all. Thank you so much for your presentation. Of course, I (and we) especially loved "All The Things You Are". In fact, Jo Anne and I did the duet when we sang it so we have great affection for that lovely song. It was very emotional for me.

Thank you again. The weekend was wonderful in every way. I'm really paying for it today... and enriched by all of the memories we made.

*Fondly, Debbie (Bob Bon)*

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**I** was going to send a thank you note myself to everyone who did such an amazing, AMAZING job organizing and executing the whole G.A.S. 2008 event but what could I say that Debbie hasn't already said. I know many of you worked incredibly hard to get the event ready and then again for three days to make sure it came off as planned. So I hope that today you are basking

in the glory of all you deserve and feeling proud of a job well done.

So here's a big congratulations and a giant "thank you" .

*Judy, Mary and Dan*

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**D**itto, ditto and ditto!! Words escape me to describe how wonderful it was. I'm still basking in the mood of the aftermath!! Love You All,

*Judy Kelly*

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**I** must tell you how much Venita and I enjoyed the festivities that took place at this years G.A.S. Reunion held in Mississauga Ont. May. 2 to 4, 2008.

The most important part of this letter is to recognition what has to be said about the DCAT Chorus who where this years host for 2008. All the hard work you put into the event paid off in spades. Scheduling and the logistics of keeping things running and on time are very difficult at the best of times. John yourself and your dedicated staff and members of DCAT must be congratulated for an outstanding job. From the moments you arrive at the hotel to the closing ceremony a person felt as if he or she was personally very special as I'm sure they where. The most difficult part of something of the magnitude and having it run smoothly takes a lot of effort and a staff who are wiling to work equally as hard so no one chore becomes a job and again I feel this was archived. Congratulation to the DCAT Chorus

In closing Thank you all for a very memorable weekend as I talked to my friends for several days about how much I loved being part of the extravaganza.

*Chuck and Venita Saulnier*

*Loyal fans of the DCAT Chorus*

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**W**e can not thank you enough for all the hard work you put into making such a wonderful and memorable weekend.

Gary was so delighted to see so many old friends. Friday evening he really enjoyed being entertained by the DCAT chorus, and seeing so many old friends up there still singing. Gary always had a saying "when the corps stops singing they are in trouble". Well from what we heard, that's never going to happen. Thank you!

Saturday he was so pleased to sit and watch the drummers play. When they played "2 mice and an elephant" (a drum solo) he broke down and cried as that was the solo he, Dave Cook and Fred Johnson did back in 1965. On Saturday night Tara Gill was kind enough to take a picture of the three of them together.

Gary mentioned several times what a great conductor Wyatt is, and after talking with him for a short while he also mentioned what a beautiful human being he is.

Well, all of you who know Gary, know that he hasn't been well. Probably the next time you see him he will be on oxygen, but his spirits are good. He says he is going to get himself in shape to play at the The Shake in October.

For the joy you gave him this weekend I will always be truly grateful.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Love... Your friend and corps family member

*Gary and Ruth Lichti*

## TRIBUTE TO FRANK PARKER

At rehearsal on Wednesday, June 18th the chorus paid tribute to long time chorus member Frank Parker. As well as being one of the nicest guys you will ever meet, his generosity to the chorus over the years has been tremendous. Frank is moving way up north and retiring from the chorus. He will be missed.

Frank was presented with a beautiful DCAT lapel pin and a plaque acknowledging his contribution with the sentiment "You'll Never Walk Alone"



The chorus circled Frank and sang the chorus anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone". Desserts and best wishes followed.



*We're going to miss you Frank, all the best!*

**Trip to Casino Rama** and boat cruise on Saturday, June 28, 2008.

Saturday morning I awoke to thunder, lightning and pouring rain. But that did not dampen my enthusiasm.

We met at Centennial Recreation Centre at 9am (in the pouring rain) for our trip to Casino Rama and the boat cruise on Kempenfelt Bay.

We were entertained on our journey. We played Bingo for prizes. Everyone eventually received a prize. We also had a 50/50 draw.

When we arrived at the Casino some had to update their Players cards. Then it was either gamble or eat. We decided to eat first. We then toured some of the shops and saw the Indian Light Show. Then it was off to try our luck on the machines. Most of us didn't win anything, but it was fun. We decided after that to stop at the bar to have a drink and kill some time before leaving to go to the boat.

We came out of the Casino and much to our surprise the Sun was shining and it was warm. We boarded the bus to go to Barrie, where we were to catch the boat. Once on the water, a buffet meal was served and we were entertained

by a singer playing a guitar. We all had a great time meeting a talking to old friends and making new ones.

It was soon over and back on the bus for our trip home arriving just after 8pm. A good time was had by all.

I hope the next fund raising tip will attract more of DCAT people.

This outing was organized by Linda Carscadden. She donated the profits from this trip to DCAT.

Linda is planning another trip for the fall. Hope to see you there.

*Edna Kingsley*



### **Special Recognition from the Boy Scouts of Canada**

Jim and Edna Allen were presented with a medal for their years of service with the Boy Scouts of Canada.

## Important Dates

The General Meeting and Elections will take place on October 22nd at Estonia House.

### PERFORMANCES

- Sept. 3rd Better Living Health and Community Services
- Sept. 13th Shriners Show.. Double Tree Hotel (Formerly The Skyline)
- Sept. 18th Blue Jays Game
- Oct. 4th For The Love of Music City Playhouse Theatre

### IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMER TIME

Ann and Joe Watson are having a summer bash up in beautiful Bobcaygeon .

**A Sunny!!! Day at the Lake**

**Saturday, August 23rd.**

**coffee ready after 10 am**

**What to bring...** BBQ preference, Liquid refreshments, Beach wear

**Provided...** Salads, Kawartha Corn, Music, Games and Fun, Fun, Fun (now that daddy took the T-bird away).

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



