



# 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 - April 2009

## **Happy Birthday to us! DCAT is in its fifteenth year.**

Founded in 1994, the DCAT Alumni has gone from "the founding six members" to a membership of 85 with a chorus of 50+ (See back page)

**HALL OF FAME** DCAT had its inaugural **HALL OF FAME** induction ceremony on November 19th, 2008. The first four inductees are Don Gill, Lois Nicholls, Terry Nicholls and Ted Key. (See centre spread)

Many thanks to the Hall of Fame Induction Committee for their hard work: Tony Casciato, Jim Jennings, Wilf Morrison, Don Gill and Joan English.

Our 2hr performance at the Scarborough Town Centre was very successful. The chorus performed very well, given some staging problems. We had an audience sing-a-long which everyone really enjoyed. The Queen was there, speaking about the tribulations of the royal family in these tough economic times. It was nice to see friends and former chorus members in the audience.

**GAS 09** The bus will be leaving from the Centennial Recreation Centre on Thursday, April 30th at 7am. If you are leaving your car in the parking lot, you must get a parking permit to put on your dashboard from Linda Carscadden. The other pickup is Highway 401 & Hurontario. Then it is on to Gettysburg arriving at about 5pm.

**Be sure to bring your passport or whatever papers you need to cross the border.**

Many thanks to Gord Irvine for looking after the hotel reservations and organizing for the bus.

Our thoughts are with Lyn Connell who is in rehab after back surgery and our former musical director Ted Key who is recovering from surgery.

Edna Kingsley has a new batch of DCAT Chorus black golf shirts for sale available at rehearsals for \$25.

## **DVDs from GAS 2009 for sale**

Individual DVDs of each participating group... \$10.00

Archer-Epler Musketeers • St. Lucy's • Brooklyn United • Cadre • DCAT Divas of Dance • Canadian Ensemble  
Midlanders • Scout House • St. Kevins • Toronto Signals Band • Toronto Optimists

Friday's Opening and Saturday Night's Finale (2 Disk Set)... \$15.00

Complete set of entire weekend... \$25.00 • Contact John Dickinson at j.r.d.@sympatico.ca

## **UPCOMING PERFORMANCES**

**GAS 2009** - Gettysburg, Pennsylvania • April 30th, May 1st, 2nd, & 3rd

**Stouffville United Church** - Sunday, May 31st @ 7:30pm and Sunday, Nov. 29th @ 7:30pm

**Nobleton (Dr. William Lacey) Arena** - 15 Old King Road, Nobleton, ON. • Friday, Sept. 25th - 8:00pm

**For The Love of Music** - City Playhouse Theatre in Vaughn • Saturday, Oct. 24th



## DCAT Hall Of Fame 2008

The following are excerpts from the presenters speeches. To see the full text visit our web site [www.dcatchorus.ca/hall\\_of\\_fame.html](http://www.dcatchorus.ca/hall_of_fame.html)

### Induction of Don Gill by Wyatt Gill



Wyatt Gill  
presenter

Don Gill  
inductee

I think it is very safe to say that DCAT would not exist today if not for Don Gill. He and a group of about 15 guys attended a GAS reunion in May 1994 in Cambridge hosted by the Preston Scout House. From that group, the original 6 got together to form an organization that would consist of members of all the great past Drum Corps from the Toronto area. For those that are wondering, the original 6 were Tom Hamilton, Brian Hill, Dave Cook, Joe Watson, Stan Babiarz and my Dad, Don Gill.

DCAT could not keep rehearsing at the Moose Lodge as the group had no money yet, so my Dad "created" some space at his business for a rehearsal hall and we were well on our way. I'm not sure where we would be today if not for that generous donation of free space for the group.

Soon my Dad decided that hand written parts were not the way to go. He went out, bought a computer, bought some computer software, and started inputting all of the DCAT music. To this day, he is still doing this. I'm not sure if anyone realizes the countless hours a year that goes into this monumental task.

He has tirelessly dedicated his time, vision and energy into making DCAT not only the envy of all GAS organizations but taking the GAS organization itself to new levels. You see, if it wasn't enough that he has been sitting on the DCAT board, he has also been the Vice President of the entire GAS organization as well!

So please, join me in congratulating my Dad, Don Gill, the first inductee into the DCAT Hall Of Fame!

### Induction of Lois Nicholls by Marg Gill



Lois Nicholls  
inductee

Marg Gill  
presenter

Lois was with us from the very first meeting held at the Moose Hall on Birchmount Avenue in 1994, and I would have to say she has probably made every practice, show and event that we have been involved in since then. Once we started putting a chorus together, she became the section leader for the sopranos.

I think of Lois as the 'start and finish' person of our chorus. She is the one person who not only sets up and takes down, but drags our equipment wherever we happen to be performing and does it tirelessly and happily, and most often without any assistance. I'm not sure we could perform without her. Lois has been a soloist in both a tap dance routine for 42nd Street, and Up on the Mountain numbers as well as singing the intro music for Beautiful America.

Along with trying to teach the front row of the chorus to do a line dance, and we all know what a challenge it was for some of our male members, she patiently worked with 10 of us, 3 of which were guys, Ted, Wyatt and Jim Jennings, to learn an Irish step dance to go with our musical number Lord of the Dance. This turned out to be an incredibly athletic undertaking, but added a tremendous amount to our show.

Lois is also the Secretary on the DCAT executive.

I'm sure I have left something out, and I'm sorry if I have, but most everyone here is very aware of how hard Lois works for us and has from the start. She has taken on all tasks willingly, with an upbeat attitude; a capability that makes her a very unique individual; and most importantly, extremely valued member of our organization. To that end a heart felt thank you is extended from each and everyone of us.



## Induction of Terry Nicholls (posthumously) by Ellie Cameron



Ellie Cameron presenting  
Lois Nicholls accepting  
for Terry Nicholls

A member of DCAT since inception he had several duties throughout that time: canteen manager, statistician, supporter, recruiter. When the chorus added props, sound equipment, etc. He became our official shlepper, or equipment manager. In his trusty van (well almost), he would haul all our paraphernalia from one event to the next. He would set up and test. After the performance he would take this all down and pack it away in the Van.

There are some people who TAKE CHARGE and some people who are IN CHARGE. For those of us who helped him load the van he was certainly IN CHARGE.

Terry made the best brownies in the world and always had them available for us on the bus. We all got so high, I wondered if he had put something in them. Maybe it was the booze? hmmm.

When I think of the many hours he spent hooking all the wall hangings that used to hang in our rehearsal hall at Communicorp. Surely an indication of the love he had for DCAT and for Drum Corps worldwide.

He was immensely proud of DCAT and we all saw him in tears after we had given a good performance. A deserving member of our HALL OF FAME.

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## Induction of Edward Key by Jim Jennings



Jim Jennings    Ted Key    Tony Casciato  
Presenter       Inductee    Committee President

1994 - Mr. Edward Key, (music graduate, secondary school teacher and ex-music director/drum major of Canada's Marching Ambassadors Drum Corps), was approached by Don Gill and accepted the inaugural Music Directors Position in the newly formed "Drum Corps Alumni Toronto".

In concert with his musical abilities, Ted was also a lyricist who could write words to songs with a poetic story telling result. Music with no words ended up with lyrics, Such as "On The Square" and the famous "Stars and Stripes Forever"

Theatrics was another one of Ted's talents. DCAT's performances had to be more than just a choir performance, it had to be a "Musical Revue". The "New Orleans Funeral" was such a production. It was used as the complete on stage back up for The Royal Bank Seniors Show at Roy Thompson Hall.

One of his creative inspirations was that he would like to be "Michael Flatley". Ted and nine other DCAT members perfected an Irish step dance routine which included singing and drumming to his arrangement of "Lord of The Dance". It was another show stopper.

Your votes have demonstrated your recognition of these contributions. It is with great pride that I, on your behalf, announce the induction of Mr. Edward "Ted" Key to the DCAT Hall Of Fame 2008.



### Hall of Fame Induction Committee

Wilf Morrison, Jim Jennings, Joan English,  
Don Gill and Tony Casciato.



**Take a look at the original chorus photo taken in 1997 and see how many members are still singing in the DCAT Chorus today.**



*Back Row left to right; Dave Cook, Ellie Cameron, Gord Moffatt, Don Gill, Dave Cameron, John Fox, Dolly Fox, Brian Anderson, Joe Watson Third Row left to right; Joan English, Dave Wood, Rick Hosie, John Parkinson, John Moffatt, Jim Jennings, Dianne Yaneff, Wilf Morrison, Wyatt Gill Second Row left to right; Marg Gill, Jim Bartholomew, Gord O'Halloran, Tony Casciato, Lois Nicholls, June Beaumont Front Row left to right; Ann Watson, Barb Jennings, Laura Moffatt, Orton Beaumont, Edna Kingsley*

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### **The DCAT Song Book. We learned a lot of tunes over the fifteen years**

- |                            |                           |                                |                              |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Amazing Grace           | 17. Georgia on My Mind    | 33. New Orleans Funeral March  | 49. Strike Up The Band       |
| 2. All the Things You Are  | 18. Gotta Open            | 34. On The Square March        | 50. The Maple Leaf Forever   |
| 3. America The Beautiful   | 19. Gotta Go              | 35. O'Canada                   | 51. The Star Spangled Banner |
| 4. Alexanders Ragtime Band | 20. Grand March from Aida | 36. Queen of Sheba March       | 52. Tribute to New York      |
| 5. Battle Hymn             | 21. Great Gate of Kiev    | 37. Roving Gambler             | 53. Tribute to Princemen     |
| 6. Beach Boys Medley       | 22. Hair Medley           | 38. Sara Lee                   | 54. The Lords Prayer         |
| 7. Beatles Medley          | 23. Hallelujah Chorus     | 39. Saving Private Ryan        | 55. The Old Songs            |
| 8. Betty and Dupree        | 24. Help Me Rhonda        | 40. See You in September       | 56. Walkin' Along            |
| 9. Bill Bailey March       | 25. How Great Thou Art    | 41. Scarborough Fair           | 57. Waltzing Matilda         |
| 10. Curtains Up            | 26. Irish Medley          | 42. Scottish Medley            | 58. We'll Meet Again         |
| 11. Danny Boy              | 27. I've Been Lookin'     | 43. Superman                   | 59. What a Wonderful World   |
| 12. DCAT Blues March       | 28. Jerusalem             | 44. Somewhere Over The Rainbow | 60. William Tell Overture    |
| 13. Eternal Father         | 29. Love is Here to Stay  | 45. Somewhere (a place for us) | 61. You Made Me Love You     |
| 14. Fare Thee Well Love    | 30. Lord and Master       | 46. Special Angel              | 62. You'll Never Walk Alone  |
| 15. Feelings               | 31. Lord of the Dance     | 47. Stars and Stripes Forever  | 63. 42nd Street              |
| 16. Four Seasons Medley    | 32. Mame                  | 48. Stout Hearted Men          |                              |

*Plus our Christmas Carols and afterglow songs*

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