



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 2009



GAS 2009

The GAS Reunion, May 1st - 3rd in Gettysberg, PA was the debut of our splendid new uniforms, quite a departure from the black shirts and silver ties. A big thanks to the uniform committee; June Beaumont, Sherry Luloff, Ellie Cameron and Gord Irvine for facilitating a smooth transition to the new look.

It was an excellent GAS weekend punctuated by a great performance by the chorus on the Saturday evening. Before going on stage, Wyatt dedicated our performance to Lyn Connell.

We certainly lived up to our introduction "The Great DCAT Chorus". It was, without a doubt, our best performance ever. We raise the bar every year thanks to our musical director Watt Gill.

The Queen (Gillian Maloney) was at her best. She had the audience in the palm of her white gloves.

We were well schooled in The Battle of Gettysberg. We paraded, with a drum line, from the hotel to the theatre to watch a movie of the battle. The three hour bus tour and the Cyclorama at the visitors centre.

When the hotel bar wasn't open, which was most of the time, we brought our own libations to the lobby where Marg Gill was in full "Swing Low" mode. You have to see it to believe it!

Talk about swinging low, how about the DCAT Diva's. Flinging their bits about. *There are photos.*

We did our first of two performances at Stouffville United Church. Our second performance is Sunday, November 29th. Who was it that forgot their uniform... hmm?

The chorus had a recording session at The Playhouse Theatre in Vaughn. We recorded 3 more numbers; The William Tell Overture, Ragtime and Georgia On My Mind. This was also an opportunity to take photographs of our new uniforms.

John Dickinson has a CD for sale with pictures from GAS and our three newly recorded numbers playing in the background. Cost is \$10.00 to help cover the cost of the photographer. (905.780.6427)

A special presentation was made Marion Shearer. She was presented with the "Nag of the Year" award for her vocal work in the William Tell Overture. (It's better than waking up with a horse's head in your bed.) Marion is our resident horse whisperer and president of DCAT.

Tony Casciato is recovering from his operation and we should be seeing him at rehearsal. Condolences to Connie Casciato on the loss of her father.

Portrait of and Praises for a People-loving, Singer/Dancer/Organizer/Fund-raiser



Linda Carscadden is just that. She not only participates on the executive as membership chair she also gets a real charge out of organizing bus trips and participating in garage sales. She has a myriad of contacts for support in the fundraising arena and although tiring and time-consuming she thrives on this very important part of our organization. Since joining DCAT, Linda has raised significant funds for the chorus through Bus Trips to RAMA (boat cruise included) and Craft/

Garage Sales. By significant I mean in the neighbourhood of four grand - "YES \$4,000" to date. "FUN" opens the word fundraiser and the events that Linda has organized provide lots of that and as "icing on the cake" a lot of bucks for the coffers as well!!! Think about it! We get a double benefit from these events.....FUN and FUNDS (oops sorry about that)!!!! I know I have enjoyed participating in these functions and KUDOS to Linda for organizing them. Come and join in on the next one (*see below*)
...Lois

Autumn Colour Cruise & Casino - Saturday, October 3rd

\$65 per person includes a luxury coach with washroom.

The cruise starts out at Port Severn • Enjoy a hot buffet on the Serendipity Princess

Fun and Lunch Buffet at Casino Rama & Fun on the bus.

Bus leaves at 8:30 am from the south parking lot of Scarborough Centennial Recreational Centre.

For more info call: Linda Carscadden 416.266.4002

Recent additions to the DCAT Chorus... welcome and enjoy!



Ken
Hurst
(1st Tenor)



Ana Maria
Amez
(1st Soprano)



Keith
Thomas
(Bass)



Shiona
MacKenzie
(Alto)



Bev
Cline
(2nd Soprano)

The Adventures of Bobby & Johnny (A Trip to Gettysberg)



I should have known it was going to be a long day. While I waited in the lobby of my building for Bob to pick me up for 6:00 am. Bob was waiting in the driveway for the same period of time (approx. 20 min). Finally, we got our "Timmies" and we were on our way. I commented to Bob that we would probably meet up with the bus at the Grimsby pick up spot but that turned out to be wishful thinking as I was about to see parts of south western Ontario that I had never seen before.

Being the co-pilot, it was my responsibility to keep us on a true path to our destination, but, in my defense, Bob being an ex police officer and someone who travels quite a bit in his job, and also had maps from the CAA outlining our trip, I figured no problem. Oops! When I saw the road sign welcoming us to the home of Wayne Gretzky and Bob saying to me, "John, where the %#\$^&*#@^%\$& are we?"

At 10:15 am, we pulled into a McDonald's for breakfast at Niagara Falls. (Four hours and fifteen minutes from Richmond Hill to Niagara Falls - that's got to be some sort

of record!)

Bob kept saying how happy he was that our wives decided to stay home - I, on the other hand, had wished they had come. On the Friday night of the weekend after the opening night festivities for GAS '09, I retired to my bed. I believe it was around midnight when Bob entered our room and woke me informing me that he wanted sex! Now Bob is a very nice man but I gotta tell ya that I am very, very fussy when it comes to this matter.

My partner in this course of events kept saying, "Please don't say a word about this to anyone; we'll never live it down". Yet who was the one that couldn't wait for the car to stop before he blurted out the days adventures?

All kidding aside, I can't remember when I laughed so hard and for so long while travelling with my bud - I wouldn't hesitate to do it again!!

I left a wake-up call for 5:00 am so we could get on the road early that Sunday morning and get home to our loved ones. A quick fill up of gas and away we went, remembering what the hotel clerk had said to us, "Be sure to turn right when you get to the highway."

In the next installment of this story, I will tell you what we thought of Virginia!

For the Love of Music

presented by the DCAT Chorus

featuring;

Unionville High School • Peterborough Pop Ensemble

East York Barbershoppers • The Queen

Toronto Optimists • Cadre • DCAT Chorus

Saturday, October 24th @ 7:00pm

City Playhouse Theatre

1000 New Westminster Drive

City of Vaughn

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Nobleton (Dr. William Laceby) 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

Stouffville United Church - Sunday, Nov. 29th @ 7:30pm

On June 25th we lost Gary Lichti

Gary lost a long battle with emphysema



He was a friend to many DCAT members. Gary was a drummer "par excellence". I had the pleasure of drumming with him in the mid-sixties in The Ambassadors (Canada's Marching Ambassadors). The snare line was known as the two mice and the elephant, Fred Johnson was the elephant, Gary and I were the mice. Gary, Rick Hosie and myself shared a basement apartment when I first moved to Toronto. Three drummers sharing an apartment... the tenants from hell. He will be missed.

Lost & Loster by Bob Cunningham

I am very concerned about a member of the Chorus that I had the misfortune of traveling with on a road trip to Gettysberg Pen, for the GAS 2009.

On arrival at his residence in downtown Richmond Hill he was seated in the lobby of his complex reading a number of maps. On seeing this I was very pleased and happy that we would arrive at our destination on time and with no concerns.

He sat in, what I thought was the navigator's seat. He was outfitted with a compass (signed by Christopher Columbus) maps, hour glass, path finders crest on his jacket and a CAA emergency phone number. After going to a Tim Horton's for morning brew, this was approximately twenty minutes north of downtown Richmond Hill. He ignored my remark that there was a Tim's just south of Richmond Hill. We got the coffee (that I paid for) and started on our way. It is now 6:15 a.m.

As I have done many times in the past, I took the 407 (tax write off) and I turned the radio off so that I could listen to the navigator's instructions. He was reading a brochure about GPS units out loud and it was at this time I was distracted by his yapping that I took the left exit from the 407, rather than the right turn. On realizing that we were climbing that wonderful smog, dirty, no trees growing hill known as Hamilton Mountain. Apparently astronauts have been trained there. He (navigator????) stated many times not to worry, he knew another route.

To shorten this part of the story, we met approximately twenty locals (all interbred looking) who gave us the wrong directions in all cases. I told my navigator that I was always told when I get lost look for a police officer.

As the story goes the roads that we were travelling (lost) on had no donut shops at all.

I was rather concerned at the navigator's only comment

being that, it sure was very nice scenic country.

On one highway where I stopped to ask directions it was a garden centre, on getting out of the car and almost entering the office area, I was greeted by two very large ^%&^%\$ dogs. One was named KILL HIM and the other was named EAT HIM.

I must say for my age and the shape that I am in and without the aid of any prescription drugs, I moved rather fast to get into my car.

The navigator was in such a state I thought he and I would wet our selves. Without the necessary Depends underwear, it was a concern.

After traveling approximately two hours, lost in our own province, we finally arrived in Niagara Falls. The navigator being in need for food before going into a state unconscious I stopped at a Ronald MacDonald's.

Prior to entering the MacDonald's I found it necessary to have a cigarette.

Which I will say, being in the state of mind I was in, I took one continuous drag and finished it.

MacDonald's, to me is a laxative and I was very fortunate to get to the Duty Free store in time. We then made our purchase; I could have drunk it all right there and then...

We were finally about to cross the border into the US of A. The miserable border guard was once in public relations but now he does not give a ^&^%\$y; the navigator wanted to ask him directions to Rochester, when I almost smacked the navigator.

All was going well on the USA highways the one concern I had though was the navigator was rolling up his sleeve and injecting himself with what I hope was insulin. Then again the directions that I have received so far it, could have been God knows what.

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Visit our website: www.dcatchorus.ca



