



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 2010

The 26th Annual GAS Reunion was held in Lancaster PA. We shared the hotel with a lot of big, white dogs as there was a Great Pyrenees Dog Show on the same weekend. These magnificent dogs looked beautiful parading around the hotel - not at all like Hamilton when we shared the hotel with a transvestite convention and a lot of parading around there as well!

Congratulations to Pat Maloney on being elected Vice-President of GAS at the yearly meeting.

DCAT performed extremely well and The Queen was at her best (a little more raunchy than usual) but that was certainly the group to do it with. The Singing Divas sang about their favourite things (denture cream etc.) and Dancing Divas tapped their way into people hearts. See Ann Watson article inside. The GAS golf tournament took far longer than it should have and it was hot as hell, with an 8 am start and 2:30 pm finish. When the tournament finally finished, the Chorus rehearsal had already begun. I ran down the hall and joined in, still dressed in my soggy golfing costume. It's not easy doing choreography in golf spikes.

The bar area in the hotel was an open area off the lobby - great for meeting people and watching them come and go. Hotel management was not anal about alcohol as the service at the bar was very slow, with only one bartender but there seemed to be no objection to 'bringing your own' to the bar area or maybe they just didn't notice.

Bob Cunningham had an uneventful trip to GAS this year as he was on the bus. Unlike last year when he and his equally directionally challenged buddy, John Dickinson set out for Gettysburg, PA. They left from Richmond Hill, went to Brantford (Timmies), Hamilton (Timmies), Hamilton Mountain (Timmies), Niagara Falls (Timmies), across the border to Rochester, then zigzagged their way to Gettysburg. I have to admit I can identify with this, except for the Timmies part.

Note that DCAT will not rehearse Wednesday, July 21st after the Scarborough Civic Centre 2 hr show and there will also be no Wednesday rehearsals on August 4th, August 18th and September 1st but it is very important to attend all rehearsals as we lead up to our "For the Love of Music" concert.

The "Love of Music" 2010 Committee, headed up this year by Ort Beaumont, announced that concert date is Saturday, October 2nd at the Vaughan City Playhouse Theatre and tickets are \$25 each this year. The performers will include Unionville School Choir and Peterborough Pop (both same as last year), as well as De La Salle Concert Band and Toronto Filipino Choir and of course, DCAT and The Queen will also be there. Tickets are available now from John Fox and posters mid-July.

Other concert dates • Scarborough Civic Centre - Sunday, July 18 • The Bobcaygeon Music Council Concert - Saturday, October 30.

Thanks to Linda Carscadden, Membership Director and "fund raiser extraordinaire" as well as her helpers, Edna Kingsley, Lois Nicholls, Joan English, Claire Hobson and Shirley Hay who worked on the Garage Sale held on June 5th and raised \$578.76 for DCAT. Good work ladies, despite Mother Natures' repeated attempts to blow their tent down.

Welcome back, Tony Casciato.

Our thoughts and prayers are with John Dickinson, Lois Nicholls and Ted Key with their health issues.

Ted Brazier, a friend to many DCAT members and founder of the Canadian GAS Ensemble passed away on June 13th. Ted and I both started our Drum Corps journey with the Brantford Belltones Drum Corps, in the late 1950's. He will be missed.

- Dave Cook

GAS 2010, Lancaster PA

Has it been 17 years since we went to our first GAS in Cambridge? – 1994. Some of us have had the privilege to attend all of them. Sometimes they seem to all blur together.

Wyatt had us pumped up from the last rehearsal so we were ready to take on the big boys! Hey, we are the BIG BOYS. What a great weekend! Joe and I had the bounty of arriving on Wednesday, and the fun and socializing began. On Thursday, those of us present wondered on and off how the bus trip was going. An hour at Customs was not a happy situation we heard – but upon arrival, everyone looked a little weary but in good spirits?? (A few toddies, no doubt). It did not take long for many to assemble at the bar (with only one poor fellow on duty) so waiting for a beverage required patience. The warmth of reuniting with our American buddies is a very happy time. Dinner was available at various restaurants which were within walking distance but the road crossing was precarious to say the least. The Hospitality Suite was in operation by 10 pm. The Sky Girls were first up singing and then Don G. started Cock Robin etc. and on it went. I understand cheese balls were the main snack - not sorry I missed them. I retired early - too much, too much!

Friday dawned and the 40 golfers were off and running along the very long hallways to make the 8 a.m. start time. Those not golfing had the choice to hang out, do the outlet mall thing or TARGET or check out the dog show nearby. Those little puppies (not) were wonderful guests in the hotel -, I did not hear too much barking or yelping. They did remind us of Old Bear (parents Lois and Terry) – he was a great boy. Some arrived back from the outlet mall with shiny bags of whatever. The golfers back at 2.30 plus looked hot, tired and ready for a cool one. The temp had shot up to 80+. Rick Dixon won the Men's Low score and our Laura won the Low Women's. Congratulations to both. The bar area and foyer were very busy and with more arrivals, smiles and hugs were bountiful.

The Beer Bash – this has turned out to be one of the great fun times over the past several years? Performances by St. Kevin's, fantastic, animated and they were having a ball; Yankee Rebels being patriotic and very civil war-oriented; and of course Sky Chorus, conducted by Mike Love aka Tom Swan doing the Beach Boys complete with blown up palm trees, beach balls and surfing (sort of). They are always entertaining and fun to watch. The dance was amazing with the floor being crowded all the time and even dancing on the stage. I noticed Preston Scouts are more represented on the dance floor than any other group - we must challenge that next year.

I checked out the cheese balls (oops I mean the Hospitality Suite) late Friday night - the usual drum corps chatter and just catching up with everyone seemed to be the main focus.

Saturday's Talent Show – Great Performances: Our Singing Divas and our Tap Dancing Divas, both with standing "O"s; Jack Murray & Joe Fontana – drumming extraordinaire, WOW; St. Kevin's; Yankee Rebels; Silver Leaves; Archer Epler; Canadian GAS Ensemble (with great solos by the Moffatt brothers); St. Lucy's; Brooklyn United - all great drum corps performances; Preston Drill Team, and lots of individual performances and yes, the drummers, all of them – hey, they are talented too. We had reserved tables - interesting!

The Saturday night formal Banquet as usual had us all looking terrific with lots of pictures being taken. The Anthems, the Tribute to Fallen Members are always somber moments and I believe we all cherish what we are part of and witnessing.

DCAT's performance was amazing, fantastic, inspiring (enough already) thanks to Wyatt and Gord. The Queen was a tremendous hit with her side splitting and bawdy humour.

Bon Bons Chorus sang sweetly and with great feeling and I believe they improve more each year.

The jam session happened and the Hospitality Suite was also jammed!! It was great to see Keith Thomas, our newest member, interacting with everyone - he has fit in so well. The cheese balls were still on the table, amazing. For those who did not have the privilege, they are the size of a grape but all cheese, enough said - they were a conversation piece. Note: Next year I will contribute a few bottles of white wine (NOT SPARKLING OR ZINFANDEL) for the Hospitality Suite.

Memorable moments from Annie in the Tundra – just being there; Bob Cunningham's distress over the missing wardrobe bag and his anxiety of perhaps not being able to wear his pink thong - thankfully the bag turned up in Joan and Aggie's room, perhaps a hint that they wished him to drop by; singing with Bon Bons; seeing Joe play with Archie; the walk along, long, long hallway where you always met someone you know; Dave Wood and Joe reminiscing about the Jesters; an impromptu social time on our balcony on a hot Saturday afternoon with lots of laughter; sharing drinks with the Sky gals, Joan, Althea and Kathleen at the bar - I love those girls!

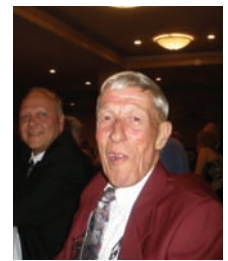
It was all great and TOO short. BOO HOO!

The absence of Lyn Connell, John Dickinson, Tony Casciato and Dan Moloney were felt by all of us and they were in our thoughts.

Many thanks to Archer Epler Musketeers, Bon Bons Alumni, St. Lucy's Alumni and Brooklyn United. They made it a very memorable weekend. Next Year – Quincy – those beds, pillows, and classical music in the lobby and the "suit man" can't wait!

Ann Watson

a.k.a. Annie in the Tundra



DCAT Hall of Fame

It has been an incredible 16 year ride. I was truly honoured to be inducted into the **DCAT Hall of Fame** 2009 along with my good friends; Jim Jennings, Orton Beaumont and Paul Kelly (posthumously).

For more photos and information on these inductees and the 2008 inductees, visit our website www.dcatchorus.ca



Jim Jennings



Orton Beaumont



Dave Cook



Paul Kelly

For the Love of Music 2010

*Saturday, October 2nd @ 7:00pm - City Playhouse Theatre
1000 New Westminster Drive, City of Vaughan*

*Peterborough Pop Ensemble • Unionville Highschool Concert Choir
De La Salle Oakland Alumni Stage Band • Toronto Filipino Choir
The DCAT Chorus & Special Guest*

Never a dull moment with Ellie Cameron



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Visit our website: www.dcatchorus.ca