



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 - January, 2011

The Annual General Meeting and Annual Election was held on November 24, 2010 at Estonian House. There were four positions up for election - Vice President, Publicity, Business Manager and Social Director. Pat Maloney was re-elected Vice President, Dave Cook (moi) was re-elected Publicity, John Fox was re-elected Business Manager and Ann Watson was elected Social Director.

Many thanks to Gord Irvine for stepping back into the role of Treasurer after the passing of Dan Moloney. Therefore, the Board of Directors for 2011 is as follows:



President
Marion Shearer



Vice President
Pat Maloney



Treasurer
Gord Irvine



Business Manager
John Fox



Publicity
Dave Cook



Secretary
Lois Nicholls



Membership
Linda Carscadden



Social Director
Ann Watson



Past President
Orton Beaumont

For The Love of Music 2010

On October 2, 2010 DCAT presented the 5th Annual For the Love of Music. All of the concerts were important but this one was rather special as it was dedicated to John Dickinson, the creator and Chairperson of the past four concerts.

Our aim this year was to minimize the outlay of funds by DCAT Members, have a classy Program at significantly reduced costs (thank you Dave Cook), and have a concert exemplifying the talents of youth, adults and seniors. We accomplished our task.

We declared the Concert open with Emcee Bob Cunningham welcoming everyone and giving some house rules and directions. DCAT sang O'Canada and Bob gave a very heart warming and touching overview of the life of John Dickinson. In his usual dry comedy he related to some of the funny situations he and John endured while they were together. The two of them were the ultimate in "things just happen and we don't know why or how they did". Well done Bob.

We changed the format this year, DCAT warmed up the audience with the singing of Ragtime and All the Things You Are after singing the Anthem. People wanted to hear more of DCAT so obviously we accommodated them.

Let the concert begin, Unionville High School Concert Choir with their skills in precision, dynamics and a little jazz added to their repertoire. UHS is very special to us as they have performed in all of five concerts. They dedicated their performance to John for his support and love of music.

A new addition this year was the MFFC Youth Performing Arts Group. They are a Filipino Community Chorus composed of energetic and artistic kids, ages 5 to 20, whose love and passion for music and dance keeps them together as one closely knit family. Their choreography and enthusiasm gained a standing ovation at the conclusion of their performance.

The Peterborough Pop Ensemble a very skilled group of 16 voices with many soloists sang songs from World War II. This was their second time with us.

A twenty-five minute intermission was next to take care of nature and have a drink while socializing with friends of the past. The Queen followed intermission with her skilled dry sense of humour; always a crowd pleaser. She was accompanied by her attendant Sgt. Swampy, Corporal Punishment or something like that.

Another new addition to this year's concert was the DOCA Brass Ensemble. Established in May of 2008 DOCA's roots are drum corps and play primarily De La Salle and Crusader charts. They truly are a "Brass Ensemble". Their mandate is to play music, to play it well, to socialize and to have fun. They certainly did. Quite a few DCAT members played with them.

To conclude the concert DCAT performed singing Jersey Boy's Medley, Lord and Master, Georgia, Danny Boy closing with Maple Leaf Forever. A rousing performance and a tough sing for the elderly.

In closing we had remarks from President, Marion and Chairperson, Orton Beaumont thanking the audience, performers, volunteers and DCAT Members for contributing to the success of this concert and supporting the growth of youth, adults and seniors in their pursuit for the love of music.

Our usual concert closing number is "Never Walk Alone" but this suddenly changed. Wyatt (now acting more like a senior) realized he had neglected us singing William Tell as part of our show repertoire and thus we sang this crowd pleaser before "Never Walk Alone".

"Never Walk Alone" – what can I say. This is so touching and meaningful to us as we remember those that have been with us. God Bless.

My thanks to the "Love of Music" Committee, the non DCAT volunteers, Associate DCAT Members and DCAT members for all the work required to make this a smooth running successful concert.

Orton Beaumont - Chairperson DCAT "For the Love of Music"

The Hall of Fame Inductions/Christmas Party was held on Wednesday, December 15th. The 2010 inductees are Gord Irvine and John Dickinson (posthumously). Gord Irvine, our long time DCAT Treasurer, who handled all of the finances for one hosted GAS Reunion, now 5 "Love of Music" concerts, all details of planning the cost of GAS reunions, collecting money from all of us, arranging accommodations with hotels, room assignments, table assignments and making sure we all had our ticket packages.



Gord Irvine



John Dickinson

John Dickinson joined the DCAT Chorus along with his wife, Rita, and worked hard to make DCAT a great organization. Over his time with DCAT, he served as Business Manager, Vice President and President. John was also the driving force behind our annual concert "For The Love of Music".

The bio's of Gord and John plus the previous inductees can be found on our website: www.dcatchorus.ca

Also, it was a sad year for DCAT with the loss of Ted Key, John Dickinson, Dan Moloney and Lyn Connell. *They are missed.*



Ted Key



John Dickinson



Dan Moloney



Lyn Connell

DCAT NEEDS YOU!!!

Each week I look forward with anticipation to my "singing fix" and spending time with my extended DCAT family - which is why I am particularly grateful to Linda Carscadden for originally talking me into joining. Then, of course, (in a weak moment) I was also talked into becoming your President, which is why I'm writing this to you.

Our organization runs well, but it is only thanks to the hard work and commitment of members like Dave Cook who tirelessly maintains and develops our website, produces our newsletters, ads, and does whatever creative work we ask of him; and Lois Nicholls who has also worked tirelessly behind the scenes for years, keeping attendance, taking minutes plus organizing and caring for equipment - so well that it seems to appear when needed almost like magic.

Some other members who have regularly gone "above and beyond" are Gord Irvine, who (despite a "puckish" sense of humour) superbly manages the funds, making certain our bills are paid on time; and Edna Kingsley who cheerfully manages the 50/50 draw, water sales, and coordinates local events; plus of course, the amazing Linda Carscadden who contributes so much time and effort into recruiting members and fund raising for DCAT; plus many more who I haven't mentioned individually.

It is important that the Chorus continues to improve and grow, and runs smoothly for years to come. Therefore, as President of DCAT, I feel it is my responsibility to make certain all the efforts of these people are not wasted.

Hall of Fame Induction and Christmas Party 2010



I have an Executive including great people like Wyatt Gill, Pat Maloney, Ort Beaumont, and John Fox – but the most important resource is going to be YOU! We can only work on your behalf with your input; so in the next few weeks, we will be circulating some “questionnaires” asking for your feedback.

It is important you tell us exactly what you think. What do you like? What don't you like? What suggestions do you have? What comments would you like to make? It doesn't matter whether you put your name on these sheets or not – it doesn't matter how “wacky” you may think your ideas might be – the important thing is to let us know what is important TO YOU!

I look forward to hearing from you,

Marion Shearer - President

The Back to Back Concerts

Bobcaygeon October 30th, 2010

The weather cooperated with dry roads and no snow! Eleven members decided to make an overnight stay of it. I had spotted a advertising rental sign on the highway about 3 weeks prior announcing THE SPECTACULAR DCAT CHOIR October 30th Trinity United Church. After I steered my car (which was heading for the ditch as I read the sign) back on to the road the realization that this was being advertised big time became a reality. We then noticed large beautiful posters in almost every store in town plus in the local paper, as well as radio spots on CFMX Cobourg. It was obvious the Bobcaygeon Music Council was very serious about providing entertainment for the community and wanted a sell out in a big way.. Almost all members showed up at Just For The Halibut for dinner exceeding the number of hands that had been raised on the previous Wednesday at rehearsal. The owner gave me a slightly annoyed look as they scrambled to accommodate everyone but we did all leave with full tummies and the owners were most appreciative of the business. I sent a card and flowers the following week of appreciation from Joe and I for their efforts.

The Council went to great lengths to provide a detailed program complete with a history of each number we were performing. A packed house greeted us and we were also packed on the stage but the entire show was very well received and the Queen caused roars of laughter. The concert concluded with a Standing “O”. We met with the audience in the anti room afterwards and enjoyed cold punch and cookies. We were a definite hit. Frank Parker paid us a visit in the change room afterwards and remarked how much he and friends had enjoyed the show. It was great to see him. After a quick change it was over to the Legion, branch 239. Again we were well received and a rousing short, but enthusiastic sing song brought lots of clapping from the members who were just finishing up a Halloween Party. The leftover sandwiches from the party we devoured. They tasted great after the effort we had put out. I think the entire day pumped us all up for the concert in Thornbury the following weekend.

Thornbury November 6th, 2010

Again, the weather cooperated – sunshine, dry road and no snow. This time our travels took us northwest to Georgian Bay with great scenery on the way. Thornbury is a lovely little town which is starting to expand with condos, town houses and the like. The Community Centre/Hockey Complex was our destination and all arrived on time except Parkey and Gord O'Halloran who got side tracked somehow. The dressing rooms were not co-ed and yes they were hockey dressing rooms. Passing by the ones occupied by hockey teams was a treat for the nose (NOT). Jimmy was almost staggering down the hall in disgust but at least we all had hooks to hang our clothes on. A fairly large crowd greeted us and again we were packed on the stage with Wyatt having very little room to manoeuvre and one wrong step would see him fall about 4-5 feet. Parkey and Gord watched the 1st half of the concert from the back of the room. Edna Kingsley was able to make it thanks to Wyatt, Don and Marg. She came complete with wheel chair which presented a little challenge to get on the stage but this was accomplished and Edna was visibly pleased to be part of the group again. The audience was most appreciative of each number we did. We took a short break and had to leave Edna on the stage alone. She did not seem to mind and some of the chorus members stayed to keep her company. Others in the chorus mingled with the audience who were expressing their enjoyment of our show. Our Queen was a huge hit. I have offered to become Gillian's agent and we can go on the road and hit the clubs and make lots of money. A standing “O” again at the finish of the concert proved all the efforts we made were very worth while The Legion branch 281 provided the refreshments at the hall afterwards and also presented branch ribbons to several people.

A piper was brought in and the day was completed with the singing of God Save The Queen.

All in all, two very successful concerts in two small rural towns in Ontario. Great Fun!

Ann Watson - a.k.a. Annie in the Tundra

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Visit our website: www.dcatchorus.ca