



# 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 - June 2011**

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Upcomming Events: **Scarborough Civic Centre - Sunday, July 24, 2011, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm**

**For the Love of Music Saturday, October 22, 2011**

It is very important that every DCAT member sell tickets to the event. History has shown us that we can not count on other performing groups to sell many tickets. John Fox announce when he has the tickets.

Many thanks to those who organised the GAS trip. Gord Irvine for managing the finances and the bus plus room assignments. Pat Maloney for keeping us informed of the details for the reunion, Edna Kingsley for meal selections and seating. Marion Shearer for bus (and driver) control.

## **The 2011 GAS Reunion**

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*The 2011 GAS Reunion in Boston was the HIGHLIGHT of my YEAR!! It sounds corny but I am soooooo happy and still on a high after this year's reunion. I wasn't sure whether I would be able to go this year after my stroke but HEY I MADE IT!!!!!! WOW! What a reception!! I haven't hugged this many folks ever at one event!!!! Thank you all SOOOOOO MUCH for your support and encouragement. You folks are SOOO SPECIAL and it's one aspect of Drum Corps that is unexplainable to the non-participant. I'm still evolving and with your continued support and encouragement who knows how far I can progress. HUGS, HUGS, AND MORE HUGS. I'm still SMILIN'... your DCAT BUD... Lois*

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We boarded the bus at 6:30 am for our 12-hour bus ride. Sixteen hours and two bus drivers later we arrive at the Marriot Hotel in Quincey, Mass.

The start of the trip was uneventful enough. We loaded the luggage and uniforms on the bus and placed the coolers so that they were easily accessible. There was lots of room to move around the bus but after the second pick up, the only space available to socialize was in the aisle. At the final pick up spot in Grimsby we met up with Gillian and Pat Maloney and a new bus driver.

After a very long stop at the Duty Free we proceeded through Customs. The Customs agent asked bus driver #2 what was the destination of the bus and he replied Quincey Missouri!! Did he really say Quincey, Missouri? Naw. We got lost 3 times, making u-turns in gravel parking lots, dead end roads or wherever. An hour and a half after leaving Buffalo, we were back in Buffalo. Apparently, we missed the interstate throughway. That would explain all the little towns that we drove through. We were so lost at one point Marion jumped in and took over as co-pilot and had driver #2 pull into a gas station to get directions.

The entertainment on the long drive down consisted of movies, Sandy and a card game in the aisle.

When we finally arrived at the hotel, we got ourselves checked in and went to a Kareoke that was in progress. When that broke up, we were invited up to a hospitality suite. When that got into full swing, security showed up and said that we had to clear the room. The security staff said that the hotel had a lovely patio area that we could use. It was cold outside but we (six of us) found a corner out of the wind. Security showed up again and said that they had opened up a party room for us; so we partied on.

In preparation for our Friday evening performance, Wyatt and I had to make a run to the mall, which was only 10 minutes from the hotel, to pick up a cable to run the slideshow on my computer. Returning from the mall, we got very lost and ended up in a dead-end street. Wyatt saw a guy standing on the street and said, "Put down the window and ask him

how to get to the hotel." I put down the window and said, "Excuse me." He turned around to face us and he was holding a pump-action shotgun ( HOLY CRAP!). He approached the van and I asked if he knew how to get to the Marriott Hotel. He pointed at the hotel and said it's over there but you can't get there from here. He noticed that I was staring at the shotgun and offered an explanation. Apparently, he had just purchased the gun from a nearby house. He said the guy had enough guns to start a small war. He then told us a circuitous route to the hotel after which we burned rubber getting the hell out of there.

The chorus's performance on Friday night was fantastic. Our musical tribute to Ted Key with the accompanying slideshow was a huge hit. Performing was very emotional without seeing the slideshow. Marg Gill did sneak a peek at the show, saw a picture of Ted Key and Lyn Connell and lost it. The MC gave us a 12 out of 10. Unfortunately, Ann Watson took ill and missed our performance on Friday night. Probably it was due to a bad crumpet at the Royal Wedding Bash on Friday morning.

The Friday night dance was a lot of fun. There was as much action off the dance floor as there was on the dance floor. Ann White and June Beaumont challenged each other to do a full monty-ish dance. Marg Gill was, well..., just being Marg!



The DCAT Divas' Saturday afternoon performance, Ladies of the Night routine of fondling those guys lucky (or unlucky) enough to be sitting in the front row, was a blast!

***All in all, it was another great GAS weekend. Dave Cook***

## **GAS 2011 - Part B**

Did another year just go by? A few more wrinkles and a tad slower we all are but it is GAS time again. Preparation: rest, rest, rest and a list of what to take.

Two areas that I will not attempt to comment on:

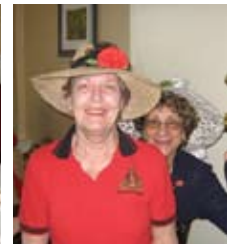
1. The bus trip, but from the expression on every ones faces upon departure from the bus Thursday at 10 pm, more enjoyable times have been had.
2. The Friday evening performance and dance. Due to my own foolishness of trying to medicate so I would be able to sing and party after some food poisoning, I missed both our performance and Bon Bons (which I would have had the pleasure of singing with as Rip had invited me to do so) my disappointment is self evident. End of story!

Arriving late Wednesday gave Joe and I a chance to get involved on the ground floor of activities. First encounter was with Duke and Carole Terreri (in the bar) and we were offered a sneak preview of a busy next 4 days. Thursday did not provide us with an opportunity to visit the ocean as we planned as it rained all day but as more and more GAS members arrived, there was lots to do, say and enjoy. Paul Flaherty informed one and all of the Karaoke Night on Thursday and we were all encouraged to attend – singers not attend a karaoke performance? – you must be kidding.

The DJs providing the music for the night need not to have worried about lack of talent or enthusiasm. Some memorable performances from Nate (Archer Epler), Tom Swan (Sky), the Bon Bon girls with inclusion from Sky girls and yours truly, an indredible solo from one of the sopranos of Bon Bon As the evening wore on, some brave members of DCAT did appear after getting settled. John Moffatt was incredible singing country songs. Joan Neuhoff ran around the room with a microphone getting solos. Paul Flaherty's fabulous tenor voice. The variety of songs chosen is too numerous to mention. In bed at 1:30 am and the Friday 5 am call to watch "The Royal Wedding" became a reality.

Pat Maloney offered his suite for those who wished to attend. Between 15 and 20 did brave the early hour complete with hats and finery. Champagne, O.J. and nibbles were offered. Union Jacks were visible and Joe's grandmother

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Watson's very old wool Union Jack was hung over one of the hotel's paintings. The stage was set and The Royals did not disappoint. The room was incredibly silent as the wedding proceeded and all you could hear was very quiet "Oohs and Aahs". The photos say it all - I would say Barb Jennings won as best dressed and Marg Gill took the prize for most spectacular hat (or as they call them in England, "fascinators"). Many thanks to Pat for allowing us to invade his space at such an ungodly hour and to those who attended (including five fellows) and thanks to Marg for the initial suggestion.



Saturday dawned and some members decided to go on the organized bus tour to downtown Boston. However, the Talent Show in the Grand Ballroom is always a treat. From the opening National Anthems played so beautifully with a combined horn and drum line of about 50, you knew you were in for a great show. So many highlights – our tap dancing diva's (standing "O"); The Silver Leaves; Mehla Shriners percussion group; Teresa Mellors' hilarious spoof on losing her man; Scout House; Archie/St. Lucy's combined corps ensemble; Ritchee Price's solo (he has played in many corps – also professionally with Lionel Hampton); Darcy Davis with his history of the bugle; the dancing divas vamping to "Hey Big Spender" spreading their charms around the audience to cat calls and whistles was also a standing "O" (way to go girls); Joe Fontana and Jack Murray's incredible percussion duets; St. Kevin's alumni corps; followed by a mass corps playing the GAS theme, "Walk Alone". I could go on and on. Wonderful musicians, having a great and fun time – what a way to spend a Saturday!

Cocktail Hour and Banquet -The clean up always makes us look absolutely fabulous!! Black seemed to be the color of choice for most ladies. Everyone enjoyed the meal which was followed by the tribute to our fallen members. Seeing four DCAT members' photos on the screen was difficult to comprehend and the reality it represents. There seem to be more and more names each year for this tribute. It was a great privilege to sing with the combined choruses in our tribute of "Rainbow" to Ted Key and Rip spoke very warmly of Ted. Sky Chorus did a Cole Porter book (including singing "Be A Clown" with our Jolly Jester making a requested appearance). As usual Bucky Swan had the odd comment between numbers. St. Kevin's Korus put on a spectacular show – great harmonies, choreography, animation and enthusiasm. Their rendition of the Manhattan Transfers "Boy from New York City" was a show stopper. Perhaps we can glean a bit of their magic.

The Queen's video was incredible, so professional and well done. The audience loved it and the addition at the conclusion of her speech when "Rule Britannia" was played and several of DCAT members stood up with Union Jacks and fancy hats on was a crowd pleaser. Many thanks, Gillian for all your efforts. Marie Cappazuto (Jim sings with Sky) was shattered to see that her illusion of the Queen was brought to reality when Gillian took a well deserved bow but did comment what a beauty Gillian is.

The Parade of Uniforms seems to grow each year and DCAT was well represented by Lois Nicholls–Royalaires; Gord Irvine–Sigs; and Joe Watson–Jesters. The jam session was fun, loud and enjoyed by all participants. Many others hung out in the grand foyer not wanting the evening to end and it did not for several of us who ended up in the Maloney suite for more drinkies, nibbles and chatter. The Sunday morning breakfast is always rather quiet and the feeling is let's get going and get home to rest.

When one reflects on all the activities of those four days, I am sure it is equivalent to a marathon or two but we are blessed to be able to do this. Not bad for a group of middle to older aged adults. Individual DCAT members are always well represented in the various activities throughout the weekend, and thanks and praise to them for their efforts. Our Gillian is a pure treasure and she is OURS!!

Next year back to Gettysburg – another tour to the Civil War Fields (or perhaps not!!).

***Annie in the tundra***

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