



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 2012

The Skyped rehearsals for the people in Florida - the Gills, the Jennings and the Foxes and myself worked pretty well but there was a delay issue. We would start off a song together and Florida would finish four bars ahead of the Chorus. In fact, we heard Joan English fall, **before it happened.**

Parky, Parky, Parky, your performance in "California Girls" was beyond words. LOL, OMG, WTF, LMAO. The Bon Bons found him wandering the halls, took his photo and put it on their Facebook page!

There were no Ellie moments this year, ie. big jugs, spoon stuck on her nose, straddling a "Do Not Enter" sign, one lens sunglasses and some I can't mention here. We were able to set her up on Skype so that she could watch our performance. She said that when Parky made his appearance, she could not hear us over the audience hooting and laughing.

The Queen (Gillian Maloney) gave her final performance at GAS 2012. She has been a part of the DCAT Chorus entertainment package since 2002. Gillian and Pat have taken a leave of absence due to work commitments. They are missed. Hopefully, they will return when life becomes less hectic for them.

It was nice to welcome back to rehearsal Joan English and Claire Hobson after their respective surgical repairs and replacements. Our thoughts continue to be with Bob Cunningham. We were saddened by the passing of Jim Tufts. Jim and his wife, Joan were members of the Chorus in the early years.

Dave

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE SUMMER 2012

Summer is the time for socializing. We all love to BBQ, have Frosty Drinkies, wear cool, comfortable and sometimes revealing clothes, and be out doors as much as possible.

DCAT - We have a recipe for YOU.

Sunday July 22nd - Scarborough Civic Centre Concert. This is always a great event for the locals of Scarborough which shows on their smiling faces and they do love the singsong. The afterglow will be held at Jack Asters, a "stones throw away" from the complex with lots of parking. We are guaranteed to be seated all together and after singing for two hours, we will all enjoy noshing, quenching our thirst and visiting. We are a very social group so don't miss this chance to spend quality time with each other.

Saturday September 8th - The Annual Bobcaygeon BBQ. How many have we had? - don't know for sure but always a very enjoyable time and the Watsons love sharing their bit of paradise with everyone. Plan to attend - the Rules - bring what you want to BBQ and your choice of liquid!!, swimwear if you wish, a hat, sunscreen, and be prepared to play (if you wish) Boce Ball, Croquet. Go for a canoe ride or paddle boat ride. We have a new and varied selection of summer music (think Beach Boys, Jersey Boys, all types of summer music) lasting 7 hours and we may have a sing song. If you plan to stay over, let the Watsons know ASAP as accommodation in town is very limited during tourist time.

DCAT Social Committee - we look forward to seeing ALL OF YOU.

GAS 2012 - Gettysburg PA

The happy faces arriving by bus on Thursday around 5.00 p.m. said it all – a smooth drive – no detours this year. Almost everyone looked great. A few had partied hardy and you knew it would be an early night for them. Those of us who had driven had gone to the bar late afternoon (REALLY) to await the arrival of our buddies. Speaking of which – lots of Americans were already there including Sky Chorus members and the usual greeting of hugs and catching up on each other lives happened - this has become a tradition as well. Thursday evening was more “meet and greet” as the crowds grew in the bar area and foyer. Although we only see many of them yearly, the warmth is always there. The sing-a-long was great. The Gill’s were front and centre with Wyatt conducting and the all familiar songs were sung with gusto. Towards the end of the evening we were all reminded of rehearsal Friday 11.00 a.m. in the banquet hall.

Friday dawned and the excitement of the weekend was evident as Wyatt had a hard time with us. We did not have a great rehearsal but perhaps we knew this meant Friday nights performance would be a success. It was announced during rehearsal that John Moffatt had lost his bag which contained his meds, money, shoes and music and we were all asked to check our rooms. Our combined rehearsal with Bon Bons went well. I personally then had a chance to rehearse with Bon Bons for the 1st time ever and became very nervous about Friday night. John “Duke” Terreri has done a remarkable job with the assistance of Carol, taking over since Rip died. Many of the girls had literally grown up with Rip, starting as The Audubon Bon Bons Drum Corps when they were teenagers, so this transition time and losing Rip has been very difficult for them.

Some of us stayed to hear The Canadian Ensemble rehearse – they have improved so much. Half way through rehearsal, Rhonda arrived carrying John’s bag. This, after Rhonda had gone to a local pharmacy and pleaded for some medicine for John to get him through the weekend and John had gone out to purchase shoes and other essentials. The song “HELP ME RHONDA”, provided a whole new meaning to the words. A large hug for Rhonda from John and his smiling face said it all.

By now we had heard of other misfortunes – Shiona discovering the morning of departure that her passport had expired, but the Govt. helped her out (amazing!); Dave and Karen Cook had the back window of their SUV shattered by falling concrete in a garage on the trip from Florida; Gord Moffatt playing golf suffered an injury which ended his golf for the rest of the week; Joe and I having a stone from a transport truck crack our windshield and the crack continued to grow over the weekend. Also upon returning on Sunday, the Allen’s discovered their van has been vandalized. Not a good way for them to end their weekend. We are thankful I am sure that no serious health problems occurred over the entire weekend.

Friday Night’s Beer Bash now is a performance night as well. There was great laughter in our dressing room as we transformed ourselves into 50’s mode and Snoopy’s entrance complete with the “squiggy” hair style really set the tone. The Bon Bons performed first and did themselves proud and Bill “Rip” Bernert would have been pleased. They received an enthusiastic response from the crowd who were also very emotional considering Rip’s passing recently.

It was time for us to have fun. As we entered, the crowd immediately reacted to our costumes and I think we knew it was going to be a great evening. Gord Moffatt set the tone with his D.J. banter and our singing of the call letters “D.C.A.T. - DCAT Radio” was a brilliant idea of Wyatt’s. We took off and it was an instant explosion of great singing and enthusiasm and we had their attention. It is hard to express the next 15 minutes. The crowd was singing and dancing with huge smiles on their faces but the faces changed at first to shock and then laughter as Parky made his entrance in his bikini during “California Girls”. I think he owned the show from that moment on until Rhonda flirted through the audience being the nurse as we sang “Help Me Rhonda”. All in all, it was an amazing group effort by Wyatt, Gord, Parky, Rhonda, Peter Mosely our “rim” drummer and all Chorus members - definitely the most fun we have ever had performing. Our Queen was, as usual, a hit. She always presents with new material and is well loved by all. The remainder of Friday evening was spent dancing, visiting, lots of laughter and having a few soda pops.

The Saturday Talent Show as usual garnered great performances, some of which were: Rich Red Wardlow’s trumpet solo of “Stardust”; John and Barb Flowers duet/solo drumming; the Silver Leaves playing a John William’s medley and “Bohemian Rhapsody”; Joe Fontana and Jack Murray who always impress us with their drum duets; Brooklyn

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United singing and playing "Swanee" with Tom Swan being centered out; the Canadian Ensemble so improved this year with Gord Moffatt and Dave Baldry playing sweet solo's while Parky sat there being a frog?? with our own Wyatt Gill playing a horn; and the surprise and joy of seeing Sandy, Shiona and Keith do a very polished cabaret performance singing with such confidence and looking great after only 4 months of rehearsal. Well done! Archer Epler did a great tribute to Mike Snow who died recently. It was wonderful to see Eileen Snow in the horn line. A difficulty for her I am sure; and St. Lucy's tribute to Rip with all the Bon Bon girls standing together with many tears flowing. The GAS theme played at the end is always another reason to shed some tears and be so thankful we are a part of this wonderful organization.

Approximately 11 or 12 DCAT members participated in the talent show this year and seeing Wyatt up there was indeed a treat. He had such a good time!

The banquet is always a happy/sad affair with the joy of once again visiting with our friends while sharing a great meal but the tribute to those who have died always strikes a chord of reality and again, we must appreciate these special times. This year seeing Ralph Silverbrand, Bill Rip Bernert and Mike Snow's pictures was extremely sad for many of the DCAT members who knew these gentlemen as friends.

The goodbyes on Sunday are full of hugs, "we will keep in touch" and "keep well"! Next year, the GAS reunion 2013 will be held in Mahwah, New Jersey hosted by Yankee Rebels who always provide an amazing weekend.

I enjoy writing this article each year as it helps us all to reflect and provides the drive for us to strive to be even better next year. ***annie in the tundra***

Bill "R.I.P." Bernert



*You Will Live In
Our Hearts Forever*



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