



# 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 – December 2013**

At the Annual General Meeting and Elections that were held November 13, 2013, all incumbents were re-elected.

## 2014 Executive



President  
Ort Beaumont



Vice President  
Dave Wood



Treasurer  
Gord Irvine



Business Mgr.  
Rhonda Marks-  
Wadsten



Membership Dir.  
John Parkinson



Secretary  
Dolly Fox



Fundraising Dir.  
Linda Carscadden



Social Director  
Ann Watson



Musical Dir.  
Wyatt Gill



Past President  
Marion Shearer

Since Dave Cook decided to retire after 19 years on the executive (i.e. since the chorus was created!) Kris Wadsten is temporarily stepping into the position as Publicity Director.

## 2013 for the Love of Music

Jim Jennings the Chair of the Love of Music Committee writes that the 8<sup>th</sup> annual “Love of Music” 2013 concert of November 2, 2013 at the Vaughan City Playhouse was a well-received and entertaining extravaganza. The DCAT costume-dressed “Malt Shop” opening set the stage for an evening of entertainment and fun (right down to “Shoot the Bugler”).

The pre-intermission performances included a mass of 70 plus children whose musical talents were spell binding. The ‘Directors Choir’ and the ‘Random Notes’ returned to “Love of Music” after performances in China last summer and these two Choirs intermingled to present two awesome, dynamic musical sets.

Next, a change of pace came as the 'Don Mills Collegiate Institute Jazz Band' (20 strong) hit the stage and their talented performance had everyone in the audience snapping their fingers and tapping their toes. Post intermission saw the more senior performers. The 'St. James Chancel Choir' took the audience through Broadway show tunes and a sing along with the audience. Their total package of harmony and solos made for a delightful presentation.

Lastly, DCAT'S second performance was a somber remembrance theme, taking everyone through to a salute to "Heroes" and our "Walk Alone" anthem close.

The "Love of Music" Committee takes this opportunity to extend to the DCAT membership and the many volunteers our sincere appreciation for their time and never-ending efforts.

Thank you to all, Jim Jennings, Chair, "Love of Music" Committee

## John Fox inducted into the DCAT Hall of Fame



Read more about John, and see all about the previous Hall of Famers, on the DCAT Hall of Fame page on our website. (On the right: Tony Casciato, Chair, Hall of Fame Committee.)



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## OUR SOCIAL DIRECTOR LOOKS BACK ON GAS 2013

Another May, Another GAS.

One always wonders what will be different this year. "Will it be as much fun as in the past?" **You Bet!!**

The early DCAT arrivals included the Snowbirds from Florida, the Watsons and Wyatt Gill (arriving in a limo and wearing a suit - he was on business in Stamford, Connecticut.)

The registration table was already set up and we were greeted by Charlie & Jean Kammer, Larry Bourne and Norm Corrieri. Efficiency was already evident. Within half an hour, some members of Skyliners Chorus appeared, followed by Bon Bon members. The greetings were warm and you already could sense the drum corps spirit was alive and working. The next obvious destination was The Bar - no surprise there. There are never enough stools in a bar, have you noticed?

DCAT's bus arrived and most of the group looked refreshed after an uneventful ride. A few had "partied hardy" coming down and you could put money on an early bedtime for them. Missing were many DCAT friends who could not make the journey because of illness or other personal reasons, some who had been coming since our first trip to Hawthorne, N.J., in May 1995. On our minds particularly was our dear friend, Gord Moffatt, who was extremely ill and of course, Laura, "his rock".

Dinner in the dining room started out with a small group of us but within an hour, more and more tables were added as fellow DCAT members joined in. Lots of laughter and more wine, please. Illusions Night Club provided music for dancing Thursday evening. A small but enthusiastic crowd gathered and much "catch up" conversation ensued.

Friday, we were informed about rehearsal time in the morning and the afternoon was free for visiting with the new arrivals, another trip to the bar or a mall excursion which some enjoyed doing.

Official opening ceremonies commenced at 7 p.m. and the evening's entertainment was Skyliners Chorus and the Bon Bons. Sky Chorus performed, directed by Bill Moore, and did a tribute to Tommy Swan who was too ill to conduct. A medley of songs the Chorus has done under his direction over the past several years was wonderful and closed with "Thank You for The Music". This brought tears to many.

The Bon Bon Chorus, under the direction of Duke Terrieri, did a superb performance with some of Bill "Rip" Bernert arrangements. Duke has brought out the best in the ladies' voices and Rip would have been proud. The no show DJ caused some concern for the co-chairs but DCAT stepped up to the plate in the form of Shiona and Ian Morrison, who volunteered to provide music for dancing - doing a tremendous job under difficult circumstances. A late evening for all but so much fun!

On Saturday afternoon, the individual acts always bring a few surprises and DCAT did not fail. Amazing performances from the Supremes (Pat, Dianne and Marion) complete with wigs and choreography, singing "Stop In the Name of Love"; John aka Johnny Souffle and Dolly Fox, doing Michael Buble's "Home", "Feelin' Good" and "Everything"; Shiona, who did a Civil War number accompanied by John Fox, John Moffatt and Ort Beaumont; then the ballad "Summer Wine" with John Moffatt and Shiona; and "These Boots Were Made for Walking" again with Shiona and some of the Preston boys. All of these performances were excellent and well received.

Other GAS members did solo horn, drum routines, group brass ensembles, the Skyliner Alumni Drum Corps played and finished with their corps song, and the afternoon was completed with a mass brass line conducted by Duke Terrieri, Phil Gentile and Jimmy Russo playing "You'll Never Walk Alone".

One could start to feel the urgency in the fact this GAS was beginning to wind down with only the Saturday night left. The banquet and the rituals we all love of the anthems, tributes to deceased members, the combined voices of Bon Bons and DCAT singing the "Lord's Prayer" went well. Our performance dedicated to Gord and Laura Moffatt was live streamed to them and although the sound was not the best quality, they could hear us. The crowd was very enthusiastic at the conclusion of our show.

Both Duke Terrieri and Charlie Kammer provided wonderful videos of past GAS Reunions. This brought laughter and tears and was a work of love from these two gentlemen. The Parade of Uniforms and closing comments concluded the evening.

Sunday breakfast always brings hugs and promises to "Keep in Touch", "Be Well" and "See You Next Year."

WHY DO THE GOOD TIMES ALWAYS GO SO FAST?

- Next year – Johnson City.

Annie in the Tundra.



**More from the Social Director:** "We have tried over the year to promote socializing in the cafe at Estonian House on a weekly basis. It is so convenient and those who come each week obviously enjoy the camaraderie of visiting with others who may not be in their "section" and get to know them better. The same can be said of our weekly afterglow.

The social events over this past year mainly consisted of being together after a performance for lunch or dinner. We were unable to find a time and venue convenient for a card party and also the Bobcaygeon BBQ was not held for the same reason. The Committee's focus for 2014 is to encourage the members to come up with ideas we can pursue and hopefully succeed at.

Our Social Committee also planned and executed a splendid Christmas Party, which saw a huge pile of new toys collected for charity, a great number of beautiful/useful/interesting items for the silent auction, which included several bottles of wine and other similar beverages – would DCAT people really be interested in such items? Hmm.

After the great Hall of Fame ceremony, we decamped to the café where the Committee had organized a delicious spread of sandwiches, veggies, sweets and a cash bar. Santa was unfortunately unable to attend but has sent his most delectable representative "Sadie Claus" who seemed to have some problems holding her red coat together but bravely proceeded to deliver some clever one-liners, assisted by 'Parky". She also presented this year's two DCAT brides, Sandy Hume-Bartholomew and Rhonda Marks-Would, with some essential items for newly-weds: scrubbing pads and feather dusters! Long-time members sang some wonderful (?) old tunes for the astounded newcomers to the Chorus, and we ended with some well-known Christmas carols, directed by Wyatt.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!**



## Remembering Gord Moffat

Gord Moffatt passed away June 10, 2013 at the age of 65 after a long cancer battle, with Laura his wife of 44 years at his side. A short time after his death a special party was held in his honour with family, friends, DCAT, Sigs and various drum corps associations of which Gord was a member.

Gord was the second President of DCAT in the year 1995 and then left to play drum corps again. He returned to sing and be an Assistant Music Director and went back to drum corps again and then returned to assist DCAT as our DJ for the Malt Shop performance at GAS 2011.

Gord had a vast coverage in the drum corps world starting at the age of 13:

1961 – 1966 York Lions Drum Corps

1967 – 1970 His relationship with Sigs started in 1967 when he joined the Second Signals offshoot of Canada's Marching Ambassadors Drum Corps.

During this period he instructed the Markham Girls Drum Corps and Brampton Senators Drum Corps.

1971 He played with the Burlington Commanders Drum Corps.

The next 25 years with a family of Sean and Paula growing up he spent a great amount of time coaching baseball, hockey and refereeing hockey in Richmond Hill.

1995 – Kids now gone he got the music bug again and joined Toronto Signals and donned the scarlet and busby. Sigs did lots of parades but had a field drill almost like the good ole days.

1996 – 1998 He played with St. Joes Drum Corps in Batavia

1999 – Kilties Drum Corps in Racine, Wisconsin (lots of travelling)

2000 – 2006 Empire Statesmen Drum Corps, Rochester, New York

2007 – 2013 Rejoined Toronto Signals Band as well as playing with Hamilton Firefighters, Canadian GAS Ensemble and some small ensemble groups associated with St. Joes. Gord was proud to march in the highly respected and often revered Toronto Signals Trumpet Band and enjoyed the dotted line connection with Canada's military. He was always ready to step up and vocally support our military efforts and make the small contribution of making the CO's parades and other such military events just a little better with the participation of his skills and smartly dressed, scarlet and brass band

As you can see, Gord was active as a soloist, instructor and administrator in the drum corps world. As recognition to his contributions he became an Associate Member of the World Drum Corps Hall of Fame inducted in 2002.

Gord was not a man of many words, but he knew that life was about making the best of every situation and finding a little fun along the way.

God Bless!



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