



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.

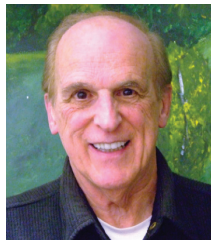
The Newsletter of the Drum Corps Alumni of Toronto - JANUARY 2013

The Annual General Meeting and Annual Elections were held on Wed. Nov. 14, 2012 at Estonian House. There were five positions up for election: Vice-President, Business Manager, Social Director, Publicity Director and Membership Director. Results as follows: Dave Wood - Vice-President; Rhonda Marks - Business Manager; Ann Watson (re-elected) - Social Director; Dave Cook (re-elected) - Publicity; Membership position left vacant by Rhonda Marks - was moved off to a Special General Meeting election to be held early in 2013.

2013 EXECUTIVE



President
Orton Beaumont



Vice President
Dave Wood



Treasurer
Gord Irvine



Business Manager
Rhonda Marks



Publicity Director
Dave Cook



Secretary
Dolly Fox



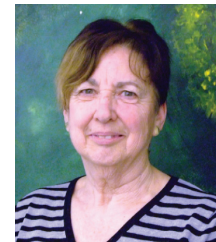
Fundraising Director
Linda Carscadden



Social Director
Ann Watson



Musical Director
Wyatt Gill



Past President
Marion Shearer

2012 for the Love of Music

Jim Jennings presented the 7th annual 2012 for the Love of Music at the Vaughan City Playhouse on October 27th. The audience was a little smaller than normal but chatting with people afterwards they sure did enjoy themselves.

We were getting comments of same ole same ole so we did change a little and presented a "blast from the past" theme.

MC Gord Irvine with the opening remarks and his one liners. He also gave recognition to Bob Cunningham who was in attendance. Bob as you know was as our previous MC doing five concerts. He outlined Bob's contributions to DCAT and the health problems he has had and stated this concert was dedicated to him.

DCAT opened with the Anthem and then sang some of their golden oldies to warm up the crowd (On The Square, Somewhere Over the Rainbow, Ragtime and All the Things You Are).

We had Elvis Tribute Artists interspersed throughout the program with Joey Cundari doing the "Fifties"; John Cigan the "Sixties" and Sam Calleri the "Seventies". This change of pace was well received and we actually did see Elvis leave the room.

Keeping with our tradition to have young adults performed the "Young Singers" from Durham Region were next and they thrilled the audience with their skills, talent and repertoire. Oh what a reception they received from the audience. They are performing in China as we read this note.

Showing DCAT's versatility Sandy Hume, Shiona Mackenzie-Morrison (Kittens) and Keith Thomas (Tomcat) with stage director Ian Mackenzie-Morrison performed three numbers for us; Sisters, I Don't Care and Meow Meow as Tomcat & The Kittens.

The real "Blast from the Past" came from DJ "Parky and the DCAT AM Show. Parky wowed the crowd with his narratives and little antics that he put into the announcing (some unheard by the chorus until then). DCAT's Music Director had arranged a "Malt Shop Show". We saw poodle skirts, jeans, penny loafers, saddle shoes, vests, squiggly hairdos, Elvis's Grandfather (Don Gill with an Elvis wig), sunglasses, surfing choreography, muscle men, nurse Rhonda and one dead trumpeter. It was so much fun performing and a lot of laughs and enjoyment from the audience. The repertoire was Sherry, Stand By Me, Big Girls Don't Cry, Sh-Boom, California Girls, Walk Like A Man, Goodnight Sweetheart and Help Me Rhonda. We closed with our traditional Never Walk Alone.

We had a classy program, lots of ads and some thirst quenchers at half time and after the show, achieved some funds to help us administratively and had a great time.

Thanks to Jim and his committee of Orton Beaumont, Dave Cook, Dolly Fox, John Fox, Gord Irvine, Pat Ison, Barb Jennings, John McTaggart and the many volunteers who assisted to make this a very successful event.

Marg Gill inducted into the DACT Hall of Fame



Orton Beaumont (president), Marg Gill (inductee) and Wyatt Gill (presenter)

The sole inductee into the DCAT Hall of Fame for 2012 was Marg Gill. Below is an excerpt from Wyatt's Gill's induction speech:

"Marg was an integral part of DCAT since its very inception. Marg actually was one of the founding members of DCAT, who actively participated with the group of 7 or 8 men in hosting meetings at her house where it was her dual job to not only keep track of all the discussions going on and record the minutes of those discussions but also to keep all those rowdy yahoos in line, and most of you know who I'm talking about.

She would later go on to serve for many years as a member of the DCAT Executive in this same capacity as Secretary.

Marg was also responsible for the development of the original DCAT uniforms which not only legitimized us as a true show chorus but those uniforms were so sharp that they filled us with a great sense of pride every time we took a stage to perform knowing that we would look as professional as we would sound.

And for those of you who have soured on giving me new song ideas because I haven't arranged them yet. My mom has been nothing short of a trooper in this area. She has probably had her song choices turned down more than a hundred times but she never stops providing them because she has never stopped caring and giving all of herself to DCAT. And it is that love and care that she has for not only everyone in DCAT but for DCAT itself that makes me so incredibly proud to stand here tonight to welcome into the DCAT Hall of Fame, a most deserving and overdue member, my mother, Marg Gill. Congratulations!"

For the full story on Marg and the rest of the Hall of Fame members go to http://www.dcatchorus.ca/hall_of_fame.html

2013 DCAT Video Project

Smile, you're on candid camera! You may have noticed our rehearsals and other activities are being videotaped... Selected footage will be used in a documentary video project proposed by Member Shiona Mackenzie-Morrison and endorsed by the Committee at the end of 2012.

With the assistance of Associate Member Ian Mackenzie-Morrison, the project will result in three videos: 1. The making of a DCAT performance at a G.A.S. Reunion; 2. The making of a 'Love of Music' performance; 3. The history of the DCAT Chorus. If you ever watched the BBC series "The Choir" about a young choirmaster teaching choral music to people with little singing experience, you'll have a good idea of what we're hoping to achieve with this project. The final Committee-reviewed and approved videos will be used to promote the Chorus online and DVDs can be produced for sale.

Shiona will need to interview people in groups and on an individual basis about their DCAT experiences. Please let her know you have memories to share and arrange a mutually convenient time and place for your interview. She also would like to record or photograph DCAT memorabilia (such as the original baseball cap, etc.) for posterity. Your participation in this project will help us carry DCAT's heritage into the future and appeal to prospective members. You've got a lot to offer, so be yourself, tell your stories and don't hold back!

A RETROSPECTIVE OF DCAT SOCIAL EVENTS FOR 2012.

The Social Committee had a busy year in 2012 starting with a card party in January at the Armoury with close to 30 in attendance. \$157.00 was given to DCAT as a result. Dianne Yaneff organized a picnic lunch at the Island through her seniors club. The weather was perfect - those who attended had a wonderful time but the overall attendance was poor and it was decided if this event is held again next year we would need FIRM numbers and prepayment.

Our mid-summer gig at Scarborough Civic Centre was well attended. The crowd is always enthusiastic so it is a pleasurable experience. Following the performance most went to Jack Astor's for the Afterglow and the staff was most accommodating seating us all together.

The annual Watson BBQ in early September again turned into "a party in the garage" as it poured rain most of the day. However Rhonda Marks' naked rain dance (in her mind) did bring out the sun for a while. With card games, great music, and good food, those who attended were leaving with a smiles on their faces. We raised \$107.00 with the 50/50 draw.

In October we had a gig at Sunnybrook Hospital and had a very appreciative, large audience. It is always a great pleasure to see smiles on the faces of the veterans and their families. Rhonda and Ron hosted an Oktoberfest at their home following the show and went "all out" with Oktoberfest hats, Oom-pah-pah music and incredibly delicious food. They are most gracious hosts.

The Christmas Party on December 12th followed the Hall of Fame induction of Marg Gill, a richly deserved choice. The party was attended by 57 people and we followed the same format as last year with a raffle table, silent auction and 50/50 draw. Linda Carscadden organized the toy drive for the Salvation Army and a great variety was collected. The Committee was worried we would not have enough raffle articles to sell but the Chorus did not disappoint. Wearing Elf Hats from Dianne to the committee was easily spotted if anyone had questions. Following the 1st part of the evening, we congregated in the Cafe. Four members of the Chorus were given "special gifts": Parky with a shaving kit to keep his bikini line in check, Jim Bartholomew - lunch for one, consisting of kraft dinner, soup/crackers, tea bags and instant coffee for his new bachelor pad, Linda C (our garage sale queen) - a supply of bags for garage sale articles, and last but not least our esteemed President, Ortie a hand made sign "727" - a reminder for us to be in our for start of practice at 7.30pm. Santa and his elf, Ellie made an appearance and everyone was given a Christmas treat. A much larger and varied selection of food was well received and disappeared quickly! To our long-suffering Cafe buddie and server, Kerly a Christmas card with a monetary appreciation for her hard work was presented and to Ulle, a bouquet of flowers. This event raised \$1266.30 including the 50/50 draw.

Note: Our efforts to encourage all to come early on the first Wednesday of the month to the Cafe for dinner, a drink or to socialize is usually attended by the same people who laugh and talk about the good old drum corps days. The Afterglow following rehearsal is well attended, a great way to "wind down" after Wyatt has worked us so hard. The cafe is always most generous with sweets.

Many thanks to my amazing Committee who worked very efficiently and with great pleasure over the year with lots of laughs to make these events happen. Also thanks to Barb Jennings for her input throughout the year, Shirley Lucas, always enthusiastic and ready to help, John Moffatt, our bartender at the Armoury and Parky for always being a good sport.

Thanks to Joe (the Jester) for listening to me throughout the year, helping to pick up and deliver all the food to Estonian House and helping setting up the Christmas Party. Also thanks to all who assisted. Our Committee raised \$1414.00 in 2012 - these events were all held for the enjoyment of the Chorus to be SOCIAL AND HAVE FUN. - Annie *in the tundra*



Remembering Bob Cunningham



Bob passed away on Friday, December 28, 2012 at the age of 72 after a lengthy battle with cancer and is survived by his wife, Linda, two sisters, two daughters, and five grandchildren. Bob went to Western Tech, was involved with drum corps since the 1950s, active in the Shrine, went on to the Toronto and York Region Police Forces, and subsequently, became a Safety Inspector for the Ministry of Labour. He was re-acquainted with drum corps when Western Tech had their 75th Anniversary in 2003 and was MC for their Trumpet Band reunion. This opened up his opportunity to MC the DCAT "Love of Music" annual concerts for 5 years as well as several GAS reunions. His glib one-liners were a trademark and served him well over the years, demonstrating his quick wit. At his Memorial on Saturday, February 9, 2013, it was

DCAT's honour to perform four of his favourite songs: "Amazing Grace", "Wonderful World", "Lord's Prayer" and especially "You'll Never Walk Alone". He will be missed by his many friends from his numerous walks of life.

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Visit our website: www.dcatchorus.ca