

# THE DCAT CHORUS



**20th ANNIVERSARY**

**1994 - 2014**

## 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 – November 2014**

After months of planning, we held our Anniversary Dinner at the Qssis Banquet Halls on September 27, with 200 guests: chorus members, former members, friends and relatives, all dressed to the nines and having a wonderful time. Our youngest celebrant was the son of our Music Director, Wyatt Gill, in cool head gear:



Looking seriously at Dad: "What are you doing?"



The Anniversary Committee had been working for months and it showed since just about everything ran very smoothly. Marion Shearer summarized the work done:

### **20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA COMMITTEE REPORT – October 1, 2014**

As the Chairperson of the Gala Planning Committee, I would like to try to thank all those who worked so hard to make this event a success.

**Shirley Lucas** – who had helped on the Committee, but was not well enough to attend

**Claire Hobson** – for her input to the Committee

**John Fox** - for all his endeavours to promote ticket sales and keep track of everyone's requests – well done!

**John and Dolly** – for transporting the large Drum Corp figures which decorated the stage - these were a big addition to the evening's atmosphere. And to **Dolly** for such a good display of DCAT uniforms

**Dave Cook** – for his creation of a great historical slide show we all enjoyed during cocktails and dinner

**Edna Kingsley** – for preparing the master seating charts, and sorting everyone out

**Linda Carscadden** – for choosing such an excellent venue for this event, and for her experience and input

**Dianne Yaneff, Shirley Hay, Edna Kingsley, and Linda Carscadden** – for their excellent menu choices

**Edna Allen** – a huge thanks from all of us for her inspired center piece creations which added such a professional touch to the evening, and to **Edna and Jim**'s generosity in donating all the costs to DCAT

**Sandy Hume** – for donating her lovely creative programs for the tables, plus her enthusiastic selling of 50/50 tickets throughout the evening

**Dianne Yaneff, Pat Ison, Shirley Hay, and Joan English** – for welcoming everyone, taking tickets, and selling 50/50 tickets

**Kerstin Wadsten** – for a great Purr-spective commemorative issue

**John Parkinson** – for acting as our MC

**Rhonda Marks-Would** – for arranging the booking of our guest soloist Michael Burgess

**Orton Beaumont** – for his grace and untiring efforts to facilitate the evening running smoothly  
**Wyatt Gill and Rick Dixon** for their great choice of music, and to Wyatt for his inspiring and fun leadership  
**Pat Ison** – for her hard work selling tickets to fill a record number of tables – contributing significantly to our financial objective, plus getting reporter coverage of the event  
**Linda Carscadden** – for selling a large number of tables, and especially for her untiring efforts in organizing the Silent Auction and making it a success  
**Dianne Yaneff, Shirley Hay, Joan English, Ellie Cameron, Edna Kingsley and Linda Carscadden** – for all their hard work settling up the Silent Auction.

**To all the many members who generously donated items to the Silent Auction** – we thank you – your contributions really helped “put us over the top”!!

**Gord Irvine** – for his efficiency in preparing and executing the payment of our obligations

**The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Objectives** were to create a celebration event recognizing the 20 years of DCAT tradition, which would be a good party and get together with our friends. However, the Committee was also approached by the Board of Directors to undertake the task of making it a fund raising event to replace revenue lost from the cancelled 2014 “Love Of Music” show.

**Financial report on the Gala** – Fortunately with superb work and dedication from all the Gala Committee, most of whom had not previously worked on a project of this size, plus the support of members of the Board and with all DCAT’s support, we are relieved and happy to actually meet and exceed the financial objective asked of us.

DCAT, you came and partied and made this 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration a success. THANK YOU EVERYONE

Respectfully submitted  
 Marion Shearer/Chairperson



The reception



The stage with drum corps figures and slide show



The silent auction



The center piece: a drum for each table



The DCAT uniforms over the years



The MC

A couple of Committee members also had comments on the evening. **Dianne Yaneff** wrote:

“DCAT’s Gala Event on September 27, 2014 was, in every way, a very successful evening. We had close to 200 folks in attendance and ready to party.

Qssis Banquet Hall was beautifully decorated and the centerpieces on the tables were hand made by one of our own and were drum corps oriented, complete with drumsticks.

Everyone turned out in their finest, ready to meet and greet old friends and former members of DCAT.

The Silent Auction brought out the best in those wishing to try their luck bidding on many interesting items.

Along with the proceeds of the 50/50 draw, we were able to please our Treasurer with the amounts that were raised.

Dinner was a wonderful roast beef and grilled salmon accompanied by healthy vegetables and an edible waffle bowl filled with ice cream for dessert. We were treated to the fabulous voice of Michael Burgess who sang a number from each of Les Miserables and The Phantom of the Opera. DCAT performed three songs and the fourth one included all the past members. We were in good form. Afterward, everyone seemed to be in dancing form and grooved to the tunes that we all loved. No one seemed any the worse for wear after 20 years.”

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As Dianne said, we sang:



And danced:



And from **Linda Carscadden**:

“We had almost 200 people attend. The room looked amazing, the food was excellent, especially for those who like seconds.

It was wonderful to hear Michael Burgess sing “The Impossible Dream”.

Being in charge of the “Silent Auction” I feel that my volunteers did a good job under trying circumstances, not having lights or being able to hear, partly because of the noise of everyone having fun, and partly because of not everything was being announced. We might have had an even higher amount coming in from this, since all donated items were of very high quality. But we are very happy with the overall results. A very memorable moment for me, and I believe, for all of us, was when Wyatt asked all former members to join us and we sang “Never Walk Alone”.

We all have lots of memories to cherish from the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala as we celebrated with our friends, family, members and retired members.”

And here is a selection of the many tables with guests enjoying the dinner praised by many:



**NOTE: Most of the photos in this newsletter were taken by Dolly Fox. Thanks for another great job!**

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