



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 2014

GAS 2014

The Great Alliance of Seniors (GAS) annual reunion is the highlight of the spring season and DCAT's "Roving Reporter", Parky (John Parkinson), has delivered his take on the 2014 event:

Friday, May 2 - After a six-hour drive, we arrived at the Double Tree Hotel in Binghamton, NY. Your reporter had a few adult beverages on the way down and I don't remember too much, other than I was escorted to my room to recover. (Thank you, Sandy Bartholomew, for filling me with water!) My informants tell me that Audubon Bon Bons Chorus put on a well-received show and that St. Kevin's Chorus was great, too.

DCAT Chorus' John Moffatt as "DJ Sean" and Ian Mackenzie-Morrison were the DJs for the dance party that ran until about 11:30pm. By midnight, I had sufficiently recovered to go down to the bar, where I was greeted by some die-hard revelers led by our Wyatt Gill. What entertainment! Great voices, great songs! They lasted till 2:00am, when the bar closed. After that, everyone retired to their rooms except Wyatt who went up to the DCAT hospitality suite, ending at 4:00am.

Saturday, May 3 - The Talent Show (Individuals & Ensembles, aka "I & E") got off to a very impressive start with a colour guard of Yankee Rebels, New York Skyliners, Archer Epler, Scout House and an ensemble horn line, that included Dave Cameron and June Beaumont, led by Rick Dixon, playing the National Anthems. DCAT had seven acts in the show. Edna Kingsley did a nice job on "Climb every Mountain." Two singers had difficulties with their microphones, and Shiona got laryngitis, but all the acts entertained and were thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. Kudos to DCAT Chorus' Edna, John Moffatt, Doug Johns, Shiona, Sandy, June, Lois Nicholls, the charming Johnny Soufflé (John Fox), Marion Shearer and Pat Ison, for contributing to a great show. The Kittens (Shiona and Sandy) also had four high-stepping members from the Preston Scout House Alumni Drill Team join them in their final number, "Man! I Feel Like a Woman", which was pretty funny. Our thanks to Terry Boughner, Ted Mc Reary, Gary Tones and Mike Young!

After a memorable 21-year run, the Scout House Drill Team performed for the last time at GAS and did not disappoint. There were only two drum corps at GAS this year: the Archer Epler Musketeers Alumni and St. Lucy's Cadets Alumni. Archie had a nice horn line and St. Lucy's "Auld Lang Syne" finale was tremendous. Old time drum corps. Brought back a lot of memories.

The banquet on Saturday night was held a few miles away at St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The buffet dinner was absolutely delicious, especially the cabbage rolls. After dinner, the DCAT Chorus and the Bon Bons sang the National Anthems. The Skyliners Chorus was up next. They did a creditable show.

The Tribute to the Deceased slide show was emotional for DCAT when the names of Gord Moffat, Jim Bartholomew and Gary Stone came up on the screen.

AND THEN CAME DCAT. A bit of background: This year being DCAT Chorus' 20th anniversary, the GAS attendees were asked to fill out a form requesting what they would like the Chorus to sing. Over 65 forms were received. Now back to the show. And what a show it was... With only 22 singers, DCAT performed one of their best shows ever. We started with "William Tell" (#4 choice), moved on to "King and I" (Archie Tribute, #3 choice), then "Danny Boy" (#5), "California Girls" (#6), "Never Walk Alone" (#1) and "Stars and Stripes" (#2). Each number was greeted with thunderous applause. Even "California Girls", despite the bikini girl's now infamous wardrobe malfunction. And "Stars and Stripes" brought them to their feet. For an encore, the Chorus had rehearsed "Help Me Rhonda" but a last minute request for "Hallelujah" (#7) was accepted and sung with great enthusiasm.

The next order of business was the Parade of Uniforms. Lois Nicholls marched in her Royalties

uniform and Dave Cameron wore his Toronto Signals uniform. Even Joe Watson was shown in his Jolly Jester outfit and he wasn't even there!!! Then it was back to the hotel. Some went to bed; others went to the hospitality suite.

Sunday, May 4 - Breakfast in the ballroom and goodbyes until next year, followed by a long drive home for most of us.

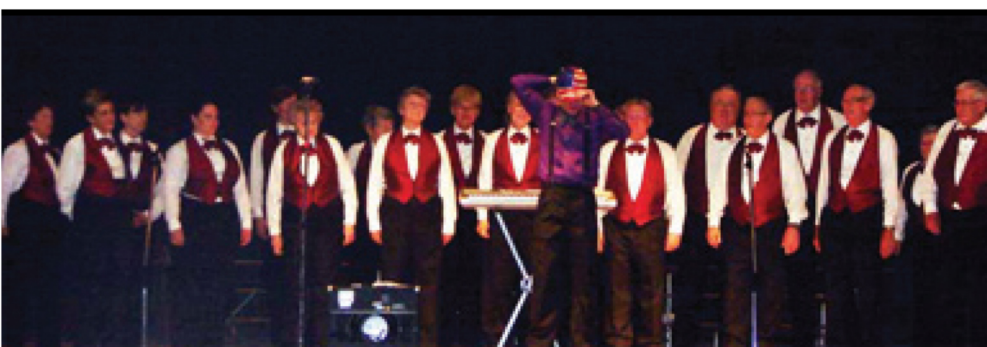
General Observations: There were about 235 registered attendees this year. Down from last year by about 10%. Going by bus was certainly missed. Arriving on Thursday gives people a chance to wind down after a long trip. The Talent Show was well organized and DCAT received many compliments for the number and entertainment value of the acts they contributed.

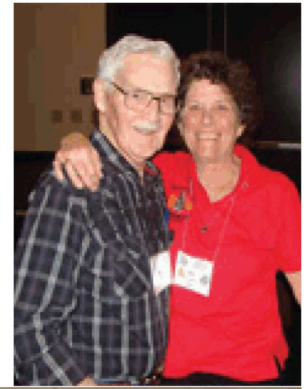
Now, we can look forward to 2015 when GAS will be back in Binghamton, NY... but will there be another one after that?



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Our reporter was lucky enough to get an interview with "Miss California"

Purr. Thank you for taking the time for this.
 MC You're welcome.
 Purr. How did you feel after that great show?
 MC Cold.
 Purr. The audience seemed to enjoy your show. How did you find their reaction?
 MC They must have liked me because I found a phone number and a twenty dollar bill in my bikini bottom.
 Purr. About two thirds through your show, you had a wardrobe malfunction, how do you explain that?
 MC Oooooops!
 Purr. Do you have any plans after tonight?
 MC I did get an offer to model for Victoria's Secret but I turned it down.
 Purr. So what will you do?
 MC Weight Watchers.
 Purr. Will we see you perform again?
 MC No.
 Purr. Well, thank you for that! And good luck to you.



Introducing DCAT's new Assistant Music Director



Rick Dixon has a long history in and drum corps, starting with the Simcoe Royal Blues in 1960, marching and playing baritone. After college he marched with the Burlington Commanders and in 1972 he became music director, first of Simcoe Golden Lions – Canadian Champions in 1977, then Port Dover Lakeshore Brassmen, Simcoe United Alumni (which he also co-founded), Hamilton Fire-fighters Drum Corps and then the Canadian Ensemble. He also arranged for and consulted with numerous corps.

In addition, Rick has been the president of numerous community organizations and also played baseball and golf.

The role he has now undertaken with DCAT is, however, new to him and even though there are many similarities between instrumental music groups and choirs, there are also many challenges involved. Hopefully not too daunting for someone with his extensive experience in working with groups making music.

We welcome him to the Chorus.



Remembering Jim Bartholomew from the perspective of Marg Gill.

Werner, Wolfgang, Gunther, Jim aka Lux and/or Jimmy Bartholomew was born in London ON on August 3, 1933. He grew up in a quiet German home. They lived in Waterloo before moving to Toronto. We don't know much about his young years, as he never seemed to want to talk much about them. As an adult he certainly gave off some hints of his young years when he would make statements that 'children should be seen and not heard, kids should eat everything put on their plates and only speak when spoken to and sit quietly at the table until all are finished eating'. I do remember him talking about going to summer camp where he canoed, swam and his favourite event each year was the ice cream eating contest which he always won.

As a youth he started his drum corps life with the Sea Cadet Band Temeraire and then joined the 5th Column Royal Canadian Army Service Corps Trumpet Band. When he left he played with Jolly Jesters Drum Corps and ended his years with Canada's Marching Ambassadors. He played both tenor and bass drums.

He was a big time recruiter of members to join his unit and always spent time checking out junior corps to see who he might be able to pick up, and that is where he claimed he first met me when I was about 13 or 14 years of age.

He had a few different jobs as a young man and one was parking cars at the old Simpson Parking Garage off Richmond Street before he joined his father in the Insurance Industry. There he learned the ropes of the agency side of the business and as a result he brought in many of his pals as clients from the drum corps world who are still clients today, and met many well-known business owners who were long time clients of his father, whom he also befriended.

Jim to my recollection always had a car from the time he could drive. They were not only wheels to take you from A to B, but always new and flashy. Not only was Jimmy a drum corps nut he was a great sports fan. From the Maple Leafs, Argonauts, Blue Jays to the Raptors, he had tickets to them all. Sometime in 1963 I met him and my future husband on the way to a hockey game, and that was the beginning of my friendship with him and courtship with Don. There was something special about Jim. If you liked him and he liked you it was a lifetime bonding. There were lots of drum corps shows, and parties after, and I guess next in line was our wedding and he was our Best Man, and that was 49 years ago.

He spent a lot of time at our apartment in those days and held Don's hand when our son was born. He came to the hospital with Don each day and both would give me a kiss on arrival. Finally the other girls in the room asked me 'which one was the father?' In fact it was really Jimmy who named him. He would call me at all times day and night with names from Astrid to Yalbert and finally Wyatt stuck. He of course then became his Godfather.

Life went on and drum corps pretty much left the GTA and then again in 1983 a Drum Corps show was held in Hamilton. It was a great show and near the beginning of the organization of Drum Corps International, DCI, and Wyatt the following year started marching with Dutch Boy Drum Corps from Kitchener. It was no time at all before Jim became a part of the Board of Directors for The North Star Youth Organization and once again was in the mode of travelling to enjoy the drum corps throughout the US. We had many trips, and Don and Jimmy with Danny Moloney and Paul Kelly spent many hours each summer enjoying contests and the camaraderie that entailed.

When word reached of an organization called GAS – Great Alliance of Seniors, Jim was on it immediately along with a few old marching boys, and as a result of a weekend reunion in Preston, with old marching members of many US Corps who were competitors in earlier days, DCAT was born. Right from the start Jim was part of that, as now we would sing rather than play instruments and march. His enthusiasm and dedication to the group was apparent from the start and it took no time at all before he was recruiting members. He sang first tenor parts, and put his whole heart and soul into it, and this became a real part of his life along with his sports teams.

Jimmy did a lot of travelling. He loved getting on a plane going somewhere and/or a ship for a cruise. We had some wonderful vacations together as well with his friend Steve and wife Cheryl. He saw Europe, The Middle East, England, US Caribbean Islands, South America, New Zealand and Australia. He for many years spent time in Florida with us and Barb and Jim Jennings for the Blue Jays Spring Training, with a little big band jazz thrown in.

His health had been failing for a long time with the diabetes which he was diagnosed with about 40 years ago, and in typical Jim fashion tried to ignore, and carried on for many years of his life like he was young and healthy. The diabetes in the last few years restricted his travels and his lifestyle. Speaking of life style he had a wonderful life style, not much he wanted to do that he didn't do. It was not always the big time life style he came to know in later years. His philosophy was that the most expensive was the best, and believe me, he always had the best.

While he was singing with DCAT he met a young lady by the name of Sandy. He became infatuated with her and pursued her. Her bubbly personality and ability to make him laugh along with her energy, made him enjoy life again which was a Godsend. He could once again look at his life and plan for big things for the two of them, which he wanted with all his heart. Unfortunately his body wasn't letting him do what he wanted to share with her. They had a very short time together, but Sandy made him very happy and last year in October, probably one of the happiest days of his life for a long time, they were married. It was a very small gathering of close friends and family and he truly was beaming. It was wonderful to see him so happy.

This past Christmas after dinner Wyatt put on some DCI DVDs of the past summer's final contest and he was in his glory watching the different Corps. I can and will never forget his words, with tears running down his face, 'I love Drum Corps so much'. That moment and his beaming face on his wedding day will be in my memory forever. He was very much a part of our family.

On June 1, a celebration of Jim's life was held and around 75 people attended to honour their friend. The Cadre performed, the DCAT chorus, with the addition of 25 or more retired members, sang some of Jim's favourite songs and many shared their memories of him.



Remembering Gary Stone by Marg Gill



Gary Frederick Stone was a member with DCAT and passed away very suddenly February 22, 2014 at the age of 75.

He was born in Toronto and lived a quiet life with his parents taking care of them in their later years.

He was the Production Manager with J. Walter Thompson in Toronto for over 40 years. It was here that Don met Gary as a client. Gary apparently liked Don and wanted him to be his supplier, which started up a friendship for many years and ultimately recruiting Gary into DCAT. He loved singing and took much pride in being a very loyal member. He in turn recruited Frank Parker who was also a member for many years.

Gary sang first tenor parts. A memory which I'll never forget was just before a performance Ted had to make the width of the chorus narrower in order to fit better on stage and asked different singers to step back to form another row. When he asked Gary if he would step back, Gary's reply was 'I'll be happy to do so as I have never been in the second row of anything in my life.' Gary as we all know was a midget/dwarf.

He told me a story one time that he never knew he was any different from the other kids. He would have been about 10 at the time, and a bunch of them were all running through a field. They all jumped over the fence but he had to go under it.

He had two other passions. One was golf and he had a membership at the York Downs Golf Course. Some of DCAT members were guests of his on the course. He also played many games abroad including St. Andrews in Scotland. Every year at the Club they had a lobster night, which was spectacular, and Don and I along with some other business associates thoroughly enjoyed ourselves as his guest.

Second was his historic period house in Udora where he retired. He took a tumble down old homestead house and brought it back to life in detail right down to the china he used to rope beds in the bedrooms, sash windows and a stone wall and arbour at the front. His attention to detail was amazing and it was truly a piece of art when he finally said it was all done.

When he moved to Udora he became President of the Udora Leaskdale Lions Club. An office which I'm sure he took great pride in and where he was a valued member.

Gary had a very hearty laugh and enjoyed a good joke. He was a perfect host and he showed us his hospitality one year in Bermuda. He made sure we saw everything of interest on the island and always made a great dinner or lunch with organic vegetables he had a farmer deliver almost every day.

He will surely be missed by the people he grew to know in the Udora community as well as DCAT members that he was in touch with.

DCAT Celebrates 20th Anniversary

After seeing a Great Alliance of Seniors (GAS) performance in 1994, a group of "retired" members of drum corps (Canada's Marching Ambassadors, Canadian Commanders, De La Salle, Guelph Royallaires, Jolly Jesters, Preston Scouthouse, Toronto Optimists) got together and decided that something was missing in their lives..... DRUM CORPS!!! They missed the Esprit de Corps, camaraderie and the joy of entertaining. Lacking funds to form their own corps, they decided that a chorus was the best way to go and DCAT (Drum Corps Alumni Toronto) was born.

From this humble beginning, DCAT rose to become a very entertaining chorus even including dancing the Riverdance and parading a New Orleans Funeral number. Singing Broadway, pop, traditional, inspirational and patriotic songs, they thrilled audiences wherever they went doing it both a cappella and without music books in front of them.

DCAT members travel from such cities as Markham, Thornhill, Newmarket, Simcoe, Stouffville, Ajax, Peterborough, Bobcaygeon, Brampton, Oakville, Hamilton and Simcoe to Toronto every Wednesday evening to rehearse and enjoy the camaraderie.

Their first Music Director, the late Ted Key, creatively put lyrics to non-lyrical tunes such as "Stars and Stripes Forever", "Great Gate of Kiev" and "On the Square March". Under the current musical direction of Wyatt Gill, and ably assisted by Rick Dixon of Canadian Gas Ensemble, this year's shows will feature numbers from "Les Miserables".

The chorus has been honoured to sing the National Anthems at Toronto Blue Jays games; many drum corps shows and the DCA World Championships as well as regularly performing for the veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto. DCAT has also become one of the highlights at the GAS (Great Alliance of Seniors) reunion, which brings drum corps alumni together every year from Canada and the United States.

For the past eight years, the Chorus has produced the "For the Love of Music" show, where in addition to the DCAT Chorus; this venue provides high school choruses, music ensembles and other local choral groups, the opportunity to perform in front of an audience.

Celebrating their 20th anniversary this year, the DCAT Chorus is planning a free open house concert in Toronto and other special events, capping off the year with a 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner/Dance event on Saturday September 27, 2014.

To learn more about our Anniversary Gala see our website: dcatchorus.ca. Follow us also on our Facebook page – just type in: DCAT Chorus.



We expect this to be an absolutely spectacular event! Not only will the Chorus sing but we have a very special guest who will perform for us: **Michael Burgess!** He is well known across the country, especially to Toronto audience as the lead actor/singer in "Les Miserables" in the very first Canadian performances of the show.

Our Gala will take place at Qssis Banquet Hall, 3473 Kingston Road and begin at 6 pm with Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, then dinner, DCAT entertainment and dance. There will be a silent auction and door prizes. Onsite parking – Cash bar.

For tickets to the Gala, contact John Fox at #905-853-9214 or by email at foxynewmarket@rogers.com.

Come and join us for our 20th Anniversary and help us celebrate!

DCAT mailing address: DCAT c/o Orton Beaumont, 194 Baythorne Drive, Thornhill, Ontario. L3T 3V5.

Visit our website: www.dcatchorus.ca