



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 2015

On October 28, DCAT held it's AGM without many - or any! – surprises. The entire set of members belonging to the Executive Committee remained in place, with one exception: Sandy Hale replaced John Parkinson as Membership Director. Welcome aboard, Sandy! Presenting the **2016 Executive:**



President
Ort Beaumont



Vice President
Dave Cameron



Treasurer
Gord Irvine



Music Dir.
Wyatt Gill



Business Mgr.
John Fox



Secretary
Dolly Fox



Membership Dir.
Sandy Hale



Fundraising Dir.
Linda Carscadden



Social Dir.
Edna Kingsley



Publicity Dir.
June Beaumont



Past President
Marion Shearer

Sandy Hale introducing herself: *“I am pleased and proud to have been named Membership Director for the DCAT Chorus. When I first considered joining the Chorus a couple of years ago, I had very little confidence in my vocal abilities and wondered how I would make any difference to the group. I soon learned, of course, that my voice is one of many that come together musically to produce that original DCAT sound.*

I look upon becoming a member of the Board in much the same way. On my own, my contribution to the Chorus will not be solo in nature. I will ask for help and I will give help where I can, with the aim of adding to the DCAT membership.

My first Board meeting will be in November and I have a few questions as well as a couple of ideas regarding membership. Please let me know if you have suggestions of your own and/or if you would be interested in joining me on the Membership committee. John Parkinson and Linda Carscadden have already given me much help to keep the membership drive continuous and many others have provided encouragement and congratulations to my endeavour. Sincere thanks, Sandy Hale”

Performances

Since our Scarborough Civic Centre performance we have had quite a few shows. Many in nursing homes or Senior Citizen Centres: two more in the summer and, starting in October, a series of concerts arranged by our President and Business Manager. Readers of the previous newsletter may remember that we got an Ontario Seniors Community Grant to hold a free show to attract new members. Although we worked hard, placing flyers and spreading the word, we only got a few visitors and none of them actually joined the Chorus.

Orton Beaumont decided that if they don't come to us, then we would go to them and he applied for another Ontario Seniors Community Grant, to allow us to visit other venues. John Fox began to search them out and found six locations of which we have so far visited two, both of which were extremely successful. One audience member wrote:

"Dear Chorus members, I was fortunate enough to catch your performance last evening at Alexander Muir Retirement Residence in Newmarket. I loved it! Not only was it highly entertaining but I had an opportunity to chat with a few members of your team. I just started volunteering at the residence and what a highlight to experience your performance and talent it was for me and my young daughter. I was moved. I hope to have another opportunity in the future to see you again. So thrilling! Keep on doing what you do and sharing it with others. All the best."

And after another show, we were happy to get this letter:

*"Dear Mr. John Fox and The DCAT Chorus Group,
Greetings!*

On behalf of all the residents at Barton Retirement Residence we would like to thank you and your group the DCAT Chorus for the magical night. I wanted you to know that you received nothing but the highest compliments from all residents plus their guests that attended your performance on Friday, October 30, 2015. The crowd was so pleased at how professional, charming and lively the group were during your performance. It was truly beautiful and unique. We have full admiration to your talented group.

We hope to see you soon. Best regards, Lifestyle and Program Manager"



We were also invited to sing for the audience waiting to enter the "Zoomer Show" on November 1, 2015 at the CNE. (See left!) Again a successful performance and we were even asked to add more songs to our program than what we had originally planned.

We already have lots of shows booked for 2016 – more about that in our next newsletter. At that time we will also

reveal who was chosen to our Hall of Fame since the voting took place during our AGM on October 28.

Other than these performances, DCAT is also busy preparing our presentation at GAS next spring. We are up against tremendous competition, namely ourselves! It seems that our production last year of "Les Miserables" is still vividly remembered and admired by those who were present. It is quite a challenge for Wyatt Gill and the Chorus to beat or even reach that level of musical and performance quality, but Wyatt has produced new arrangements and the Chorus is working hard to learn and perfect the production of the material.

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Visit our website: www.dcatchorus.ca