



## The Legends of Drum Corps IV – Oshawa

The fourth annual Optimists Alumni The Legends of Drum Corps Show was held on August 25 in Oshawa. A big “Thank You” goes out to former Optimist, Brian Hogan who, once again, was our MC for the evening. The evening began with the wonderful harmonies of the DCAT Chorus. Performing corps for the evening were: London Midlanders Alumni, Simcoe United Alumni, Toronto Signals Band, Sudbury Imperial Knights Alumni, Preston Scout House Alumni. The evening’s finalé featured the massed brass playing “You’ll Never Walk Alone” (Photos on pages 8 and 9). Special thanks go to Jack Roberts (inset) for spending the evening sitting on high scaffolding so that we would have video footage to show at the party and to John Peachey who supplied the camera and did the video setup at the party.



Brian Hogan, former Optimists Alumni Drum Major, was Master of Ceremonies.



Opening ceremonies, Presentation of the Colours and the singing of O Canada.



The DCAT (Drum Corps Alumni Toronto) Chorus opened the show with wonderful harmonies including a rousing rendition of The William Tell Overture.



Optimists Alumni National Colours.



London Midlanders Alumni.



Preston Scout House Alumni.



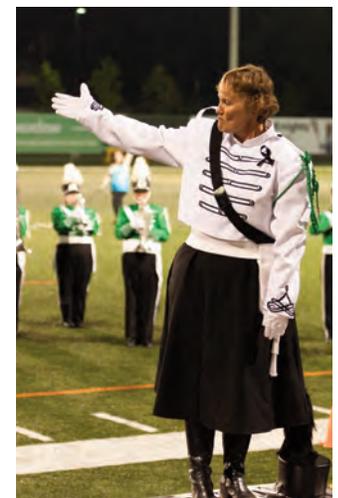
Toronto Signals Band.



Simcoe United Alumni.



Sudbury Imperial Knights Alumni.



Optimists Alumni Drum Major Jackie Nicholls presents the Corps.

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# Scout House Invitational Tattoo – Kitchener

August 18. Clear skies prevailed and the Scout House Tattoo was a great success. Order of performance: Optimists Alumni, Burlington Teen Tour Band, Philippine Heritage Band Drumline, Toronto Signals Band, United Alumni, Ceremonial Band of the Waterloo Regional Police Services, Les Diplomates du Québec Alumni, Mighty St Joe's Alumni and the Preston Scout House Alumni Band. The closing ceremonies featured a massed brass presentation of "Never Walk Alone".



David Bruce (Baritone) and Jackie Nicholls (Drum Major).



Afternoon practice in preparation for the evening performance.



The Northstar Colours (back row) with some junior members watching and learning how to perform.



Dave MacKinnon, Music Director.



Rick Tracey, Scott Butcher, Jeff MacKay, Doug Darwin, Lorne Ferrazzutti, Cindy Tracey and Jon Roblin.



Matt Davis, Gord Brown, Brian Adam and Ron Chong.



# The Drum Major’s Rapport

By Jackie Nicholls



Optimists Drum Major, Jackie Nicholls.

Well the summer of 2012 is over and the results are in, it has been a great summer wearing green. I have enjoyed being on the podium for the Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps!

This new group of Drum Corps friends and fans have taught me many things, made me laugh and elevated my musical fever. I was excited to get back to school and

share this enthusiasm with my new crop of students.

Horn-wise, I have learned from Dave McKinnon a new appreciation of the conductor’s role. From Jeff MacKay and



Drum line practicing in Kitchener with storm clouds on the horizon.

Doug Darwin I have a new found admiration for drums and a desire and hope to get my own drum line started at my new school. A couple of side trips to Kalamazoo, Bigley’s Shoe Store

and Lucas Oil Stadium produced driving skills, stadium numb-bum, numerous episodes of uncontrollable laughter, an appreciation of art and fashion and of course my many new friends from Asia.

While it was great to watch the DCI level of drum corps and appreciate Dada, it was equally rewarding to watch our own



40° Celsius heat didn’t stop us from rehearsing. Thunderstorm do.

members demonstrate their experience and love of this hobby. The 40° Celsius weather did not stop us even though we would’ve rather been poolside consuming refreshing beverages and enjoying air conditioning.

Watching the DCA Alumni show and sharing in the respect, admiration and laughs as well as 100’s of years of experience



L-R: Brian Adam, Doug Darwin, John Peachey and Paul Blanchard are imagining they are enjoying lunch in a poolside cabana. They settle for refreshing beverages.

was rewarding as well. How many memories and friendships were rekindled watching the antics of Jimmy Russo and the next generation of the Bridgeman Shuffle?

This activity we call a hobby and its affiliates, has given

me so many years of enjoyment, education, camaraderie and just plain fun, that it becomes more and more difficult to NOT be part of it. While at times I think I would rather be at home with my family relaxing my summer weekends away, I NEVER have a bad time when I share a weekend at a drum corps event.

Yes, I am a musician and instrumental teacher first, but my true love is colour guard. For this reason, I will take a “pause” from The Optimists for the winter season. I am going to march with my colour guard friends of the ROTC (Righteously Outrageous Twirling Corps). We are bound to meet up in at least one Santa Claus parade.



Jackie consults with Dave Lockie and Glenda Tokiwa during another attempt to mark the rehearsal field – just kidding.

I have volunteered to be the secretary for the board and I have been asked to be part of the show committee. So, it looks like the summer of 2013 is pretty much planned.

I thank you all for a great summer of Drum Corps. I hope you enjoyed yourself as much as I did and are willing to listen to my commands from the podium again, once the seasons change. Hopefully, we will all be able to create music and memories together while enjoying a cool refreshing beverage and a few laughs.

Until then, I remain, respectfully your friend and DM...

With an identity crisis.

# DCA Alumni Spectacular – Annapolis, Maryland

Annapolis was a trip! A border delay and a blown tire extended the outbound journey from 9 hours to 17 hours. Saturday included a 6 hour rehearsal in a very humid 95+F. We made good use of the time to clean up a few spots in the show. Of course, we were well-taken care of with the corps supplying food, beverages and an air-conditioned bus to use during our lunch break. We actually had a bit of time to relax after rehearsal then it was off to dinner. This year rain and thunderstorms forced us to cancel our usual evening practice near the hotel.

On Sunday, we were fourth to appear in the DCA Alumni show. After our performance we got to see Bridgemen, Hawthorne and a few of the other corps. Many of our members were back at the stadium by 5pm for the DCA finals. Thankfully the only challenge coming back was a 6 hour border crossing so we made it home in only 16 hours. It was a trip!

## Friday, August 31 – On the road. And... on the road again... and again.



Doug Roblin "I'm not sitting in there... am I?"



Ron Chong, Heather Hyslop, Eric McConachie, Bob Carell and Jackie Nicholls.



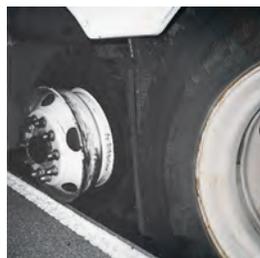
Glenda Tokiwa (L) and Jeff MacKay (R), tell Doug Roblin he can sit with the corps and not in the cargo compartment.



"Isn't Doug meeting us here?"



"Don't worry, we'll just make room?"



A picture from our "No tire" page of the repair manual.



"I think if we all lift this side we'll get the new tire on". Yes, double pepperoni".



## Saturday morning and afternoon, September 1 – "It's only 95° in the shade, let's practice!"



Grounds Crew (L to R): Glenda Tokiwa, Jackie Nicholls Dave Lockie, Debbie Bruce, Sue Roberts and John Parkinson.



It cooled down to 93°, so it was much more comfortable.



There, see how comfortable Brian Adam is when it cooled down. It's water.



A welcome lunch buffet. Glenda and Sue pretend to not steal any of the cookies.



At the annual dinner, Corps Director Ric Brown acknowledges the dedication of all the members and a special thanks to Jackie Nicholls (Drum Major), Bob Carell (Web Site) Eric McConachie and David Johns (Photographers) and Barry Bell and Lorne Ferrazzutti, the two oldest members in the Corps. Barry and Lorne were the first horn and drum instructors for the Toronto Optimists.



## DCA continued

### Sunday, September 2 – Show time

Corps in exhibition performance (not in order of performance): Blessed Sacrement Golden Knights Alumni, Bridgemen Alumni, Hanover Lancers Alumni, Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni, Mighty St. Joe's Alumni, New York Skyliners Alumni, Optimists Alumni, Park City Pride Alumni, Preston Scout House Alumni Band, Reilly Raiders Alumni, Sacramento Freelancers Alumni Corps and Yankee Rebels Alumni. It was an outstanding show.



*The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps.*



*Bridgemen Alumni.*



*Mighty St. Joe's Alumni.*



*Blessed Sacrement Golden Knights.*



*Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni.*

## The Big “10” Championships *by Peter McCusker*

Excerpts from a longer article in the August-September, 1972 issue of GCC.

THIS SATURDAY was much like any Saturday in a drum corps summer except for one thing. Today the stage was set for one of those big drum corps upsets as nineteen corps converged on Hamilton early that morning to obtain this DCC crown.

DE LA SALLE was seemingly the most likely to succeed mainly because they had not yet been defeated by any of their Canadian competitors so far this year. For the Toronto Optimists it was their last chance to beat Del before the Canadian Nationals in Toronto the next day... and Ivor Wynne stadium also happened to be the site for the Green Machine’s biggest defeat by Del earlier in the Year at the famed Shriners’ International... a six point spread. Then too, Cadets LaSalle had not beaten Del or the Optimists yet this season but would have edged over the Optimists at the “Pow Wow” in Kingston, N.Y. if it were not for a four point penalty. This was then the “Big 3” of the “Big 10” and anyone could have won.

After the smoke had cleared late in the afternoon and the prelim battle was over... Cadets LaSalle sat in 3rd spot while the next two placings stunned the Canadian drum corps world as, for the first time in 4 years, the green machine, the Optimists, rolled over the De La Salle Oaklands. The last time the Optimists defeated Del was at the 1968 Canadian Nationals in Kingston, Ontario and many bets were placed for the night finals here tonight.

As it turned out all the corps put on excellent showings in the night finals and the top four were truly magnificent. On the retreat everything was very tense as the awards were handed out. Best horn line went to The Optimists; Best Percussion: The Optimists!; Best Drum Major: De La Salle!; Best G.E: De La Salle!

Ten scores were then read and a great tenseness began to build until only two remained. The announcer, Rick Scanlon, then read the scores – “The second place score is 78.0 and the first place is 79.2... In second place from Toronto, De La Salle!” Many in the crowd went wild as the Optimists defeated all competition and sat a comfortable 1.2 over Del who were still the reigning Canadian National Champions with the next big battle the next day at the CNE Stadium in Toronto.

### The Nationals

Early Sunday morning drum corps took over the CNE Stadium in the centre of the famed Canadian National Exhibition with prelims, and finals, in some classes beginning shortly after 9:00am on the CNE Astro turf. All



corps competed in prelims with their full show and the spectacle built up to the Jr.”A” prelims in the middle of the afternoon. From the previous evening the “A’s” put on spectacular performances with the scores raised into the 80’s The positions were changed around however. When the results were tabulated with Del finishing in first position, the LaSalle Cadets taking 2nd and the Optimists bringing up 3rd!

De La Salle was the first competitor of the first 3 corps of the “A” finals. From where I stood, on the ready line, *Ontario* resounded great throughout the stadium and the crowd cheered wildly as *Light My Fire* exploded toward them! It was played excellently. No corps trooped the stands so as soon as the last note of Dels’ closing fanfare on the finish line ended and the standing ovation of the crowd of 7,000 died down the spotlight swung to the starting line as the announcement stated: “On the starting line, Green on Green, the Toronto Optimists!” Many in the crowd broke into immediate applause because this could be September the 13th [day of 1958 Championship]. The OTL [Off The Line] was very smooth and the bugles seemed to ring out clear... the drum solo tempo change went over with perfection and *More And More* ripped through the stands. Concert was a symphonic sound, projecting notes never really accomplished previously. The percussion’s superiority was evident as they crumbled all competition. The corps was really up for this year’s match.

Finally, Cadets LaSalle and their OTL of *One Fine Morning* from “Lighthouse” was played like never before and the corps seemed to suddenly surge upward, as the Optimists had done this weekend, only their transformation took place almost overnight: The giants were extremely close in their performances tonight as the scores related about 15 minutes after Cadets La Salle completed their show with the retreat, starting immediately, almost before the Cadets crossed the finish line. As the announcer said, just as he announced the “A” results – “I’ve never seen all three corps and scores this close before”. “Cadets LaSalle: 81.25; De La Salle: 81.3 and Optimists: 81.4”.

## THIS WAS 40 YEARS AGO (CONTINUED)

**W**hen I joined the Toronto Optimists in September of 1968, the corps had won eleven national championships in a row.

Stop and think about that for a minute. They didn't repeat or 'threepeat'. They didn't win four or five or seven or eight national championships in a row.

They won eleven consecutive years. For eleven years, they'd never lost. Mind-boggling.

When you're 16 and your priorities are so screwed up the only thing in the world that matters is drum corps, and you're sick to death of losing, where are you gonna go?

Well, you're gonna join the Toronto Optimists, right?

I sure did. I mean if ever there was a sure thing, a lock, a cinch, a foregone conclusion, if anyone was ever going to have things all sewn up, if it was going to be over before it began, if ever something was in the bag?

The Toronto Optimists were going to win the Canadian National Championship.

Three years later, I hadn't won a damn thing.

We lost and lost and lost. We could not win for losing.

During three entire seasons we never beat De La Salle.

More specifically, more importantly, I never beat De La Salle.

Not even once. And as I said I cared way, way too much about that.

To me, the most critical matter on the planet in September of 1972 wasn't Watergate or the Viet Nam War. It wasn't even the Soviet/Canada Hockey summit. What the world demanded to know was would the Toronto Optimists ever again beat the De La Salle Oaklands.

The heartbreak of the 1969 loss (which I still believe we won fair and square) was followed by the futility of the

1970 season, inarguably the worst corps the Optimists had fielded in well over a decade. 1971 was a little better. We didn't embarrass ourselves. But 1972? 1972 felt different.

We began behind, of course. But as the season wore on, we began to knock on the door. Very quietly at first. Just a gentle tap, really. But unlike the three previous years, something felt right about that corps that year.

We got stronger and stronger and edged closer and closer. The knock more persistent and urgent.

Labour day weekend, 1972: It was an unusual setup. We had a show with preliminaries and finals called "The Big 10" at Ivor Wynne in Hamilton. And then the National Championship at the CNE. Again, prelims and finals.

In the four years I was a Toronto Optimist, my most sacred memory was not of winning the Canadian Championship at the CNE. It was winning those prelims in Hamilton.

There was no retreat, we just stood around on the track waiting for the scores.

For reasons difficult to fathom given the historical record, we somehow felt confident. Cocky, practically.

The announcer merely confirmed what we'd already known in our hearts. We'd won.

Sitting here, 40 years later, I so vividly recall that moment; it remains so clear and present it's as if it happened weeks ago.

We won. I won.

And I remember feeling something I had never felt in my life to that point. Joy. Perfect joy.

*Submitted by Peter Byrne. Peter played soprano in 1972 and, later, instructed the Toronto Optimists and the Seneca Optimists.*

## ONCE IN A LIFETIME MEMBER OPPORTUNITY



Jon Roblin, Percussion

Jon received his early music training coming from a musical family of 10. His Father taught him the basic rudiments of drumming at a very young age. Although employed as a "Train Movement Director" at 18, he felt his passion awaited him in music. He left the railway, to enroll as a music student at Humber College.

After Graduating, Jon taught Music for the Toronto Catholic School Board. He also has received his BA and his B of Ed from York University. Jon work extensively as a show band drummer for major cruise lines and was put on the first call list for Pro Ship Entertainment. Playing in the Drum Line with the Toronto Optimist, has been the highlight of his summer vacation 2012.



Brothers Doug, Rick and Jon at Legends IV.

## MASSED BRASS TRADITION

Four performances so far this year has concluded with massed brass assemblies playing a thrilling rendition of a classic tune. The first performance in 2012 was at the annual United Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps *And The Bands Played On 8* show held in Simcoe on May 12, pictured below.



*Massed brass playing You'll Never Walk Alone at Simcoe, Ontario.*



*Joe Gianna (above) plays a solo as part of the massed brass at The Legends IV show in Oshawa (right), hosted by The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps on August 25. (above and next page).*



*Massed bands at The Yamaha Spectacle of Sound show in Sudbury, hosted by The Blue Saints Drum & Bugle Corps, July 21. (above and next page).*



*The largest gathering of massed bands in 2012 that The Optimists Alumni participated in, was at The Scout House Invitational Tattoo in Kitchener, Ontario, August 18, (above and next page).*



*Massed bands at The Yamaha Spectacle of Sound show in Sudbury, (previous page and above) hosted by The Blue Saints Drum & Bugle Corps, July 21.*



*Massed brass at The Legends IV show in Oshawa (previous page and above), hosted by The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps on August 25.*



*The largest gathering of massed bands in 2012 that The Optimists Alumni participated in, was at The Scout House Invitational Tattoo in Kitchener, Ontario, August 18 (previous page and above).*

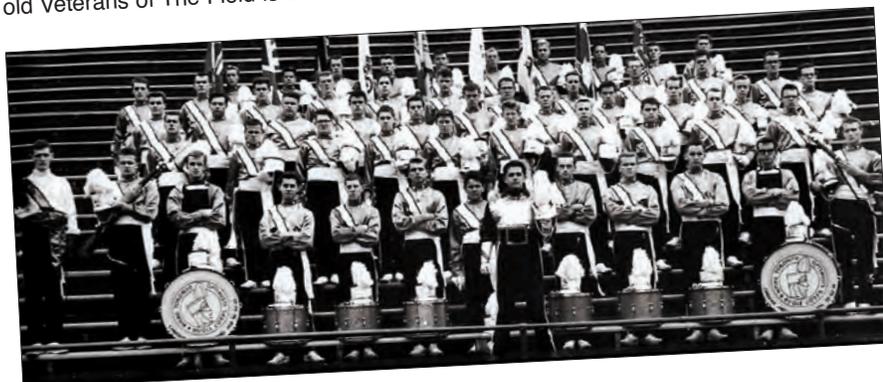
# The 1962 – Rome, New York. Toronto Optimists top Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights.

Our Facebook page has a link to a Drum Corps News article about this show.

## OPTIMISTS CONQUER ROME!!!

**ROME, N.Y. July XIV** —The Optimists entered Rome under their Emperor, Barrius Bellus and Field Commander Jimionus McConkcus and after some careful deliberation immediately selected the larger of two small local parks in which to set up Field Operations.

Chief Centurion Ivor Bramlonius gave words of encouragement during the manoeuvres; "Get that %&#@#^\*\*% Line straight... and pick up your %^&\*##@\*\*\* feet!!!! Twice through the show and with these stirring quotes in mind they returned to their temporary camp at the V.F.W. Rome Post to feast and rest. After much readying of their war equipment the Emperor called the men to put on their new armour and this duty kept Head Armourer Phillus Hennio (who had led the Optimists on the field of battle in Rome, years before) very occupied. At VIII PM the large Battle Chariot of The Optimists rolled to the edge of the Colosseum grounds just as THE GOLDEN KNIGHTS were taking hard fought laurels from the crowd. To behold these old Veterans of The Field is akin to watching oil flow across a flat steel plate.



1962, Varsity Stadium, Toronto

THE OPTIMISTS took up observation positions in the far stands and proceeded to scout THE ST. CATHERINE'S QUEENSMEN who swept across the Field in excellent form with all the audience's thumbs pointing up. Then, when the second last Contestant entered the ring, the Optimists gathered for inspection and at its completion paraded onto the Field of Battle.

The Battle was short and fast... and during manoeuvres some of the

Field Manoeuvres didn't exactly go as set forth on the charts on paper as set forth during the winter campaigns but, during the heat of battle the Corps pulled through and almost continued marching through to the Retreat Ceremony. The dead-voiced announcer then simply dropped the placings into the Corps' laps and left them there...much to The Canadian Champions amazement and joy!!! It also affected Jimionus and caused him to drop the Guard Trophy when the results were announced.

A small feast was enjoyed by The Victors under the stands provided by The Optimist Club of Rome and the Corps of tired warriors then returned to the V.F.W. Post to play a few selections before heading across the border and home.

(Rome Field Notes by Richard Boehnke)

	Totals	General Effect				M & M			Horns			Drums		
		GE M&M	GE Horns	GE Drums	GE Avg.	M&M 1	M&M 2	M&M Avg.	Horns 1	Horns 2	Horns Avg	Drums 1	Drums 2	Drums Avg
THE OPTIMISTS	86.20	14.9	13.1	13.7	41.7	19.1	18.6	18.85	11.6	13.2	12.4	12.9	13.6	13.25
BLESSED SACRAMENT	84.45	12.6	12.8	13.5	38.9	18.6	19.4	19.0	12.8	13.4	13.1	13.5	13.4	13.45
THE QUEENSMEN	82.80	13.1	12.2	13.3	38.6	17.5	18.6	18.05	12.1	12.3	12.7	13.1	13.8	13.45
UTICA YANKEES	76.55	12.7	10.5	12.3	35.5	18.0	17.5	17.75	12.3	12.5	12.4	10.6	11.2	10.9

# 2007 Challenge

## MAY 2012 WAS THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALUMNI CORPS' UNIFORMS

It was in May 12, 2007, at the "Bands Played On" show in Simcoe, Ontario that the Alumni corps first wore their new uniforms in public. The uniform carries on the tradition of the green tunic. How did you feel wearing the new uniform? Please E-mail your story to Bob Carell at: Toronto\_Optimist@rogers.com. They will be posted and included in the next issue of GCC.



This photo was taken a couple of hours before the corps' performance. There was a small three row, portable bleacher seats to stand on. It was a little hectic for those in the back two rows. The photo was taken by Eric McConachie who improvised by balancing on an the lid of an overturned 45 gallon garbage can.

- |                      |                   |                    |                   |   |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1 Dave Burgess       | 23 Doug Roblin    | 35 Vern Reid ?     | 47 Mike Lang      | dressing to perform with other groups:<br>Barry Bell<br>Gord Brown (Guard)<br>Dave Bruce<br>James Burgess<br>Peter Burton<br>Pat Buttigieg<br>Brian Collingdon<br>Ron Cottrell<br>Bill Kellas<br>Gerrie Leebody<br>Gord O'Halloran<br>John Petti<br>Frank Rivier (Guard)<br>Terry Sweeney (between 18 and 19) |
| 2 John Giblin        | 24 Dennis Roberts | 36 Rick Shearer    | 48 Rick Robida    |   |
| 3 Ric Brown          | 25 Mike Twigg     | 37 George Wright   | 49 Paul Blanchard |   |
| 4 Carol Munro        | 26 Joe Gianna     | 38 Phil Hennings   | 50 _____          |   |
| 5 Mark Blandford     | 27 Ron Chong      | 39 Jan Forsythe    | 51 _____          |   |
| 6 John Swartz        | 28 Toby Frechette | 40 Susan Roberts   | 52 Joe Lasko      |   |
| 7 Kevin Clancy       | 29 Frans Rood     | 41 Ron Cottrell ?  | 53 Ron Smith      |   |
| 8 Scott Butcher      | 30 Pat Cottrell   | 42 Mel Dey         | 54 Gord Brown ?   |   |
| 9 Glenn Ingram       | 31 John Shearer   | 43 Bill Kane       |                   |   |
| 10 Gaelen Swartz     | 32 Bob Carell     | 44 Jason Filipchuk |                   |   |
| 11 Al Miller         | 33 Dave Kirton    | 45 ? (Baritone)    |                   |   |
| 12 Karen Bosworth    | 34 Len Perrin     | 46 Ted Wilson      |                   |   |
| 13 Glenda Tokiwa     |                   |                    |                   |   |
| 14 Brian Hogan       |                   |                    |                   |   |
| 15 John Malcolm      |                   |                    |                   |   |
| 16 Lorne Ferrazzutti |                   |                    |                   |   |
| 17 Glenn Copp        |                   |                    |                   |   |
| 18 Dave Johns        |                   |                    |                   |   |
| 19 Rick Lang         |                   |                    |                   |   |
| 20 Bob Keenan        |                   |                    |                   |   |
| 21 Jack Roberts      |                   |                    |                   |   |
| 22 Warren Berger     |                   |                    |                   |   |

To the left is a list of Corps members who were present for the photo but are hard to identify or who were



2007 formal photo at The Alumni Spectacular in Rochester, New York.

Notes from the Director's Chair:

The summer has slipped by once again and we quickly approach the winter parade season. It has been an exhilarating past few months and at the same time filled with sadness.

The performance of the corps grew by leaps and bounds as the performance season approached the end. Following a three week rest we hit the rehearsal field to get the rust off for our performance in Waterloo (sans rain). A good solid performance was followed by a much improved show at Legends IV in Oshawa. Thank you to Jack Roberts for being the man on top of the scaffold to ensure all of the performances were recorded.

Following a very eventful bus ride to Annapolis we had what I believe to be our most difficult ever rehearsal for the Optimists Alumni Drum Corps. I admire the perseverance and desire of all our members in the pursuit of excellence. I also believe that it was one of the reasons why our performance at the Alumni Spectacular was by far our best performance of the year.

It has been and always will be a boost to the ego when other performing units stop and listen to us warm up or perform. It is always a pleasure to walk around proudly with the corps jacket on and be stopped and complemented on our performance.

We look forward to our final indoor performance of the year in London, Ont. at "Funalee" and of course our six Santa

Claus parades on two November weekends to entertain many of the local communities.

It is with great sorrow that I finish these notes with the passing of my very dear friend and fellow Optimists Alumni Corps member and bass drummer, Carol Ann Gun Munro. Carol spent the better part of her life either marching or teaching or following the activity. She was as passionate and committed as anyone I know about drum corps. Carol was one of the original members of the Alumni Corps and spent hours working with the basses and being the corps Dr. Beat.

Carol, I salute you and without a doubt the drum line in the sky is now a much better line.

1, 2, 3 THUMP

The 2012 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on September 23. in Toronto. Below is your management team for 2013.

Corps Director and Business Manager: Ric Brown

Vice President: Brian Adam

Secretary: Jackie Nicholls

Treasurer: Mike Lang

Directors at Large: Doug Darwin and John Peachey (one position open)

Show Coordinator: Dave Bruce

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## Keep in touch!

As an “Alumni” Corps, we want to keep in touch with members of our family. We see our “family” as those who marched with or assisted in any way the old Boy Scout Bands, the Toronto Optimists or the Seneca Optimists plus those who used to be associated with the Optimists Alumni Corps. If this applies to you and you would like to connect with us, please send us your name, how to reach you, what years you marched, etc. If you are a friend or relative of a former corps member we invite you to let us know about them.



The “We Remember” section on our website honours corps members and staff who have passed so please let us know about those who are no longer with us. By the way, if you’re just interested in us and want to find out what’s happening, please feel free to send us your contact information.

We’re also searching for pieces of our shared history. Perhaps you have a treasure chest (or old



banker’s box) that contains memories of your youth. Have you looked in it lately? If you looked you might find old photos or film of the Corps. Maybe it contains old newspaper clippings about the corps or a journal or a scrapbook or even an old uniform? One of our members even found an old corps flag.

Who knows what you’ll find if you look! If you do find something to share, please let us know! If you’re interested in seeing some of what others have contributed, please visit our website or our Photo Gallery.



**We’d love to hear from you.** If you choose to share your contact info, we will happily add it to our alumni records and include you in future mailings.

Please, keep in touch!

Please send mail to: Bob Carell, 1407 – 3050 Dufferin Street, Toronto, Ontario M6B 4G3

E-mail: [toronto\\_optimist@rogers.com](mailto:toronto_optimist@rogers.com)

Website: [www.optimists-alumni.org](http://www.optimists-alumni.org)

Photo Gallery: [www.optimists-alumni.org/photos/](http://www.optimists-alumni.org/photos/)



# Our Summer Colours

THE “COLOURS” accompanying the Optimists Alumni Corps during the 2012 season are members of The Northstar Performing Arts Organization. They are a visually exciting part of our performances and parades. Spectators always appreciate their manoeuvres and showmanship. Northstar specialize in Education and Entertainment in the performing arts through instrumental music, dance, and visual choreography. For information visit [www.kwnorthstar.com](http://www.kwnorthstar.com).



Alana joined Northstar in 2010. This is Lanni's 3rd year with the Optimists. Her other interest is volleyball. Lani plans to be a police officer.



This is Mikaila's 1st year with Northstar and her 1st season with the Optimists. She also enjoys swimming. Mikaila wants to pursue a teaching career.



Madison has been with Northstar for 3 years. This is her 3rd season performing with the Optimists. Madison is attending University studying psychology.



Hanne started with Northstar in 2011. This is her 1st year on the field with The Optimists. Hanne is looking forward to a career as a daycare teacher.



This is Kaitlin's 1st year in Northstar and the 1st year performing with The Optimists. Her other interest are dance and music. Kaitlin is planning to be a social worker.



Alyssa joined Northstar in 2011 and this is her 1st year with The Optimists. Her interest are working with youth. Alyssa's career goal is to be a doctor.



Taryn started in Northstar in 2011. This is her 1st year marching with The Optimists. Her other interest is swimming. Taryn plans to be a teacher.



Angie joined Northstar in 2011 and has performed with The Optimists throughout 2012. Her interests are working with children and music. Angie is planning a career in family counselling.



Taylor has been with Northstar since 2011 and has performed with The Optimists during the latter part of the season.



Melinda Loader, Instructor. Melinda is a Certified Dental Assistant She has been training young adults in Northstar since the start of 2012. Melinda's other interest is travelling.



Sarah DeFrancisco, Instructor. Sarah teaches blind students. She (aka Princess) started with Northstar in late 2011. Sarah's other interest is swimming.



Doug Darwin, Manager, Northstar Guard and member of the percussion line with The Optimists Alumni.



Barry Woods, Administration, Northstar Guard



John Anderson, Director, St. John's Winter Guard



**The Scout House Band Tattoo in Kitchener.** Junior Northstar members watching from the sideline.



**DCA Alumni Spectacular in Annapolis Maryland.**



**The Yamaha Spectacle of Sound in Sudbury.**



**The Optimists Alumni Legends IV Show in Oshawa.**



**The Yamaha Spectacle of Sound in Sudbury.**

# When did the Optimists Alumni Corp start?

**What was the actual starting point?** What were the elements that helped create the Alumni Corps? There were a few “happenings” that could be described as starting points.

In one way, we should probably start with the formation of the Toronto Optimists and the values, the personal pride, dedication and sense of family that was instilled in the hearts of its corps members. For this we owe a debt of gratitude to people like Al Baggs, Barry Bell and Lorne Ferrazzutti.

The most obvious “beginning” was the actual formation of the Alumni Corps by Vern Johansson, Ric Brown, Mhairi Cumming and George Wright. This brought together the people and the instruments to create a physical entity. Of course, this would have been considerably more difficult if there had not already existed a contact list of former Toronto Optimists and Seneca Optimists members assembled by Henry Beben, Ed Nanni, Jim Patten, Len Perrin, Phil Hennings, and others who organized the 25th anniversary reunion in 2003.



The first performance of the Alumni Corps at a reunion picnic in September 2003.

So, how did the parts come together? In 1998 Vern Johansson, Ric Brown, Mhairi Cumming and Len Perrin created the Optimists Alumni Association as a way for former corps people to get together and keep in touch on a regular basis. The idea of an Alumni Corps was first suggested by Ric Brown, a long time before anything was actually created.

Dick Brown and Clare Reid took on the enormous task of day-to-day organization. Their contribution to getting the corps off the ground cannot be overplayed. We owe them both a great debt for keeping things stable in the early, wobbly stages.

The next issue of Green Capsule Comments will feature more about the beginnings of the Optimists Alumni. Until then, find out more in the History section of our website at [www.optimists-alumni.org](http://www.optimists-alumni.org).

## WE REMEMBER

There has been a noticeable increase in Facebook and email condolences for our recently departed members. These messages come from friends of the Optimists, other Corps, and a vast array of individuals within the Drum Corps Family. On behalf of the Optimists Alumni and the respective family members we express our sincere gratitude for your caring messages. Thank you!

### Carol Munro – June 19, 1957 – September 15, 2012



Carol attended Rosethorn Elementary, Etobicoke Collegiate. She received her Bachelor of Science from Ryerson Polytechnic specializing in Project Management. At 13, Carol joined the Etobicoke Lancers and started a 40+ year involvement in Drum & Bugle Corps. After Lancers she moved to the Oakland Crusaders where she was a key member of their outstanding drum

line. When the Optimists Alumni was formed, Carol joined. She not only played bass drum but also served on our Board of Directors.

Carol was an active member of the Canadian Ski Patrol for 20 years, as well as a diehard ARGO fan and season ticket holder. She even had the sweatshirts, the t-shirts and assorted buttons which, of course, she wore to every Argo game..

#### Here are a few comments from some of those who knew Carol.

*“Carol loved life to the fullest especially family and friends. We shall forever be enriched by having had the honour and the privilege of knowing her. We miss you already”.*

*“I recall when the corps performed for the very first time at the DCA Alumni Spectacular, there was a live blog during the performance. The person writing about the performance, as it happened, said that we were watching the best bass drum line in Alumni Drum Corps. Carol was the main reason for that. Her quiet determination to excel became a part of each member of the corps. She will of course be missed but there will always be a little piece of her in everyone who had the pleasure of her company”.*

*“There isn't a person alive who knew her that didn't immediately like her”.*

*“Carol, you are the calmest, easiest going person I ever met, thanks for being a friend”.*

*“What I remember most about you Carol Ann is your passion, compassion and that wonderful smile!”.*

## 2012 OPTIMISTS ALUMNI SCHEDULE – FOLLOW THE CORPS

The schedule below is under review at time of publication. Please check the website for an updated schedule.

Saturday	September 23	Annual General Meeting		10:00 am	AGM and practice	Legion, Toronto
Saturday	October 20	Performance	Confirmed	12:00 noon	Midlanders' Fun-alee	London, Ontario
Saturday	November 17	Parade	Confirmed	8:30 am	Santa Claus Parade	Oakville, Ontario
		Parade	Confirmed	1:00 pm	Santa Claus Parade	Acton, Ontario
Sunday	November 18	Parade	Confirmed	1:00 pm	Santa Claus Parade	Guelph, Ontario
Saturday	November 24	Parade	Confirmed	10:00 am	Santa Claus Parade	Uxbridge, Ontario
		Parade	Confirmed	5:00 pm	Santa Claus Parade	Fenelon Falls, Ontario
Sunday	November 25	Parade	Confirmed	12:00 noon	Santa Claus Parade	Mississauga, Ont

## GCC Staff

**Editor:** Paul Thompson.

**Editorial Staff:** Brian Byrne, Bob Carell, David Johns and Eric McConachie.

**Photographs by:** Don Daber, David Johns, Eric McConachie and Frans Rood.

**Consultant:** Don Daber.

A special **thank you** to all those who contributed to this issue: Ric Brown, Peter Byrne and Jackie Nicholls.

**CORRECTIONS:** We tried to get everything right. If not, please let us know: [openrd2002@yahoo.ca](mailto:openrd2002@yahoo.ca)

Thank you to all those who send photographs to the Optimists Alumni. Your initiative is appreciated.

## Let's hear from you...

GCC is published four times a year. Contributor deadline for next issue is **Friday, December 21, 2012**.

For the moment, please submit your material to David Johns at: [openrd2002@yahoo.ca](mailto:openrd2002@yahoo.ca) in one of the following formats:

**E-MAIL.** A Microsoft Word document, saved as "Rich Text Format" or "text only".

Or **MAIL** to Bob Carell, 1407 - 3050 Dufferin Street, Toronto, Ontario M6B 4G3.

**E-PHOTOS** should be sent to: [Toronto\\_Optimist@rogers.com](mailto:Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com)

If your photos were taken using a digital camera, please save them to your hard drive then email the unedited photos.

**PRINTS** contact Bob Carell at: [Toronto\\_Optimist@rogers.com](mailto:Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com).

**NOTE:** GCC may need to edit your stories for space allowances. We will make every effort to retain the spirit and intent of your submission.

## DO YOU KNOW?

### ANSWERS FOR AUGUST

1. What feature was the longest in our Alumni History?  
**1. Five minutes and twenty-three seconds. Concert, 2008.**
2. Who was the original composer of the 1867 tune,  
THE MAPLE LEAF FOR EVER  
**2. The Maple Leaf Forever was written by Alexander Muir (1830 - 1906) in 1867, the year of Canada's Confederation.**
3. Who from our active membership list have served in every year since our 2002 founding?  
**3. The list includes marching members, associate members and support personnel.  
Barry Bell, Warren Berger, Karen Bosworth, Ric Brown, Scott Butcher, Brian Byrne, Brian Collingdon, Pat Cottrell,**

**Ron Cottrell, Lorne Ferrazzutti, Joe Gianna, Brian Hogan, Bill Kane, Mike Lang, Carol Munro, Clare Reid, Rick Shearer, Terry Sweeney and Paul Thompson.**

### Annapolis rehearsal (did we mention 95°F)



Bob Carell and bus driver Steve enjoy the lunch break.



Bass drummer Roger Rafson makes sure of where he is supposed to be during the drill. He was disappointed he couldn't apply it to the performance field in the Navy/Marine Corps Stadium. That said, he did just fine.