



Director's corner

Message from Bill Kane, Corps Director.

I want to tell you how proud I am to be the Director of this drum and bugle corps. What we choose to do is not easy, and it is not for everyone. The Toronto Optimists have a long and glorious history and, no doubt, that history has been a factor in the success of the Optimists Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps. However, without question, I believe that the biggest factor in the success of this alumni drum and bugle corps is the effort and dedication displayed by the vast majority of its members, former Optimists or not.

Some of us have been asked for decades, while others not so long, "What is a drum corps?" A simple question indeed, but without a simple answer. For me it is like trying to explain what the colour green is to a blind person. Words are inadequate to explain. It is that feeling of being part of something that is bigger and better than the sum of its parts. It is the feeling of being in a horn line... the feeling of being in a drum line... the feeling of being in a colour guard... the feeling of marching together in formation... it is that indescribable feeling when everything comes together.

There is a feeling of being in a drum and bugle corps and I want to thank all of you for giving me that feeling back. The Optimists Alumni is a drum and bugle corps and I think we should share that feeling with as many people as we can.
On March On!

I believe that the biggest factor in the success of this alumni drum and bugle corps is the effort and dedication displayed by the vast majority of its members, former Optimists or not.

Bill Kane

From our editorial desk

So the beat goes on. Let us say first that it is a tribute to the strength of the Optimists Organization and the depth of the talents and human resources available to us that despite two major setbacks, the Alumni Corps and GCC just keep rolling along.

We are saddened to announce that for personal and family reasons Rick Robida has resigned as President & Corps Director. Vice President Bill Kane has assumed the position of Corps Director & President for the balance of Rick's term. Similarly, Rick will be relinquishing many of his responsibilities as Editor of GCC. Please join us in sending Rick our best wishes.

Meanwhile associate editor, Paul Thompson, underwent emergency surgery on Labour Day Weekend and has been, until recently, indisposed. Needless to say, these circumstances created some unexpected publication and operational disruptions. But we are now back on track.

Thanks to an extraordinary yeoman's task by David Johns, inspired by Bob Carell and Brian Byrne, we have a fabulous pictorial summary of 2010 for our final GCC publication of the year. We also have sterling submissions from your fellow corpsmen, Heather Hyslop, George Anthony and Brian Adam. Thanks to all of you for your personal contributions to our newsletter... after all GCC is intended to be for past and present Alumni. So welcome aboard.

Finally we have another hilarious nostalgic anecdote from our feature writer Ray Roussel to complete what we believe is an entertaining package.

In conversation with Bill Kane, it is our understanding that the current Board would like to recognize Rick Robida for his unwavering initiative and success in reviving GCC. Furthermore, Bill urges that we continue this ambition. Accordingly, the present GCC editorial team is preparing plans to renew our contract with the Corps and all our Alumni members for 2011. If you are interested in participation in any aspect of this distinguished Optimists' tradition please contact Paul Thompson at 647-702-4422.

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OPTIMISTIC VOICES, BY HEATHER HYSLOP

IT'S HARD to believe that the 2010 Drum Corps season has come and gone and 2011 is already in the early planning stages. Still harder to believe, I have returned to my Drum Corps performance roots after a 26+ year absence. Sure, I followed Drum Corps for another 8 or 9 years (even chaperoned for St. John's in 1998 for their DCI tour), before it fell off my radar screen. This happens to be about the same time as I met my husband Jim, who introduced me to a new type of art- community theatre.

It wasn't until reconnecting on Facebook with some of my "old" corps friends and learned that the Green Machine was alive and well as an Alumni Corps. I didn't even think about joining UNTIL, I went to the 2009 Legends Show in Oshawa, with family in tow (the kids thought it was cool! Who would think today's teens would find old-style corps cool? Maybe it was just them thinking – A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away... mom did this!?). It was many more months and an ONCorps rehearsal before I heard the voice of Drum Corps past calling. Sorry. No, that was Bill Kane who was quick to tell me more about Optimist Alumni and invite me to come out. As they say, the rest is history.

So how does one summarize on paper their experiences as a 40 something rookie? Hmm, let's see.

The first rehearsal: Walking into the Legion Hall about to become "a rookie" again, but this time with some playing experience (albeit rusty), to have Barry Bell, my first horn instructor give me a big hug and kiss (some of the guys were a wee bit jealous). Bill and Brian Collingdon, also former instructors were welcome, recognizable faces, which made the start easy. Also familiar was the face of Dave McKinnon, who I knew of, though I had never met. Sometime later I said to Dave "Where were you when I was marching my last few years? Oh yeah, Ventures, our rivals." I do enjoy his teaching style, some very good technique (even if bopping is not a favourite).

As for feeling welcome, instantly! Yes, it was a little weird being in an all-male horn line, especially considering I marched an All Girl Corps for 11 years but the camaraderie made me feel like one of the guys. It wouldn't take long before the "chops" adjusted to the playing again. It was the memorizing music that haunted me. Next year I vow, will be better! As we moved through the spring, adding parades, learning drill and performing our show, the memories started to flood in. First, was Simcoe. I had never been to "The

Bands Played On" show, let alone play in it. It was the reuniting with my dear friends of more than 35 yrs, standing side by side again to play "You'll Never Walk Alone", it was like an "Impossible Dream" (St.John's 75-77).

Next up was Woodstock. I marched that parade 10yrs straight the first time around. A couple of things were different this time, the route (no marching downhill past the Purina building), and at the end I could see my grandparents old

home just across from the park, but Mom and Dad weren't there (at least not physically). My brother capably filled in. (It just happens that my parents met in Woodstock, 56 yrs earlier-Dad was marching in corps.)

I guess the next big event was the Michigan City tour. The addition of the Northstar guard, the drill rehearsals, parking lot music rehearsal, parades, just

like old times only better. No sleeping bags on a floor, no soggy scrambled eggs and Cap'n Crunch. I recently boasted to old friends that being in corps now is golden-hotel accommodations. I was really happy that the corps welcomed my husband Jim and daughter Kirstine. (Really hoped she would join. I'm still working on that.) They did survive.

As Legends 2 approached I thought, are we ready? Many of us were feeling frustration and knew we weren't performing at the level we expected of ourselves. Many of these points were recently addressed at the AGM so I won't dwell on them here. As we heard at the meeting, people in the surrounding buildings came down to see the show, we had family and friends present which buoyed us to do the best we could, in the end, they enjoyed the evening. In the end the crowd went home entertained by some good old-fashioned Drum Corps and isn't that why we do what we do?

Buffalo was next, another DCI event. You might think this to be a highlight, but not so much for me. For me, Rochester provided me with my most special memory of the entire year. My "Aha!" moment. It wasn't our performance either. It was the moment when I really understood what it meant to be part of the "Green Machine". Yes, I knew the history. Yes, I have learned the corps song. What was missing, was finally realized when I experienced the respect shown to our corps by the other corps as we marched down the street toward the stadium.

First, it was the Bridgemen drum line and colour guard who stopped their warm up, cleared a path and cheered us on. Closer to the stadium, I think it was Caballeros, who on mass



Heather Hyslop (middle) performing at Woodstock 2010.

cheered us. I must say I may not recall that clearly, as it was at this point I became a bit emotional (as I am now) to think of my past and the connection I had with the Optimist and Bridgemen organizations 30+ years ago.

In 1975 a young woman joined St. John's, marching lead soprano. After the 1976 season, she and several others uprooted and joined Seneca Optimists. In 1978 or '79 she would go on to age-out with Bridgemen before returning to teach the rebuilding 'under construction' St. John's/Brantford Girls. I'm speaking of the late Sandy Douglas Stoklosa. Sandy passed away suddenly, in the fall of 2008. My Rochester show was my best of the year as I performed it for

the corps and myself in memory of Sandy. (R.I.P Sandy)

As we move through the fall and winter months in preparation for the 2011 season, I hope we will all take a moment to reflect on the past, both recent and years gone by. Maybe, just maybe, we will all hear the OPTIMISTic Voices, which will encourage us and remind us of why we choose to be part of the GREEN MACHINE. ■

On, March On! (Optimistic Voices is from the Wizard of Oz, as Dorothy and friends exit the forest and see the Emerald City after the poppy scene).

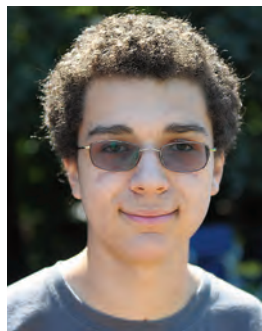
PEOPLE NEWS

PEOPLE NEWS is an ongoing feature telling the personal stories of our members. We are not just brass players, drum majors, drummers, colour party, etc.... we are indeed more than the sum of our parts. Please feel free to nominate persons of interest for future publications by getting in touch with our editorial team. See page 20 for contact details.

New members from Northstar



Vanessa Russu, Instructor.



Mac Klimasko, Tenor drum.



Steve Kraemer, Contrabass.

Performance member

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OPTIMISTS ALUMNI PICNIC – JULY 25

FOOD AND FUN was had by members, their families and friends at the Alumni Picnic held at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area northeast of Toronto. This mid-summer picnic for family and friends offers a bit of relief to the busy 2010 schedule. Today our members get to play not just for the love of the songs but for the love of the suds. Perhaps this will become an annual event sponsored by Labatt's Blue?



PERFORMANCES

BUFFALO, AUGUST 8

The DCI Drums Along The Waterfront Show A parade of pioneers marched on today's field. Picture Barry and Lorne championing the revolutionary "fancy drill" in the late 50's. Watch the United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps and recall the strains of Col. Truman Crawford's outstanding music of the 60's. Many of today's Alumni, including our DM Jeff MacKay, rivalled for top 10 status in DCI's first decade of the 70's. And then we have Alumnus Dave MacKinnon, who has been at the forefront of Bluecoats' 2010 third place DCI World Championship achievement. Is it possible that Optimists will spawn yet another generation of entertainers through those young performers from Northstar? Imagine what lies in their future.



Dave MacKinnon leading brass rehearsal at Immaculata Academy.



Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps.



Optimists Colour Guard presentation.



Drum Major Jeff MacKay.



Prime Time Brass playing the national anthems in the opening ceremonies.



Preston Scout House Alumni Band.



St. Joe's Alumni Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps.



United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps.

THE GREAT PORT DOVER TAR PIT MELT DOWN – BY RAY ROUSSEL

By Ray Roussel. Ray lives in the hill country in Grey County, Ontario, with his wife Carrie, plus several horses, dogs, and barn cats. He played baritone with the Toronto Optimists from 1967 to 1969. Ray taught and arranged brass with the corps for four years after he aged out.

LET US CONSIDER heat. Overwhelming, unrelenting heat. When you're so hot, so crushed by the weight of the sun's power, it's hard to breathe or move.

Keep that hot in mind as we parade down one particular avenue in the summer of a unique year that witnessed Pierre Elliott Trudeau beginning his first term as Canada's Prime Minister, when *Hey Jude* by the Beatles and Otis Redding's *Sitting By The Dock Of The Bay* crooned out of every car radio in the country, when the Apollo 8 mission propelled men for the first time ever out of earth orbit to circle the moon and view its dark side, when The Beverly Hillbillies still ruled the TV universe, and a brand new Chevrolet Camaro would set you back a princely \$2,588. In case you don't already have a number in mind, the year was 1968 — a tumultuous 366 day package that had as much rottenness on display as it did greatness.

Rottenness, you ask? Tune your memory knobs to Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy dying at the hands of crazed assassins, cities burning across the world in frustration and revolution, Pope John Paul VI deciding women the world over should be forbidden from using birth control, or William Calley sending his troops into the Vietnamese village of My Lai to undertake his own brand of population control.

The good and the bad listed here all occurred in 1968.

There was another surprising and satisfying event in Kingston later that summer on the evening of September 7th that thrills many of us still, but that is not the event I want to revive and review. Instead, let's get back to that heat.

Anyone who knows southern Ontario, anyone who has spent time along that fiery stretch of Lake Erie in that lethal season, knows the kind of heat I am talking about. We like to brag about how some parts of southern Ontario are at a latitude more southerly than northern California, and yadda, yadda, yadda. The fact is this chunk of Ontario can rival the American midwest some days when the temperature threatens to burst thermometers and even the shade is

scorching. They grow tobacco and grapes and fruits here that can't be grown anywhere else in Canada.

On the morning of July 1, 1968, in Port Dover, Ontario, you could already tell what kind of a day it was going to be.

Back then (and probably still to this day) many contest organizers, especially in small towns, insisted that each competing corps must perform in an associated parade, usually earlier in the day. I presume that enough corps had skipped out of the parade requirements over the years that organizers finally threw up their hands and said: If you don't show up for the parade, don't bother showing up for the competition. Occasionally, a bus breakdown or other mishap might force a corps to miss the afternoon parade in which case a penalty of one or two points would be applied to their night show score. All in all, when it came to parades, the competitive corps chose to suffer by day in order to seek glory at night.

There probably wasn't a soul among us who wouldn't have ditched the parade that day if he could.

As parades go, it wasn't very long, a cakewalk compared to some of the Death Marches we had survived in other years, mostly in the US midwest. The routine was you'd get into uniform, warm up the sections, bus or walk to the parade start, find a big enough patch of shade to hide within, maybe warm up a second time, and wait for your turn to take to the street. Once underway, you did all you could to stay cool and conserve precious fluid and energy levels.

Tramping along at a 96 beats per minute, you'd notice the knots of people and the kids under the awnings of the local pharmacy, or backed up against the storefronts, hugging the shade. Some held umbrellas aloft trying to ward off the killer photons. In many of the smaller towns where we paraded I recall townsfolk at the side of the road with jugs of ice water to offer to the thirsty performers — I think we usually just marched on, too proud to accept the water but wishing like hell that we had.

Most of the time we paraded to a street beat. Other times, when it was a very long parade or the crowds really thinned out, we'd left-right, left-right to our funky, tuned rudimental bass drum licks. This had the dual advantage of sounding good while preventing most of the playing members from using up too much energy. Roll offs were blessedly few and far between. However, when a large clot of sidewalk admirers hove into view, or just because we had been tacet for too long, the command was given, the roll off snapped us alert, and we knew it was time to deliver some tunage, usually playing *The Joker* or *Ontario — A Place To Stand*.



Ray Roussel, 2010.

When a reviewing stand came within our sights or there was some reason to impress the clusters of folks on the sidewalk we would give them our rendition of *Temptation*.

• • • • •

ALL WENT WELL. We reached the end of the route and turned off the main street, encountering the forward components of the parade getting themselves out of formation and out of the way: police cars, cowgirls on horseback, fire trucks, Lions club marchers in their purple vests, floats flowered with straw bales, bunting and costumed kids, clowns, baton units twirling about looking for parents, vehicles loading gear, Shriners mini-biking around like uninvited pests. The usual. But at least we were done. Finis. Just one more parade to notch up for the year.

Port Dover is a nice town, but it will never rival Gotham for size and mass, so rather than fire up the buses and expend all that cheap, pre-OPEC fuel, the decision was made to march the corps back to the high school where we were to change and rehearse and prepare for the night show. It was at this point things began to go awry.



Port Dover parade, 1968.

Still in parade formation, with instruments in carry position, we marched toward a side street paralleling the parade route. Once we got off the main street it was all residential – trimmed hedges, flowers, green lawns despite the Saharan temperature, manicured middle class pride on each side. We approached the first corner, the guard left-wheeling onto the...

Oh, for the love of all that is holy! St. Anthony of the La Brea Tar Pits hear our cry and help us — the road ahead, as far as you could see, was a freshly tarred morass, stinking and bubbling in the afternoon sun. Did we stop and reconsider? Did we hesitate for a moment? No. We trooped on, despite a perfectly good sidewalk and grass median strip between the sidewalk and the road sitting there, empty and unused.

The machine moved forward inexorably and it was not pretty.

In perfect alignment and cadence the corps stepped into the fresh, hot tar and began adding inches to its height. We crunched along, growing taller and taller with every step,

the tar, at a viscosity close to cooling lava, gathering gravel and black, noxious pitch onto the soles of our white bucks, and we all realized we were unquestionably in the shit, a Pythonesque misadventure that no corps, let alone a championship organization fighting desperately to maintain its first place status, would ever want to find itself in.

Trained to troop along in silence, a few complaints could be heard starting to snarl out from the ranks. Don Daber, clutching his clipboard in one hand and his briefcase in the other, stalked along beside us on the grass median, his face redder and more anxious than I'd ever seen it. During the years I marched Don looked anxious and apoplectic on several occasions (think of the near riots in 1969 in Titusville, PA, and Woodstock, IL, where frustration almost led to fisticuffs and trivial international incidents), but this episode pushed his scarlet index up into the zone.

My brother Den, who marched beside me, recalls one staff member calling out in panicked warning, "Don't touch your plumes!"

I don't remember every detail though I think we were pulled off the road after a short distance but not before the damage had been done. I hate to think that we may have come off the road onto some homeowner's lawn and left it an environmental hot zone but memory dims on that detail.

You can imagine the mess. Two hundred white bucks in Deepwater Horizon couture, hours spent before the show, scrubbing and wiping, scrubbing and wiping, again and again, using nothing but leaded gasoline, elbow grease, and an array of curses of an unprintable excellence. Sadly for the rookies many of them had to clean two pairs of white bucks although many of the old guys simply went ahead and cleaned their own. Most of the school and its grounds still stank of gasoline when we pulled out late that night after the contest.

Would any of us follow the crowd today? I'd like to think not, but as a 20-year old, marching in a well-trained drum and bugle corps, on that molten afternoon I didn't spend much time in thought. I didn't have time. My job was to obey, to play my ass off, and to march wherever I was told whenever I was ordered to do it. And I think that's what it was really all about. Discipline ruled the day in that furnace by Lake Erie.

As moments go, this one wasn't pretty but it has delivered a surprising number of chuckles over the years. It seems funnier the farther away from it I get. Sometimes, I conjure it up, but there are times when it just arrives in my brain pan, unbidden and unheralded, and I just settle back and enjoy the moment, knowing the bemused smile on my face could only be shared by those who were there. ■

TORONTO, AUGUST 21

The Warriors' Day Parade in the Canadian National Exhibition grounds pays tribute to those who serve in the military.



Assembly outside the Fort York Armoury.



The Optimists march through the famous Princes' Gate in the background.

KITCHENER, AUGUST 21

The Grand Ships Tribute Tattoo presented by Preston Scout House Alumni Band paid tribute to the 100th Anniversary of the Canadian Navy and the men and women who served. Remembering those who served was a strong and important tradition for the Scout House Bugle Band and that tradition continues today in the Alumni Band. Regardless of the rainy weather this tribute was well received by a dedicated and enthusiastic audience. A colour guard presentation at the opening ceremonies had flags from all provinces, Nunavut and the two territories. The Twin City Harmonizers Chorus sang a very moving rendition of the Canadian and American national anthems.

In performance (not in order) The Scout House Alumni Band, The Bellerophon Drum & Bugle Corps, The Tian Guo Marching Band of Canada, The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps, The United Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps, The Kingston Grenadiers and The 1812 Reenactors. Unfortunately photographs of all participants are not available.



An appreciative audience.



Ring the "Ship's Bell" in tribute.



Honouring those who served.



Honour Guard at the opening ceremonies with our National flag, flags from all provinces and territories, plus the National flag of United States of America.



TORONTO, AUGUST 28

The Legends 2 Drum Corps Show was held at St. Michael's College School in Toronto. In the early 60's, Catholic organizations figured prominently into Toronto's lively drum corps scene. So it is not difficult to imagine old timers like myself conjuring up phantoms mingling with the legends performing on today's field. In a flash... long-forgotten memories restored... corps like De La Salle, St Mary's, Columbus Boys, Michael Power Knights, St Michael's Marching Band, and the girls from Loretto who regularly appeared in venues like this for football rivalries, Rosary Sundays, Communion breakfasts... extravagant pageants of all sorts. The Alumni Corps of today may just have inspired a revival of this unique, public and family entertainment forum. Welcome back to Toronto and please return.



M.C. Brian Hogan.



Combined colour guards during the opening ceremonies.



Sudbury Imperial Knights.



Midlanders Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps.



Toronto Signals Band



Simcoe United Alumni Senior Drum & Bugle Corps.



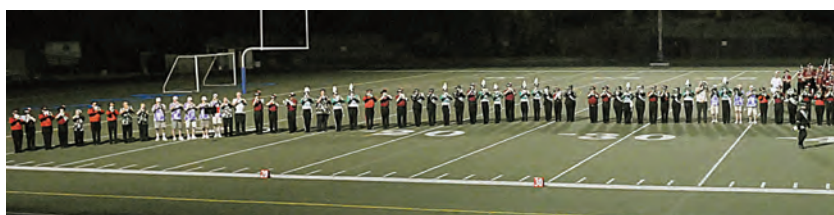
Preston Scout House Alumni Band.



Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps.



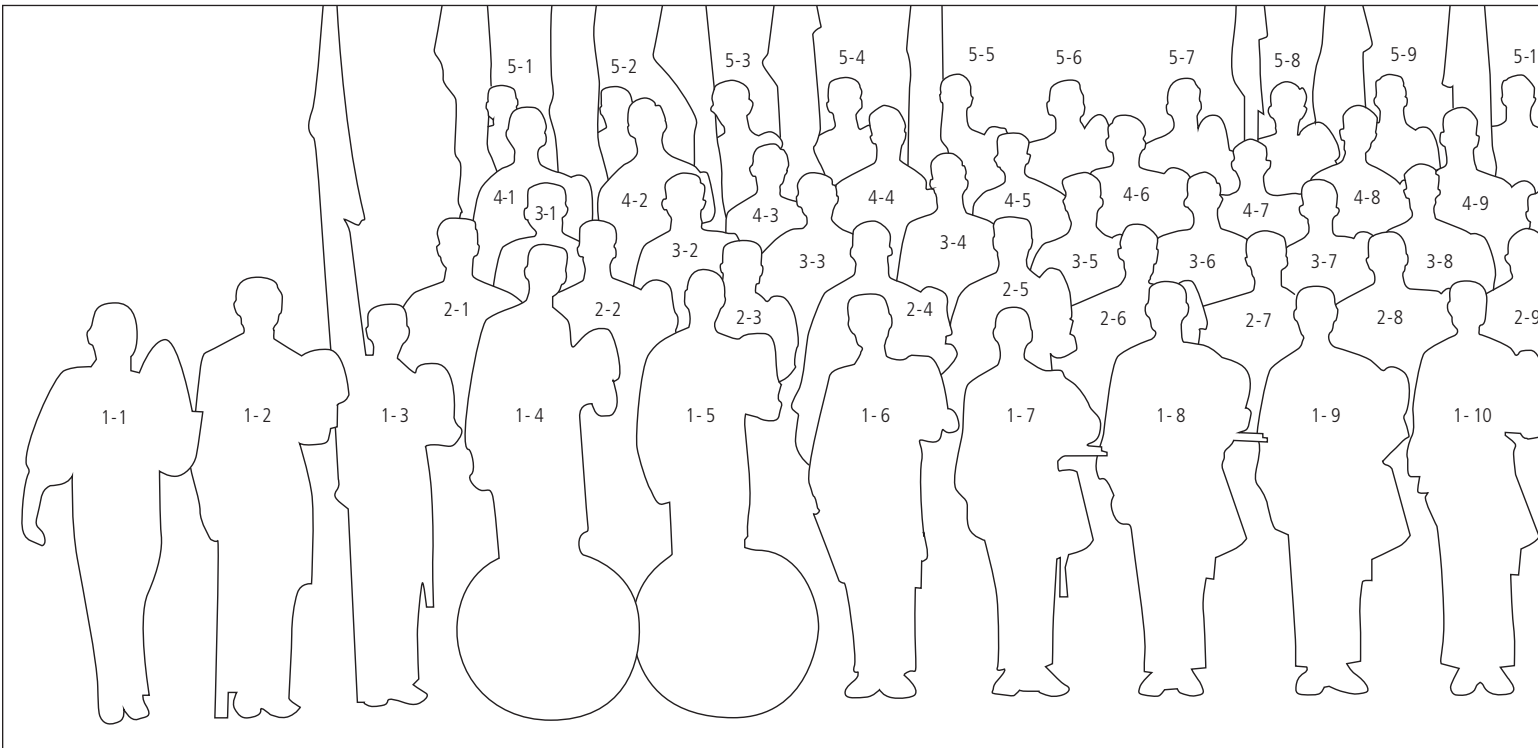
All-corps march-past.



All the corps' horn lines combined to play You'll Never Walk Alone to close the show. This stirring rendition is becoming a tradition at the end of many Drum Corps performances in Canada. It's a tribute to the cooperation and respect between Corps... and it's an emotional crowd pleaser.

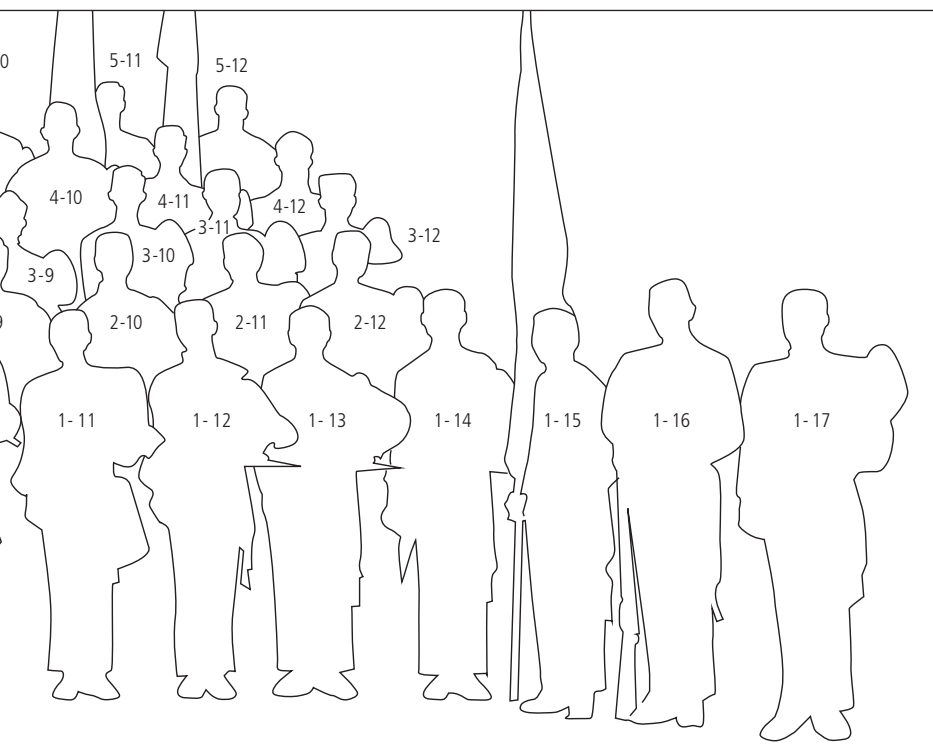
DO YOU SEE YOURSELF? DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF YOUR MARCHING MEM

This 1963 was taken in front of the theatre at Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfred Laurier University) in Waterloo, Ontario. However, the photo is a composite of many different years.



BERS FROM 1963?

floor. Bob Carell believes it was taken after the prelims for the 1963 Nationals.. We have most of the names correct,



Row 1:

1-1 Jim McConkey, 1-2 Jim Bedford,
1-3 Ron Cooper, 1-4 Frans Rood,
1-5 Dave Johns, 1-6 Ron Kaiser,
1-7 Ron "Skip" Prokop, 1-8 Vic Krukli,
1-9 Mark Wicken, 1-10 Orest "Paul" Burak,
1-11 Russ Jarvis, 1-12 Bill Grigg,
1-13 Rick Shearer, 1-14 John Whiting,
1-15 Tom Bedford, 1-16 Chuck Clutterbuck,
1-17 Glen Durish.

Row 2:

2-1 Joe Gianna, 2-2 Jack Roberts,
2-3 Joe Palanica, 2-4 John Shearer,
2-5 Hans Boehnke, 2-6 Roman Perohanycz,
2-7 Cliff Robertson?, 2-8 Gary Corbett,
2-9 Jeff Shimotakahara, 2-10 Bert Hofflick,
2-11 Larry Greenwood, 2-12 Alex Glover.

Row 3:

3-1 Karl Bossert, 3-2 Doug MacKenzie,
3-3 Bryan Houghton, 3-4 ?,
3-5 Barry Radford, 3-6 John Kubitz,
3-7 Terry McKolskey, 3-8 Doug Yarker,
3-9 Howie Davies, 3-10 Bill Hannah,
3-11 Mike Thys, 3-12 Ross Colville.

Row 4:

4-1 Bill Thorne, 4-2 Robin Weatherstone,
4-3 Bob Harkness, 4-4 Peter Burton,
4-5 Al Lavigne, 4-6 Rick Robida,
4-7 Dick Ward, 4-8 Glenn Rawson,
4-9 Ross Cation, 4-10 Bob Rivers,
4-11 Noel Bramley, 4-12 Dave Watt.

Row 5:

5-1 John Diamond, 5-2 Emilio Russo,
5-3 Mike Powers, 5-4 Jim Nisbet,
5-5 Bob Carell, 5-6 Andy Henderson,
5-7 Gene Chepswick, 5-8 Jack Young
or Ron Lombard?, 5-9 Bob Keenan,
5-10 Ian Cruickshank?, 5-11 Al Peczeniuk,
5-12 Fred Lombard.

Legends of Drum Corps 2

A big thank you Sudbury Imperial Knights,
Toronto Signals Band, Simcoe United Alumni Senior Drum
& Bugle Corps, Midlanders Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps
and Preston Scout House Alumni Band.

The show would not have been possible without the assistance of a large number of volunteers and organizations. Space does not permit us to list the names of all of the individuals but they know who they are and just how much we appreciate their efforts. There are some that must be recognized; our Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Brian Hogan and the director of the Legends 2 Drum Corps Show, Mr. Dick Brown.

Special thanks and recognition goes out to Father Joseph Redican, President of St. Michael's College School, and Mr. Bill Smith, also of St. Michael's, who, along with his staff, are responsible for this outstanding facility, and without whose cooperation this show would not have been possible.



And finally, the Optimists Alumni **thank you, the fans** of Drum Corps.

1963 Canadian Junior A Championships at Seagram Stadium in Waterloo, Ontario

Corps	G.E. M&M	G.E. Drums	G.E. Bugles	G.E. Total	M&M	Drums	Horns	Score
Toronto Optimists	14.3	8.8	8.9	32.0	20.90	17.95	18.15	89.0
De La Salle Oaklands	13.8	9.0	8.2	31.0	21.00	16.45	17.55	86.0
Hamilton Conquerors	12.6	8.1	6.6	27.3	19.35	13.85	16.50	77.0
Preston Scout House	13.1	7.9	6.1	27.1	19.35	13.85	16.30	76.6

89.0 was the highest score that the Optimists (Toronto or Seneca) ever achieved in competition. Sadly, Fleetwood, who were supposed to record the show, never arrived in Waterloo. As a result, our best show was not recorded. It was fortunate for the Optimists that the 1963 corps was recorded (at the Mundelein, IL show in June, Boys in Green); however, Del has not managed to find a recording of their 1963 show. If you have a recording of 1963 Del or you know of anyone who has, their Alumni group would very much appreciate receiving a copy.

Source: Green Capsule Comments, 1963

PERFORMANCES (CONTINUED)

ROCHESTER, SEPTEMBER 5

The DCA Alumni Drum Corps Spectacular show held at Rhinos Field. This was our fourth performance at this DCA show. The “Spectacular” is the culmination of the Optimists’ performance year. This exhibition represents the epitome in non-competitive drums corps of all ages. For many of our new members, this experience lived up to its name, SPECTACULAR. For the veteran players, this was once again a vital part in our continued goal to firmly establish our reputation as a viable corps within in this prestigious and illustrious line-up. See Page 18 for a review of the show that was originally published in Drum Corps World.



Marching from rehearsal to the stadium.



Marching single file approaching the entrance gate to the stadium.



In performance.



Drum Major Jeff MacKay directing.



Soloists Joe Gianna, Gerry Bencze and Warren Berger in “El Cid”



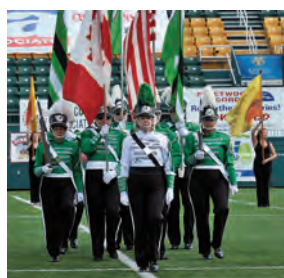
Ron Chong (left) playing solo in “Patton”



Part of the baritone and contrabass section.



In performance.



Colour Guard presentation.



Flag manoeuvres by Northstar Silks.



March off at the end of our performance.



PERFORMANCES (CONTINUED)

ROCHESTER, SEPTEMBER 4 AND 5

Every year on the evening before the DCA show in Rochester the corps holds a dinner to celebrate the end of the season. After dinner there is a final rehearsal, outdoors, behind our hotel. This evening it was unusually cold. Some of the other corps also have outdoor rehearsals behind the hotel and some of our members participate in these. Camaraderie and show stopping music.



Sue and Rick Robida.



Carol Munro, Wesley Scott and Mac Klimasko



The Roblin Clan.



Warren and Hazel Berger.



Sam Grosvenor and his daughter, Shannon.



Barry and Pat Bell.



Glenda Tokiwa, John Parkinson and Bill Kellas.



Sue and Jack Roberts.



Back: Heather Hyslop and family
Front: Al Miller.



Lauren and Brenda MacKay.



PERFORMANCES (CONTINUED)



Back: Sue & Rick Robida with Friends from Cabs.
Front: Ed Finoro.



Master of Ceremonies, Ric Brown.



Brenda and Jeff Mackay.



Brian and Sue Hogan.



Joe and Margaret Gianna
and Joe Lasko getting the squeeze.



Ron Chong, Paul Blanchard
and Mac Klimasko's mom.



Dougie May, Mac Klimasko's dad
and Rick Lang.



Northstar Silks:(l to r) Erin Roy, Maeve Roy, Elizabeth Clayton, Bob Carell, Toby Frechette, Madison Darwin and Alana Beirness. (Bob and Toby are not members of Northstar and remain in the Optimists Alumni).



Debbie and David Bruce.



Karen Bosworth, Doug Darwin, Scott Butcher and John Giblin.



BudLites joined by l to r: Gerry, Sue, Jack, Barry, Pat, Debbie, David, Mike, Bob and Eleanor.



The “Comeback” Award
For: Spitting in the eye of adversity. **Toby Frechette**

ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Each year awards are given to those who have contributed in an exemplary way to the corps, or not. It's a lot of fun summarizing the year as you can see by the text on the certificates.



The “Special Recognition” Award. For: Being part of the Optimists. **Northstar Members**



The “Not Quite Full Metal Jacket” Award
Maybe one of those leprechauns at the St. Patrick's parade stole my drum harness. **Ric Brown**



The “Tick-Tock” Award
This is my metronome – there is no other like it – the metronome is my friend. **George Anthony**



The “Moses” Award
You can walk across the desert, but you can't march in sandals. **Bill Kane**



The “Forget-me-not” Award
Where's my _____?
(fill in article of drumming paraphernalia). **Lorne Ferazzutti**



The “Rookie of the Year” Award
To: Buford, for being such a party animal on the bus. (Accepted by **Sue Roberts**)



The “Birds Eye View” Award
Where's my ladder and could you please stop the parade while I take a picture. **Dave Johns**



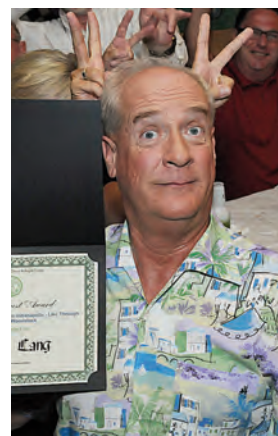
The “Spiderman 2 – The Sequel” Award
Continued excellence in the world of Web crawling. **Bob Carell**



The “Reflections” Award
Mirrors, mirrors on the fifty – If Scouts had had some, that would have been nifty! **Karen Bosworth**



The “Jumbotron” Award
Watch the Drum Major, drum major. **Jeff MacKay**



The “Map Quest” Award
For: Finding creative routes to Indianapolis – like through downtown Woodstock. **Mike Lang**

PERFORMANCES (CONTINUED)



Follow the light (aka Tinkerbell).



"All those fireworks just for us".



Shannon Grosvenor and her Grandmother Fran.



Bob Keenan and wife Eleonor.



The lamps gave off a warm, yellow glow, however the temperature was anything but warm.



"I wish I had a pillow to sit on".



"What cold weather, we're feeling just fine thanks".



The corps members appreciated those who endured the cold and offered encouragement during the evening rehearsal.

September 5, 2010 – Rochester, NY

Text by Kevin Gamin, DCW staff and DCPlanet
Managing Editor

SOME SPORTS now feature their own events or series where their respective legends come back out onto the playing field to pay homage to the history of their activity. The drum and bugle corps world is no different with the advent of the alumni corps movement.

These corps take the fans, as well as their own members, back through the years with their performances. Nowhere is this more evident than at DCA's "Alumni Spectacular" and the 2010 edition was no exception. Eight alumni corps performed at the event, all showing that there's no school like old school.

You know you've got a good show ahead of you when the first corps off the line is **Scout House**. This may also be the only time that diehard drum corps fans will unanimously



admit to liking a group playing Bb horns and calling themselves a "band." Scout House's show is full of variety, with music from Oklahoma, toe tapping songs like *Brazil* and a Canadian colour presentation featuring *Maple Leaf Forever*.

The corps, which already looked and sounded strong two months ago at the Empire Statesmen home show, has definitely improved since then, with a powerful brass sound and a flashy drum line. Coming off the field to the *Colonel Bogey March*, Scout House had fans clapping and whistling along, both to the song as well as for the whole performance.

Mighty St. Joe's from LeRoy, NY, thundered off the line,



thanks in part to the line of full-sized snares playing on Mylar heads, a change from the past few years. The opener for the corps was a favourite of both St. Joe's and fans, *Bully*. Strong soprano soloists are featured throughout, much to the delight of those in the stands.

The Battle Hymn Swing, first made famous by Truman Crawford and the Chicago Royal Aires, came next, presenting the colours as only drum corps can. *Children Of Sanchez*, written by Rochester native Chuck Mangione, fired up the crowd even more. Coming past the front side line to finish the show, St. Joe's ended with *Georgia*, a drum corps classic that featured some of the loudest playing of the day, made even louder by the proximity to the stands.

Exuding the raw power of old-time drum corps, the **New York Skyliners Alumni** came onto the field with a street beat that echoed as if they were marching among the



concrete canyons of the Big Apple. Opening with their trademark *New York, New York* fanfare, Sky quickly moved into *Gee, Officer Krupke*.

The drum line's strong technique showed early on, playing with white sticks on black Mylar heads. The horn line also showed their stuff, with some members grabbing valve/rotor horns on the front sideline for *Miserlou*. Before the crowd knew it, the Skyliners were playing *Little Old New York*, getting "down and dirty" and ending yet again with the *New York, New York* fanfare from a soprano soloist. Of course, the corps answered the cheers of "ONE MORE SONG!" with a rousing rendition of their signature *Elk's Parade*.

Normally, *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* would be the closer for a show. Not for the **Toronto Optimists**, coming off the line with the song, starting with a soprano soloist and quickly opening up to the full corps. The group showed many different moods throughout their performance, moving from pieces like *Lawrence Of Arabia* and *El Cid* to a medley of Glenn Miller standards like *Tuxedo Junction* and *In the Mood*.

A colour presentation set to *Patton's Theme* soon gave way to the closer of *What Kind Of Fool Am I*. Colour was prevalent throughout the show, with great flags in the colour



guard from start to finish. The Optimists had one of the more versatile shows on the field, but were crowd-pleasers all through the show.

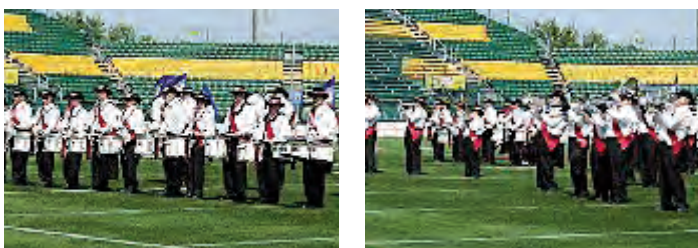
As one of two corps representing currently active competitive units, the **Crusaders Senior** (don't call them Alumni) corps really only needs to play one song to get a standing ovation – *Conquest*. This they did, not just once with an arrangement from the 1959 edition of the Crusaders,



but twice, closing with their classic jazz rendition, complete with the horns grooving and moving to the drum beat before finishing.

Of course, fans got much more from Boston, opening with *El Capitan* and featuring a powerful performance of *Man Of La Mancha*. The corps also showed their softer side while paying tribute to the current junior corps with a stirring rendition of *Time To Say Goodbye*, an integral component of the 2000 Crusaders' fifth-place performance. Regardless of what they play, the Crusaders Senior corps exhibits the BA in BAC, and we're not talking Boston Area.

If there's one thing that can be said about **Park City Pride**, it's that they are clean, clean, clean. The drum line is one of



the tightest in the alumni activity, with intricate rudimental parts played with ease, while the horns play with a warm and balanced sound. Another word for PCP is versatile, as the

rifle line switches to cymbals during the drum break, then play on Latin hand percussion instruments before switching back to rifles.

A third word is entertaining, as music like *St. Louis Blues* and *God Bless America* rouse and stir the patriotism of the fans. Ending the show in a company front past the front side line, Park City Pride had a slight issue with the boom camera filming the show for the DVDs. What made up for this, though, is the GREAT close-up shots many members got, adding to the memories for both them and the crowd.

When the field is full of yellow, that can mean only one thing – the **Bridgemen** are here! This is a corps that has a ton of talent, both on the field and in the design team. While



they could make the jump to the competitive side of DCA, the "Banana" people choose instead to focus on pure entertainment as only they can do. This is evident right from the start with an opener of *Lombaro*, a jazzed up arrangement of *Bolero* with a touch of *Land Of Make Believe* to give it that Bridgemen flair.

Another corps classic, *In The Stone*, featured a fresh addition of a small brass ensemble introing the song with another Earth Wind and Fire classic, *Getaway*. *Rainbow Connection* started soft, but quickly built to full volume with screaming sopranos.

The drum line played a classic Dennis DeLucia solo, complete with the tom rack. Finishing with *Spanish Dreams*, another opportunity for the horn line to wail, the curtain called with a quick tag of the *William Tell Overture*, receiving the last of many standing ovations from the crowd.

The **Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni** paid special tribute to



Continued on page 21

WE REMEMBER

Brown, Richard (Dick) On Monday, October 25, 2010 at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre at the age of 77.



Early 1960s.



Receiving a "Special Recognition Award" in 2006.

Toronto Optimists and the Optimists Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps for many years. He was also Assistant Director of the Midtowners and the Golden Monarchs; Founder and Director of the Lancers Drum and Bugle Corps; and, Secretary/Treasurer of the Canadian Drum Corps Association from 1964 to 1969.

A **Celebration of Life** was held on Saturday, November 13, 2010 at The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 344, 1395 Lakeshore Blvd. West Toronto, Ontario.



Dick's daughter, Debi, addressing the corps.

The corps performed their entire show in full uniform. As expressions of sympathy memorial donations may be made to The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 344.



Optimists Alumni Christmas dinner, 2005.

Husband of Chelsea for 58 years, beloved father of Ric (Laurie), Debi (Al LaPointe), Bill (Flo) and Bob (Kelly), Grandfather of 11 and Great Grandfather of 8. Employed at IBM for 36 years.

A member of the management team of the

Many, many friends and family paid tribute to the memory of Dick at this touching **Celebration of Life** ceremony.

John Kerry Dickinson – Peacefully at home on Friday, August 6, 2010 in his 64th year. Loving husband of 44 years to Rita. Dear friend of many DCAT and Drum Corps members.



John was the driving force behind the highly successful York Lions reunion in 2003. Having re-connected with many drum corps friends, John then joined DCAT to continue this re-connection with the drum corps community. He took to this with great enthusiasm, eventually becoming the President of DCAT. John was the key driving force in DCAT's annual musical concert "For the Love of Music". This event always included representation from his drum and bugle corps roots. Unfortunately, due to failing health, John stepped down as the head of the concert committee; however, the tradition of including drum corps continues with this year's 2010 production.

John's most recent venture was to initiate discussion among many of Southern Ontario's remaining drum corps alumni organizations to create a new truly Canadian drum corps organization and Canadian Drum Corps Hall of Fame. For the short period from 2003 until his untimely passing in 2010, John took to his new-found drum corps community with a dedication and commitment that is to be admired in our hectic and busy lives.

Edward Lewis Key August 5, 1939 - October 7, 2010

After a long and hard fought battle with cancer, Ted Key passed away peacefully with his loving wife Jean, of 36 years, at his side. Ted leaves behind his sons Teddy and Andrew (Katlyn) and his two adored grandsons, Ryan and Jordan. Ted was predeceased by his mother Daisy Key (Loveridge) and his father Edward Key.



Aside from his devotion to his family, Ted had three other passions. He loved music. He had a long and successful career as a music teacher with the TDSB at Parkway Vocational School, Brockton High School and Danforth Technical School. He was an excellent teacher who used enthusiasm and humour to bring out the best in his students.

For many years, Ted was a member of the Canadian Judges Association which adjudicated marching bands in Canada and the United States. Ted was also the Musical Director for the DCAT chorus which put on many successful performances in the GTA. Ted was a proud member of Remembrance Masonic Lodge and the Scottish Rite.

Finally, Ted loved his cottage at Dickey Lake. It was his

WE REMEMBER (CONTINUED)

refuge and his castle. He loved to put on lavish dinner parties for his friends and neighbours. He could tell a good joke. He was a terrific husband, a great Dad and an indulgent grandfather. He will be sorely missed.

John Joseph Pachereva. 1947 - 2010. With family by his side, John passed away October 10, 2010 from a battle with cancer. He was born July 25th, 1947 in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada to John Joseph and Josephine Pachereva.

He is survived by his mother Josephine, his loving partner of 18 years, Patricia Nabinger, his brothers James and Larry, with wife Lisa, and sister Carol, with husband Richard Campbell.

Also surviving are sons Justin Pachereva and wife Christy, Christopher Pachereva and fiancé Jesse, Jacob Nabinger and wife Tiffanie, and daughter Sarah Nabinger and boyfriend Alex. His grandchildren are Summer, Jack, Brea, Keegan, Xander, and Liam. His nieces are Kristin Lopes with husband Steven, and Emily. And his great-niece is Sydney, and great-nephew Matthew. He is preceded in death by his father, John and brother Thomas.

He was an avid Drum Corps enthusiast from an early age and grew his first passion as a member of the Preston Scout House Drum and Bugle Corps, and The Toronto Optimists. He continued his support as an instructor, director and composer in multiple drum corps. He had a second passion for all types of Auto Racing, and actively participated in the sport until he could no longer contribute

Tribute to Fred Johnson (1933 - August 24, 2010)
Corps: Scout Band, Opti-Corps, Optimists Bantams and Toronto Optimists.

Fred was a co-founder of the Toronto Optimists and the founder of the Optimists Bantams.

Fred's connection with the Optimists began in the early 1950s with the Scout Band and he lived his Scout Promise every day of his life. He devoted his life to his family, friends and community. Fred was Scarborough Citizen of the Year 1978, Scarborough Ward 7 Councillor 1988-1997. Retired from Giffels & Associates. Drummer, HMCS York Navy Reserve Trumpet Band and ASM Toronto Region Scout Band. Despite critically injuring both legs in 1955 and instantly losing his left leg, Fred gave his all to his city.



The corps performed at the dedication of the Fred Johnson Park in Scarborough.

Here are a few memories of Fred. I have fond memories of Fred, he was always pleasant and I never saw him without a smile. His accomplishments did not surprise me as he was always one who would take on difficult duties and make them work. I had the pleasure of being in the Guard of Honour at Fred & Aileen's wedding. It was a pleasure to have known him and he will not be forgotten.

Phil Hennings.

The boys in the corps loved Fred because he was always there with a smile and a helping hand. Even though he had trouble walking (he had an artificial leg) he was always on parade, carrying a water bucket and urging us on. He was the guy who gave us our nickname, The Green Giants. He also told us we'd have to work hard if we wanted to be part of the great Green Machine.

One evening, Dave Harris and I were messing around in the lunchroom, singing Blessed Sacrament, 1961. Dave was pretending to drum and I was pretending to conduct. Fred came in and said, "Hey, what are you doing?" "Nothing", we replied. "Well, let me see that again," said Fred. Realizing that we weren't in trouble, we carried on. Fred made me Drum Major at the next rehearsal.

He was very proud of the kids in the Bantams and we were all very glad that he was part of our lives. Anyone who ever spent even just a smidgen of time with Fred, would never forget him. I say this as a person who had not seen Fred since 1964, the year I went up to the big corps. Fred got a lot of kids ready for the big corps. He is one of the good ones who was a positive influence on the lives of many.

Vern Johansson. ■

DCW FEATURE ARTICLE *(Continued from page 19)*

another corps, the Yankee Rebels, this year. With the Rebels' decision to shut down operations, the Cabs Alumni invited Drum Major and Director Phil Gentile to march on the field with the corps in his YR uniform. This seemed to add even more energy to the Cabs' show, as they filled the stadium with sound from the first note to the last.

Opening with the classic *Rumps* off the line, the corps quickly moved into *Man Of La Mancha*, playing with serious fire. During *The Peanut Vendor*, some members of the horn line switched to valve/rotor French horns, wailing with incredible sound.

The drum line thundered through their solos, showing serious flash in their playing. Also showing flash was long-time Drum Major Jimmy Russo, egging the crowd on throughout. By the time *Espana Cani* closed the show, it was hard to believe how loud the Cabs Alumni could play, but that didn't stop the fans from wanting even more on the final note. ■

THE ALUMNI DRUM LINE – BY GEORGE ANTHONY

THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS' Drum Line is special. Our drum instructor Jeff MacKay, who this year skillfully took on the additional role of Drum Major, has a special gift that projects confidence into every performing corps member.

So why is the Optimists' drum line so special? When I came on board our drum line, I found expert tutoring from Lorne Ferrazzutti: for this I will always remain very grateful.



I fondly recall my first Santa Claus parade in Cambridge on November 14, 2009 when Scott Butcher was first to congratulate me for managing to get through it all; that meant a lot to me. I quickly learned all members of the line were there for each other. This dedication to solidarity and excellence demonstrates the lasting respect for the Optimist tradition.

Our 2010 drum line consisted of cymbal players, Al Miller, Ron Smith and Dave Matts; rudimental bass drummers Carol Ann Munro, Karen Bosworth, John Giblin and Ric Brown; snare drummers Lorne Ferrazzutti, Scott Butcher, Rod Patterson, John Malcolm and Rick Tracey and on tenor we had Cindy Tracey, Mac Klimasko and yours truly.

After Rochester 2010, I was fortunate to meet one of the Caballeros' snare drummers, Ed Jacko.

We talked on a number of drum corps subjects touching on the work ethic and teaching of the Caballeros' Drum Line. With the Cabs it's all about having a positive teaching and reinforcing disposition, the very foundation of years of dedication to the topnotch legacy of the Caballeros. There are simply no negative teaching directions among the Cabs' drummers. I see the very same work ethic with regard to our own Optimists' Drum Line.

Carol Ann Munro who specializes on the rudimental basses generously extends compliments to the snares or tenors or gives positive feedback to the line if attention needs to be placed in a particular area. Similarly, Karen Bosworth and fellow tenor Cindy Tracey have often offered me encouragement further boosting confidence. At some point in time, every line member has made constructive and positive suggestions to other line members. This caring, constructive behavior has led to a true cohesion within the drum line.

Midseason our Street Beat was replaced with a more comfortable swing-beat, which I know everyone loved to march and swagger to. Our Street Beat also replaced our field-show Drum Solo due to some drumming concerns. I'm sure in 2011 we will bring back the drum solo by giving it a few tweaks – it does sound great.

During this past year, we practised hard on a regular basis. Additionally, Ric Brown called many extra practices to further fine-tune our execution. One of my favourite memories this year was

Lorne Ferrazzutti's late arrival for our parade in Woodstock, as he frantically looked for his car keys. When he finally scrambled into line, members of the Burlington Teen Tour



Band who were watching Lorne cheered him on. Lorne spends much of his time instructing the Burlington Teen Tour Band.

In the Warriors' Day Parade I can't ever remember dodging so many road apples as we marched in that narrow gauntlet between the viewing stands.

Every aspect of the Optimists Alumni Drum Corps has its purpose. The horn line carries the tune, the colour guard adds the visual flare, the honour guard demonstrates Canadian heritage and pride and the drum line, while providing accompaniment to the brass, is the heart and soul of the corps: **Together we are one.** ■

The Toronto Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps is seeking new members for the 2011 season!

Remember that distinctive drum corps energy when the brass and drum lines were really pumped. Today, those sensations continue along with the camaraderie and travel, as you strive to be the best that you can be. The Toronto Optimists Alumni Drum Corps cordially invite you to relive the good times.



For more information, please contact Brian Adam at: 905-450-6433 or email at: holly.adam@sympatico.ca.

Please visit our website at www.optimists-alumni.org to find out more about the corps and see all the activities you can are part of.



We are a noncompetitive drum corps, performing throughout Southern Ontario and Northern New York State. Each summer we present a field show featuring a marching and musical presentation, which complements our stage performances and parades.

If you haven't played an instrument in a while, or even a very long while, and you are wondering if you can still



play, you are welcomed to one of our open rehearsals, and bring a friend. We offer top, industry recognized instructors for brass and percussion, including one-on-one instruction time.

The Toronto Optimists Alumni Drum Corps is a growing organization and we are being sought to perform in an ever-expanding geographic circle. We'd love to have you join in all the excitement, good-fellowship and pure fun.

OOOOOPS!

At the picnic Betty Hennings (right) asks Sue Robida...



"That's fine for you and the others, now where's MY corner piece?"

Early "Seasons Greetings" to all Optimists Alumni, families, fans and supporters!



Nothing marks the Christmas Season's quick approach more than that smell of a chocolaty minty gift so many of us enjoy giving and receiving each year.

Please support for our corps by making this funds raiser an unqualified success again this year!

2010 OPTIMISTS ALUMNI SCHEDULE - UPDATE

The Management Committee and the Show Committee will be finalizing the performance and rehearsals dates, the full list will be posted to the website.

Saturday	October 23	Performance	Confirmed	Midlanders Show	1:30 pm	London, Ont.
Saturday	October 30	Performance	Confirmed	Celebration of Life and Park Dedication for Mr. Fred Johnson		Scarborough, Ont
Saturday	November 13	Performance		Celbration of Life for Mr. Dick Brown	12:00 noon	Royal Canadian Legion 1395 Lakeshore Blvd. W.
Saturday	November 20	Parade	Confirmed	Santa Claus Parade	9:00 am	Oakville, Ont.
Saturday	November 20	Parade	Confirmed	Santa Claus Parade	5:00 pm	Brampton, Ont.
Sunday	November 21	Parade	Confirmed	Santa Claus Parade	2:00 pm	Milton, Ont.
Saturday	November 27	Parade	Confirmed	Santa Claus Parade	11:00 am	Uxbridge, Ont.
Saturday	November 27	Parade	Confirmed	Santa Claus Parade	5:00 pm	Fenelon Falls, Ont.
Sunday	November 28	Parade	Confirmed	Santa Claus Parade	2:00 pm	Weston, Ont.
Saturday	December 4	Party	Confirmed	Alumni Christmas Party	1:00 pm	Royal Canadian Legion 1395 Lakeshore Blvd. W.

Let's hear from you...

GCC is published four times a year. Contributor deadline for next issue is Monday, January 31, 2010.

Please submit your material to Paul Thompson at: sharevillegta@hotmail.com in one of the following formats:

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

Or MAIL to Paul Thompson, c/o Bob Carell,
1407 - 3050 Dufferin Street, Toronto ON M6B 4G3.

E-PHOTOS should be sent to: 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.

If you have prints, there are two options. Scan the prints at 600 dpi (dots per inch) then email the unedited images, or mail the prints to Bob Carell. He will scan the photos and return the originals to you. If you wish to do this, please email Bob at: Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com.

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

GCC STAFF

Editor: Paul Thompson.

Editorial Staff: Gordon Brown, Brian Byrne, Bob Carell, and David Johns.

Staff photographers: David Johns, Eric McConachie and Frans Rood.

Consultant: Don Daber.

CORRECTIONS: We tried to get everything right. If not, please let us know: rick-robida@live.com

A special thank you to all those who send photographs to the Optimists Alumni. Your initiative is appreciated.

DO YOU KNOW?

In each issue there will be three questions related to Drum Corps, past and present. The winner will be selected randomly from entries having the three correct answers and will receive the Optimists Anniversary Plaque showing photos from 1955 to 1978. The answers will appear in the next issue.

JULY'S ANSWERS

1. Who is the only Canadian in the Drum Corps International (DCI) Hall of Fame?
Barry Bell.
2. What Canadian corps fielded the largest horn line in drum corps history in 1964?
Commanders.
3. What year did the Toronto Optimists lose only one contest? Bonus point: to what corps?
1962, Varsity Stadium. Garfield Cadets



Barry Bell, Circa 1961.

JULY'S WINNER:

Congratulations to Keith Hamon from Seaforth, Ontario.

OCTOBER'S QUESTIONS

1. In which year were girls first admitted into Colour Guard for the traditionally "all boys" Toronto Optimists Drum Corps?
2. Who inspired the controversial admission of girls into the Corps?
3. In which year were girls first admitted into the music ensemble?

Please send your answers by **Monday, January 31, 2011** to:
David Johns at: openrd2002@yahoo.ca