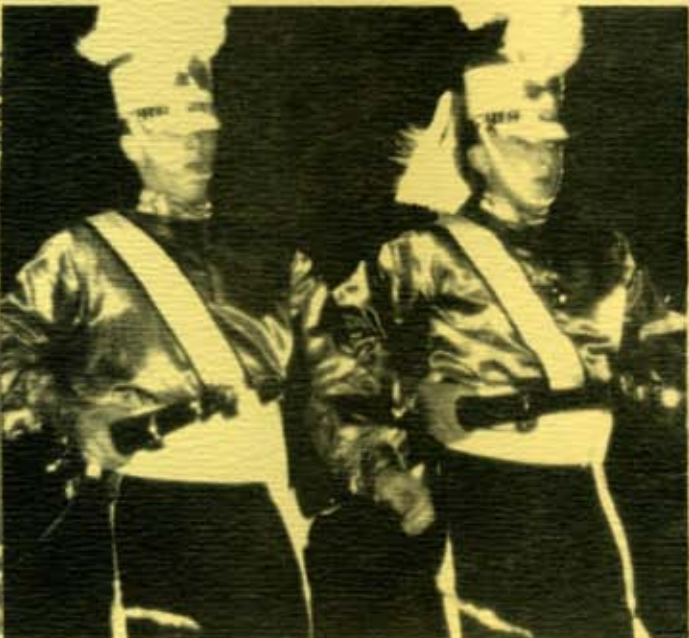
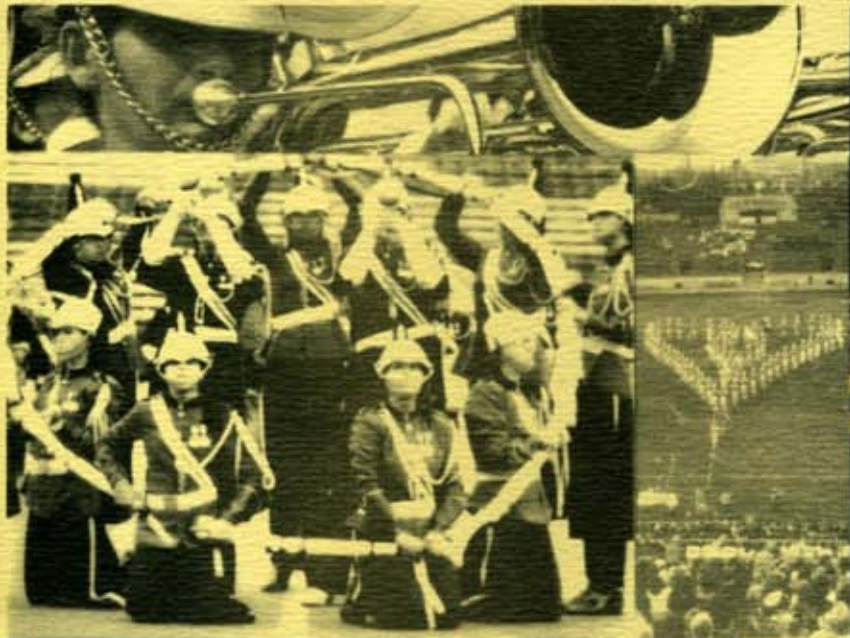


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to  
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*"SALUTE TO 50"— Published June, 1984 by the Department of the Executive Director  
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Text— ALLAN J. TIERNEY, B.A. | Photos & Graphics— Don Daber.

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Ambassadors	Canadian Knights	Hollywood Knights	Manila Drum & Bugle Corps (Philippines)	Rising Sun (Japan)	Titans
Americanos	Capitalaires	Hurricanes (DCA)	Marauders	Riverside Bugle Band	Troopers/Bristol (DCUK)
Anchormen (DCUK)	Cavalier Cadets	Ilhiana Lancers	Marion Cadets	Rochester Crusaders (DCA)	
Arc-En-Ciel (FAMQ)	Cavaliers	Imperial Guard	Marty's Goldenaires	Royal Lancers	Union Pacific
Archer Epler Muscateers	Challengers (DCUK)	In Aethere Musica (DCH)	Matadors (DCA)	Saganaires	U.S. Air Force Flight of Sound
Argonne Rebels	Citations	Inspires (Japan)	Mayflower Corps (DCUK)	Sancians	U.S. Marine Corps/29 Palms
Ausable Forks Brigadeers	Coachmen	Joanettes	Memorial Lancers	San Jose Raiders	U.S. Marine Corps/Washington
Avant Garde	Colts	Jubal Dordrecht (DCH)		Santa Clara Vanguard	
	Connies Crew	Kavaliere	See Hi	Satellites (Leicester)	Valiant Knights
Bandetts	Connexion (FAMQ)	Kitties	Nighthawks	Seattle Imperials	Valley Fever
Barons of Steuben	Conquistadors	Knights of Geneseo	Northmen	Sharpshooters	Vaqueros
Beatrix Band (DCH)	Crimson Cadets		Northwest Kent (DCUK)	Showstars (DCUK)	Ventures
Beechman (DCUK)	Crossmen		Notre Dame	Silver Shadows (DCUK)	Velvet Knights
Bills Boys	Diplomats	27th Lancers	Oakland Crusaders	Sky Ryders	Virgin Milagro Academy (Phillippines)
Black Knights	Drifters	L'Alliance Bois de Filion (FMAQ)	Odilo (DCH)	Southern Aires	Volunteers
Black Watch	Dutch Boys	Lackland AFB	Oranje (DCH)	Southwind	
Bleu Raeders	Emerald Knights	Lancers (New York)	P.Y.C. Lawmen	Spartans of N.H.	Wesopa (DCH)
Blue Eagles (DCUK)	Excelsior (DCH)	Le Corps d'Elite (DCUK)	Pacemakers (DCUK)	Spirit of 76	Westshoremens (DCA)
Blue Grass Ambassadors	Florida Wave	Les Cascedeurs (FAMQ)	Pacific Blue	St. Croix Rivermen	Windjammers Drum & Bugle Corps (Coast Guard)
Blue Knights	Freelancers	Les Eclipse (FMAQ)	Phantom Regiment Cadets	St. Ignatius Girls	
Bluewater Buccaneers	Fuji Drum Corps (Japan)	Les Etoiles (FMAQ)	Phantom Regiment	St. Laurent de Majorettes (France)	
Boston Drum & Bugle Corps	Glassmen	Long Island Kingsmen	Picadors	St. Paul Knights	
Brantford Girls	Golden Garrison	Lowery AFB	Pioneers	Surburbanettes	
Bridgemen			Pride of Cincinnati	Suncoast Sound	
Brighton Scouts (DCUK)				Sunrisers (DCA)	
Buccaneers (Massachusetts)					
Buckeye Cabelleros					



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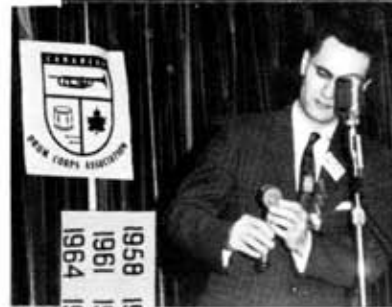
THE PRESIDENTS



- 1934 RUSSELL FLOYD  
Red Chevron Band, Guelph
- 1935 RUSSELL FLOYD
- 1936 RUSSELL FLOYD
- 1937 RUSSELL FLOYD
- 1938 ALBERT SMITH, RSA Band, Newmarket
- 1939 JIM BRADFORD, RSA Band, Newmarket
- 1940 JIM BRADFORD  
1941-1943 - Inactive
- 1944 JIM BRADFORD
- 1945 JOE MITCHELL, Mt. Denis Legion, Weston
- 1946 JIM BRADFORD
- 1947 BERT ELLIS, Elgin Regiment, St. Thomas
- 1948 LORNE KELTERBORNE, RCASC, Toronto
- 1949 LORNE KELTERBORNE
- 1950 LORNE KELTERBORNE
- 1951 LORNE KELTERBORNE
- 1952 JACK KELLYTHORNE,  
Toronto Danforth Air Cadets
- 1953 DON McINTYRE, Western-Tech, Toronto
- 1954 DON McINTYRE
- 1955 LORNE KELTERBORNE
- 1956 LORNE KELTERBORNE
- 1957 STAN BIGGS, Royallaires, Guelph
- 1958 NORM FACH, Grantham Police Boys Band
- 1959 NORM FACH
- 1960 JAMES MINARDS, Pt. Dalhousie Guardsman
- 1961 STAN BIGGS, Royallaires, Guelph
- 1962 STAN BIGGS
- 1963 STAN BIGGS
- 1964 STAN BIGGS
- 1965 AL SMITH, 2nd. Signals, Toronto
- 1966 AL SMITH
- 1967 AL SMITH
- 1968 CLARE REID, Toronto Optimists
- 1969 BERNIE BEER, Cdn. Commanders, Toronto
- 1970 BERNIE BEER
- 1971 BERNIE BEER
- 1972 JOHN ROBINS, Flying Dutchmen, Kitchener
- 1973 JOHN ROBINS
- 1974 JOHN ROBINS
- 1975 JOHN ROBINS
- 1976 AL TIERNEY, Seneca Optimists, Toronto
- 1977 AL TIERNEY
- 1978 AL TIERNEY
- 1979 AL TIERNEY
- 1980 JOHN JONES, Oakland Crusaders, Toronto
- 1981 JOHN JONES
- 1982 JOHN JONES
- 1983 JOHN JONES
- 1984 JOHN JONES



John Robins



Stan Biggs



Bernie Beer



Al Smith



Clare Reid

*Our thanks to Mr. Al Smith, Past President CDCA for supplying the above listing.*



Norm Fach

*Anniversaries are a time to remember and drum corps have provided me with many memories which I shall cherish all my life. In fact, I feel that drum and bugle corps have changed my life, for the better.*

*My first exposure to the activity occurred when my parents took me to a parade, in my home town of Ajax. I am one of the thousands who like parades, particularly the bands. I get a lump in my throat with the thunder of drums, and the fanfare of bugles.*

*I joined the Pickering Blue Notes, and was immediately impressed by the friendliness of everyone. I was sold on drum corps when I got into uniform for the first time, and marched my first parade. At 8:00 A.M., the crowd was sparse, but to me it could have been the Rose Parade. Later that year we were the town heroes when we returned from Nationals at the close of the season as "Parade Class Champions."*

*In 1966 I joined the famous DeLaSalle corps, playing French Horn. I could write a book about my years in Del. This was the big league. I remember the many trips to the United States, and the Mid-West scene. I remember the red capes. The corps had a seventy-five year history of excellence, and we had to live up to those who had gone before. We tried hard to be the best on the field, and our Director, Brother Xavier, made sure we were good off the field. I remember our first National Championship in Ottawa in 1969 when we finally beat the Optimists, who, to me, personified the CLASS of the Canadian Drum Corps Association. I remember the Victory party...*

*When I aged out as a marching member I joined Del's management team, first as personnel manager, and in 1971 became the Corps Director. I married Linda, who I had met in the Blue Notes, travelled extensively with the corps in the U.S., competing with the best, and winning our share of Firsts. I took part in the early meetings that led to the formation of DCI. The corps was successful, and well recognized throughout North America.*

*Financially, trouble was brewing at home as our sponsor DeLaSalle College was unable to provide all the funds required to operate in this international circle. In 1975 the college discontinued their connection with the corps and we merged with Etobicoke Crusaders, with much apprehension. In May of that year, at camp, we saw the new blue uniforms, and realized the new corps potential. We were proved right. At the close of the season we had won the Prelims at the U.S. Open and were sixth at DCI Finals.*

*Business and family, we now had two children, Dean and Darra, demanded more of my time, and I finally had to give up active participation in the corps. My work within the Association, CDCA and ODCA, still kept me active. I have served as a Board member for fourteen years, Vice-President for four years, and am now in my fifth year as President. Being presented the "Award Of Merit" this past January ...what a surprise. I am grateful for the Honour.*

*I love drum corps. It has given me many years of enjoyment. I believe that it has made me a better human being. I have many friends I treasure, many memories that are like jewels... permanently beautiful, and increasingly valuable.*

*I believe in our activity and what it can do for people. It contributes to the social fabric of our society. It links the past with the present, and the future. If there ever was a Happy Birthday wish, it couldn't mean more than the one I give to you—drum corps. I love you. HAPPY BIRTHDAY.*

JOHN JONES,  
President CDCA / ODCA  
Toronto, June 22, 1984



1966— the CDCA annual convention was held in Ottawa and the Hon. Paul Martin was the guest speaker, who also took time out to try out a bugle.



In the year 1934, the Canadian Bugle and Trumpet Band Association was formed by a few men in order to establish a standard set of rules by which the various corps could compete on an equal basis. They felt that competition between the corps would bind them together in a spirit of sportsmanship, and also aid them in gaining greater musical achievement.

The first officers elected were Mr. R. Floyd of Guelph, as President; Mr. R. Manning of Toronto, Vice-President; and Mr. A. Smith of Newmarket as Secretary. The late Professor Charles Thiele, of the Waterloo Music Company Waterloo, Ontario, was an advisor. Mr. Manning and Mr. K. Mathers (By-Laws) wrote all of the original contest rules and Mr. Manning had the distinction of being the first 'Life Member' of the Association.

Contests consisted of each band playing the same test piece, and they were adjudicated from musical scores by judges, who at that time were usually brass band instructors of great renown. These bands played on straight bugles and rope-hung drums, and usually featured a few glockenspiels to add a little spice to their marches.

About the year 1947 most of the bands had switched to one valve horns, and their musical range was increased considerably. Subsequently slides and rotors were added, as well as new horns— the baritone, bass and french horn to give the bands a fuller sound. The drum line also was much improved in quality, with the addition of tonal controls, tension heads, weather-proof heads, better shells, etc.

About this time, also, a second form of competition was devised, known as "fancy drill". The bands had to play about 8 to 10 minutes of music, while performing drill manoeuvres. This change gave the fans a much more enjoyable show to watch.

By 1956 the Association progressed to the marching and manoeuvring show, made up of 11 to 13 minutes of music, with at least 8 minutes in motion. Canadian corps received a lot of help in the early days from the American corps, who had a number of years prior experience in this style of show performance.

In the mid-fifties, 1955, the Association became an incorporated company, with a Federal charter... the result of much hard work by the President at the time, Mr. Don McIntyre and the Secretary, Mr. Charles Waldrum.

In 1961 the Association changed its name to that presently in use, The Canadian Drum Corps Association.

Until 1961 the corps in Canada were primarily in Ontario and in 1962 there was a big step forward with the emergence of a Quebec Chapter of CDCA, when some very fine French Canadian corps changed from the old bugle band format to modern day drum corps.

ODCA General Meeting and Banquets

Trophies—Nationals 1964



With the growth of drum and bugle corps in Quebec, in the early 1960's, and the possibility of expansion of the activity in the Western Provinces, particularly British Columbia and Alberta, it was decided to recognize the Provincial bodies by organizing Chapters. The first to be organized, within the structure of the Canadian Drum Corps Association, was the Ontario Chapter, and the Quebec Chapter. These two chapters met at an annual convention, and jointly established, or agreed upon, the rules of competition, and the date and locale of the Canadian Championships. They both adopted a Provincial Championship, under the auspices of their Provincial chapter.

During the mid 1970's, the Provincial government in Quebec agreed to assist the Quebec Chapter, financially, but required them to establish their own autonomous body, and so was created the Federation Des Associations Musicales Du Quebec, and with this separate organization, the interchange between Ontario and Quebec deteriorated. In 1976 the Ontario Government followed the Quebec example, and agreed to assist in establishing a full time office for ODCA and in turn asked that the Ontario group incorporate as an autonomous organization. On May 6th, 1976 the Chapter incorporated as the Ontario Drum Corps Association with the following officials: Allan Tierney, President; John Jones, Vice-President and Donald Daber, Secretary-Treasurer. Al Tierney remained as President until 1979, when he was succeeded by John Jones, who is now in his fifth year as President.

Very shortly after incorporation, an acting Executive Director was appointed, one, Frank McGrath, former Director of Michael Power Knights, who firm-ed up the negotiations with the Provincial Government, the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. Shortly thereafter a permanent Executive Director was appointed in the person of J.R. (Jack) Roberts.

Jack had an extensive drum corps background, as a marching member with a corps in St. Catharines, later as a drill instructor with the Optimists and London Midlanders, as well as consulting with many other corps. He is a judge with CJA on M&M. He was succeeded by Al Tierney in January, 1983.

Allan J. Tierney became involved with this activity in 1966, when two of his sons joined the Toronto Optimists. In 1967 he started the Optimist Cadets, as a feeder corps for Optimists. In 1970 he became President of the Optimist Club of York-Toronto and was instrumental in starting the Optimist (Etobicoke) Lancers. In 1972-1975 was Co-Director, and Business Manager for St. John's Girls in Brantford, and in 1976-1978 was Director of the Seneca Optimists. In 1972 he founded "Information Drum Corps", now "Parades & Pageantry", the ODCA Newsletter, now in it's 13th year of publication. In 1979 he served as the Director of Brantford Girls and served on their Board until his appointment as Executive Director of ODCA.

The Ontario Association has adopted a policy of developing educational publications for upgrading of the necessary skills required to promote, and expand the drum and bugle corps activity. They have recently published a 200 page Management Manual, and are in the process of editing, and publishing an Instructional Manual, for the benefit of the educators in the program. Smaller brochures on parades, and publicity have been developed, and have received wide distribution in this province.

The Association has taken a leading role in establishing a forum for the educators, the Marching Music Educators Guild. This new group has taken the lead in developing educational material, and suggested programs for educators and will become a moving force in the activity in future years.. Their organizational directors, and first year officers are Bill Thomas, Dave Phillips, Sean Williams and Keith Mathews.

Jack Roberts



John Jones & Louise Vanderkolf



Al Tierney

1984 ODCA EXECUTIVE:

- President . . . . . John Jones
- Vice-President. . . . . Bev Ranson
- Secretary . . . . . Don Daber
- Directors . . Alan Andersen, Tom Collard, Jack Turner  
Don McConnell, Dave Phillips, Bob Middleton
- Executive Director. . . . . Al Tierney
- Program Consultant . . . . . Phil McArthur

R.H.L. I. Bugle Band, Hamilton 1947.



The Royal Cdn. Engineers 48th Fld. Sqd. - Kitchener  
John Robins a member (behind bass drum)

It was in 1934 that farsighted men realized the potential, and the improvements, that were possible with the bugle and trumpet band activity. These leaders felt this could be achieved through competitions that would function under a standard set of rules, and so was born the Canadian Bugle and Trumpet Band Association.

With few exceptions the trumpet and bugle bands in those early years owed their existence to the military establishments. To give you an idea of their importance to the activity, consider that one of the oldest, if not THE oldest trumpet band in Canada, was the Queen's Own Bugles, attached to the Queen's Own Rifle Regiment, in Toronto. They claim to have started the band in 1860, and were champions of the Waterloo Band Festival into the 1950's. They would be designated as a senior parade class drum and bugle corps, and continued into the early 1970's. Other military organizations that were important in the trumpet and drum field included the Elgin Regiment

Scout House Bugle Band, started in Preston, Ontario in 1938, and the Hanover District High School Girls Trumpet Band, begun in 1930. During this period also was St. Mary's of Toronto...the most successful in garnering Jr. Championships.

With the outbreak of World War II, many regiments found their bands folding, as most of their members went on active service. Those non-military organizations continued, doing many appearances for patriotic, and promotional purposes.

After the war many bandmen returned to their units, and many more were instrumental in the development of new drum and bugle bands throughout the country. Included in these new groups were the Sarnia Lionettes, formed in 1945; the Niagara Memorial Militaires, a Senior corps begun in 1947 and the Saints of Port Credit also formed in 1947. With the development of the "Fancy Drill" class, about 1947, which was music set to drill performance of

*Prof. Thiele leads The Waterloo Musical Society Band onto the field at the Waterloo Band Festival*



## THE 30'S AND 40'S

Corps of Drums, started in 1910, the 11th Field Regiment RCA, of Guelph, Ontario, started in 1932, and are known today as the Guelph Royales, the Second Signals Band of Toronto, about whom there is a more detailed article in this publication. There was the 48th Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers, of Kitchener-Waterloo, that later became the Flying Dutchmen; the Fifth Column Army Service Corps, later the Jolly Jesters, and the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, later to be known as the Viscounts. Several non-military bands existed even back in the 1930's, and the most prominent was the DeLaSalle Band of Toronto, started in 1910, and most famous was the

eight to ten minutes, many other corps appeared on the scene, and these included Scout House, The 180th Mosquito Squadron Air Cadets, The Toronto Western Technical School Trumpet Band, and R.C.C. S.C. Temeraire. This brought up the next step, and that was to allow the groups freedom to adopt their own music, doing away with the test pieces that had been the norm up to this time, and allow them to use any accessory equipment that they might like to use such as bells, chinese gongs, etc.

In those early years there were two major contests a year, the Royal City Tattoo, that took place in Guelph, usually the first Saturday in June,



*In the 60's Spring Camps were established along with Initiation Ceremonies for the Rookies.*



*In the '60's American corps were invited to Canadian events to attract the crowds. Garfield's Drum Major with "Chief" at the 1963 Anniversary Scout House show.*

# THE '60's

*Chessmen St. Catharines*



*London Midlanders*



*Sertomanaires, Sarnia*



and the Waterloo Music Festival, the last Saturday in June. During the days of the test piece, it was not uncommon to have a massed band performance during the retreat ceremony. As every group could play that one competitive piece, they would all play the number together.

*The 2nd Sigs*



The reward for winning a championship in the 1940's was a trophy, and although appreciated, trophies would not buy equipment, or pay for travelling costs. Out of this need for funds arose the Toronto Music Festival, sponsored by George Newnham through his store Drummer's Paradise. He offered cash awards as well as trophies. This very successful addition to the competitive season for drum and bugle bands, brought other groups onto the scene, and these included S.R.S. Princess Royal Girls Band, The Danforth Tech 330th Air Cadet Corps of Toronto, East York Collegiate (Toronto), and The Parkdale Lions Girls Band also from Toronto. The Festival lasted 3 years and was discontinued when the bands wanted it held outside Toronto, which was not satisfactory to the sponsor. A later decision saw the Championships moved to September and sponsored by the Association.

Expansion and diversification continued into the 1950's and corps that appeared on that scene included The Arnprior Lions, The O.Y.B. Lamplighters (Smith Falls), The St. John's College Girls Corps (Brantford), The Toronto Optimists, The Durham High School Girls Band. The band of the 48th Field Squadron, R.C.E. was formed in 1954 and was the first military band to join the marching and manoeuvring activity. They left the military in 1959, took a new name, the Flying Dutchmen, and entered senior competition. Other names that were familiar in those years were the Leaside Lions, and the Lions Jungle Kings, The Optimist Bantams, Kawartha Cavaliers (Lindsay), the Midtowners of Toronto and The Patrolmen of Oakville. Up north, in 1953 the Blue

Saints of Sudbury were formed as a school activity by the Sudbury Mining and Technical School.

The 1960's brought the beginning of drum corps to the Province of Quebec and units such as Aristocrats (1963), Gladiateurs De Montreal (1963), Les Diplomates of Quebec City (1961), Dynamiques of Buckingham (1962), Les Grenadiers de Shawinigan (1960), Les Troubadors of Hull and Les Sphinx De Sainte Therese (1963) began to be noted. Corps in Ontario included The Don Mills Sky Raiders, The Richmond Hill Hilltoppers, the 180th Mosquito Squadron became the The York Lions. Grantham Township formed a police boys' band and other units were The Port Dalhousie Guardsmen, The Kempenfeld Bay Boys Band (Barrie), The Senoritas, later known as the Kinsmen Girls of Stoney Creek, The Royals of St. Thomas, The Patrolettes of Hamilton and The Sertomanaires, later known as the Marching Diplomats of Sarnia. Other units included The Belltones of Brantford, later called The Majestic Knights, The Trojans (Welland), The Limestone City Grenadiers (Kingston), The Imperials (Woodstock), The Simcoe Royal Blues, The Majestics of St. Catharines, later known as The Chessmen, RCSCC Ajax and The Opti-Knights both from Guelph. Also there were The Pickering Blue Notes, the Parkdale Pirettes and Golden Monarchs, both from Toronto, in Sarnia the Marching Angels, in Hamilton The Conqueror and the Columbus Boys Band of Toronto.

In 1961 the name of the Association was changed to the Canadian Drum Corps Association.

Other corps begun in the late '60's were The Optimist Cadets, Cardinals of Precious Blood (Scarborough), Scarborough Firefighters and their feeder corps The Sparkies and the Crusaders of Etobicoke, succeeding the Michael Power school corps in 1969. The Dutch Boy Cadets were started in 1969 and The LaSalle Cadets of Ottawa were formed in 1963. In



*St. John's at indoor exhibition— 1960s*

1965 the Marching Saints of Carleton Place were organized and the London Midlanders started in 1966 through a merger of Woodstock Imperials and the Oakridge Optimists. 1969 saw the start of the Optimist Lancers of Etobicoke and the Senators of Brampton formed in 1966. The Townsmen of Leamington were reformed in 1967 and the Flying Dutch-

men of Kitchener became a junior corps that same year...The Golden Lions Jr. corps succeeded the Sr. Royal Blues in 1969. The Companions of Embrun were started in 1966. The Jesters of Toronto merged with the Viscounts of Hamilton and formed The Canadian Commanders, later mover to Burlington and were known as the Burlington Commanders. The Centurions were started in Stouffville, close to the Markham Collegettes, an all-girl corps that has started some years previous.

**AND.... MORE RECENT YEARS...**

The 1970's were the Glory Years, at least insofar as the junior scene was concerned, and insofar as consideration of the status gained by the corps in international competition. At one point it looked like there could be three Ontario drum corps placing in the top 12 in world competition (DCI). The early 1970's witnessed corps called the 4th Brigade from St. Jerome, Quebec, The Peterborough Krescendos,

The Kinsmen (East Scarborough), the Kiwanis Cavaliers (Kitchener-Waterloo), and the Seneca Princemen succeeding The Scarborough Firefighters in 1972. Also in 1972 the Ventures were organized in Kitchener-Waterloo. In 1973 Chatelaines Du Laval were reformed, in Sarnia the Bluewater Buccaneers succeeded the all-girl Lionettes in 1973 and the Windsor Guardsmen came into existence in 1974. Another new corps that made a brief appearance were The Chessmen from Prescott, Ontario. St Andrews were formed in 1973, originally in Kitchener, but very shortly moving down the road to Cambridge. In 1972 the Coachmen were started in Keswick and in Toronto the Cadet Lancers formed from a merger of the Optimist Cadets of Scarborough and the Lancers of Etobicoke, in 1974.

At the Canadian Championships of 1975 the all-girl class was won by a corps from Montmagny, Quebec, The Marionnettes, who then folded when they got home. That same year DeLaSalle Oaklands lost their school sponsor and merged with the west Toronto Etobicoke Crusaders into a new corps called The Oakland Crusaders. The Ambassadors of Aurora were formed in 1973, and from a slow start, began competing in 1975. In early 1976 the Toronto Optimists merged with the Seneca Princemen to form The Seneca Optimists. Also, in the fall of that same year, with a reorganization of several groups in Kitchener, the North Star Drum Corps was born, and for the next few years Oakland Crusaders, Seneca Optimists and North Star were of international calibre, and travelled extensively in the United States.

In 1976 the Ontario Drum Corps Association was set up to promote the Ontario corps and at the same time a Quebec provincial organization was formed to promote corps activity in that province. From that time on, there was little interchange between the two provinces, and very little participation by Quebec in the National Championships. In the 1970's the Canadian Championships virtually belonged to DeLaSalle, later the Oakland Crusaders, with the exception of 1974, when it was taken by the Scarborough Fire-



*Flying Dutchmen, Kitchener*



*Scarborough Firefighters*



*York Lions*

fighters, and in 1977 by Seneca Optimists, and 1979 by L'Offensive Lions of Jonquiere, Quebec...the last time a corps from Quebec competed in the National Championships. However, some interest was apparent in the Western Provinces, and in 1976 the Edmonton Strutters competed, and the 1st Canadian Regiment, also from Edmonton appeared at Nationals, and won, in 1980.

In 1979 the Optimists withdrew from competition, and discontinued completely shortly thereafter. North Star became Dutch Boy in Kitchener, and in 1980 the Oakland Crusaders withdrew from active competition. With all this happening, some of the experts were sure they were looking at the demise of drum corps in Ontario, but such was not to be the case, and the resurgence of the program is detailed elsewhere in this presentation.

*We apologize for the probable omission of other units that existed during the 50 year history of the activity in Canada, but in writing a recorded report of this kind you are dependent on the memories, and written reports of the times, both of which were found wanting. If anyone reading this journal has anything they would like to contribute for future up-date editions, we would be only too pleased to hear from you. Write to Mr. Al Tierney, ODCA, 466 Lake Dr. S., Keswick, Ont., Canada L4P 1R1*



*L'Offensive Lions*



*The Marching Ambassadors*



*First Cdn. Regiment  
Edmonton*



*The Commanders*



*Cardinals*



It is probably safe to say that most of the regiments of Ontario, and other provinces, had some form of marching bands dating back to their founding in some instances would likely go back to England, Scotland, perhaps even France. The nature, and makeup, of these bands is not known, at this time, but the very simplest of these units would have included drums and bugles. Both of these instruments had uses other than marching with the troops, the most important was their use as signaling devices.

With this elementary introduction, we have the opportunity to look at a military band, which was part of a Signal Corps, about which we have some detailed history, and which was referred to as "CANADA'S FINEST MILITARY TRUMPET BAND". To many people who grew up with the modern day drum and bugle corps, many who are still active as instructors, managers and judges, the Toronto Signals Trumpet Band was the epitome of drum corps, to be looked upon with envy and the avowed intention of someday belonging to this wonderful marching band.

The exact starting date is somewhat clouded, but it was either 1926, 1928 or 1932. On formation they were the trumpet band for the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, and were more commonly called The Second Signals Trumpet Band, and more familiarly as "Second Sigs". During their long history they have had a number of firsts to their credit. In 1939 they adopted the first set of one valve trumpets ever used in Canada, and were the first to incorporate bell lyres into their marching arrangements.

The band was a major unit among the marching bands during the 1930's and the 1940's, and ranged in membership from 41 in 1937 to 13 in 1941. During the war years many of the bands were either phased out, or used primarily on in-house formations.

Immediately following the war the band was regrouped, and in 1950 had a membership of 52. With the advent, and advance of the "fancy drill" or marching and manoeuvring program, many of the units that have been attached to the military looked enviously at the self sponsored groups who were competing at that level. The military organizations were discouraged from taking part, and for a time many of them tried to participate doing both, but in different uniforms. This proved to be a hardship, so with the activity moving strongly towards the M&M concept, many military bands left their sponsoring units, and became self sponsored drum corps. In the case of the Second Sigs, in the late 1950's they became Canada's Marching Ambassadors and as such were one of the pioneers in the marching and manoeuvring program.. For a time they were sponsored by the Canadian Legion, Branch 13 of Scarborough and during this period won the Canadian National Championships in the Senior class, three consecutive times. They returned to military jurisdiction in the 1960's, as the Regimental Band of the Second Signals Regiment, and are now associated with 709 (Toronto) Communications Regiment.

The "Sigs" have won many honours during their 58 year history, and have many trophies, awards and citations in their band room at York Armouries to attest to their expertise. They have been a leader, and award winner in the CNE Warrior's Day Parade, The Grey Cup Parade and have made appearances in the Calgary Stampede Parade, Kitchener's Oktoberfest Parade and the Toronto Santa Claus Parade, to name but a few.

The band continues its long and illustrious history, marching in excess of 50 members, one of whom appears in a 1941 photograph of the band. The average age of the members is now fifty, and among themselves represent a big part of the history of drum & bugle bands, and corps in Ontario.

They are always on the lookout for new recruits. If you would like to be a member of this historical organization, attend a rehearsal at the York Armouries, in Toronto any Monday evening.





The band was founded in 1910, at De La Salle High School on Duke Street, in Toronto, and was formed to parade the high school cadet corps. It was an integral part of the Cadet Corps, and considered a military unit. The army supplied the instructors, and the government assisted with money grants. At the start they marched some 32 playing members, and the uniform, until 1927, was dark grey, trimmed in green and highly military in appearance.

The DeLaSalle Cadet Corps and band, finished second in International competition for such units, in 1913, and were so impressive they were invited to compete in Australia, but finances were not available for such a trip. During the First World War DeLaSalle became affiliated with the Irish Regiment of Canada, which resulted in the band playing Irish tunes from then until the 1950's. For a time they even added six pipers. In 1915 the band moved from Duke Street to Bond Street, and the band operated from there for the next 16 years. After the war most of the high school cadet bands were discontinued but DeLaSalle maintained their corps as an extra curricular activity, and the band continued to parade the school cadets, and participate in small street parades.

parades and tattoos. In 1947 the high school cadet corps was discontinued, but the band was so entrenched in the life of the school that there was no thought of discontinuing this important activity. The band was now a completely separate entity. They put on special performances that included a drill referred to as the "Square Formation". In 1947 the band was invited to perform in the Nation's Capital, and on leaving Toronto by train they marched, playing right into the Union Station, and arriving in Ottawa, with drums beating and bugles blazing, they proudly marched out of the Ottawa train station. Everyone soon knew that Del had arrived.

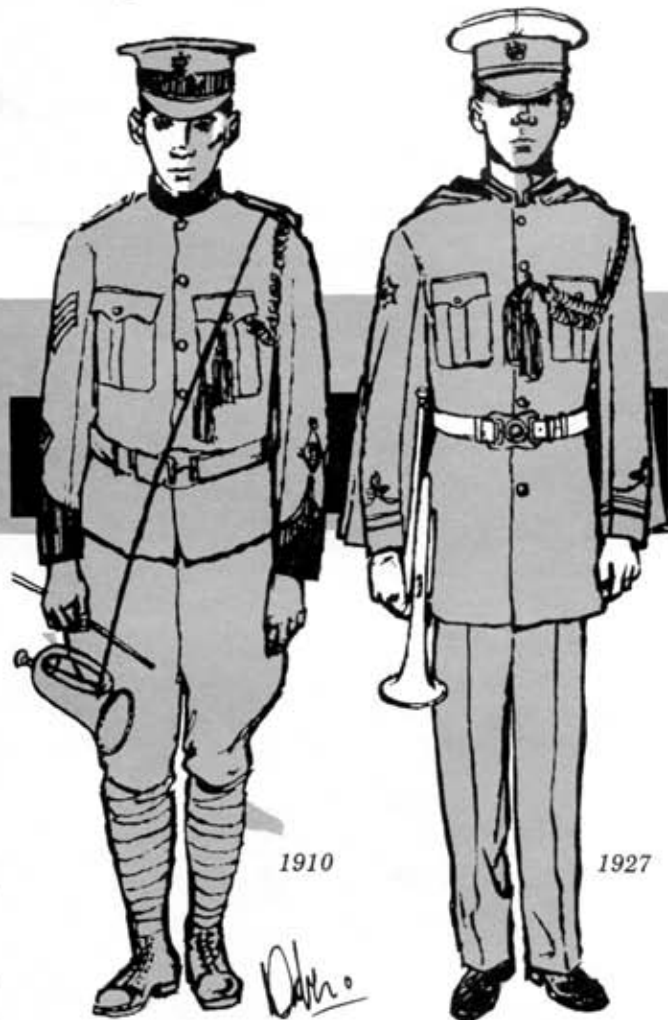


# De La Salle

In 1927 Johnny Jackson took over the direction of the band, and many changes took place. He designed a new uniform, which for the next thirty years was to become famous throughout Canada, and in many parts of the United States. The Del Band appeared in a navy blue uniform, trimmed in gold, with white hats and white gloves. Added to this was a striking gold cape, that gave the band its distinctive appearance. Enrolment was increased until finally there were 120 members, consisting of 32 snare drums, 8 tenor drums, 2 bass drums, 8 bugle bells, 6 cymbals, and 64 bugles. These two features, the striking uniform, and the large numbers of marchers, were the foundation of the impressive appearance and reputation the band enjoyed.

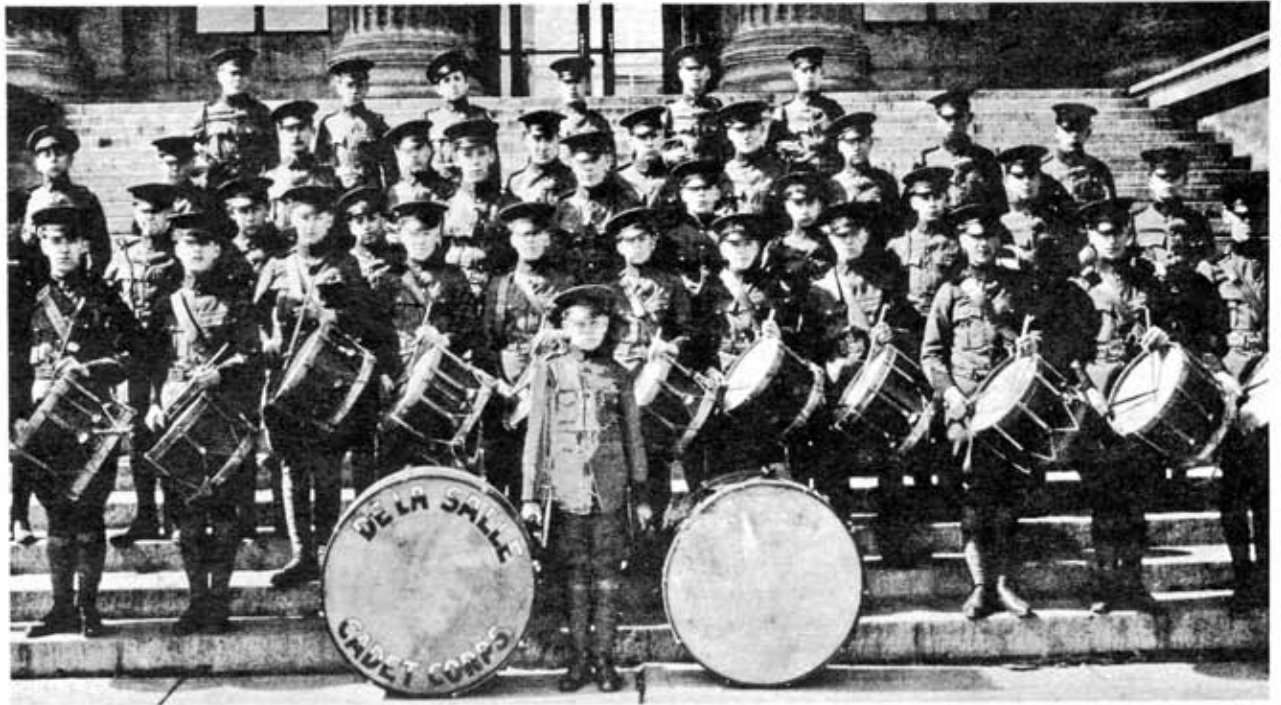
In 1931 the band moved to an area of the city known as "Oaklands", now Avenue Road and St. Clair when the band was now appearing separately from the cadet corps, and more and more it appeared at functions independent of the cadets. As new and better instruments were developed for bugle bands, Del purchased them. This happened in 1932 and again in 1938, the latter purchase included silver-plated bugles and chrome drums. In 1939 the band was honoured to perform for a week at the World's Fair in New York City.

The Second World War were busy years for the band. Recognized as a leader in the field, they made many appearances at military shows, campaign rallies,

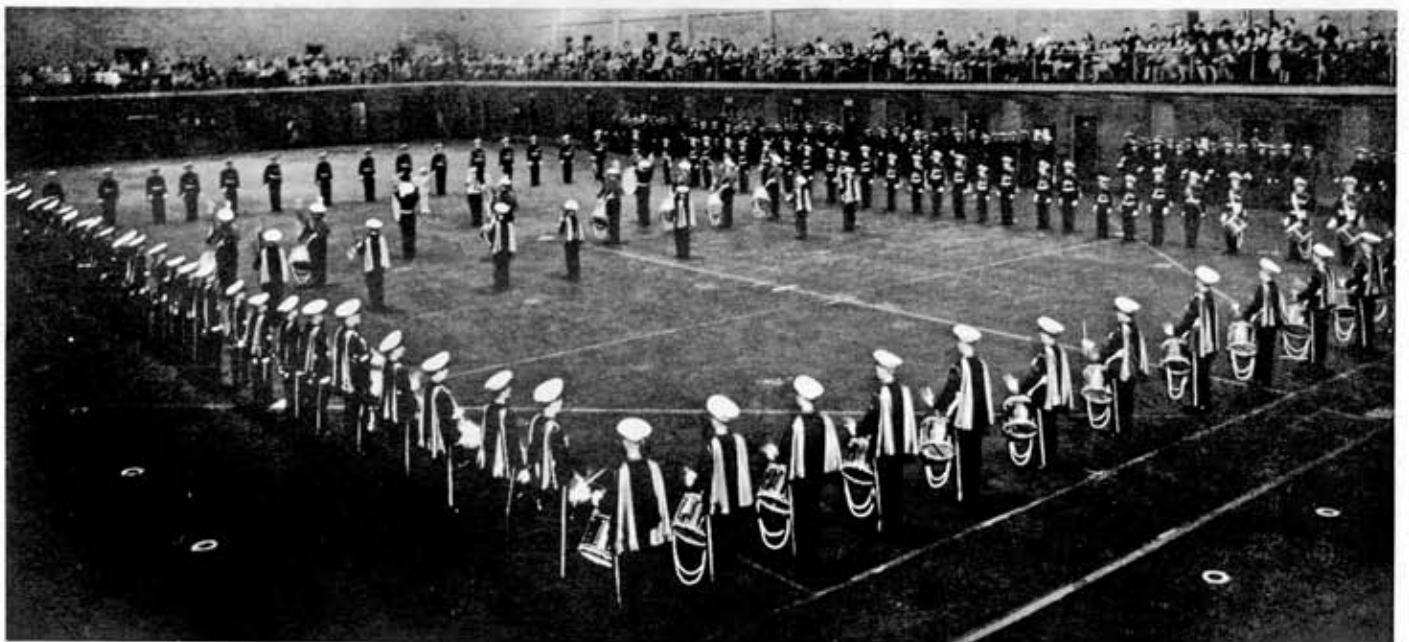


In 1949 the college again purchased a new set of harmony bugles. Each bugle bore a small shield on which was inscribed the name of the donor.

After an impressive appearance in Montreal in 1954, the band returned home to begin its death watch. Life was changing. Television was now an established fixture, and with other activities becoming popular, street parades were becoming a thing of the past. Appearances of the DeLaSalle Band became fewer and fewer... the band appeared only five times in the two years of 1956 and 1957. A



*The 1923 Cadet Band, on the steps of the Lands & Titles Building, Toronto*



*Famous Square Formation at the Cadet Inspection, May 3, 1947*

decision had to be made to continue, or to fold the unit. The decision was made to continue, but to adopt what was being called the "drum corps" approach.

With this decision, the new corps was faced with three problems-- instruments, uniforms and executive personnel. The first problem, instruments, was solved

within two weeks, with several successful fund raising programs, they raised \$7,000.00 and purchased a new set of chrome plated bugles and drums. The bugles were the latest development of that year, and included both a piston and a rotor, which allowed a wider variety of arrangements.

The second problem, uniforms, was solved by agreeing to a three year evolution. The blue tunics,



Corps rehearsal  
water-front lot  
Toronto

1966



1960

and capes, were gone, to be replaced by white satin shirts, and a red cummerbund, and other trim was also red. The hat and pants were retained. The new corps that year marched about 50 members.

In 1960 the next transition was to a white shirt and pants, the shirt having a red and green stripe. There was a red cummerbund, with a red, white and green sash. A red stripe on the trousers, white bucks, and a white and green shako, with a bright red plume. Added to all of this was a full length scarlet cloak, lined with green.

The third problem was the development of executive talent from former marching members of the corps. The college maintained a supervisory attitude, but the day to day administration was left to volunteers. Their first appearance, in competition, as a drum and bugle corps was June 21st., 1958, at East York Stadium where they placed 2nd behind the then Canadian Champion Preston Scout House. At the Championships in August of that year, in Galt, the corps placed third behind the new champions, the Toronto Optimists, and Preston Scout House. Thus began one of the greatest rivalries that Canadian drum corps have ever known... that between the Toronto Optimists and DeLaSalle.

The Optimists won the Canadian National Championship, with DeLaSalle a close second or third every year after 1958, until 1968. DeLaSalle were then the National Champions in 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973 and 1974. They won the Province of Ontario title in 1961 and 1968 to 1974, inclusive. They were members of Drum Corps International (the top 12 corps in North America) in 1972 and 1974.

Early in 1975 DeLaSalle College withdrew their sponsorship of the corps, after 65 continuous years. Seventy-five marching members, and the entire management and instructional staff, left the college, and merged with the west Toronto Etobicoke Crusaders

Drum Corps, and adopted the name of Oakland Crusaders Drum Corps, and continued their winning ways.

The Oakland Crusaders were Ontario Provincial Champions in 1975, 1976, 1978 and 1980. They were Canadian National Champions in 1975 and 1976 and members of DCI (Drum Corps International) in 1975 through to 1980. In 1980 they fell on hard times, both financially and numerically. They virtually withdrew from competition, in an effort to reorganize, and although the corps has continued to function, and take part in local exhibitions and parades, it is still striving to regain it's position as the most successful Canadian drum corps that ever competed in the International arena.



Etobicoke Oakland  
Crusaders— 1975

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ARTICLE FROM  
THE SEPTEMBER 7th, 1957 EDITION OF THE  
STAR WEEKLY MAGAZINE ON ONE OF THE  
MOST FAMOUS DRUM CORPS IN NORTH  
AMERICA AT THAT TIME—



# THE SCOUT HOUSE Story

*"In Step With Youth"*



Seeing is believing, and you wouldn't believe the tricks the Preston Scout House Junior Bugle Band can do, unless you saw them perform

They don't just march, play well and make pretty crisscross patterns on the field. They waltz and two step, swing and sway, rock and roll and, if you name any other step, they can do that too, while they play.

These red shirted musicians in stovepipe pants have twice been declared Canadian Jr. Champions, and next year they're invited to play at the Tournament of Roses in Pasadena, California. They are THE band in Ontario's Galt-Kitchener-Waterloo area, but are probably better known in the United States than in Canada.

The band has been booked solid through the summer and some of the biggest engagements are in the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio and Pennsylvania. There's \$1,000.00 at each of the U.S. stops, and south of the border they're happy to pay. Nowhere in Ontario is the group likely to pick up more

than \$250.00. The youngsters have turned down 3 invitations to the Calgary Stampede for lack of sufficient funds.

The story behind this Cinderella outfit is just about as interesting as it's performance on the field. It centres around genial Wilf Blum, a Preston bachelor druggist who, when he started the ball rolling 20 years ago, couldn't play a note of music. Now, with the band at the peak of its fame, he still can't. Music is not Wilf Blum's department. He leaves teaching and arranging to capable Gene Seymour. Wilf concerns himself with the band's smartness on the field, the intricate patterns it makes, and the crowd pleasing steps it carries out. If you didn't know the bandsmen were aged from 14 to 21 you'd swear they were trained soldiers. The army would be happy to enlist them as a precision squad.

Twenty years ago one of the town's late benefactors gave a horse stable, and \$250.00 —no strings attached— to start a boy scout band and troop. He

signed a 99 year lease on a building that had no windows, not even a floor. Today, that same building, fixed up by the scouts, is worth more than \$50,000. according to Mr. Blum.

As the Scout House troop grew, so did the band, until at one stage there were 30 Queen's Scouts in it. This apparently was too much for the other scout



*This small truck carried all equipment.*

leaders, who contended the boys were paying too much attention to the band and not enough to their other training. Four years ago, 1953, came the parting of the ways.

"I maintained" said Wilf, "that in these days of television, and other things competing for young peoples attention, there had to be something more than just tying knots to keep the boys interested. We broke off from the Scouts, and drew up new uniforms patterned generally on the regular scout outfit."

"Some of the boys, visiting a hat factory in Guelph, noticed the black felt models that were being made for the Mennonites," he went on. "We thought it would be smart if we bought that style, turned up the brim on one side, like the Aussie soldiers do, and pinned it with a silver maple leaf. It would have a red and white feather plume.

"A contest among the boys brought the bright red shirt decision, the short pants, white gauntlets, red socks with white tassels and black laceless shoes. We go to Guelph, Kitchener, Waterloo, London and Ottawa for various parts of the uniform."

The one thing that caused a controversy and still does, is those navy blue, ultra short pants. They are much shorter than those worn by the regular scouts, but Wilf ruled that they were the proper thing to wear so there would be no chafing, as a result of the band's intricate steps.

Dark, good looking Paul Bauer was made Drum Major, all decked out in white, and he has learned to handle his men like a general. While there are 100 in the band, 63 are actually paraded - 32 horns, sopranos, tenors, baritones, bass-baritones and french horns; 15 drums, 4 glockenspiels, and a colour party of 12.

"I think it's safe to say we're one of the most sought-after bands in Canada," said Wilf. "We've been told we have the best drum corps in the country, including the senior bands. At the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto this year we competed against

senior bands for the first time. The average age in our group is 16. At that, we have 20 boys who are over 6 feet."

The band, which earned \$10,000.00 last year and spent it, has caught the fancy of radio stations with the four records it has made, one of which is called 'Scout House On Parade'. The record revenue helps to keep it in business and four years ago the band became incorporated, although the only paid member is Gene Seymour, the arranger.

While the band keeps abreast of most popular music, it's favorite number is 'Rhapsody In Blue'. The boys swing their legs in beat to waltz tunes and when they come to 'Parade Of The Wooden Soldiers', they walk stiff-legged, then rock backward and forward, as though on hobby-horses.

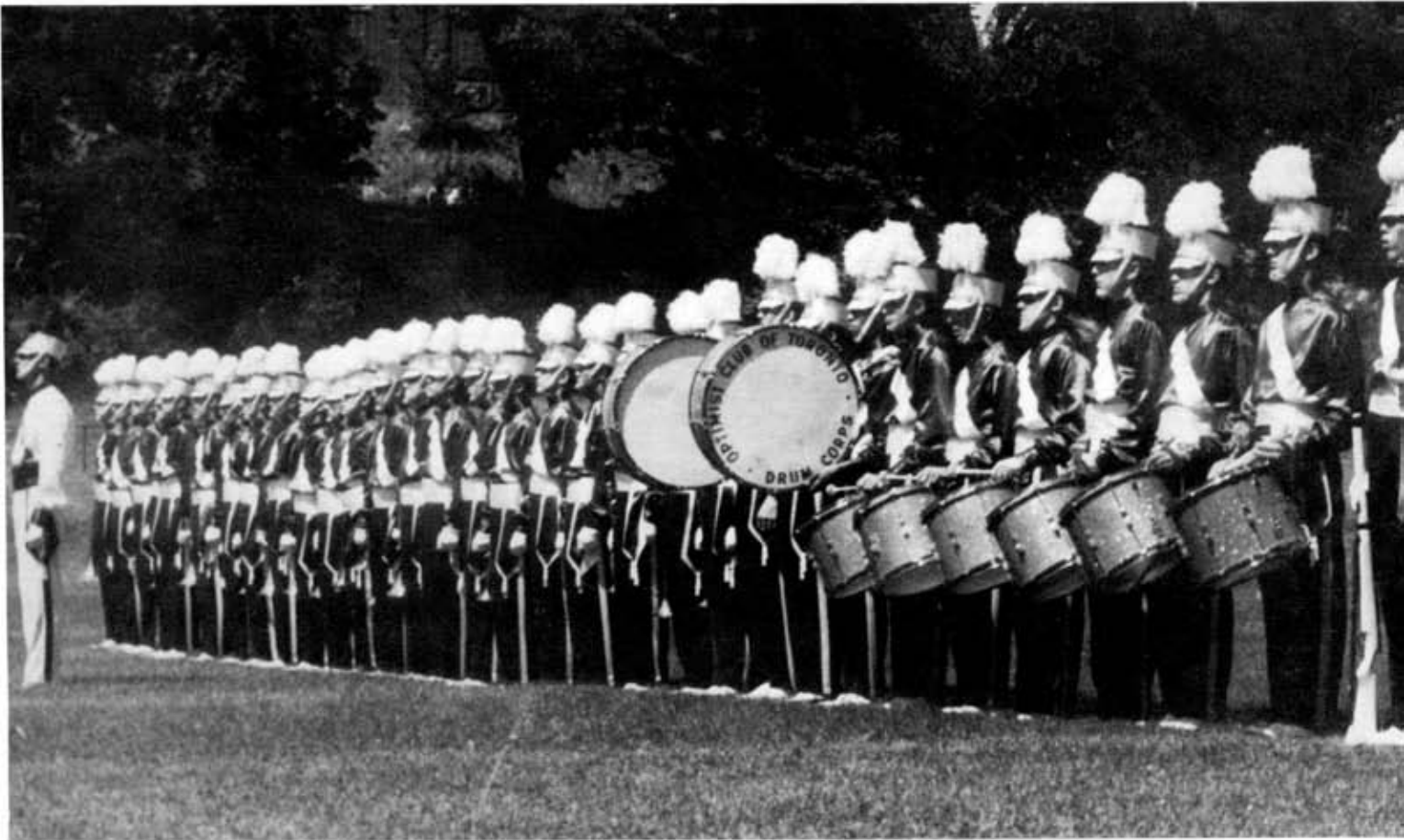
"We turn no boy away who is really interested in joining our band", said Wilf. "If they can't make it good on bugling or drumming we may find a place for them carrying a flag or a lance. Our discipline is strict and we allow no smoking when we are on an engagement. Our slogan is, "There's no sense winning on the field if you lose off the field."



*1960 Block formation even when sitting in the stands.*

*"Off-the-line..."*





Much of the history of drum and bugle corps in Canada, the exciting years, the disappointing years, the progress and the decline, can be best described by an in-depth look at one of the truly great drum corps, THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS.

The Optimists trace their history to 1952, and a scout band that was part of the youth program offered by the 18th Toronto Boy Scout Troop, and the founder was one "Bud" Parker. For a time it was part of the 157th Scout Troop under the direction of Alan W. Baggs, who is also mentioned elsewhere in this publication. In 1955 the scout troop decided to discontinue the band, and Al Baggs convinced the Downtown Optimist Club of Toronto to take on the sponsorship of this fledgling group.

In 1956, still wearing the scout uniforms, the corps won the Canadian Novice Jr. title at the National Championships in Merriton, Ont. The following year with new uniforms of blue and gold, the corps moved up a notch and entered the Jr. B M&M class at the Championships in Waterloo, and won.

Immediately following the Championships, in the fall of 1957 the Optimists added boys from the Danforth Crusaders along with their instructors, Barry Bell on bugles and Lorne Ferrazutti on percussion. They now moved up to the Jr. 'A' division and new uniforms were purchased featuring black trousers, green blouse with white stripe and white shako. Their first contest was in May of 1958 at the University Armories in Toronto against the then National Champion Preston Scout House. Scout House won by a healthy margin but in each contest following, during that summer Optimists closed the gap, winning



Scout House

the "A" title in Galt in September. They were to repeat this win for the next ten years... a record unequalled by any other drum corps in North America.

Barry and Lorne were to stay as the main instructors for Optimists all through their winning years; until 1969, when they moved to help set up a feeder corps in Etobicoke, to be known as the Optimist Lancers.



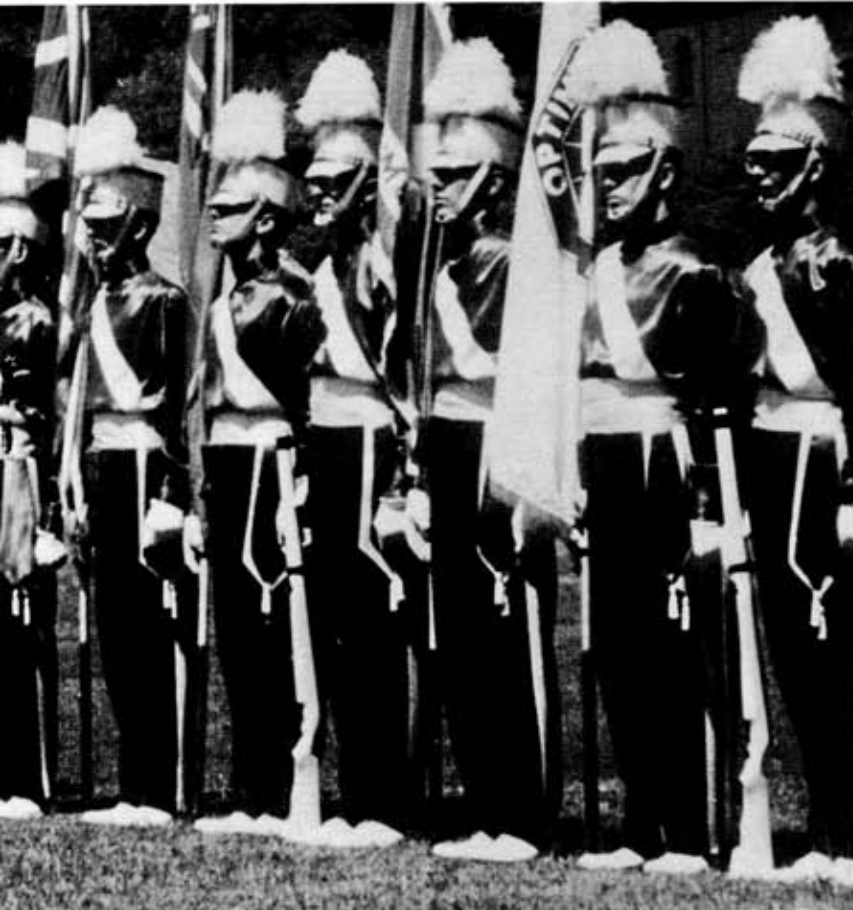
Barry Bell & Al Baggs



Lorne Ferrazutti

In 1959 the Optimists organized their first feeder corps, with equipment donated by Whaley Royce, of Toronto. There were 28 boys under the direction of former marching member Bill Jay and the corps was named the Optimist Bantams. It must be remembered that the Optimists were an all boy drum corps until

# The TORONTO OPTIMISTS



*The 1958 corps pose On-The-Starting-Line on the campus of DeLaSalle College.*

1972. In 1960 the Bantams won the Jr. Novice Standstill Championship at the Nationals in Hamilton. In 1961 the corps marked time, due to the difficulty in getting adequate instructional staff. In 1962, with a new staff, they again won the Novice title. In 1963 they competed Parade Class, and finished second. In 1964 they discontinued due to a lack of management and instructional staff, but decided to resurrect the corps in 1965, under a new name, The Optimist Cadets; under the director of Optimist Al Simms. During the 1965 and '66 seasons the Cadets operated under class room conditions, and did not march. The graduates of this educational program moved up to the Optimists. Because of the class room approach it was difficult to keep all members interested, so the status was again raised to Parade class and the corps was moved to Scarborough under a new Director, Al Tierney. In October of 1967 Mr. Tierney initiated an extensive recruiting drive that brought in 140 new members. In April of 1968 the Cadets performed in their first parade, all newly uniformed and equipped. (Most of their equipment had been purchased from the Hamilton Conqueror drum corps that was no longer competing.)

During the early 1960s the Optimists were able to field a highly competitive corps by maintaining a relentless recruiting campaign, but more particularly by accepting into membership experienced people who became available when their corps ceased to operate, or members who were ambitious to be a member of such a winning team. Members came from St. Mary's Drum Corps, the Merritton Buccaneers, the Dennis Morris Majestics, the Richmond Hill



*Cadets on parade.*



*Richard Brown  
of Lancers*

About 1970, the Optimist Club of Toronto, the original sponsor for so many years, acknowledged that the operation of the corps, now three corps, was beyond their financial capabilities, and signified their intentions to withdraw their support. The existing members of the management, and instructional staffs, of the three corps began to raise the funds required and formed their own Optimist Club, the Optimist Club of York-Toronto, with 40 Charter members. The Downtown club sold the assets of the corps to



Don. Daber

the new club for \$1.00. The members of that new club, themselves, represented a continuity of interest that would go back into the 1940's.

Don Daber took over the direction of the Optimists in 1963, and continued until 1969, succeeded by Al Tierney, until his election as Charter President of the new club, and Don took back the reigns until, again, succeeded by Bob Christie, then George Wright, and in 1974-'75 by Doug McKenzie.

During this 5 year period the Optimists experienced some very trying times. With the addition of a younger instructional staff, limited funds, and younger, inexperienced members, they had great difficulty in getting their act together. They lost the National Championships on several occasions, to DeLaSalle, won in 1972, for the 12th time, lost again in 1973, and lost again in 1974 to the Seneca Princemen, the former Scarborough Firefighters Drum Corps, and 1975 to the recently formed Oakland Crusaders Drum Corps. However, they were making progress...they finished 16th at the DCI Championships in Philadelphia, a substantial improvement over their 34th place finish the year before.

In 1970, recognizing the inevitable, the Optimist Club of York-Toronto agreed to establish a separate colour guard of girls, the Opti-Miss, to operate outside the corps, under the direction and supervision of Lenore Stevenson. In 1972 this girls guard was merged with the corps and the Optimists were now a co-ed corps, becoming another group to follow what was becoming a universal trend. Shortly thereafter the corps admitted girls into the bugle section, but it wasn't until 1976 that a girl joined the percussion section.

In late 1975, Al Tierney, once again, became Director, leaving St. John's of Brantford, where he had been the Business Manager since 1972. Major financial commitments had to be made, new bugles were needed; and the uniforms, the green satin blouses that had been adopted by the corps since 1962 (revised version) needed to be completely replaced. During this same period, Optimists were carrying on negotiations with the Seneca Princemen, about a proposed merger. Both units had a membership of about 70, not enough for Optimists to progress in the DCI arena, and too young for the Princemen to field the corps that they wanted.



Krescendos



Al Tierney & Wolfgang Petschke

The Director of the Princemen, Wolfgang Petschke, felt that the merger would benefit both groups, and the decision to go ahead was reached in early 1976. Many of the very young members left, and went to the Cardinals, but the new Seneca Optimists were 128 strong, had an enthusiastic management, and dedicated, and knowledgeable, instructors. The merger provided the necessary bugles that were needed, the sale of surplus equipment provided some of the needed operating revenue, and the arrival on the scene of Wintario funds from the Ontario government allowed the purchase of new uniforms, although in a new colour, yellow, not previously identified with either of the former corps.



Seneca Optimists

In 1976, with this potential contender for DCI honours, the new Seneca Optimists laid out a very challenging contest schedule, competed 15 times, and finished 12th at DCI in Philadelphia.

In 1977 the momentum was maintained. They competed 27 times and finished 9th at DCI in Denver Colorado...

Then the corps lost over half of it's members. Rehearsals were poorly attended during early 1978, and the potential of the corps was dismal. However, in May, the Peterborough Krescendos decided to withdraw from competition for that year, and volunteered to loan their members to the Seneca Optimists for the summer. Grateful for the reprieve, Seneca went into a crash program of rehearsals, but despite the valiant efforts of all concerned, managers, members and instructors, it was not to be. The corps finished 24th at the DCI Championships in Denver. At the end of the season, the Krescendo members returned to Peterborough, the Seneca Optimists had a poor recruiting program, and although practicing continued in the fall months, with the coming of the winter months, it was all over.

The corps actively competed for 22 years, changed uniforms 4 times, names 3 times, merged twice, started 3 feeder corps, one colour guard, and won a National Championship 15 times, as well as many miscellaneous championships, and was among the best 12 in the world, on two occasions.



# The Passing Scene...



Corps song—1972

Cadet Lancers  
D.M.'s, Nationals '76



Guard in song.

Lord Athol Layton, noted Sportman and a member of the Shriner's International Committee that sponsored the

Shrine Corps Contest was made an Honorary member of CDCA at their annual banquet.



In the early '60's everyone was wearing wedge caps with the corps name on the side.



In the early '60's hair cut styles were short, short, short as illustrated



What was it like, back in the early '60's ?

Our first exposure to the drum corps concept came through two friends, one who marched in Optimists, the other, Skyraiders. "Come out and see a drum corps show", they said. "Drum Corps" said we. Bugle bands marching up and down a field: We've got better things to do with our time. Well, one Saturday night we had nothing better to do, we couldn't even find a fourth for bridge, so we decided, against our better judgement, to find out what this drum corps stuff was all about, at East York Stadium in Toronto.



## RECOLLECTIONS OF A DRUM CORPS NUT...

By J. IAN STOTT

Drum corps abounded in those days. Jr. "A" class included DeLaSalle, the Toronto Optimists, Scout House, Midtowners, Grantham, St. John's Girls, Markham Girls, Marching Angels, Lionettes. In Jr. "B" were the York Lions, Columbus Boys, Belltones, The Patrolmen. In Sr. "A" were the Ambassadors, The Jolly Jesters, Royallaires, Militaires and the Flying Dutchmen. Sr. "B" had the Saints, Cobourg Legion, Kawartha Cavaliers and the Viscounts. Not many of these left today.

Columbus, Grantham of St. Catharines, the Oakville Patrolmen were among the first to call it quits, but new names were appearing. In Toronto, Michael Power Knights, and in Hamilton, Conqueror, with



*Hamilton Conqueror*

their Roman theme. In Sarnia, Sertomanaires, in Scarborough the Firefighters, in St. Catharines, the Chessmen.

On the Senior scene, Canada's Marching Ambassadors merged with the Saints of Port Credit, and the Jolly Jesters became the Jesters, then merged with the Hamilton Viscounts, to become the Canadian Commanders. Then the Ambassadors became the Fantasy Park Frontiersmen, after a spat with the Musicians Union, then resumed their earlier name, and shortly thereafter, folded. The Canadian Commanders moved to Burlington to become the Burlington Commanders, and then folded. The

Guelph Royalaires struggled along, while the Flying Dutchmen reorganized and became a Junior corps.

No one can forget that day at the Nationals, when a first year Senior corps from Quebec City changed the face of Canadian Sr. corps, forever. No one in the stadium gave them a chance, even when the Ambassadors were hit with a 7 point penalty. What were they called...oh yes, Les Diplomates. Even by the standards of the '60's their drum line was primitive, and all the horns had was dynamics, but the drill featured a merry-go-round, and they blew you back three rows with their horn power. "Les Dips" had arrived, drum corps had turned a corner. The fans got involved.

In the time before drum corps extended past the Mississippi, the dream of every enthusiastic fan was to attend the "Dream" contest at Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City. We who got there had never seen such crowds. The only seats left were in the end zone, at right angles to concert. Ralph Silverbrand fronted the famed Caballeros. The New York Skyliners were great and the Jr. Corps there included the Garfield Cadets, Boston Crusaders and the Audubon All Girls.

The following year, at the same show we remember best, asking, "What is a Casper, Wyoming?" Drum corps were moving west and the scene changed again. No, the Troopers didn't win that year but they stood the fans on their ears with their fantastic drill, and everyone knew that it was just a matter of time.

Back in Canada the Junior scene was dominated by the Toronto Optimists, championship after championship in one of the greatest winning streaks in drum corps history. DeLaSalle Oaklands tried in vain to catch them. Then, one weekend at a small contest in Eastern Ontario the announcer intoned, "In third place, DeLaSalle, in second place, the Toronto Optimists, and in first place, from Verdun, Quebec,



*Les Diplomats, Quebec City*



*Roosevelt Stadium, New Jersey*



*Les Metropolitans*

Les Metropolitans." For one afternoon they were the giant killers. They had done the impossible. They had beaten the "Canadian Green Machine" But "Sic transit gloria" As we recall they didn't win another show that year, or the next. Certainly not a major one.

They were soon consigned to the ever mounting scrap heap of corps that used to be.

Jr. "B" was hardest hit. Scout House gave up competition to exhibit "for the fans"... "not the judges" and soon passed away also. Conqueror folded. The Sarnia Sertomanaires briefly became Canada's Marching Diplomats, and then folded. Chessmen ceased and the Michael Power Knights became the Etobicoke Crusaders. But Del and Optimists marched on, battling still, and stonger than ever.

DeLaSalle College discontinued their corps which then moved to, and merged with the Etobicoke Crusaders, to form the Etobicoke Oakland Crusaders.

A small girl's corps from Kitchener-Waterloo

decided that DCI touring was the way to go, the way to win, so they went to California, came back, and won the Canadian Championships. The Ventures were the newest Canadian Champion on the scene.

What were the corps like back then? Well, a 36 man horn line was considered big, and the percussion section was usually 3 snares, 3 single tenors, 3 bass and 3 cymbals. The Guard section usually had 10 members who carried 8 to 10 foot poles, and marched at attention at all times. The National party was part of the field show, took part in the drill, and had a feature presentation in the competition called "Colour-pre". The drill itself was all straight lines, and the show started from the left end of the field, and finished at the right boundary line.

There were a variety of judges sheets...American Legion, from which the DCI rules were later adopted, had a 30 point GE mark, while the VFW sheets had 10 points in GE and an inspection caption. The Canadian sheets had 35 points in GE while New York State had a whopping 45 points in this category.

In the United States the VFW and American Legion were the 2 governing bodies for drum corps rules and

the individual units had no real input into rule changes, etc., and the Canadian corps had no input whatsoever. The contest sponsors were making good profits but corps prize money was minimal. In the spirit of the times the creative corps people would not take this lying down, so two new organizations appeared on the scene, the United Organization Of Jr. Corps in the East, and in the west the Western Combine. A year later these two groups became DCI, Drum Corps International with DeLaSalle as a Charter member.

What were corps people talking about in the '60's... For one thing, the rotten judging. For another, drum corps was being ruined by the modernists, who were encouraging the adoption of the contra-bass bugle, and other specialized equipment. Drum lines were going too far...they carried tymps...

So, two decades have passed, and what are people talking about now? For one thing, the rotten judging, for another, drum corps are being ruined by the changes...

*The Ventures*

*Canadaires  
St. Catharines*



*sleeping on bus*



The end of the 1970s looked like the end of the junior drum and bugle corps activity in Canada, or at least the end of an era that saw Canada become a power in international competition. The last of the junior units capable of making the top 25 in DCI was L'Offensive Lions, of Jonquiere, Quebec, and they left the scene after winning the 1979 Canadian Championships. Seneca Optimists folded, as did the North Star, Oakland Crusaders continue, but as a parade class corps. A modest position was maintained in "A" Class, or, as now designated, Division II, by Chatelaines De Laval, and the Ventures, of Kitchener-

competitive season. They adjusted rules, such as timing, came up with a revised judging requirements, amended all of the special requirements, as the situations dictated, and now, most of the better corps in Ontario are the result of this forward thinking.

Corps that had their birth in the late '70's drew their last breath in the early 1980's include The Belles of St. John's (a feeder corps for St. John's Girls), the Bluewater Bridgemen from Sarnia, The Coachmen of Keswick, The Companions of Embrun, Durham Girls, Etobicoke Knights (a feeder corps for the Etobicoke Crusaders), the Georgian Lancers of Owen Sound, the Simcoe Golden Lions, the Hyliters of Toronto, the Peterborough Krescendos, Imperials

# THE 80s

Waterloo, who have dominated that division, and the All Girl Class, the latter having been discontinued in International competition as well as at the Canadian Championships.

Throughout the history of the activity, individuals, and groups, have determined that by forming smaller, active organizations, made up of corps of similar calibre, and desires, they could best benefit. These groups used names such as The Western Ontario Jr. "B" Circuit, in the 1960's Drum Corps Canada, in the 1970's, made up of the ten highest scoring corps at their own open championships, and others, parade and military, who had personal concerns restricted to their primary arena. Included in this group was the Central Canada Circuit, referred to as the "C" Circuit, and now called "Drum Corps North". While the drum corps spectator was being well entertained by the very competitive open class corps in our midst, the "C" class corps, feeling they were being ignored, organized their own circuit, within the Ontario Drum Corps Association. They very quietly organized contests on a reciprocal basis, that allowed them to compete many times during the



*Simcoe  
Golden  
Lions*



*North Star  
Kitchener*



*The London  
Imperials*

of London, Lions of London, Niagara Regionaires (St. Catharines), Guelph Royal Knights, Rose City Guardsmen (Windsor), Leamington Townsmen, The Mississauga Explorers, Bradford Lions and Preston Scout House. Several organizations attempted to get going but didn't have all of the necessary ingredients—such as The Seneca Cadets, The North York Cadets, The Proud Canadians (Belleville), and Niagara White-water (Niagara Falls).

In an effort to improve the quality of the National Championships, several corps from New York state, such as the Greece Cadets, and The Squires, joined the Association, but New York state had fallen on tough times, as well, and the American contribution to the activity in Ontario and Canada has been restricted to the participation of the Frontiersmen, now Vengeance, of North Tonawanda.

With the giants of the activity crashing all around us, we could look with enthusiasm on new entries into the drum corps circle, such as the Ridge Raiders from Hamilton, and their cross town rival, the Conqueror II. Reorganization brought the Cadets of Dutch Boy from Kitchener-Waterloo on the scene, as well as the Canadian Knights of Peterborough, who won the "B" Class championship in 1983. We can look with pride on Brantford Girls, formerly St. John's, and the Blue Saints of Sudbury, who have been performing for 31 years. Bandettes of Sault Ste Marie are in their 21st year; Kiwanis Cavaliers—13 years, Ventures—11 years, and Ambassadors of Newmarket—10 years.



*Bandettes 15th Birthday, with Director Mary Wilson*

In 1984 we have one open class corps—Dutch Boy, of Kitchener-Waterloo, who placed in the top 25 at the 1983 DCI Championships held in Miami. We have eight "B" class corps—The BluewaterBuccaneers Cadets of Dutch Boy, Blue Saints, Conqueror II, St. Andrews, Cardinals, Ridge Raiders and the Emerald Cadets. We have seven "A" class units—Bandettes, Ambassadors, Kiwanis Cavaliers, Ventures, Brantford Girls, Rebels and The Canadian Knights. We have a number of members who prefer to restrict their activities to parades, and whom, we hope, will take part in our Championships, in that particular class.

We have one competitive Senior corps, the Royalaires and we have three marching bands. We always have representation in that class, at the Provincial and National Championships, and part of our priority is to expand the band division of the marching music activity.

Although many reasons are put forward for the demise of so many corps, and many are justified, the primary cause for virtually all of them, has been the lack of adequate management. In many instances a corps has prospered due to the dedication of one man and in many other cases, a corps has faltered, or folded, because no one in the community was prepared to invest the time that is required. In drawing this to your attention, at this time, we hope that you readers, most, if not all, former corps members, managers, judges or instructors, will give some consideration to helping the continual revitalization of an activity that meant so much to you in your younger days. If drum corps offered something to you, as a young person, surely the activity has much to offer to the young people of today.



26

*Brampton Senators*



*Judges at work*



# CJA



1964 Nationals

Al Baggs



The Leaside Lions First International Drum Corps Championships, on September 29, 1956 was the impetus that brought about the formation of the Canadian Judges Association. For the first time American senior corps came to Canada to compete—the famed Hawthorne Caballeros, Syracuse Brigadiers, Troy Grenadiers and the Cavaliers of Batavia competed against Canada's best, the Marching Ambassadors, the Jolly Jesters and the Guelph Royallaires. Judging this event became a problem due to the lack of qualified Canadian judges.

Ian Beacock



In order to fill that need, Al Smith, former Director and Drum Major of the Second Signals Trumpet Band formed a Canadian Judges Chapter, as an integral part of the Canadian Bugle and Trumpet Band Association in 1958. Mr. Smith, loyal to the Canadian concepts of drum and bugle corps, helped to maintain the better aspects of the Canadian system and at the same time adopt the more favorable aspects of the American program. It became the practice to have split panels, using both American and Canadian judges.

Vince Macciocchi



In 1961, the year that the name Canadian Drum Corps Association was adopted, a new leader took over the direction of the Canadian Judges Chapter, Mr. Alan W. Baggs. Mr. Baggs had been the founder and first Director of the Toronto Optimist Corps, and gave up that activity to become the Chief Judge of the Judges Chapter. He did much to expand the membership and was primarily responsible for the expansion into the province of Quebec, which was in turn a contributing factor to the development of drum corps in that province. Of the Judges roster in the early 1960s only one man is still judging actively, and that is Norm Cardwell, on percussion.

Al Andersen



In the mid 1960's the Judges Chapter withdrew from the Canadian Drum Corps Association, and established their group as an autonomous body, as The Canadian Judges Association, and it in turn set up two chapters, representing mainly Ontario and Quebec. About that time Ian Beacock of Cambridge became the Chief Judge, to be followed by Vince Macciocchi, and more latterly by Alan Andersen, who prefers the more descriptive title of Director of the Canadian Judges Association. At the present time there are some 40 judges within the Ontario Chapter, and about 55 in the Quebec Chapter of CJA, and a program is being followed to interest more of the younger people to take part in this important phase

of the activity.

The rules that had to be interpreted, and adjudicated, were more complex in the 1960's, because there were more than one set in use in Canada and the United States. CDCA had a set of rules, as did

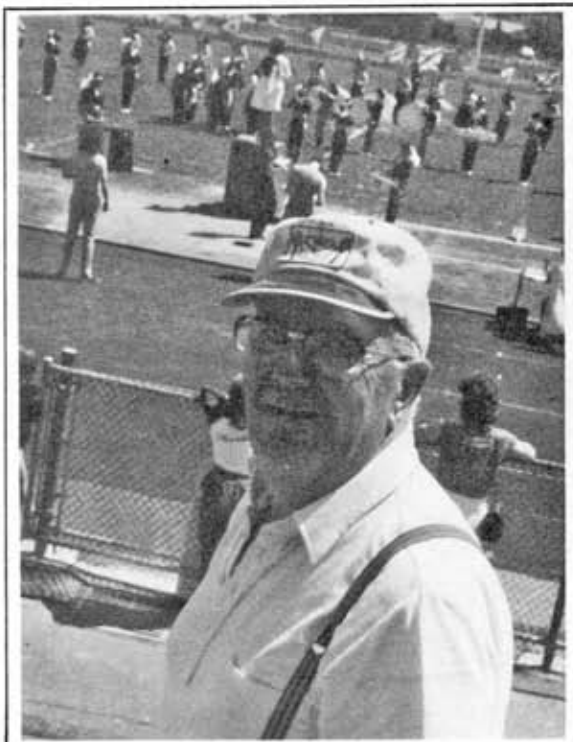


Michigan and New York States, and the American VFW and American Legion differed again. The American Legion rules gained some prominence, and gradually began to be more universally acceptable, except that our Canadian corps had no in-put into the deliberations. When Drum Corps International usurped the power of the American Legion to make the rules, the drum corps approved with great enthusiasm. In 1972 the Canadian Drum Corps Association wrote into their By-Laws that they would accept the rules as laid down by the Drum Corps Congress, under the direction of DCI (Drum Corps International). The Ontario Drum Corps Association took the same position in 1976, and this approval exists to this time.

During all of these transitional phases, that were having great impact in Canada, as more members competed internationally, the Canadian Judges Association kept pace, and for their obvious dedication to excellence, and improvement of their phase of the activity, have been a sanctioned judges association internationally, by Drum Corps International.

For further information on the Canadian Judges Association, we refer you to the Director, Mr. Alan Andersen, 2996 Rymal Rd., Mississauga, Ontario, L4Y 4B4.

by Fred Freeman



My first contact with drum and bugle corps was seeing the 1st Preston Boy Scout Band (Scout House) about 1954. Then at Waterloo Park I saw, and heard, The Columbus Boys Band, Grantham Police Boys, and St. Mary's from Toronto. One Saturday evening after a contest at Waterloo Park, Scout House invited St. Mary's to Preston, to march down King Street. The Preston folks gave St. Mary's a royal welcome. I am not sure, but I think Vince Macciocchi was the Drum Major of St. Mary's at that time.

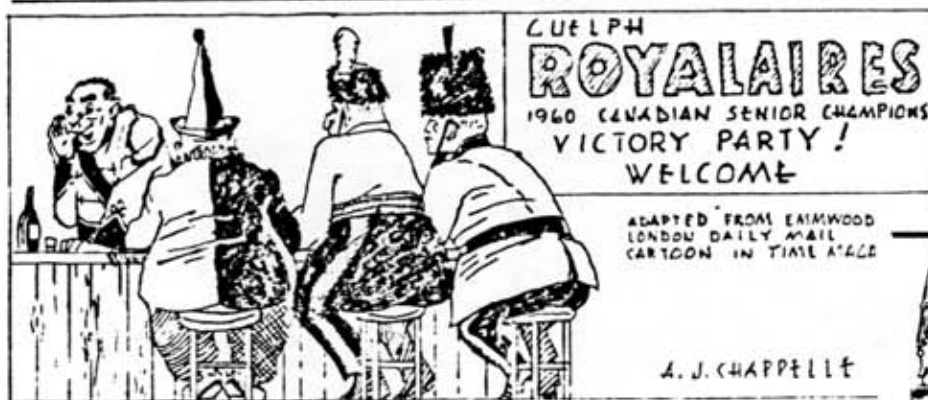
I often visited the University Armories, in Toronto on parade nights, and this is where I first saw the Army Service Corps Trumpet Band, (The Jolly Jesters) under the direction of Ted Riley, and the Second Signals (Ambassadors) and the Royal Regiment. Another band at that time was the Toronto Boy Scout Trumpet Band—Danforth Tech. They used to march at the head of the Parade For Youth at the CNE. After this time, the band began to change to drum and bugle corps, and the competition really started. Soon after the Canadian Commanders were formed, and one of the early members of their guard was Paul Ranson, who later instructed the colour guard of the Marching Angels in Sarnia. When in Sarnia I used to visit the Sarnia Lionettes All Girl Corps, under the direction of Jack Mann, whose major rival was the Marching Angels All Girl corps, under the direction of his son, Bill Mann. Another all girl corps at that time, early '60's, was the Parkdale Pirettes, from Toronto, who lasted just one year.

The St. Catharines area was quite active with drum corps and had the Port Dalhousie Hussars, The Thorold Troubadors, Niagara Militaires, and the Welland Lancers.

I still remember the days when Professor Charles Thiele, founder of the Waterloo Music Company, the Waterloo Music Festival and the Waterloo Musical Society, used to hold band festivals, at which the drum and bugle corps were tested musically. At night was the tattoo. One part of this presentation was the Elgin Regiment, who had little lights on their pith helmets, performing with these little lights on, and the grandstand lights out.

What a show...

1960 CARTOONS— by A. J. Chappelle of the 2nd Signal Corps



"Bromoseltzer for the lot, Stan"



"They've gone too far with these new hats..."





### INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

In the early 1960's the only chance that a Canadian corps had to compete with American corps was to be invited to a self sponsored contest. There were a number of contests in upper New York State in which corps from Ontario competed with corps from the United States, these contests often sponsored by St. Joseph's of Batavia, The Utica Magnificent Yankees, the Geneva Appleknockers and others. One of the early events that pitted the best from Canada with the best from the States was the series of Shriner's International Championships held each June in Toronto. The Shriners spared no expense in bringing the best in American Junior corps north to Canada.

For the American units there were lots of chances to compete against their best, and the most prestigious were the annual contests run by the VFW (Veterans Of Foreign Wars) and the American Legion. These two major Championships were closed to Canadian corps, because the corps had to have a sponsor of a VFW or American Legion post. The Canadian corps had no input into the rules either, because at

that time the competitive rules were established by the American Legion, and again, you needed a sponsoring post to attend the annual rules conventions.

The first chance that Canadian corps had to attend an open competition, one in which the best in Canada and the best in the United States could be judged under the same conditions, and with the same panel of judges, was the U.S. Open in Marion, Ohio, which began in 1967, and is celebrating it's 17th Anniversary this year. There has been good Canadian content at the U.S. Open ever since, and the Canadian corps have always had a soft spot in their heart, and their scheduling, for the U.S. Open. The other major shows continued to be the contests sponsored by the VFW and the American Legion, and no corps from Canada could compete. And then came Drum Corps International (DCI).

The founding of DCI, in which Canada had a founding member, DeLaSalle Drum Corps from Toronto, gave the Canadian corps a chance to participate in the discussion of rules, and a chance to compete in the open contest, sponsored by DCI, to qualify as a member of Drum Corps International, which is made up of the Directors of the top 12 scoring corps in the annual competition. Only one other Canadian corps has made the top 12, besides DeLa Salle, later known as the Oakland Crusaders, and that was the Seneca Optimists, also from Toronto. In fact in 1976-'77, they were both members of DCI, the first time that two corps from one city were members of DCI at the same time.

With the advent of DCI, the importance, and prestige, of the annual VFW and American Legion contests decreased, and were only important to the corps who were sponsored by these two organizations and even their involvement decreased. The contests continued however, attended in large part by Division II units.

"So what" you say... well, the "so what" is a recent ad in Drum Corps World magazine, stating that the annual VFW National Contest will be held August 20-21-22, 1984 at Soldiers Field in Chicago. There is \$11,750.00 in prize money for corps, and invites inquiries. In very small print, at the bottom of the ad, appears: "Canadian corps are now welcome to attend. The VFW will provide a sponsoring post."

Oh, VFW.... Where were you when we needed you.



1934—

The championships in this first year of our organizations' existence were, of course, determined under different rules than we are accustomed to today. In 1934 the Senior Champions were the 2nd Signals, The Guelph Lions, and in various other classes the Champions were St. Mary's Boys Band, Temeraire Sea Cadets, The Oxford Rifles and The St. Catharines Sea Cadets.

1935—1941—

The major champions in those years were 2nd Signals, St. Mary's Band (Toronto) and in 1939 another champion in its class was the RSA Band.

There were no competitions during the war years

1946—1947—

The champions were Second Signals and also from Toronto, St. Mary's.

1948—

Again the 2nd Signals were the champions with the Temeraire Sea Cadets and Preston Scout House winning the new "fancy drill" class.

1949—

Sr. Class— Mt. Denis Legion and Queen Own Rifles and in Jr.— Temeraire and Scout House.

1950—

Sr Class— A tie between 2nd. Sigs and Queen's Own and in the various junior classes the winners were 180th Air Cadets, St. Mary's and Scout House.

1951—1952—

Sr. Champions— Second Sigs and 11th Field Reg. Jr.— Western Tech and Scout House.



**CANADIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**

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The following **ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS**, requires some explanation. The Senior Class was not completed for during 1979, 1980 and 1981 because of the lack of competition in Canada, and because most of the Senior corps in this country were competing in the Red Carpet Senior Circuit in the United States.

The Junior 'A' Class, for many years, was the highest level of competition available to drum corps made up of marchers under 21 years of age. With the advent of 'Drum Corps International' the highest level of competition became the **OPEN CLASS**. Therefore the champions listed here are the "A" Class until 1975, when the champions recorded would be Open Class. This class has had no entries in 1981, 1982 and 1983. Complete information is not available on the class champions in the other competitive categories.

Nationals 1976

	Sr.	Jr.	All-Girls
1953	Royalaire	Scout House	----
1954	Royalaire	Scout House	----
1955	Sec. Sigs.	Scout House	----
1956	Sec. Sigs	Leaside Lions	----
1957	Ambassadors	Scout House	Durham High Sch
1958	Ambassadors	Tor. Optimist	Durham High Sch
1959	Royalaire	Tor. Optimist	Sar. Lionettes
1960	Royalaire	Tor. Optimist	Sar. Lionettes
1961	Royalaire	Tor. Optimist	Sar. Lionettes
1962	Royalaire	Tor. Optimist	Sar. Lionettes
1963	Royalaire	Tor. Optimists	St. John's
1964	Royalaire	Tor. Optimists	St. John's
1965	Diplomats	Tor. Optimists	St. John's
1966	Royalaire	Tor. Optimists	St. John's
1967	Diplomats	Tor. Optimists	Chatelaines
1968	Diplomats	Tor. Optimists	Chatelaines
1969	Royalaire	DeLaSalle	Chatelaines
1970	Royalaire	DeLaSalle	St. John's
1971	Ambassadors	La Salle Cad.	St. John's
1972	Commanders	Tor. Optimist	St. John's
1973	Ambassadors	DeLaSalle/La Salle	St. John's
1974	Royalaire	Sen.Princemen	St. John's
1975	Royalaire	Oak. Crusad.	Marionettes
1976	Royalaire	Oak. Crusad.	Ventures
1977	Royalaire	Sen.Optimist	St. John's
1978	Royalaire	Offen. Lions	Ventures
1979	----	Offen. Lions	Ventures
1980	----	1St. Can. Reg.	Ventures
1981	----	----	Ventures
1982	Royalaire	----	Ventures
1983	Royalaire	----	Ventures

**THE MOST IMPROVED DRUM CORPS AWARD**

In 1973 the Canadian Judges Association established an annual award to recognize specific achievement in drum corps in Canada. They were to present a trophy each year to the corps that had shown the greatest improvement in the period from one National Championship to the next. The following are the recipients to this date:

- 1973- Optimist Lancers
- 1974- Krescendos
- 1975- The Ventures
- 1976- The Golden Lions
- 1977- The Guardsmen
- 1978- The Ventures
- 1979- The Bandettes
- 1980- The Durham Girls
- 1981- Dutch Boy
- 1982- The Canadian Knights
- 1983- The Brantford Girls



D.M. Laurie Branch & George Mellor

Left to right—  
Stan Biggs  
Wilf Blum  
Don McIntyre  
George Newnham Jr.



### PEOPLE MAKE HISTORY

A major contributor to the history of any activity, are the people who played a major role in making that history. Some years back our Association realized that we had a responsibility to recognize these leaders, these "shakers and movers" and created an annual awards ceremony to honour these Founders, and acknowledge publicly our appreciation of their interest and concerns. We would be remiss, then, in putting together a history of our activity that did not include a recognition of their contribution.

#### STAN BIGGS

Stan Biggs has been active in the drum corps activity for an astonishing 42 years. He was elected President of the Canadian Bugle & Trumpet Band Association in 1959, and was instrumental, as the President in 1961, of having the name changed to the present "Canadian Drum Corps Association".

He continued to serve as President until 1964. He was the founder of the Guelph Royales and and their Drum Major for many years and led them to three Standstill Championships, and nine M&M Championships, six of them in a row, a record unsurpassed in senior corps history in Canada.

Stan also served as Corps Director and Business Manager for the Royales for many years. He was a member of the Canadian Judges Association, and for a time was M&M Caption Chief.

#### WILF BLUM

In 1937, in the small town of Preston, a local druggist, Wilf Blum started a cub pack, then formed a Boy Scout troop. Two years later a trumpet parade band was formed as part of the scout troop and thus the famed Preston Scout House unit was born.

In 1950 the band's set of straight trumpets were replaced with piston action, B.Flat bugles. In 1953 Scout House gained National recognition by placing first at the Waterloo Band Festival, and again in 1954 and 1955. In 1955 they dropped out of the scouting

activity and became an independent organization. In 1957 they were both the Canadian and Ontario Champions. Through all of these historic years, the band was actively directed by Mr. Blum, who did much to gain national and international recognition for Junior drum and bugle corps activity in Ontario.

#### DON MCINTYRE

Don McIntyre was a teacher at the Western Technical School, in west Toronto, and founded the drum and bugle corps in that school. He was the Corps Director, Manager and Drum Major and also taught the bugles, percussion and drill.

Within the corps he developed tremendous enthusiasm and dedication, to the point that many of the graduates continued their interest in drum corps long after they graduated from that school. Among this illustrious alumni are a Past President of CDCA, Mr. Clare Reid; Barry Bell and Lorne Ferrazutti, two of the leading instructors in the activity, during the 1960s, and still active today. He was a Charter member of CDCA.

Wilf Blum at Scout House Rehearsal



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GEORGE NEWNHAM

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George Newnham was the owner of Drummer's Paradise, the first percussion specialty store in Toronto. In 1939 he imported the first set of one valve trumpets into Canada, and presented them to the Second Signals Trumpet Band. The Second Sigs toured the province in that year demonstrating these new instruments.

In 1951 he printed the programs, and presented the trophies, and cash prizes at the Toronto Trumpet Band Festival, which continued for several years. Mr. Newnham was also an instructor with the Second Signals Trumpet Band and the Western Technical School Drum & Bugle Corps.

The store he founded on Queen Street has now moved to Church Street in Toronto and is run by his son, George, pictured here.



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JOHNNY JACKSON

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Mr. Jackson became involved with the De La Salle Bugle Band in 1927, and completely reorganized this prestigious organization. He continued as Drum Major, and Director, until 1951 and during this period the band established a tradition of excellence that is unmatched to this day.

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CHARLES F. THIELE

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Bands, marching bands, drum and bugle corps, and the concept of competition between units, in such an unlikely field as music, owes its origins in Canada, primarily, to the initiative, and imagination of Charles Frederick Thiele.

Thiele was born in New York in 1884, and was a director of several New York bands, before organizing the Thiele Concert Party, a family group. They toured extensively on the various vaudeville circuits, including the Chautaugua. He moved to Waterloo,

Ontario in 1919, to take on the job of Director of the Waterloo Musical Society Band, which organization had been established in 1882. The Society continues to the present time. As a result of his association with the Society Band, and as a tangible way of celebrating the Band's 50th Anniversary, he established the Waterloo Band Festival, in 1932 and the Festival was a major musical event in the Province until 1940, discontinuing during the war years, until 1946, and abandoned after 1958.

The first Festival, in 1932, featured 23 bands, of which 14 took part in an evening parade. There were up to 80 entrants in solo classes. In subsequent years as many as 70 bands competed in concerts and parades, and more than 1000 solo contestants in 100 instrumental competitions.

Competitions for bands, and drum corps, were conducted in a completely different manner than we see to-day. Each class, or level, would learn a test piece that was provided by the Festival, and would be allowed a second piece of their choice. The judges would be located in an enclosed tent, out of sight of

the contestants, and would judge them on the basis of their ability to play the test piece, and then the second number. The marching aspect of the activity was developed later, but there were trophies for those groups who would enter the parade.

Professor Thiele, as he was generally known, started the Waterloo Music Company in 1921, as an extension of his wide involvement in the music field in Ontario, and was sole owner until 1951. With the organization of the Canadian Bugle and Trumpet Band Association, he took an active part as an advisor and maintained his interest in the activity until his death in 1954.

Included in his musical interests, was the founding, and first president, of the Ontario Amateur Band Association, which administered the CNE band contests. He was an honorary life member of the American Band Association.



Drum Major J. Jackson  
director  
De La Salle "Oaklands" Band  
1927-1951

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WILLIAM L. REILLY

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Founder and Director of the Niagara Militaires Sr Drum Corps, organized in 1949 and operated into the '60s. He was most instrumental in developing the "Individual Championships", still in operation to this day. Mr. Reilly was also a major figure in the developing of close ties with corps in Quebec.

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HARRY SAUNDERS

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Mr. Saunders was the Founder and Director of the York Lions 180th Air Cadets, Mosquito Squadron in the 1950's, later to function as the York Lions Drum & Bugle Corps in the 1960's, discontinuing about 1969. He was President of the Association for 4 years in the 1950's.

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GEORGE MELLOR

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In 1975 the Award of Merit, a presentation of CDCA was given to George Mellor, of Brantford, Ontario for outstanding service to Youth Development. He has been active in the activity for nearly 40 years. As a marching member he participated in the Boys Brigade, the Sea Cadets, The Telephone City Trumpet

Band, the 56th Field Regiment, the 11th Field Regiment and the Guelph Royalaires.

In 1954 he became the drum instructor of St. John's College All Girls corps of Brantford and later was also responsible for the drill. Throughout he took a leading role in the management of the corps and was corps director for many years. Throughout this period too he was active with the Association and served on its Board of Directors. He has been a consultant to many corps in the Brantford area-- The Simcoe Royal Blues, Durham Girls and Preston Scout House.

George retired from active service with St. John's in 1976 but for a time remained on their Board of Directors and acted as a consultant in a number of specialized areas such as the management of the Provincial Championships contest in 1983.

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ALF SMITH

Al was a member, and Drum Major of the Second Signals Trumpet Band, for many years. He was President of the Canadian Bugle and Trumpet Band Association, and was the first Chief Judge, on the formation of the Canadian Judges Association. He was instrumental in the development of the "fancy drill" concept in Canada, having travelled extensively in the United States looking at new ideas developing in that area.



AL BAGGS

Al Baggs was born in Toronto, also lived in Winnipeg, Detroit and Windsor. He first became active in Scouting, and was one of the youngest warranted Scout Masters in Canada, and was later the District Badge Examiner. In 1953 was with the 18th Toronto Troop, most particularly with it's band, formed in 1952. In 1955 he was instrumental in having the Optimist Club of Toronto assume sponsorship of the band. They acquired new blue Air Cadet style uniforms, and with 28 members, started the Toronto Optimists. He directed the activities of the corps until January, 1963, when he turned the management over to the publicity Director of the corps, Don. Daber. Al then became active in the Judges Association, was

Chief Judge, and was instrumental in establishing the high standards, which this association is noted. He was a judge in the New York American Judges Association. Retired as Chief Judge in 1966.

Al has never lost his interest in the activity, and has always been available if required. The Optimists, on the 25th Anniversary of their founding, held a reunion in May, 1983, in which Al Baggs was recognized for his contributions to that organization, and drum corps, in general.



JOHN ROBINS

In 1955 John Robins of Kitchener joined the 48th Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers Trumpet Band as a playing member and a year later moved to the position of Treasurer of that organization. In 1959 he became Treasurer of the newly formed senior corps The Flying Dutchmen, and by 1961 he was the President and in 1962 the Corps Director. In 1967 the senior unit merged with The Guelph Royalaires and John began reforming the Dutchmen as a junior corps. He has been actively involved with that group, or it's successors since that time and has also assisted in the formation of The Dutch Boy Cadets, St. Andrews, Kiwanis Cavaliers and the Ventures. He is presently the Director of the Dutch Boy Drum Corps of Kitchener. Over the years he has served on the Board of Directors of CDCA and ODCA and was President of these organizations for 4 years.

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THE AWARD OF MERIT

In 1973 The Canadian Drum Corps Association established an award, to be called The Award Of Merit, to recognize the contributions that were made to the activity over an extended period of years, to many of the leaders in the movement.

The inscription reads "Award Of Merit, For Dedication and Outstanding Service, in Youth Development Through The Drum & Bugle Corps Movement".

The first formal presentation was made in 1974, and has been awarded every year since. Those recognized to date are:

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1974— Don Daber   | 1975— George Mellor   |
| 1976— John Robins | 1977— Barry Bell      |
| 1978— Dick Brown  | 1979— Maurice Legault |
| 1980— Mary Wilson | 1981— Vince Macciochi |
| 1982— Jack Turner | 1983— Paul Ranson     |
| 1984— John Jones  |                       |



DON DABER

Don became active with drum corps in 1960 when he took a freelance writing-illustration assignment to tell the drum and bugle corps story for a national publication. During that year also, he helped produce a yearbook for DeLaSalle to commemorate their 50th Anniversary. At the close of that year he became the publicity director of the Toronto Optimists and took over as Director of the corps in 1963. Although taking a secondary role for the last 7 years of its existence, he continued to look after their publicity needs.

Don has been a member of the Board of Directors of CDCA/ODCA for some 13 years and during this time has been in charge of publicity, photography and graphics for these two associations. He has been supportive of many of the corps in our activity as it relates to their publicity requirements, and has been a strong promoter of the necessity of a well thought out publicity and graphics program for each corps.

We would like to apologize to those "shakers movers" whose names we have missed. In some cases it was because background information was not available, but in general it was brought about by time limitations and the necessity of limiting the size of this production. In any case, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize, and thank, the following for their contribution over a long, and extended, period of time, and their importance to the activity.

Our thanks to: Maurice Legault, Fred Blazey, Bill Craik, Bill Ryder, Cliff Billington, Fred Fuller of Peterborough, Larry Murphy of Kawartha Cavaliers, Ron Worrall of Guelph Opti-Knights, Bill Renaud of Ventures, the late Peter Vanderkolff, the late Gordon Robinson of Ramese Shrine Temple, Toronto; the late Fred Hawkes and the late Audrey and John Burns, and to the hundreds of others whose contribution, be it big or small, contributed in some way to the success that the drum corps activity has enjoyed during its first 50 years. We hope that there will be just as many, in the next 50 years, who will dedicate themselves, with the same enthusiasm, to the continued progress of our favourite hobby.



"A Thank You"  
from the author  
A. J. TIERNEY

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The contents of this Yearbook are as accurate as memories will allow. Many of the originators of the activity have passed on, or are not now available. Little detailed information was published, and when you consider how quickly many groups appeared on the scene, only to as quickly disappear, it's not too surprising.

We would like to acknowledge the background information developed from:

DeLaSalle— The Golden Years (published in 1960.) to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the corps as sponsored by DeLaSalle College, Toronto.

Directory Of Canadian Drum Corps — Published by the Canadian Drum Corps Association in 1962.

Drummer's Paradise brochure, published by Drummer's Paradise Ltd. in 1950.

The Encyclopedia of Drum Corps— published in 1965.

National program books published by the CDCA in 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976.

"Corps-Fax" booklets published by ODCA 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1980.

Drum Corps Comment, magazine published by CDCA 1968 and 1969.

Directory of Drum Corps published by ODCA, 1977.

We also acknowledge the contribution of Don Daber. Don never throws anything away, and much of the information developed was a result of his pack-rat tendency. Further, for the past 25 years, Don never attended a show without his cameras, and many of the pictures here were, again, a result of his interest. Further, Don did all of the typesetting, with one finger, and was responsible for the concept, and assembly. This "50th Anniversary Salute" would have been impossible without his interest and cooperation.

#### TO OUR ADVERTISERS

We would like to extend our personal thanks to the advertisers who appear within these pages. We ask that you support them, if for no other reason than that they support our members. We asked every supplier, in Canada and the United States, to help us put together this "Salute To '50" and the advertisers herein are the ones who responded. If they are interested in us, we should be interested in them.

Do you and your corps want to Save Money...  
 Do you want IMMEDIATE DELIVERY...  
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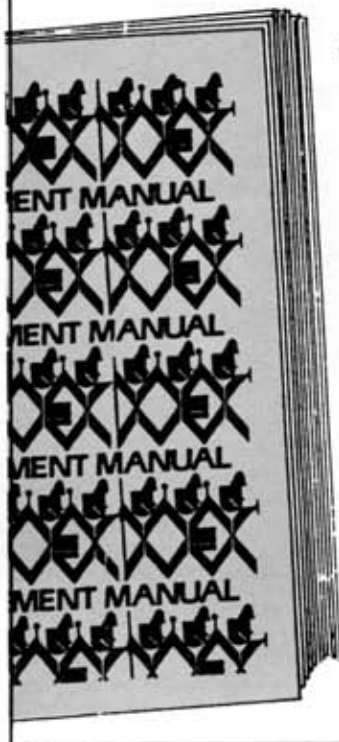
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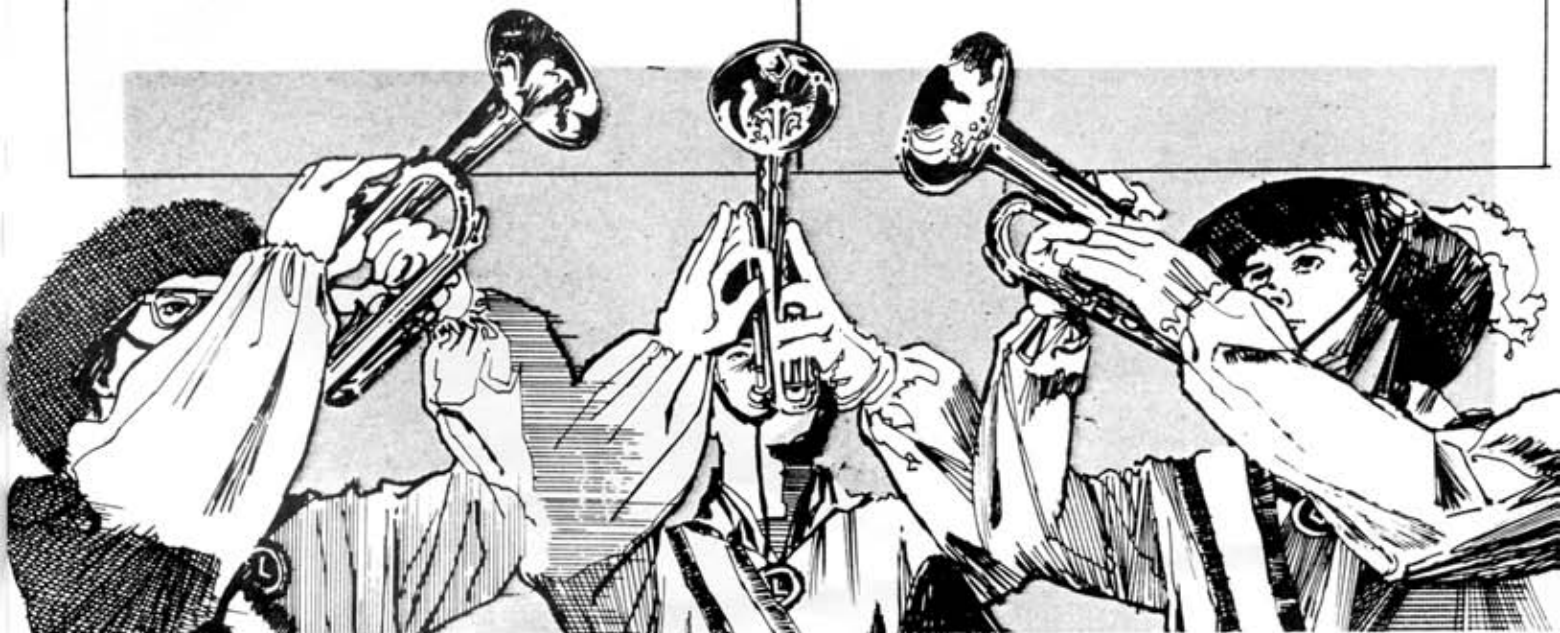
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