



SPECIAL SUMMER EDITION – JULY 2010

‘THE SIZZLING SOUNDS OF SUMMER’ is dedicated to the 2010 performing members of the Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps’ most ambitious musical program since our 2002 inception.

Director’s corner



Rick Robida, Corps Director

HARD TO BELIEVE that as I write this we are in the middle of July. A lot has happened since our April edition so I would firstly like to update you on some of the events I believe are most newsworthy. Starting with the Simcoe Show on May 8 through till October’s “Fun”ale Alumni show/dinner/dance sponsored by the Midlanders, the Corps has 14 scheduled performances for 2010. At this point we are more than half way through with four exhibition performances, one stage show and one parade remaining.

The good news is that the Corps is more performance ready at this time than we have been in previous years. Our drill show is complete with the exception of some minor modifications coming into concert that were finalized at our July 18 drill rehearsal. Our next Exhibition will be at the DCI Show in Buffalo NY on August 8. I am sure most of you will recall that we were still learning and changing our drill last year right up to the Buffalo show and beyond. Our progress this year is largely due to the excellent attendance we have had at rehearsals and performances. In cases where there was not a 100% turnout all bodies were nevertheless accounted for. This has resulted in fewer, yet more productive rehearsals.

The Woodstock Parade and Show on the Victoria Day long weekend was the culmination of our two day spring camp. Following that weekend a decision was made to end the drill portion of our show in the concert formation. This has allowed our instructors to get us to the point where we can now focus on repetitions which are the key to memorizing the drill and music cues.

A major challenge for this year has been trying to maintain a rehearsal schedule that is reasonable while still ensuring that the Corps is adequately prepared for each performance. The Management Committee and the Show Committee have endeavored to strike that balance so that our members can participate to the fullest extent possible in our drum corps hobby while carrying on the tradition of excellence which has been

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A special thanks to Jim “Details” Dwyer

LETS HEAR FROM YOU

the Optimists hallmark. We are all maturing (getting older) with the accompanying aches and pains so it is critical that we gear our rehearsals and performances to be in sync with the capabilities of our members. In past years we have lost members due to the demands of our drill performance and the corps heavy summer schedule. I am thankful that we have geared back somewhat in this the hottest summer we have had in several years. The well being and health of all members is something that we have to remain cognizant of in all our activities.

I realize our reduced rehearsal schedule is a departure from past traditions and may be disconcerting to some members accustomed to 'extra' rehearsals. However, our 2010 performance schedule is also much busier than in previous years making the luxury of extra rehearsals nearly impossible. Could I offer an alternate suggestion? Perhaps if we took the view that we are more likely 'under practiced' than 'under rehearsed' we could contribute individually to improving our performance without the imposition of new dates to our calendar. To quote our horn instructor Dave MacKinnon 'practice' is what you do at home and we 'rehearse' when we are together. To all of our members I say, 'we do what we do' because we love to perform. That desire to perform, in my opinion is driven by the reaction of our fans and supporters.

During our recent mid-west tour I remind you The Optimists were the final corps to perform at the Pageant of Drums, a DCI contest celebrating its 50th Anniversary. We followed

the Cavaliers competing corps, yet we received two standing ovations from this drum corps savvy audience. Additionally our joint performance of Over the Rainbow with the Classic Cavaliers Alumni resulted in another standing ovation. As the two corps left that field together anyone who did not experience that unique drum corps 'hair standing goose bump' feeling just doesn't get it.

You can all be proud of the Corps outstanding performances in the Cambridge Canada Day, Michigan City and the Lake Whitmore Parades. The addition of the Northstar flag corps added a colour dimension that boosted the whole visual aspect of the corps (read more about this in our tour diary article). The inclusion of the guard as well as the introduction of our new summer parade uniform was a major factor in the corps success and popularity in these parades.

I continue to believe as we enter the homestretch for the 2010 drum corps season we are well positioned to have the best year in our history. This requires a commitment from all of you to 'show up' at all performances and to continue to be the best you can be. So let's all lighten up on self criticism and concentrate on going forward. Remember we are The Optimists and have an obligation to each other and to those who marched before us.

As your Director I have tremendous respect and admiration for all of you. Keep up the good work.

Thanks, Regards, Rick Robida

NORTHSTAR COLOUR GUARD



The Northstar Colour Guard. Back row from left: Jessica Goodman, Erin Roy, Alana Beirnbss and Madison Darwin. Front: Maeve Roy, Skyler Gandrean and Kailey Schranz. Absent: Vanessa Russu, Instructor. Photo taken at Lake Whitmore.

The Northstar Organization, in Kitchener, Ontario, provides facilities for youth interested in music, dance, and the arts.

This summer the Northstar chose to not field a competitive drum corps (Dutch Boy) so they could continue to recruit, develop new programs and build alliances within the community and around the Province. Many of the Dutch Boy members and staff found a summer home with other corps and the organization is proud to see them continue with their Drum Corps activities.

It was a privilege for members of the Northstar colour guard to participate with the Optimists Alumni in their recent Canada Day celebrations in Cambridge and their US tour in Michigan and Indiana. The offer to expand on this summer collaboration was presented to the Northstar colour guard and some musicians

and they were all eager to participate in this unique opportunity. The Northstar members look forward to performing with the Optimists in their remaining performances, and especially in their exhibition performance at the DCA Championships in Rochester in September.

PEOPLE NEWS

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

NEW MEMBERS



Sam Grosvenor

Sam joined the corps in April. He was a member of the Lancers from 1973 to 1979. Due to being a long distance truck driver, throughout the USA he would often find a Drum Corps contest or better yet, a practice and these always brought back fond memories. With grown kids it became time for a new challenge.



David Matts

David joined the corps in May. He marched in the horn line with the Toronto Optimists in 1966. David has never lost his love for drum corps, hence his return to our drum line. He had the option of participating with his home town Kingston Grenadiers or the Optimists Alumni, and he made the natural choice.



Daniel Pancer

Daniel joined the corps in April. He completed his B.Sc. at The University of Toronto with a major in Psychology. While attending Earl Haig Secondary School, in the Gifted Program, he took an interest in music and musical theatre. Daniel is currently in the Colour Guard and is happy to expand his knowledge of music with The Optimists Alumni.



Jim Rolfe

Jim joined the corps in May. Jim was with St. Andrew's Drum Corps in Cambridge from 1973 to 1980 and moved to Dutch Boy until 1983. He is in the Optimists Colour Guard and is also a member in the Colour Guard of the Righteously Outrageous Twirling Corps (ROTC) in Toronto. Jim brings a lot of experience to the Alumni Corps.



Wesley Scott

Wesley is a grade 11 music student at Huron High School in Kitchener. He joined the Northstar in April 2010. Northstar's summer program encourages its members to participate in organizations in Southern Ontario to help develop their music skills. Wesley joined The Optimists Alumni in July and is excited about the opportunity to play 2nd soprano.

New members from Northstar



*Doug Darwin,
General Manager.*



Jamie Bannon, Instructor.



Tammy Roy, Support Staff.



Katie Kraemer, Member.



Elizabeth Clayton, Member.

THE MYSTIQUE OF THE ALUMNI DRUM CORPS

MAYBE YOU'RE ASKING yourself "What the heck is an Alumni Corps and why have one?" Before I joined, I asked myself that question. An Alumni Corps is simply a group of people who have gotten together to once again enjoy doing something that they did when we were younger – playing and marching in a Drum and Bugle Corps.

Most, perhaps all, Alumni Corps are composed of members of various corps. In fact, you'll even find members who have never belonged to a drum corps or to a band. Some members even belong to more than one Alumni Corps, something that they could never do back in their competitive days.

A primary *raison d'etre* is to promote friendship and camaraderie through mutual interest in Drum and Bugle Corps. While some of us may no longer be able to play baseball, football, hockey etc. we can play music, parade down the street, or perform on a stage or an arena floor. Since we no longer compete, we can do a simple drill. And, NO!, we are not trying to relive our youth, Once was enough!

We have gone on with life, jobs, and families. Now we are having the time of our life playing again. "Back in the day" we strove for perfection but seldom achieved it. Today's DCI corps come very close to actually achieving perfection. Of course, the "kids" these days are pretty much professional musicians – they're in the prime of their lives and they spend almost all their time perfecting their show. As for us, we are usually self-taught individuals who vary in age from about 30 up into the late 70s. Some people have suggested that we

are a bit past our physical prime and I'd have to agree. When we were young, drum corps was our life; today it's a hobby. Most Alumni Corps practice at most twice a month, often for just a few hours. Even at our best, so many years ago, we would not be able to match today's DCI corps. But we do have fun.

I may be wrong but I'd guess that my experience mirrors that of many others. When I joined an Alumni Corps, it was just to have a bit of fun and play music with others. Since

I hadn't touched a horn in almost 40 years I knew it would be a challenge. While I have no regrets about joining I have to admit that there is a part of me that still cringes because we don't play as well as we did when we were young. Having said

that, I've discovered that there are many people who enjoy what we do. Much more than that, though, I've come to recognize and value some of the intangibles and things like the friendship and support that have helped a number of our members through some difficult times.

Our lives were blessed by and formed in part by drum corps. When young, we had fun, enjoyed entertaining and made lasting friendships. Today, we are older and in a different stage of life. Some of us have had our families and the grandchildren have often arrived. Many of our members are retired and looking for positive, enjoyable activities to do with their lives. Alumni corps gives us the chance to renew old friendships and make new ones while, once again, having some fun, making music and entertaining others.



L to R: Signals (Toronto), Crusaders (Boston), Scout House (Kitchener), Bridgemen (Bayonne), Caballeros (Hawthorn), United (Simcoe), St. Kevins (Boston).

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES... CLASSIC CAVALIERS ALUMNI

Special thanks to the Classic Cavaliers for the opportunity to once again perform together in Michigan City, IN at the recent Pageant of Drums DCI Show. Performing with the 'Cavies' Alumni was one of the highlights of the weekend and brought back a lot of memories. Back at the hotel

a chance to socialize provided an opportunity to recall and reflect on the many times we were on the field together. From the Optimists Alumni we extend to the Classic Cavaliers best wishes and hope you continue your winning ways.



The Classic Cavaliers and The Optimists Alumni playing Somewhere Over The Rainbow.

Legends of Drum Corps 2

**Saturday, August 28, 2010
6:30 pm**

**St. Michael's College School
Athletic Field**

1515 Bathurst Street (At St.Clair Avenue West), Toronto, Ontario M5P 3L8

Tickets: \$10.00 Children under 12 - Free

Tickets available at the door.

For information contact Mike at 416-436-2323

In performance

Toronto Signals Band

Simcoe United Alumni Senior Drum & Bugle Corps

Midlanders Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps

Preston Scout House Alumni Band

The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps

Presented by
The Optimists Alumni
Drum and Bugle
Corps



For more information www.optimists-alumni.org

A WINDOW FILLED FULL OF CHROME

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

I PARKED MY bike in the stand and walked over to the window for my first look at the horns. They were magnificent. Arrayed in rows and rising in steps up toward the rear, some stood on their bells, gleaming and mirroring every insignificant fold of the purple satin on which they lay, some rested on their sides, stretching across the satin display cases, not a fingerprint on them, radiant in their beauty like curved, molten mirror, deeper and more lustrous than any mercury or star I'd ever seen.



Ray Rousell, 2010.

I turned and walked back to the bench directly facing the window a few yards away and settled in to enjoy the view.

This miraculous display was a newly bought set of Whaley Royce Imperial model GDF# valve and rotor bugles consisting of sopranos, french horns and baritones, funded mostly by the Richmond Hill Lions Club and partly by the town itself. There may have been 30 or more on view in the empty storefront in the Richmond Heights Plaza where they were displayed. I'm sure I counted them over and over back then in my twelfth year, and although the exact tally is long gone from my mind the image of them, brilliant in the window, will never fade. I sat there until it was nearly dark and I was forced to return home.



It was barely a year before that I had joined the Hilltoppers Drum and Bugle Corps, coming upon them as they practiced their parade formations, pounding and honking their way around the buildings and parking lots of the light industrial area near Newkirk Road. It was about seven o'clock on a Tuesday evening and there was something sublime about the racket they were making that caused me to skid my bike to a halt, lean over the handlebars and watch them thunder and straggle past. It was a hell of a noise, stirring and magnificent, an unfamiliar mutation of music that dwelt somewhere between massed accordions and anvils, but I loved it at first hearing.

Someone connected with the corps noticed my mesmerized state, came over to talk to me, and invited me to the next rehearsal. Shortly after, I was a full-fledged, horn-carrying Hilltopper. I probably joined the next Tuesday night.

My first Hilltopper horn was what they called a straight baritone, a smaller-bore cousin of the bass baritone that became the standard low voice in the early sixties. It was the meanest piece of drainpipe masquerading as a musical instrument that I ever met. The finish looked like an old piece of armour dug up on a battlefield. There wasn't a single atom of electroplating on it. Instead, a metallic coating of some kind, more of a silvery lacquer, and most of it long gone, had been applied to the instrument when new, but after years of hard use the original lacquer had mostly worn away, which meant that before every performance you needed huge doses of Brasso and lots and lots of polishing to make the horn look presentable.

Almost immediately after cleaning, the finish began to oxidize and you'd be back to square one in no time. The bell had been dented and flattened and repaired so many times it had a pebbly, scalloped look to it.



Ray with the 1969 "Corpsman of the Year" award.

But I learned to play on it, and in my own way I learned to love it and enjoy it. I recall taking it home for the first time and cleaning it to death, even the valve springs were carefully scrubbed and polished.

The spotless, perfect horns in the window at Richmond Heights were meant to replace these Jurassic era bugles, but due to the town's eagerness to gain some PR, the new instruments were slated to remain on display for six or eight or ten weeks (if it had been longer I think I might have blown a gasket). We unlucky, active Hilltoppers continued to play our simple tunes on our single valve G bugles.

I still remember most of those tunes. There was The Chief, a tribute to chief of police Robbins who attended nearly every rehearsal and who always gave an inspirational talk at the end, usually closing by stressing the importance of properly shined shoes (I am not making this up); he was of that school of thought convinced that you could tell a lot about a man by the shine on his shoes, or lack thereof.

Another was Richmond Hill, an impossibly simple series of notes that sounded more like an exercise and remarkably like The Chief because they both bore the same characteristic of rudimentary simplicity.

All of our tunes (originals one and all) were penned by Mr. Arthur Burgin, our bugle instructor and principal french horn

with the Toronto Symphony at the time, whose great misfortune was that he chose to buy a home in Richmond Hill and then found himself trapped and conscripted to the drum and bugle corps cause by certain of our town luminaries who found great pride in their scarlet-tunicked parade corps. His son, Brian, played trumpet and was one of our best soprano players.

We were ghastly, without a doubt, but we must have improved somewhat because sometime after I joined, Mr. Burgin showed up at rehearsal with a new tune called Latin



1967 Toronto Optimists.

American. Compared to our other pieces, this one was a smoker – a rhythmic masterpiece filled with so much tropical, Spanish flavour you could almost hear the coconuts falling out of the palm trees in the breeze created by our horns. Only the Gypsy Kings in concert and anything by Joachin Rodrigo

performed by the Romero brothers could compare with the pure joy of spirit I felt when playing my baritone part for Latin American. Even better, it ended with one of those ‘cha cha cha’ figures, a musical lick I was unfamiliar with before the Hilltoppers but which I took to like a rat to a cheese, pumping it out with a verve and a satisfaction that I’ve felt many times since but never with the same new-found elation.

.....

I could never understand why the new instruments had to sit for weeks and weeks in the store window. Hardly anybody showed up to look at them while I was there. Thinking back, it might have been one of my first philosophical dilemmas: I dimly recognized that the people and organizations who had done all the work and arranged the purchase owed the town a certain amount of public relations payback, a public tip of the cap so to speak for their generosity and support, some of which included the funding, but the dork that was me at the time never could see the other side of the equation.

I only recognized the unfairness of it all – twelve years old and already learning how fickle and unreliable life can be, forced to play a War of 1812 baritone when the world’s most perfect instruments (one of them destined for my hands!) sat there a mere plate glass width away. Where was the justice in that?

And so, day after day, if the weather was suitable and if my mom would let me, and if my homework was done, I’d work my way westward to Richmond Heights Plaza, pedalling past the very same tool and die factory where I’d first spotted the Hilltoppers, hurtling down into the mud-filled hollow beside the tracks and then up to the crest of the cinder choked rail bed where I’d have to dismount and drag the bike across the rails, and then propel it down the other side into the hollow

leaping aboard at the last minute, a long bumpy ride down the line of elm trees alongside the fields that separated the two parts of the town at the time, emerging out near the Trailways bus garage where I didn’t know it but I would be arriving to catch corps buses for many years to come (even after I’d left the Hilltoppers), and then past the huge Ronalds Federated printing plant, a fast dash across Yonge Street and there I’d be, back in my spot, guarding those chrome beauties from neglect and shopper apathy.

I’m not certain how long I sat and watched those horns. Even now, nearly 50 years hence, it seems I was planted there for weeks on end. I sat and gazed at their stunning, immaculate beauty and the accompanying reverie was so sweet and intense I’ve never forgotten it. I must have lost interest at some point, but too much time has passed for this old man’s memory to be of any help. I think to myself, realistically, how many hours sitting on a hard bench in a barely noticeable covered walkway in a moribund, low traffic area of an open-air plaza can a boy of 12 put up with, regardless of the treasures on view?

Eventually, the horns were taken from the window, the For Lease signs went back into prominence, and one Tuesday night at the Lions’ Hall on Centre Street in Richmond Hill I was presented with a sturdy midnight black case. Cradled within its crushed blue velvet interior I beheld a pristine Whaley Royce baritone, gleaming and sparkling with enough colour and promise to light up a mind. I examined the lifting door contraption that held a mouthpiece, a bottle of valve oil, a skimpy polishing cloth, and a fingering chart. Just thinking that it was mine to keep made me dizzy and excited.

When I closed it up to take it home for the first time, even the locking snaps on the case felt professional. I had no idea a musical instrument would trace out the direction of my life for the next 13 years as I graduated from corps to corps, leaving the Hilltoppers far behind and ending up playing, and later teaching, with a national champion.

OOOOOPS!

In Michigan City, Paul Blanchard (left) confers with Phil Hennings.



It’s OK Phil, I don’t think Rick wants the Citations on the T-shirts.

PERFORMANCES

SIMCOE, MAY 8

Our first performance of 2010 was at the 6th Annual “And The Bands Played On...”.

In six short years United Alumni Senior Drum & Bugle Corps and the Simcoe Lions Club have established the première annual indoor show in Canada. The versatility,

variety and professionalism of this production as well as the outstanding performance of the participating units have excelled with each passing year. We dare say that United Alumni have done more to inspire the long awaited revival of Canadian Drum Corps than any other organization.

What a great community festival! We look forward with great enthusiasm to number seven.



Haldiman-Norfolk Concert Band



Midlanders Alumni Corps



CADRE Drum Ensemble



Preston Scout House Alumni Band



De La Salle Oaklands Crusaders Alumni Stage Band



Simcoe United Alumni Senior Drum & Bugle Corps



The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps and Drum Major Laura King.



As a finale, the bands joined to play You'll Never Walk Alone.

PERFORMANCES (continued)

WOODSTOCK, MAY 24

Our second performance was at the 3rd Annual Victoria Day Band Tattoo with a parade and a concert. "Oh How Sweet It Is!" Flashbacks of Simcoe Golden Lions, London Midlanders, Sigs, Scout House of years long passed flashed through my mind just like it was yesterday. I fondly reminisced of the wonderful

embrace and hospitality that often characterizes those small town communities like Port Dover, Ontario; Ogdensburg, New York; Flint, Michigan; Titusville, Pennsylvania; and now Woodstock. I am so proud to be associated with all the fine corps (and their enduring histories) who participated in this memorable tattoo. And to Midlanders Alumni Corps (MAC), I simply say "Thanks For The Memories".



CADRE Drum Ensemble



Simcoe United Alumni Senior Drum & Bugle Corps



Midlanders Alumni Band



Burlington Teen Tour Band



Preston Scout House Alumni Band



Queens York Rangers Corps of Drums



Toronto Signals Band



The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps



Philippine Heritage Band



The Optimists drum line "Swinging With Krupa".



Glenn Miller at his best.

PERFORMANCES (continued)

BOBCAYGEON, JUNE 5

Once again the Optimists Alumni participated in the Annual “Opening Of The Locks” festivities in Bobcaygeon, Ontario. Bobcaygeon is one of the many towns on the Trent-Severn

Waterway National Historic Site. The waterway flows 386 km through southern Ontario between Georgian Bay and the city of Kingston on Lake Ontario.

We would like to thank the Canadian Legion, Branch 239 for their continued hospitality in helping the Corps.



WELLAND, JUNE 13

The Rose Festival and the Festival Parade are an annual event in the Niagara Region. The festival is a family tradition that

promotes community pride and participation. The Optimists Alumni have been part of these festivities for many years.



TORONTO, JUNE 19

The Corps was at City Hall to help in the “send-off” ceremonies of the Mitsubishi City Chase. The event requires participants to exhibit teamwork, resourcefulness, determination and the ability to make decisions on the fly.

CAMBRIDGE, JULY 1

The 2010 Canada Day Parade in Cambridge, Ontario celebrated the veterans of our military. The thousands of enthusiastic spectators make this parade enjoyable. See Midwest Tour, on page 11 for more Cambridge details.



THE OPTIMISTS MIDWEST 2010 TOUR

THIS YEAR The Optimists Alumni embarked on a four-day tour that undoubtedly was one of the most ambitious undertakings since the Corps started in 2002. Not since the Glens Falls and Schuylerville mini-tour in 2007 has the corps engaged in an overnight trip with multi-city performances. Our 2010 Tour was a four-day/three-night sojourn with performances in Cambridge Ontario, Michigan City, Indiana and Lake Whitmore, Michigan. After an almost 40-year absence the corps' return to the mid-west was a nostalgic experience that we can fondly savour. Clearly, our mid-west fans have not forgotten The Toronto Optimists and enthusiastically welcomed us back to 'Green Machine' territory.

This article is intended to relive the experiences of our 2010 Midwest Tour and to share them with all our readers.

Day One – July 1, Canada Day, Cambridge, Ontario

A gorgeous day welcomed the corps as we assembled early on Thursday morning in Cambridge ON for the annual Canada Day Parade. This parade marked a couple of firsts for



Optimists new summer parade uniform.

the corps. The members enthusiastically welcomed to our ranks nine young ladies from the Dutch Boy/Northstar colour guard. These young people headed our corps dressed in black, brandishing resplendent silks in shimmering gold. The visual impact that this colour added to the corps' overall presentation was most impressive. Additional good news was



Northstar Colour Guard.

the fact that these girls, accompanied by parents and chaperones, were going to be joining us and participating for the remainder of the weekend. Another first was the introduction of our summer parade uniform. Simple but

effective the summer parade uniform consists of our standard green t-shirt worn over the bib pants and tucked into the white cummerbund. As the corps stepped off in the parade you could sense the impact these not-so-subtle changes had on the corps' appearance and overall deportment. Looking good and feeling good instilled an air of confidence that resulted in probably our finest performance ever in this annual parade. Following along in the corps van I was impressed, proud and the 'hair raising, goose bump factor' was in full cadence.

I didn't mention earlier that we were not in Cambridge just for the parade. It had been decided weeks earlier that Cambridge would be the embarkation point for the trip to Michigan City. The plan was that immediately after the parade we would board our deluxe climate-controlled highway cruiser and be on our way. As the saying goes, 'best laid plans... etc', our departure was not going to be that simple. The bus that was supposedly waiting to transport us back to the start of the parade actually required a hike that turned out to be longer than the parade itself. Once back to the rendezvous point the next almost comedic effort was to change out of uniform and load the bus. Loading the bus

provided us with the first of several lessons learned on this trip. Having a designated loading crew just might be a little more expedient than the 'every man for himself' approach. After approximately one hour of 25 people trying to board the bus with gear in hand while another 25 were trying to get off the bus with gear in hand (because there was no more room) everything finally got stuffed on board. Next, as it was 3:00 PM folks suddenly remembered they had missed lunch so; it was decided to turn everyone loose to seek out the nearest fast food outlet. Bottom line, we pulled out fat, dumb and happy at 4:30 PM. Next stop Michigan City.

Day One Continued – The Trip

Following our 4:30 PM departure from Cambridge, off we headed on the west-bound 401 and then west from London on Highway 402 heading towards the Bluewater Bridge at Sarnia, ON, our entry point to the USA. Moments after someone (I think it was me) commented to our driver, Ron, 'Wow, we are making good time, eh?' traffic slowed to a

MIDWEST 2010 TOUR (continued)



Ron, our bus driver.

crawl. Well, without elaborating, that last 25 Kilometers to the border took 2 hours plus. A combination of highway construction and volume of holiday travellers heading to the US proved to be the problem. It was then that the excited and happy faces of our passengers started to wane somewhat. At this point I should mention that Ron, our 'driver of many talents and ties', regaled us

with funny (?) stories and did his best to keep us entertained. After some debate it was decided that a stop at the Duty Free would be in order. Unfortunately that 20- minute stop turned into an hour (who knew it would be busy on this Holiday weekend?). Once back on board and after a smooth entry to



Shortly after "Duty-Free"

Not-so-Shortly after "Duty-Free"

the US ,some folks naively assumed we would all settle in and maybe catch a few zzz's for the balance of our trip. WRONG, whatever magic elixir or potions that found their way on board following our stop at the duty free kicked in and an old fashioned bus party broke out. When we finally rolled up to the Microtel at 1:45 AM, our home for the next 3 days, it was a weary, disheveled group that emerged from that deluxe, climate-controlled cruiser. The good news was that we had crossed into the Central Time Zone giving us a one hour time bonus – it was only 12:45 AM local time. After some brief announcements we headed to bed with visions of our 9:15 AM departure to the rehearsal field dancing in our heads.

Day Two – Friday July 2, Michigan City, Indiana

Day two brought another sunny day with a weather forecast of temperatures potentially reaching 100 F. Promptly at 8:00 AM our Enterprise rental car arrived. Having this vehicle turned out to be a bonus: to run for supplies, following the corps in the parade, etc. Accompanying us on this trip were three young men from the Northstar Organization, Will, Geoff and Kyle, who were there to wrap up and polish the Corps' drill show. At this point they advised me of some good news and some bad news – the good news being that the bag containing the field marking equipment did find its way on the bus – the bad news being that the supplies in the

bag were totally depleted. So, our vehicle was immediately



"Drill Guys" Will, Geoff and Kyle, hard at work discussing drill before the evening practice.

pressed into service with what turned out to be the first of many trips to the neighbouring Wal-Mart. A brief meeting with Joe G. and the Show Committee resulted in a decision to rehearse from 9:30 'til 12:30 with an afternoon break due to the heat. The idea being for the members to stay cool and well-hydrated with good old H2O (enough said). Then it was off to the rehearsal field.

After some confusion we found our assigned soccer field and the boys proceeded to line the field while Dave B put the horns through a warm-up.

The Corps arrived back at the Microtel where a Subway lunch along with chips, sodas and water was waiting. Lunch was provided by the Corps and was appreciated by all, even



Evening practice.

though we neglected our vegetarians and the sandwiches were all the same. I can't imagine the implications of giving a choice to our ravenous crew at that point. The afternoon was spent by folks trying to stay cool and making numerous trips to Wal-Mart to stock up on supplies. At one point I counted four Wal-Mart shopping carts in the lobby and around the front door of the hotel.

The bus left for the rehearsal field shortly after 7:00 PM, when we put in another 2 hours.

Back to the hotel by 9:30 where we ran through our show a couple of times to the delight of most of the other hotel



Mini performance at the hotel after practice.

guests (except for the lady in 329). By then the corps was ready for some adult libations and something to eat. Several large pizzas of different varieties along with the leftover subs from lunch and ample beverages were provided by the corps. The ensuing tail-gate party was great. The lengthy trip combined

with a long day saw most folks off to bed shortly after midnight. The next day was going to be the busiest of the trip.

Day 3 – Saturday July 3, Michigan City, Indiana

Up early again today greeted by another 'scorcher' with temperatures forecast in the upper 90's F. Today it's Show Time with a parade this morning, practice this afternoon with the Classic Cavaliers and tonight – the reason we were there, the 50th Annual Pageant of Drums, Cavalier's home show. By 9:30 AM everyone was back on that deluxe, climate-controlled, highway cruiser heading to the start of the Parade.

At this point I should mention and introduce Jim Dwyer. Jim is the guy who handled all the logistics of our trip and was an invaluable aid in helping 'yours truly' with all the details of managing the trip. Now for those of you who don't know Jim – he has been organizing and running parades for longer than he probably cares to remember. Well the fact that this parade was a disorganized fiasco did not sit well at all with Jim. When we arrived at our assigned position for the parade where we were to meet our 'guide', there was no-one to be found. Also by this time our deluxe, climate-controlled highway cruiser was no longer capable of blowing cool air. While Jim and I went off in different directions to find someone who knew what was going on, the corps took time to warm-up and get musically prepared. I proudly returned to the corps after



Parade through downtown Michigan City.

Photo: Tammy Roy

finding someone who looked like he knew what was happening and did have a parade list. He advised we were unit number 25 behind the Salvation Army Band. After some careful maneuvering around the military tanks and heavy artillery and through the State Police mounted unit, we arrived in position 25. Moments later Jim arrived with the news and an admonishment 'What are you doing here... we are unit number 39!' Not to be daunted, we proudly and quickly moved to our new assigned position. The corps was wearing the summer parade uniform; only this time everyone was sporting the corps' new 2010 Tour Shirt. After some delay the corps moved off with our new uniforms and our new color guard in place.

The good news is the parade went smoothly from that point and, from our vantage point following behind the last row of

horns, they looked and sounded great. By noon we were back at the hotel on break 'til 2:30 PM. It seems that more Wal-Mart shopping was necessary and there was time to grab a bite to eat.

By 2:30 PM we were back on the bus (no longer a deluxe, climate-controlled highway cruiser) heading back to the practice field for a run-through of Somewhere over the Rainbow with the Classic Cavaliers Alumni Corps. After



Practice with The Classic Cavaliers.

some brief nostalgic introductions it was down to business. Following several run-throughs under their direction, off we went for a final couple of repetitions of our show. Then it was back to the hotel for a quick shower and an opportunity to get physically and mentally prepared for the evening Show.

By 5:30 PM our Honour Guard was transported to Ames Field to prepare for the show's patriotic opening featuring all the corps' Honour Guards and a Military Colour Guard. By



Police escort to the stadium.

Photo: Tammy Roy

6:00 PM the entire corps was on the bus waiting for our police escort to the field. The police escort was another trip highlight, as we were whisked to our assigned bus parking area by five police motorcycles as well as four police cruisers. With full lights and sirens, it was reminiscent of the recent G20 summit in Toronto. The corps was allowed to



Honour Guards during the "Salute To The Flag" pre-show ceremonies.

enter the stadium to watch several of the DCI (Drum Corps International) corps with instructions to return to the bus immediately following Madison Scouts to get dressed and ready for our 10:15 performance.

Miraculously, we managed to have a brief horn warm-up and arrived promptly at the ready line outside the stadium exactly

MIDWEST 2010 TOUR (continued)

on time. We entered that field like the Optimists of old and were welcomed enthusiastically by the 3,500 plus fans. The assessment of the corps' performance is covered in the



The Optimists Alumni in performance.

Director's Corner. Finally we arrived back at our hotel where we were met by members of the Classic Cavaliers, who



The Classic Cavaliers and Optimists Alumni in performance.

joined us for a spontaneous tail-gate party. It wasn't long, however, before everyone retired for the evening in anticipation of our 7:15 AM departure for Lake Whitmore.

Overall the effectiveness of the corps' rehearsals throughout the weekend was positive and a lot was accomplished. However, it is my assessment that the time and effort put forth by everyone would have been even more productive if there were less idle chatter. I know the intent of pointing out errors etc to your peers is well intentioned but when too many folks start helping out it results in well-intentioned chaos. This is something the whole corps should keep in mind for the balance of the year.

Day Four – Sunday July 4, Lake Whitmore, Michigan

Happy 234th Birthday America. By 7:45 AM our fully-loaded, no longer deluxe, no longer climate-controlled, bus pulled out of Michigan City bound for Lake Whitmore. This trip was more of a 'dash to your destination' and we arrived at Lake Whitmore just in time for a quick change, gentlemen in the woods behind the bus and ladies on the bus.

Today saw no let up in the heat and, in fact, it was probably the hottest day of our trip. Even along the shore of beautiful Lake Whitmore the temperatures registered over 100 F. At this time I should mention that we were the only band in the parade and, as one of the organizers later shared, we were the best band that ever participated in the town's 4th of July



Photo: Tammy Roy

Fourth of July Parade in Lake Whitmore, Indiana.

festivities. The reaction and appreciation of the crowd along the length of the parade was a fitting wrap-up performance to a great weekend. Towards the end of the parade the corps stopped in front of a chronic care facility where the patients had been assembled outside and we played directly to them. From where I was I could tell by the look on their faces how much they enjoyed this impromptu concert.

The parade ended adjacent to the Fire Hall and we were quickly able to arrange use of this air conditioned facility to change and freshen up for the trip home. Another job well done. Thank you Lake Whitmore.

Day 4 Continued – The Trip Home

After a short break and a few cold adult libations at the end of the parade, we boarded the bus and headed for home. As we departed the members reminded us that 'food' better be next on the Agenda. Ron the driver suggested a truck stop/restaurant area about 20 miles up the road so off we went, heading for home. The Old Country Buffet with its 100 foot long food trough proved to be just the thing to fend off the hunger pangs. Others crossed the parking lot to fuel up at a local Olive Garden. This healthier food choice also allowed a longer time crossing the parking lot for the smokers to have their final puff before climbing back on the bus. One more stop at the Duty Free and before we knew it we were back in Canada. The Customs Officer must have sensed from the look of our tired, somewhat haggard looking members that we were incapable of any infractions and waved us through.



Buford the Badger joined us in Michigan City. His dream to march has already been (cymbal) smashed. Turns out he has two left feet (and two right as well).

Now we were on the home stretch in a mad dash for the Cambridge Mall where we had departed on this trip some 75 hours earlier. At approximately 7:30 PM we pulled into The Cambridge Mall, disembarked and headed home.

My take on the trip – A good time was had by all!!

Thanks, Regards. Rick

WE REMEMBER...

Wayne Dean (1948-2010) was the kind of kid that made whatever group he was in better. He was one of those people that believed actions were more important than words. He



Wayne at practice (second from the left).
Crica 1967.

was an example of the best in all of us. Quiet. Well-prepared. Confident. Helpful.

He came to the Optimists in 1965 from the Jungles of Leaside (Leaside Jungle Kings). He marched until 1969 and both in victory and defeat he was a

consummate gentleman (although he would always gladly tell you exactly how he felt about the competition).

Wayne was part of the fabled Baritone Quartet which won numerous awards for performance excellence including the highest score ever awarded in the Canadian Drum Corps Association (CDCA) Individuals. This excellence was captured on the 1967 Championship recording of the Optimists.

Wayne became a successful businessman, husband, father and friend. He never ceased being completely proud of his accomplishments in the Green Machine. If a drum corps was comprised of Wayne Dean clones it would be unstoppable. We remember Wayne because he is quite simply, unforgettable.

Additional note from Paul Thompson: In 2008, the Alumni Corps performed at Cawthra Gardens to the immense delight of Wayne and other residents of the facility. This followed



Wayne and wife Mary-Ann, with Len Perrin
at Cawthra Gardens in Mississauga, 2008.

a long day's performance... first at the Warriors' Day Parade and then at Fort York Armouries.

This special performance in recognition of

Wayne's lifelong dedication to the Corps was for me one of the most emotional and proudest moments in my many years with the Optimists (as was playing contra with Wayne in that 1967 famed brass Quartet).

I am sure many others performing at Cawthra Gardens shared the magic of that special and unforgettable moment in our Corps long history.

Bob Cook (1941-2010) was a true, original Optimist member. The Cooks lived on Somerset Avenue, in Toronto, just one street over from Davenport Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of Delaware Ave. and Davenport Rd. So when Bob decided to join Scouts it was only natural that he



Bob (left) with brother Ron and Hector
Roberts. Crica 1955.

joined the nearest Scout Troop, which was at Davenport Presbyterian.

When the Scout Master, "Bud" Parker, asked the boys if they wanted to start a Band, Bob was there. When

the Troop moved to St Edmonds Anglican Church, next door to Davenport Presbyterian, and when they became the Davenport Trumpet Band, Opti-Corps and finally the Toronto Optimists, Bob was on the journey.

His Mom and Dad were quite active with the Scout Band, attending many events and always taking photographs. His Mom was an important part of the Women's Auxiliary, helping with fund raising and things like sewing new scarves for the Band.

Through the journey from Scouts to Opti-Corps, Bob was in the drum line but switched to the Colour Guard with Toronto Optimists, where he stayed from 1958 till 1961. In 1961, he became Guard Captain and aged out at the end of the year.



Bob Cook, Colour Guard Captain. Crica 1961.

His soon-to-become wife, Margaret, often was around the Optimists through the late 50's and early 60's. They were married in 1963 and had a long and happy marriage of 47 years, right up to Bob's sudden passing this year. They had two daughters, Lynn and Michelle.

After leaving the Corps, Bob became a stationary engineer and started his work career with Canadian National Railway, before moving on to Ontario Hydro after six years with the railway. He was with Hydro for 18 years before making a career change to sales in the heating and air conditioning industry.

Bob was pre-deceased, many years ago, by his brother Ron, the Optimists first cymbal player.

WE REMEMBER... (continued)



Stan Biggs 'Mr. Royalaire' passed away on July 15, 2010. Stan's love of marching and music began as a 13 year old when he joined the Guelph Veterans' Band, where he continued for the rest of his life.

After serving in the RCAF during WWII, he joined the 11th Field Regiment Trumpet Band and, as the drum major, led them to Canadian Championships in 1953 and 1954. In 1955, Stan helped found the Guelph Royalaires Drum Corps which he lead as corps director and drum major for many years, carrying the name of Guelph proudly throughout North America. Under his leadership, the Royalaires won 16 Canadian championships in 22 years, an unprecedented string of 6 in a row from 1959 to 1964.



Guelph Royalaires. Note the heart shape. (date unknown).

The corps was widely famed for their entertaining shows, becoming one of the most

successful and popular drum corps of the era. During this time, Stan helped found the 'Canadian Drum Corps Association' where he served as president for 5 years. In 1980, his accomplishments led to his induction into the 'World Drum Corps Hall of Fame'.

In 1974, Stan received the inaugural 'Mayor's Award of Merit' in recognition for 'his contributions to enriching the city and bringing honour to Guelph'. Stan enriched the lives of many people during his 90 years. He will be missed by all who knew him.

OOOOOPS!

On the bus to Michigan City, Jim Dwyer once again comes to the last name on the roll-call list.



Glenda Toe Toe Wow Wow. OK, OK, Glenda Twickle Toes... No?

DO YOU KNOW?

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

Thank you to all those who sent in their answers, however no one had all three correct.

APRIL'S ANSWERS

1. Who was the first contra bass player in Canadian drum corps?
Mel Day, Commanders, 1964.
2. As the crow flies, what was the furthest destination from Toronto made by the Seneca Optimists?
Denver, Colorado, 1977.
3. Who designed the Whaley Royce "Imperial" bugle?
Bill Shepherd of Whaley Royce.



Truman Crawford (left), Bill Shepherd and Dave Watt. January, 1965.

JULY'S QUESTIONS

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

Please send your answers by **Friday, September 17, 2010** to: David Johns, openrd2002@yahoo.ca

GCC

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

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

JUDGES CRITIQUE... YOU BE THE JUDGE

IN OUR competitive years we relied upon our drum corps judges to determine how we might modify our program or improve our performance in search of the Championship Title. No longer do we have that reassuring vehicle.

So... we decided to revive the tradition... except our GGC JUDGE is not a real person. The opinions in his

feature are actually compiled from comments solicited (or overheard) from corps members; instructors; guests to our rehearsals; and innocent, unsuspecting attendees to our public appearances. By way of disclaimer, you can anticipate some contradictory views as people will differ in their response to our show. Do what you may with this evaluation... in effect you can judge the Judge.

SIMCOE, MAY 8

Let me preface this by relaying an incident from the Optimists' very first performance in 2005 at Simcoe's 'The Bands Played On'. Following our rather robust stage performance, I was assailed by a red-faced John Longstreet (a friend and drum corps associate – now deceased – who I held in very high regard). John harangued me in no uncertain terms for the Corps' complete disregard and lack of consideration for the indoor venue as we played like there was no tomorrow. The resulting indiscriminate blast of noise was first, offensive to the listening audience... and secondly, so loud our repertoire was almost entirely unrecognizable.

"But what about the other corps," I retorted. "The same" he said. "But I expected more from the Optimists." In 2006 a much more refined and rehearsed Optimists Corps took to the stage. John made a point of seeking me out to praise the Optimists for a vastly improved presentation. We were redeemed.



Simcoe, 2010.

Move forward to 2010 and in a nutshell I can say... De la Salle stage band and CADRE both came with the intent of 'wowing' the audience. The Optimists did not. Individual errors, disjointed transitions, lackluster dynamics, false entries, undefined tempos marred the musical performance significantly. I suspect many had great difficulty memorizing the music. Even the Corps' deportment and bearing was less than desirable. The two new additions to the 2010 repertoire were at times almost unrecognizable... and the old standards were well below par.

In short, the presentation reminded me of a last run-through after an eight hour rehearsal. How it compared to other drum corps is irrelevant in my view. "Much more is expected of the Optimists".

Enough said. Things like this sometimes happen. You need to move on. You need to be prepared to entertain the masses every time you put on the Green. Good luck next time.

WOODSTOCK, MAY 24

This old style arena tattoo production always presents some unique challenges. The ubiquitous and often overpowering percussion reverberates through the rafters, frequently drowning out the rest of the music ensemble. The rule of thumb for percussion is "steady as she goes," – for wind



Woodstock, 2010.

instruments it's "every man for himself." It is kind of like singing in a shower where almost anybody sounds good if you can decipher the words through the unremitting echoes.

For those who have experienced this strange venue, we could only conjure up images of the nightmares going through the minds of the musicians on the floor. Signals Alumni Band, whose home is Fort York Armouries, are obviously accustomed to this ambiance. Indeed their full drill presentation and their pseudo-military musical repertoire were more than suitable for this tattoo earning the appreciation of the audience at every turn. In fact all the performing units were fun, each displaying their unique brand of entertainment.

JUDGES CRITIQUE... YOU BE THE JUDGE (continued)

As for the Optimists; right from the start they looked very sharp and in the final analysis won over the spectators with their overbearing confidence, self assuredness and impressive musicality. Surprisingly, they achieved an extraordinary balance between the percussion and brass, given the horrendous acoustical environment. Oohs and ahs from the bleachers frequently were audible, particularly during the Optimists' many melodic ballads. The percussion seemed steady as a rock, and the Corps' versatile repertoire was replete with layer after layer of rich texture and dynamic expression.

Likely the performance was far from flawless... the venue tends to mask individual and even collective errors. But the Corps emerged as the most seasoned musicians in the day's line-up. Other corps, in particular the host Corps, Midlanders Alumni Corps (MAC), may have been more spirited and theatrical – yet it was a pleasure to witness a refined and proficient Optimists Corps once again – a huge step forward from just two weeks ago in Simcoe. Well done!

TORONTO, JUNE 19

What a strange and intriguing event! At 9:30 am, Nathan Phillips Square was a sea of red as an estimated 1,500 athletes and supporters dressed in bright crimson t-shirts



City Hall, Nathan Phillips Square, 2010.

practiced their calisthenics in preparation for a city-wide marathon (their 100th in fact). Then, seemingly out of nowhere, this Green horde appeared in their midst. The drum line struck up a street beat. Like a magnet the participants

converged on the Corps. Flashing cameras from several cell phones signaled the curiosity inspired by these unexpected uniformed invaders. The crowd shifted almost involuntarily, but respectfully, as the Optimists trooped stoically towards the main stage.

Up came the Bugles – a ten second chorus of “Happy Birthday” followed – the crowd gleefully added a voice encore in celebration of their 100th anniversary – and just as quickly as they surfaced the Green horde vanished mysteriously into the bowels of the City Square. Not forgotten, I am sure.

As silly as the whole thing sounds, I believe this was a great event. Community appearances like this only help to increase the Corps' public profile. An early morning start demonstrates a dedication and esprit de corps beyond the call of duty. And when we gathered in the subterranean dungeons beneath City Hall, the chutzpah and attitude was jocular and infectious. Fabulous showmanship! Put another feather in your bonnet guys!

SALE – SUMMER CORPS JACKETS

There are four summer Corps Jackets for sale.

They've never been worn. (They were ordered but not picked-up). Embroidered crest on front and the felt crest on the back the follows the original design. Two front pockets and one inside pocket. 100% cotton with black polyester lining.

Sizes: Two **XL** and two **L**.

Price: **\$110.00** each.

Contact Brian Byrne at:
647-488-7243 or
bwbyrne90@hotmail.com.



MUNDELEIN, ILLINOIS, JUNE 30, 1963

| Corps | M&M (30) | Drums (30) | Bugles (30) | G.E. (10) | Standing | Score |
|--------------------------|----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|--------------|
| Chicago Cavaliers | 20.4 | 25.8 | 24.9 | 7.58 | 1 | 78.68 |
| Chicago RoyalAires | 20.0 | 25.3 | 22.8 | 7.27 | 2 | 75.37 |
| Norwood Park Imperials | 17.2 | 25.6 | 22.6 | 7.24 | 3 | 72.64 |
| Madison Scouts | 16.6 | 25.4 | 23.5 | 6.79 | 4 | 72.29 |
| Toronto Optimists | 15.3 | 24.7 | 23.3 | 8.43 | 5 | 72.29 |
| Belleville Black Knights | 14.8 | 25.5 | 23.3 | 8.43 | 6 | 70.38 |

Source: *Green Capsule Comments, 1963*

2010 OPTIMISTS ALUMNI SCHEDULE – UPDATE

The Management Committee and the Show Committee will be finalizing the rehearsals including one weekend off per month, the full list will be posted to the website before the end of April.

| | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Saturday | May 8 | Performance | Confirmed | “And The Bands Played On” | Simcoe, Ont. |
| Monday | May 24 | Parade and performance | Confirmed | Victoria Day | Woodstock, Ont. |
| Saturday | June 5 | Parade | Confirmed | “Opening of the Locks” | Bobcaygeon, Ont. |
| Sunday | June 13 | Parade | Confirmed | Rose Festival Parade | Welland, Ont. |
| Sunday | June 19 | Performance | Confirmed | City Hall | Toronto, Ont. |
| Thursday | July 1 | Parade | Confirmed | Canada Day | Cambridge, Ont. |
| Saturday | July 3 | Parade and performance | Confirmed | “Thunder On The Lake” Exhibition performance | Michigan City, Indiana |
| Sunday | July 4 | Parade, while returning to Toronto | Confirmed | 4th of July celebration | Whitmore Lake, Indiana |
| Saturday | July 24 | | Cancelled | Dutch Boy Show | Waterloo, Ont. |
| Sunday | August 8 | Performance | Confirmed | “Drums Along The Waterfront” DCI Show | Buffalo, NY |
| Saturday | August 21 | Parade | Confirmed | Toronto Warriors Day | Toronto, Ont. |
| Saturday | August 21 | Performance | Confirmed | Scout House Show | Galt, Ont. |
| Saturday | August 28 | Performance | Confirmed | Optimists “Legends 2” | Toronto, Ont. |
| Sunday | September 5 | Performance | Confirmed | DCA Alumni Spectacular | Rochester, NY. |
| Saturday | October 23 | Performance | Confirmed | Midlanders Show | London, Ont. |

A SPECIAL THANKS



Jim “Details” Dwyer. Tour Manager – Optimists Alumni Midwest 2010 Tour.

Hats off and thanks to Jim Dwyer for the great job he did as Tour Manager for the Corps’ recent trip to the mid-west. Jim handled the logistics of arranging the hotel accommodations, the travel and generally making sure we were at the right place at the right time.

Jim also handled the arrangements with the Classic Cavaliers Alumni Corps including our joint performance of *Somewhere over the Rainbow*.

‘Jim was my right hand throughout the entire weekend’ said Corps Director Rick Robida. Thanks Jim for helping to make our trip the success it was.



The Optimists Alumni and The Classic Cavaliers combined Colour Guards during the performance of *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* at Ames Field in Michigan City, Indiana.

Let’s hear from you...

GCC is published four times a year. Contributor deadline for next issue is **Friday, September 24, 2010**.

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

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

Or **MAIL** to Paul Thompson, C/o 306 - 205 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario M6P 2K1.

PHOTOS should be sent to: Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com

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

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

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