



### St. Patricks Day parade

ALWAYS an enjoyable (and long) parade in Toronto. The crowds are always very appreciative at this annual event.



Eastbound on Bloor Street at University Avenue with the new and old Royal Ontario Museum in the background.



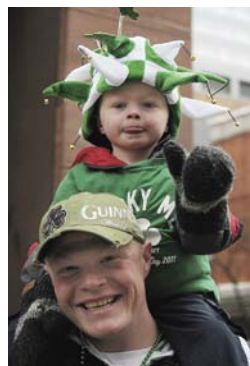
Guard Captain Glenda Tokiwa thanks some of the merry-makers along the parade route.



St. Patrick himself.



Downtown on Queen Street West marching toward the reviewing stand at City Hall.



Everyone loves a parade.

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1960 IS THE NEXT CHALLENGE

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Sam Grosvenor.

ARTICLES ABOUT THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS FROM THE PAGES OF DRUM CORPS PUBLICATIONS IN 1958

SOME OF DON DABER'S GREATEST HITS

*This from a man who can't sing.*

DO YOU KNOW?

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE



## PERFORMANCES

**SIMCOE – “AND THE BANDS PLAYED ON”, APRIL 16** *Our 2011 performance season started on April 16th with United Alumni’s 7th Annual “And The Bands Played On...”. The first performance of the year is always a thrill and this year’s show was no exception. Even though this year’s event was almost a month earlier than usual all of the corps were ready and the audience responded with great appreciation. What a wonderful start to the year! A big “Thank You” to the organizers for all of their efforts.*



KW Hot Brass



United Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps



CADRE



DOCA Brass Ensemble



Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps



Midlanders Alumni Corps



Scout House Alumni Band

**WOODSTOCK, MAY 23** *May 23rd took us to Woodstock for their annual Victoria Day parade and Band Tatio. Sam had passed away just the day before so it was a sad day for our Alumni Corps. In memory of Sam, we began our show with a moment of silence. Talking to members of the other corps really brought home the sense of camaraderie that exists within the drum corps community. This year the Northstar guard joined us in the parade. Check out the photos for a fantastic shot of them in the parade.*



Baton Group of the Philippine Heritage Band



A few members of The Ingersoll Pipe Band



Connellsville Area High School Band, Pennsylvania



The Unity Flute and Drum Corps



Part of the MM Robertson High School Drum Line



Navy Cadets



# The Legends of Drum Corps III Show

**Saturday, August 6, 2011, 6:30 pm**  
**Oshawa Civic Fields**

99 Thorton Road South, Oshawa, Ontario L1J 5Y1

**Tickets: \$10.00** Children under 12 - Free

*Tickets available at the door or from any performing unit*

Toronto Signals Band • Sudbury Imperial Knights

Preston Scout House Alumni Band

The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps



Presented by



For more information

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



# WOODSTOCK (CONTINUED)



Kids are always part of this parade...



and more kids



Local businesses are an important part of the parade



Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps



North Star Colours



A steel drum band greeted the audience at the show



Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps



Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps



Burlington Teen Tour band



Preston Scout House Alumni Band



Toronto Signals



The Midlanders Alumni Drum Corps

**BOBCAYGEON, JUNE 6** We're not sure whether it was just raining for the "Opening of The Locks" parade or, perhaps, the locks were opened above us. It was WET!! After the parade the Royal Canadian Legion provided a wonderful hot meal for which all of us drowned rats were very grateful.



Carol and Jan trying to get into their rain ponchos



Joe, Karen, Barry and William are ready to go



Is that a "cool" uniform or what



The North Star Colours who march with the Optimists



Tom Brown, Weather Anchor, CTV News, Toronto



Members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 239



## 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 someone for future publications by getting in touch with our editorial team. See page 16 for contact details.

### New members



**Rick Roblin, Cymbals.**

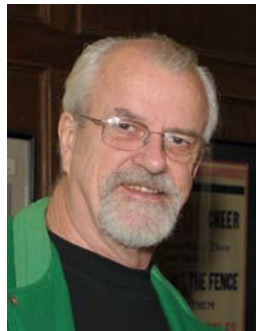
Rick has always liked the Drum Corps and marching bands. His Father was always in bands namely The Commanders, Jolly Jesters and also Service Corps. Rick's brothers Wilf, and Doug joined the Toronto Signals in 1972 and later his Father in 1983. Also Rick's other brothers Randy and Jon joined the "Sigs". Rick joined the Sigs in 1985 and stayed for 25 years and is now marching with The Optimist Alumni. This will be a great experience and Rick hopes have many more years in drum corps and make new friends.



**Verne Robertson, Percussion.**

Vern began drumming competitively at the age of 9 with the Conquer 2 Drum and Bugle Corps. The corps toured all around the USA. He is now part of the Optimists Alumni and Impact Percussion. Vern has performed at the Much Music Video awards and is in the new Classified music video. Vern has also preformed with the band Down With Webster.

### Associate members



**Frans Rood, Support Staff**

Frans was a member The Columbus Drum Corps from 1957 and in 1960 he joined The Toronto Optimists. He played bass drum in the most "incredible drum line". One of his biggest highlight in the corps was beating "Sac" (Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights) in Rome, NY in 1962. He left the corps at end of the 1963 season to join the Metro Toronto Police Force. Frans was Corps and CDA (Canadian Drum Corps Association) photographer in 1967. He joined the Alumni corps in 2005, and resigned in 2008 for health reasons.



**Brian Hogan**

Brian is a charter member of the Optimists Alumni and played baritone for four years, before being appointed as Drum Major in 2007. In 2008, he reached the pinnacle of his drum corps career when he had the opportunity to work with his drum major mentor, Vern Johansson. Now, as an Associate Member, the Corps is never far from Brian's thoughts and he looks forward to those occasions when he can be with his corps-mates again. Brian and his wife Sue live in Ottawa.

### TITLE HERE!!

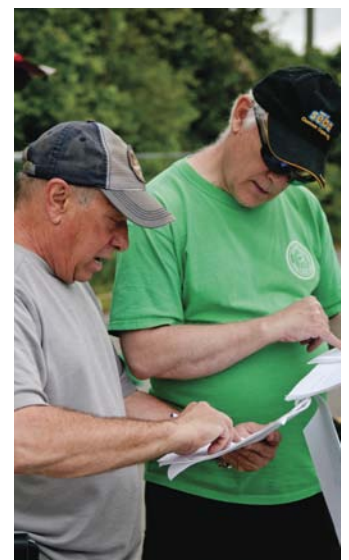
*During the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Glenda, our Guard captain met these fireman.*

*Is this what Glenda was thinking?*

I want to select the models and art direct the photography for the next Fireman's calendar!



**John Dileo, Drill instructor.**



*John and Bob Carell discussing lunch*

# 1960

Next  
challenge

## DO YOU SEE YOURSELF? DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF YOUR FORMER MEMBERS FROM 1960

**THE NEXT CHALLENGE.** This photo was taken at the Toronto Island Ferry Docks in 1960. GCC would appreciate hearing from you if you think you know who they are. Please E-mail your information to Bob Carell at: [Toronto\\_Optimist@rogers.com](mailto:Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com). Thank you to Phil Hennings for providing this rare photograph.



### Let's hear from you...

GCC is published four times a year. Contributor deadline for next issue is **Thursday, July 28, 2011**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### LET ME THINK ABOUT THIS...

During the cold, windy and rainy rehearsal on May 15th.  
*What's Heather thinking?*

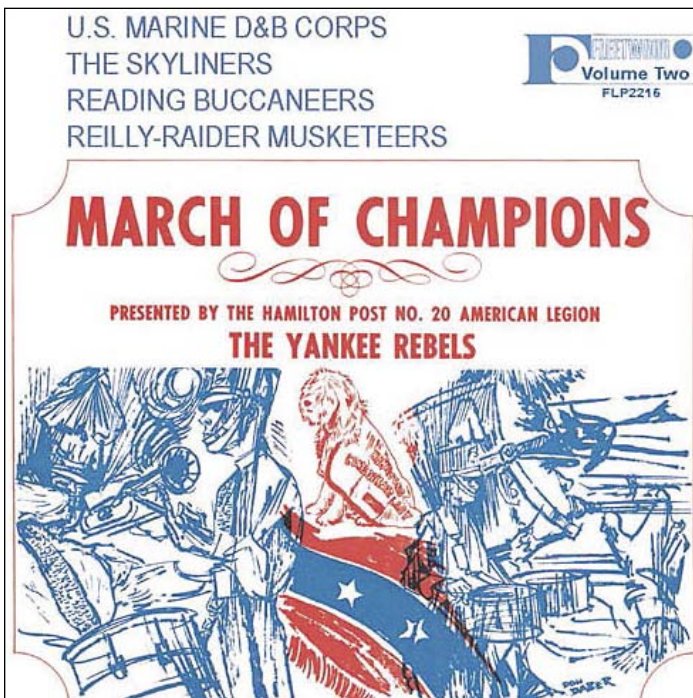


Submit your suggestions to Bob Carell at:  
[Toronto\\_Optimist@rogers.com](mailto:Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com)



**PEOPLE NEWS**

**S**SOME OF DON DABER'S GREATEST HITS. Don designed and did the artwork for many of the companies producing corps recordings. In addition, Don did the artwork for a great many drum corps shows. Below is a small sampling of his album covers. A big thank you to Phil Hennings for searching the internet for this outstanding work.



Don used his extensive photo collection of Canadian and American drum and bugle corps ensure the illustrations were accurate.



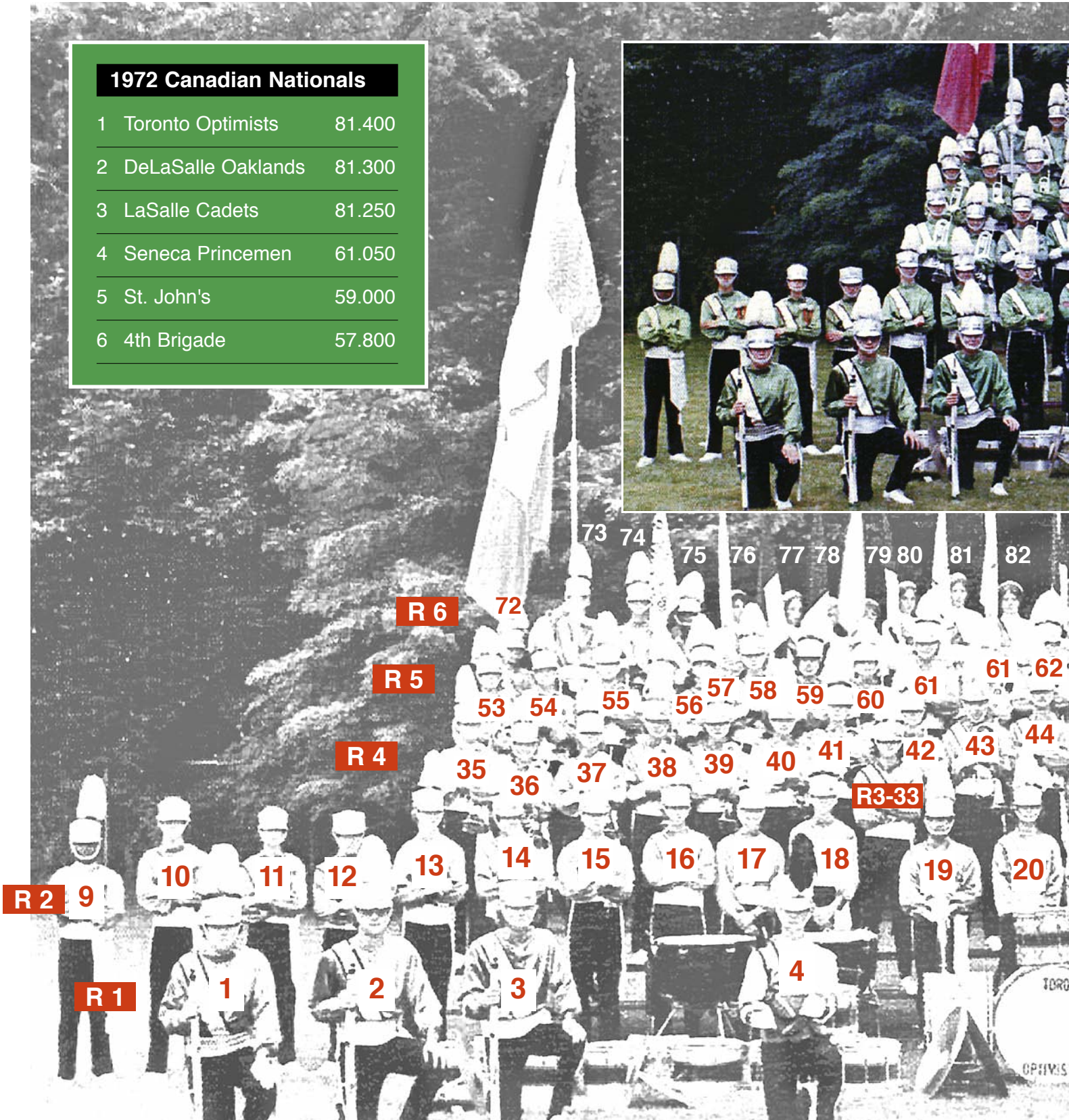
# 1972

## DO YOU SEE YOURSELF? DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF Y

This photo was taken at the US OPEN in 1972. GCC readers would appreciate hearing from you if you to Bob Carell at: [Toronto\\_Optimist@rogers.com](mailto:Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com). Also, if you feel some of the names are in the wrong

### 1972 Canadian Nationals

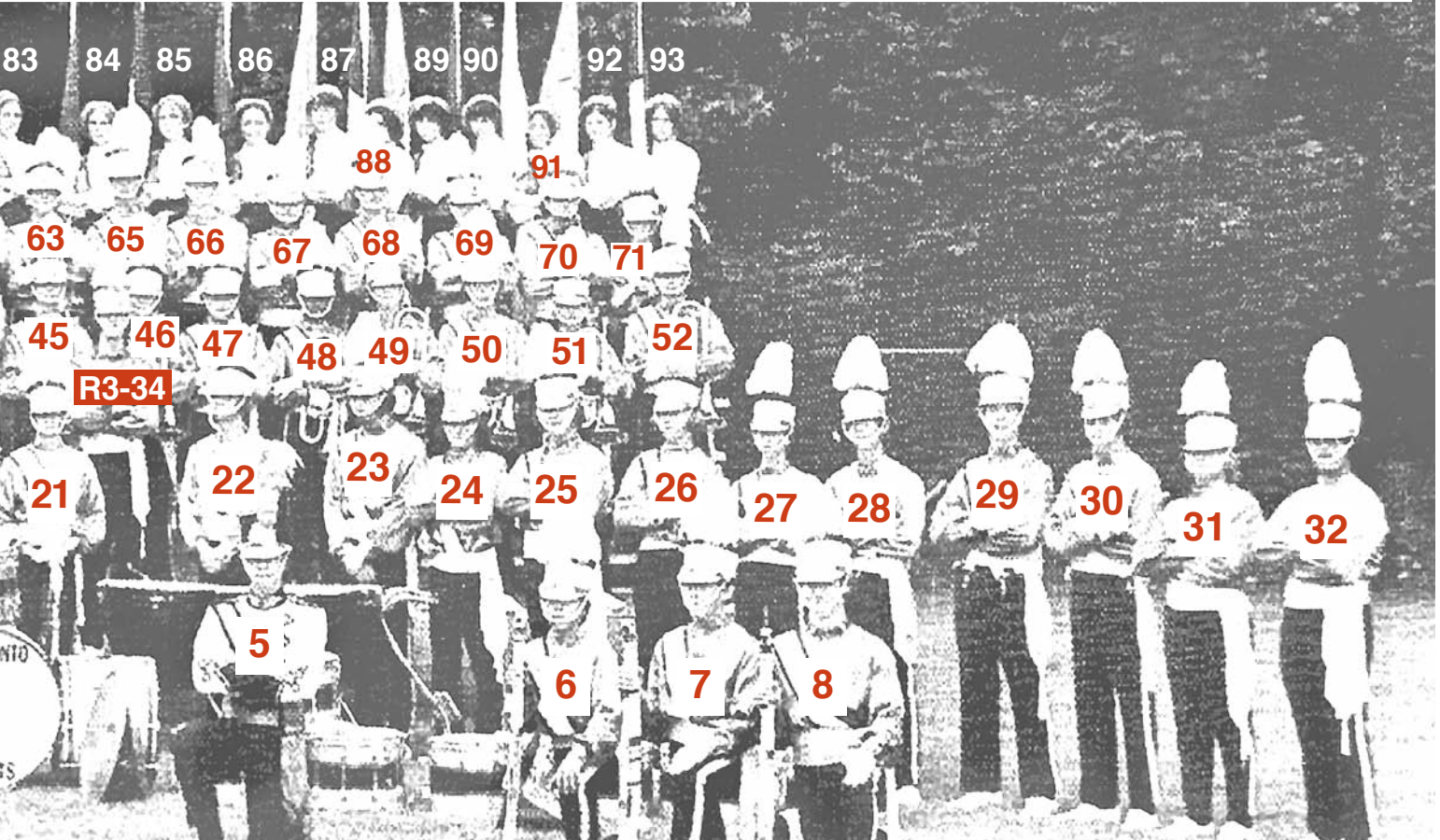
1	Toronto Optimists	81.400
2	DeLaSalle Oaklands	81.300
3	LaSalle Cadets	81.250
4	Seneca Princemen	61.050
5	St. John's	59.000
6	4th Brigade	57.800





# OUR FORMER MEMBERS FROM 1972

think you know who they are. Please indicate the name, which row and number and E-mail your information place, let us know. The challenge is to get as many correct names as possible.





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**Row 4**

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**Row 6 (Guard)**

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Mrs Baggs loaned Phil Hennings a bunch of articles from various drum corps publications. These articles cover the years 1958 and 1959. Here are some extracts from the reviews for 1958. In addition to the “unbiased” reviewers, we’ve included excerpts from Toronto Optimist Harry Clark (who wrote for Drum Corps News) as well as comments from whomever was writing the “Scout House Shorts” articles. We hope that you enjoy this unique perspective of the Toronto Optimists first year in competition.

### FROM ON PARADE, MAY 1958

THE OPTIMIST JUNIOR DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS, known as “The Optimists”, is sponsored by the Optimist Club of Toronto. They have been in operation for several years as a parade corps and in 1957 took first place in all stand-still contests. This included the Kiwanis Music Festival, the London Music Festival, Waterloo Music Festival and the Canadian championship at Galt, Ontario, Canada.

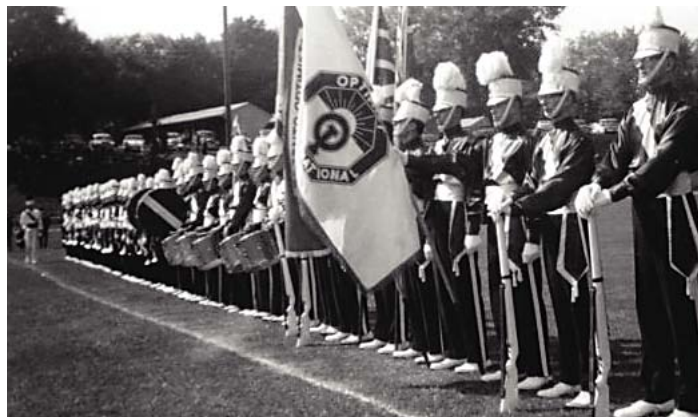
This year The Optimists are moving into the M&M class with a greatly expanded corps, new uniforms, new music, a most exciting drill and the best of instructors. The new uniform consists of emerald green blouses, black trousers with white trip, pearl shakos with green trim, chrome fittings and white plumes.

There has been a rumour around Ontario that The Optimists have combined forces with Danforth Crusaders. Such is not the case. Danforth’s very capable instructors made a change to The Optimists corps and quite naturally some of the boys came with them. The present enrollment is 51 and this includes some bandsmen from several corps as well as the original “Opti-Corps.” They will field a 44-man corps including a 7-man colour guard. It is hoped that many of the corps’ U.S. friends will be able to see it in action, not only in Canada, but across the Border as well, this coming season.

### DRUM CORPS “WORLD NEWS” – TORONTO, OPTICORPS, THE OPTIMISTS Toronto , CANADA, MAY 31 [1958]

Our jump from Class “B” standstill to Class “A” M & M is a success, as our first contest is now past history and in it we placed second among many experienced corps. A wide open, fast moving, drill and swinging concert had the crowd stomping and clapping. We came off the line with “When You’re Smiling”, into “Song Of The Vagabond”, “Optimist Theme”, “Big, Wide, Wonderful World” and “Wrap Your Trouble in Dreams”, Then the concert of “Hello Young Lovers” and “In The Mood”. After the concert, “The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise”, “Columbia Gem Of The Ocean”, “Zippety-Doo-Da”, and “Till We Meet Again”.

We were very pleased with our results and know that when our show has been polished and our fronts straightened we will rate much higher on the score sheet. After we left the floor it was announced, much to our surprise, that the corp s had been invited to compete at Batavia , NY... among New Jersey’s finest. This opportunity will afford us the much needed experience we require as we strive to perfect our



show. However, between now and May 31st we must learn four new numbers and maneuvers, from the concert on. This looks like we’ll be burning the midnight oil at rehearsals. (Harry Clark)

### DRUM CORPS WORLD: JUNE 1958

The ‘Optimists’ corps from Toronto put on such a stirring performance at the “Spring Tournament” that they were asked to take part in St. Joseph’s contest on May 31st.

The 1st real threat to send Scout House tumbling is the appearance on the Canadian scene of Toronto’s OPTIMISTS CORPS. These kids are gaining rave notices north of the border and many fellow Canadians have them a sure bet for top-dog in that sector.

### AUDUBON WINS SEVENTH ANNUAL SR. JOSEPH’S DRUM CORPS COMPETITION. BATAVIA. N.Y. MAY 31st

Optimists competed against AUDUBON, HOLY NAME, ST. VINCENT’S in Batavia NY. May.31st and this, to our knowledge, is the first time a Canadian Jr. Corps has vied with A Class American Juniors on American soil. Although OPTIMISTS placed 4th they feel that the experience was valuable and are confident of fast improvement from this point on. Their full show was put together barely in time for this contest.

### SCOUT HOUSE SHORTS: JUNE 1958

In bottom spot was the Optimist Corps from Toronto, for the first time in American competition and I might say did a very favourable job. These boys have a lot on the ball and their appearance and deportment was very impressive. I hear it was the details that beat them but when they polish those off, look out – everybody! (Com’n fellows, we can’t let the girls beat us... ahem...)



The Optimist Corps were right on keel this night and had they not been the host corp it might have been a sad day for Scout House.

The newly formed Opti-Corps from Toronto were breathing down our necks, in second position.

### **DRUM CORPS WORLD: AUGUST 1958 (FALCONER SHOW)**

Although we (Scout House) came up with the gravy. It was by mere .2 of a point. – You corps’ fans will note – the Optimists of Toronto are very close to Scout House, and so many rumours have been spread that they’ll beat us at the Canadian Championships. I’d like to give a brief explanation



*Phil Hennings,  
Drum Major, 1958.*

of our slight mid-season slump. I can only say best of luck to you. Opti Corps members, who we Scout House fellows admire very much and in the coming months (I hope) will prove that we still have the old esprit de corps. This month, I take off my hat to the Optimist Corps of Toronto for their great sportsmanlike manner. Even though beaten four times by Scout House, they have tried even harder to come out on top and if they keep it up

there might be some astonishing results. (As a Scout House fan, I hope not.) Good Luck. Guys. Your behavior over the past month gives you my vote as the Sportsmanship Corps of the month. So long for now. everybody, but come Sept. you’ll hear more news from the Canadian scene (*Scout House Shorts*).

Second corps of the evening was the from-out-of-nowhere sensation, the Optimists of Toronto. This corps has really captured my fancy, as well as that of the two American audiences they have appeared before. Their wide open drill, beautiful horns, marvelous execution, and overall spirit and enthusiasm had the crowd going wild over them. Their show fairly crackles with color and zip, and they look so sound more like a Class A senior outfit than a junior corps. They out pointed first place Scout House in all field captions<sup>o</sup>, as well as GE M&M, but finished second primarily because of Preston’s commanding lead in GE Drums. This was their second American Contest. and the calibre of their performance merits many more. (*Bob Mannhardt*)

### **1958 HOLD YOUR HATS!!! CANADIAN NATIONAL JUNIOR TORONTO “OPTIMISTS”**

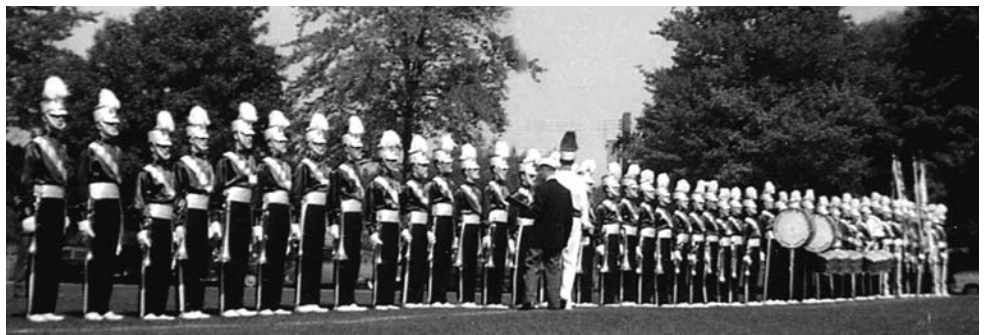
For the first time in five years the SCOUT HOUSE BOYS were defeated in the Canadian National Championships. This was accomplished by the Toronto Optimists Junior Drum and Bugle Corps.

Although the “Optimists” are well known as a standstill corps, this is their first year as an M&M corps. Winning the Canadian National Championship alone is a “dream come true” but to emerge the victor in a contest including the famous Preston Scout House Boys is a double honor and one which the “Optimists” can well be proud of. The Drum Corps World salutes the TORONTO “OPTIMISTS”. Canada can very well gloat over her internationally known junior drum and bugle corps, THE OPTIMISTS and the SCOUT HOUSE BAND.

### **DRUM CORPS WORLD: OCT.1958**

Sept. 13, Galt, Ont. – Today the Canadian drum corps world was stood on its ear and shaken to its foundations when the previously invincible Preston Scout House was defeated on their home field by the fabulous Toronto Optimists in the annual battle for the Canadian Junior National Championship. In accomplishing what had come to be thought of as an impossible feat, the Optimists firmly established themselves as the Miracle Corps of the year, because just one year ago, this corps was a Class B standstill unit.

Following the end of last season, they acquired new men, new instructors, new equipment, new uniforms, new music, and a new goal to shoot for. In their first M&M contest they placed second. At Batavia, N.Y., they amazed the audience with their performance, and prompted “Rochester Drumbeat” to acclaim them as an excellent bet to win the Canadian National Championship. At Falconer, N.Y. they were only 1/4 of a point behind Preston. beating Scout House in all field captions. And now at Galt they have reached the pinnacle of success in their freshman year of M&M, a victory that is nothing short of fantastic. I venture to say that no corps in Canada looks forward to the coming year with greater eagerness or enthusiasm than the Optimists. But whatever glories are to be theirs in the future, none will ever eclipse or outshine that thundering moment when the P. A. system announced...“and in second place, Preston...”



*“Inspection” at the Canadian Championships, Galt, Ontario, 1958.*

The winning Optimists were on second. and my notes read “marching dazzling, horns brilliant. Articulation. Dynamics, intonation all the best”. That says it all. They really had It, in spades.



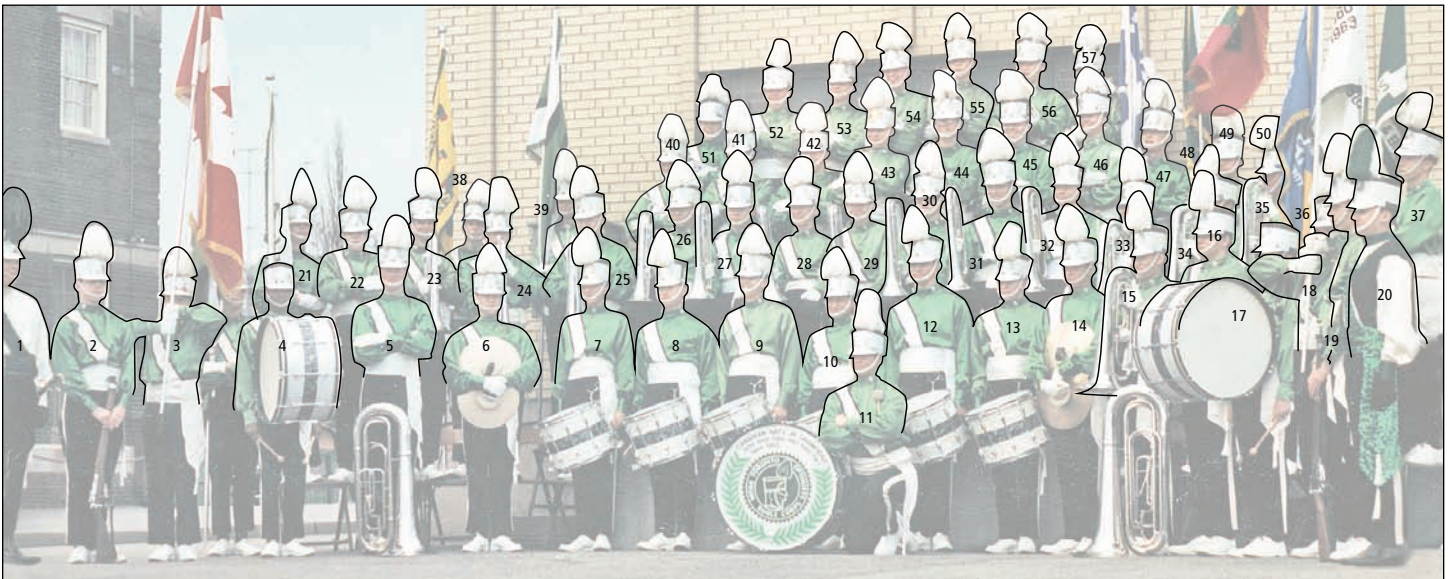
**DO YOU SEE YOURSELF? DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF YOUR FORMER MEMBERS FROM 1966**

This 1966 was taken in beside the Shriners Building. GCC would appreciate hearing from you if you think you know who they are. Please indicate the name, which row and number and E-mail your information to Bob Carell at: [Toronto\\_Optimist@rogers.com](mailto:Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com). Also, if you feel some of the names are in the wrong place, let us know. The challenge is to get as many correct names as possible.



**Rick Tracey has identified over 10, names and will receive an Optimists 50th Anniversary plaque. Thanks very much Rick.**

*This offer is an ongoing... please continue to send in names.*



***Thanks very much to everyone who sent in names. If you recognize any more members, please let us know.***



## Names collected to date for the 1966 photo.

<b>Row 1</b>	31	Marcel Smolinski
1	32	George Wright
2	33	Bob Christie
3	34	
4	35	
4	36	Dave Harris
5	37	Clayton Keats
6		Garrith Green
7	<b>Row 3</b>	Emilio Russo
8	38	Ron Kaiser
9	39	John McDonald
10	40	Vince Ferraro
11	41	Rick Tracey
12	42	Gord Lefevre
13	43	Russ Jarvis
14	44	David Collins
15	45	Bob Scott
16 (Contra)	46	Paul Thompson
17 (Bass Drum)	47	Dave Simms
18 (Flag)	48	
19 (Rifle)	49	Bill Kane
20	50	Vern Johansson
<b>Row 2</b>	<b>Row 4</b>	Bill MacMillan
21	51	Steve Cooper
22	52	Mike Tierney
23	53	Rick Shearer
24	54	David Matts
25	55	Doug Sparkes
26	56	Bill Bradley?
27	57	Terry Warburton
28		Art Tamaki
29		Mike Thys
28		Brian Byrne
29		Stewart Young
30		Alan Acron

## WE REMEMBER

### Sam Grosvenor, 1962 - 2011



The fates were kind to both Sam and The Optimists Alumni the day he pulled his convertible into the driveway at The Legion in 2009 to turn around. He could clearly hear the sound of our horn line rehearsing through the open door and he was immediately bitten by the drum corps bug once more. From the moment he walked in he was back and he never left again.

Originally Sam started in The Etobicoke Optimists Lancers in the Fall of 1972 at the age of nine (just weeks short of their minimum age of 10). He was a proud member during those years progressing all the way up to First Baritone. Sam along with fellow Baritone Kevin Casquenette even went on to compete in the ODCA Individuals Competition as a duet.

Sam was in fact second generation drum corps following the introduction he received watching his Dad Jack play soprano with Canada's Marching Ambassadors here in Toronto in the 60s. Sam was frequently at their rehearsals long before he was old enough to join a corps himself.

Sam loved drum corps with a passion, (hey he drove to Michigan City Indiana in the middle of the night because he was working and missed going with us on the bus). He also brought the love of his life, his daughter Shannon along on that trip and we clearly saw how devoted a Dad he was up close. The final member of his immediate family who loves drum corps is Sam's Mom Fran who was introduced to us soon after at our Legends II show.



Sam's daughter, Shannon, walking through the Alumni Honour Guard.

So this is our salute to that "shy guy" on Third Baritone who rarely had much to say (ya right). We miss you already buddy and we will see you again so make sure you keep your chops in shape.



## 2011 OPTIMISTS ALUMNI SCHEDULE

This schedule is accurate at time of publication. The current schedule is always on our website.

Monday	<b>May 23</b>	Parade and Performance	Confirmed	Woodstock Parade	<b>10:00 am - 2:00 pm</b>	Woodstock, Ontario
Saturday	<b>June 4</b>	Parade and Performance	Confirmed	Waterway opening	<b>10:30 am</b>	Bobcaygeon, Ontario
Sunday	<b>June 19</b>	Parade and Performance	Confirmed	Confirmed	<b>12:00 noon</b>	Welland, Ontario
Friday	<b>July 1</b>	Parade	Confirmed	Canada Day Parade	<b>Noon</b>	Port Dover, Ontario
Sunday	<b>July 10</b>	Performance	Confirmed	TBA	<b>Afternoon</b>	Sudbury, Ontario
Saturday	<b>August 6</b>	Performance	Confirmed	Legends 3	<b>6:30 pm</b>	Oshawa, Ontario
Saturday	<b>August 20</b>	Parade	Confirmed	Warrior's Day	<b>9:00 am</b>	Toronto, Ontario
Saturday	<b>August 20</b>	Performance	Confirmed	Scout House Show	<b>3:00 pm</b>	Kitchener, Ontario
Sat - Sun	<b>Sep 3 - 4</b>	Performance	Confirmed	Alumni Spectacular	<b>Sun, Sep 4th, am</b>	Rochester, New York

### "Won't the sun ever shine on our parade?"

Preparations for the June 4 Bobcaygeon parade.

What was *this* person thinking?



Submit your suggestions to Bob Carell at:  
[Toronto\\_Optimist@rogers.com](mailto:Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com)

### GCC STAFF

Editor: Paul Thompson.

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

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

Consultant: Don Daber.

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

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

### DO YOU KNOW?

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

**Congratulations to Brian Collingdon for answering the February questions.**

### FEBRUARY'S ANSWERS

1. In what year did the Seneca Optimists win the US Open?  
 Extra points for location.  
**1977. Marion, Ohio**
2. In what year did Blessed Sacrament compete in the DCA Championships??  
**1975.**
3. Which members of the Optimists were Drum Majors of the Commanders Senior Drum & Bugle Corps?  
**Bob Bond, Andy Hebiton, Andy Henderson, Bill Holloway, Ted Key, Al Morrison and Gord O'Halloran.**

### MAY'S QUESTIONS

1. Who arranged the Optimists 1972 concert?
2. How tall was the 1972 National flag pole. How did it work and who created it? (OK, OK, it's three questions)
3. Which 1972 soloist became instructor for the Optimists
4. What are the names of the instructors who led the Optimists to their 12th championship in 1972?

Please send your answers by **Thursday, July 28, 2011** to:  
 David Johns at: [openrd2002@yahoo.ca](mailto:openrd2002@yahoo.ca)