



The Rose Festival – Welland, June 19

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



Let the parade begin.



Pipe Band from the Niagara Region.



Just a few of the many Parade Princesses.



Local dance schools



Many High School bands enjoyed the good weather.



The Chapparells, Akron, Ohio.



Les Éclairs de Québec Drum & Bugle Corps.

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1960 IS THE NEW CHALLENGE

DO YOU KNOW?

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

PERFORMANCES

The Rose Festival (continued)



The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps.



The Northstar Colours.



The Niagara Militaires Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps.



Les Diplomates Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps from Québec City.



Dancing to the music of the steel band.



The Blue Knights Drum & Bugle Corps from Sudbury.



Many cultural organizations were part of the parade.



The evening show featured CADRE and The Optimists Alumni.

PERFORMANCES

Canada Day Parade, Port Dover, July 1

A beautiful resort town on the shore of Lake Erie was the location for our 2011 Canada parade.



Optimists Alumni warm up and filling up before the parade.



This gets you in the spirit. This house was across the street from where the Optimists prepared for the parade.



It's all in fun.



Kids love a parade.



Tribute to local veterans and the Legion.



"Uh Oh, I can't eat my ice cream cone if I hold two flags".



Paris – Port Dover Pipe Band.



We're here to have fun and celebrate!

PERFORMANCES

Canada Day Parade (continued)



Midlanders Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps.



The Gentlemen of Harmony.



The Top Hat Marching Band.



The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps wearing their hot weather parade tops.



Simcoe United Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps.



The Milking Maids.



Red and white were the colours of the day.

Spectacle of Sound, Sudbury, July 9 and 10

A bus trip reminiscent of those "Back In The Day". The corps arrived in Sudbury on Saturday in time for an afternoon rehearsal. Dinner was sponsored by the Sudbury Imperial Knights and held at the Polish Combatants Hall, followed by an impromptu trip to the famous Sudbury Nickle on the way back to the hotel. After dinner, a party was hosted by Toronto Signals celebrating Ron Jordan's 88th birthday, Ron guards the National Flag for Signals. Everyone had a great time.



There are corps members under all this.



Maeve attempts a beauty sleep... again.



The usual dignified group at the back of the bus.

Spectacle of Sound (continued)



Saturday: Practicing on the grounds of the beautiful Laurentian University.



Northstar Colours.



Quads, snares and tenor line.



Drum Major, Jeff MacKay.



Dinner – Standing l-r: Toby Flechette, Doug Johns (Signals), Rick Lang and Joe Gianna.



Our dinner hosts at the Polish Comaptants Hall. l to r: George Pabisz, Member, Michael Slawny, Vice President and George Aniol, President.



Members of Signals celebrate Ron Jordan's 88th birthday at an after dinner party. Ron is in the Colour Guard and guards the National flag.



Sunday: **Spectacle of Sound** – Leading off the show, The Toronto Signals.



Les Stentors from Sherbrooke, Québec.



PERFORMANCES

Spectacle of Sound (continued)



Sudbury Imperial Knights.



The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps – Horns.



The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps. – Drum Line



Colour Guard.



Northstar Colours.



The Blue Saints from Sudbury.



"March Past", part of the closing ceremonies.



Spectacle of Sound – Finale The combined horns from all corps played "Danny Boy".

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 12 for contact details.

New members



Keith Dearlove (Contra)

They say drum corps is family oriented. Never was it more true than when Keith, his charming wife Kim and a number of their 10 children joined us after the Port Dover parade to quench a hot day's thirst in the local parking lot. Keith thus became our all important bottom brass voice (with his contra bass) through to DCA's Alumni Spectacular.



Keith with his daughter watching Les Diplomates perform after the rained out show in Kitchener.



Matthew Davis (Baritone)

For the past 20 years Matthew has always played a musical instrument, including the piano, trombone and baritone horn. He marched in DCI with Dutch Boy from 2003 to 2005. Matthew played with East Coast Jazz who finished in 2nd place in Division 2 at DCI. He aged out in 2006. He is currently studying for a degree in Accounting from Conestoga College in Kitchener.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP has its benefits... be part of the Optimists family; this is a way for you to support the Corps and stay connected. By paying a small annual fee you are entitled to participate in Corps functions, you are eligible to vote and stand for election. You'll also receive member-only emails, access to the members section of the web site, and a free ticket to our show "Legends IV". Get in touch: info@optimists-alumni.org

WHAT A GREAT YEAR – THE NORTHSTAR COLOURS



Joselyn, Madison, Alana, Maeve and Erin at the corps party in Rochester.



Legends III Show in Oshawa.



During concert at the DCA Alumni Spectacular in Rochester.

Let's hear a big "Wooo!" for these five beautiful young ladies and their instructors who, for a second summer, graced our parades and field shows. Thanks for being there. We hope you can join us again in the future (yes we'd love to have 1/2 your energy).

From **Drum Corps World** – September 2011 issue (Keith Gammon)

The Optimists hornline shined from the get-go, exhibiting a warm tone... The guard, from the Northstar Performing Youth Organization, had a more modern book than most alumni corps... The drumline exhibited flair during their solo, making use of stick visuals... The Optimists showed the crowd both substance and style during their performance.

Legends III, Oshawa, August 6

The third annual **Legends of Drum Corps Show** was held at the newly renovated Oshawa Community Fields. The show was dedicated to Optimists Alumni member Sam Grosvenor who passed away during a summer practice.



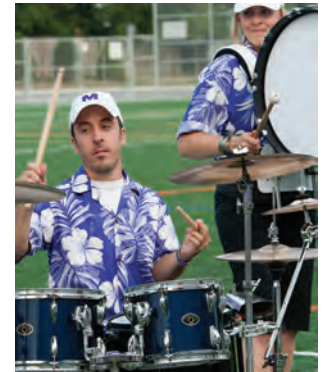
Opening ceremonies. Colour guards present colours for the singing of O'Canada.



Brian Hogan, Master of Ceremonies.



Midlanders Alumni Corps.



The Sudbury Imperial Knights.



Toronto Signals Band.



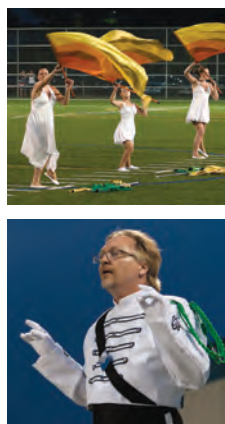
Preston Scout House Alumni Band.



The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps.



Heather Hyslop.



Drum Major, Jeff MacKay



Massed bands playing "You'll Never Walk Alone".

Warriors' Day Parade, Toronto and The Invitational Tattoo, Kitchener, August 20

The Optimists participated in **The Warriors' Day Parade** in tribute to the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 344, where we hold rehearsals. Unfortunately the **Preston Scout House Invitational Tattoo** was rained out; however, there was an impromptu show in the curling rink beside the stadium. The Optimists Alumni and Les Diplomates performed.



Warriors' Day Parade – CNE.



Kimiko Yamada was a member in 2010 and joined us while on a short vacation from Japan.



Optimists impromptu presentation.



Les Diplomates Colours.



Les Diplomates played their entire show and then some.

DCA Alumni Spectacular, Rochester, Sept 3 and 4

This is always an enjoyable weekend with so many outstanding Drum Corps.



Afternoon rehearsal, Saturday, September 3,



Afternoon rehearsal.



Corps party at a restaurant near Lake Ontario.



Ric Brown handing out humorous "Awards" to deserving members.



The Freelancers from California opened the show.



D.M. Jeff MacKay.



Optimists entering the field ready to perform.

PERFORMANCES

DCA Alumni Spectacular (continued)



Lifting the horns for maximum effect.



High five before concert.



Presenting the colours.



Northstar Colours getting the crowd into the moves.



Jeff making it happen



Swing'n and sway'n in concert to Moonlight Serenade, Drum Boogie, and Caravan.



Traditional end of performance "March Past".

2012 OPTIMISTS ALUMNI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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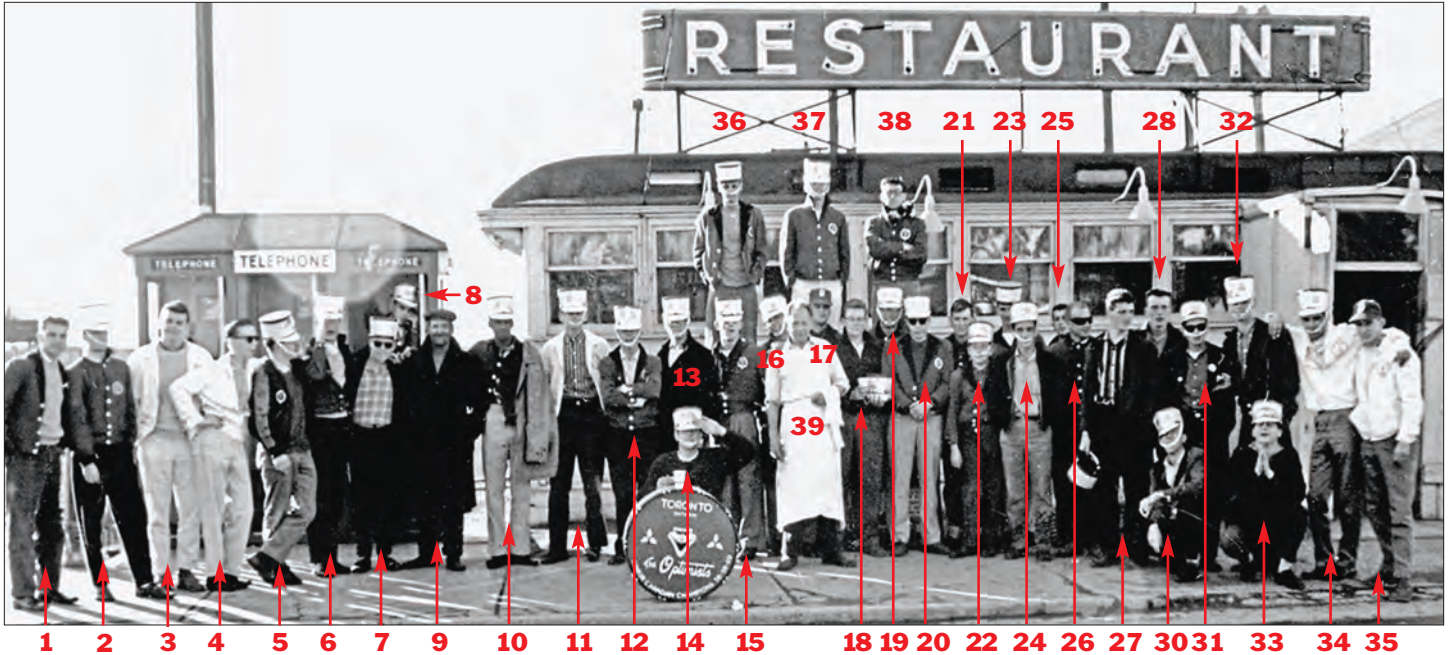
Back Issues: \$5.00 each

(Black ink on green paper (just like the original GCC), includes postage.)

1960 Challenge

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

THE 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. Thank you to Phil Hennings for providing this rare photograph *and* some of the names to the best of his recollection at time of Web publication.



1 _____	17 _____	33 _____
2 _____	18 _____	34 _____
3 _____	19 _____	35 _____
4 _____	20 _____	36 _____
5 _____	21 _____	37 _____
6 _____	22 _____	38 _____
7 _____	23 _____	39 The cook
8 In phone booth	24 _____	
9 Homeless Guy?	25 _____	
10 _____	26 _____	
11 _____	27 _____	
12 _____	28 _____	
13 _____	29 In the washroom	
14 _____	30 _____	
15 _____	31 _____	
16 _____	32 _____	



Drum Major Phil Hennings and the corps, 1960.

PROPOSED 2011 – 2012 OPTIMISTS ALUMNI SCHEDULE

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

Sunday	September 25, 2011	Annual General Meeting	Confirmed	12:00 noon	Canadian Legion, Toronto
Saturday	October 22	Performance	Confirmed	1:00 pm	London, Ontario
Sunday	October 23	Performance	Confirmed	1:00 pm	Palais Royale, Toronto
Saturday	November 19	Santa Clause Parade	Confirmed	9:00 am	Oakville, Ontario
Saturday	November 19	Santa Clause Parade	Confirmed	5:00 pm	Georgetown, Ontario
Sunday	November 20	Santa Clause Parade	Confirmed	1:30 pm	Guelph, Ontario
Saturday	November 26	Santa Clause Parade	Confirmed	11:00 am	Uxbridge, Ontario
Saturday	November 26	Santa Clause Parade	Confirmed	5:00 pm	Fenelon Falls
Sunday	November 27	Santa Clause Parade	Confirmed	1:00 pm	Mississauga, Ontario
Saturday	May 12, 2012	Performance	Confirmed	7:00 pm	Simcoe, Ontario
Friday to Sunday	May 18 to 20	Parade and performance	TBA	3 days	West Virginia, USA
Monday	May 21	Parade and performance	Confirmed	10:00 am	Woodstock, Ontario
Saturday	June 2	Parade and rehearsal	Confirmed	10:00 am	Bobcaygeon, Ontario

Let's hear from you...

GCC is published four times a year. Contributor deadline for next issue is **Thursday, October 20, 2011**.

For the moment, please submit your material to David Johns at: 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

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.

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.

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.

Contributor: Mike Lang

CORRECTIONS: We tried to get everything right. If not, please let us know: 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.

There was no winner this time.

ANSWERS – MAY

1. Who arranged the Optimists 1972 concert?
Larry Kerchner
2. How tall was the 1972 National flag pole. How did it work and who created it? (OK, OK, it's three questions)
(a) Approximately 11 feet (b) rope pulley (c) Ben Burrage
3. Which 1972 soloist became instructor for the Optimists
Peter Byrne
4. What are the names of the instructors who led the Optimists to their 12th championship in 1972?
Paul Thompson, Ron Kaiser, Dave Parker

QUESTIONS FOR DECEMBER

1. Who was the first Director of the Optimists Alumni Drum Corps?
2. Who were the four founding of the Optimists Alumni Drum Corps?
3. When was the first public appearance where the current Alumni uniform was first worn?

Please send your answers by **Thursday, October 20, 2011** to: David Johns at: openrd2002@yahoo.ca