



Victoria Day Parade – Woodstock

We knew it was Victoria Day because we were in Woodstock for their annual parade and performance. This year the performance was outdoors which made it easier for the spectators to actually hear the music. In addition, we began the show with an unintended comedy routine. Please read the Drum Major's Rapport on page 7 to find out more. If you look below you'll find photos of some of the participating units.



Alexander Chetney,
Parade Ambassador.

Members of The Canadian Legion lead the parade marching to the music of the Ingersoll Pipe Band



MM Robinson High School Drumline



Midlanders Alumni Drum Corps



Impact Percussion



The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps



Optimists Alumni Drum Major, Jackie Nicholls



Burlington Teen Tour Band

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Victoria Day Show

The Optimists Alumni wish to thank the City of Woodstock for hosting a wonderful afternoon of drum corps entertainment.



Midlanders Alumni Drum Corps



MM Robinson High School Drum Line



Toronto Signals Band



Impact Percussion



Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps



Burlington Teen Tour Band

“Opening The Locks” parade – Bobcaygeon

By Phil Hennings

Here, at last, a new season of Drum Corps festivities. Time to reminisce and time to see old friends. As a retired Corps member that feeling of marching and hearing the Corps playing their music down the street brings back such fond memories. Like they say “there’s nothing like a parade.” Looking at the Corps web site I noticed that the Opening of The Locks in Bobcaygeon was going to be on June the 2nd. I had marched in this parade before and also put in a practice later in the afternoon.



Phil Hennings

The town always greeted us with open arms so this was my chance again to see the parade, this time on the side lines. It was a great day for a trip to the town of Bobcaygeon, as per usual we would meet at the Legion. The Legion always made the Corps welcome; their members are so friendly. Our Corps members were able to change into their uniforms to get ready for the parade and would return to the Legion after the parade for a great lunch. As the members were ready to leave, I noticed Joe Gianna and Ron Chong were not able to march in the parade so I asked the President if I could take them in my car and join in the parade, the answer was YES. We managed to convince our wives to come as well. What a

great way to see and hear the Corps: they sounded wonderful and my knees didn’t hurt at all.

When we got back to the Legion the food was cooking and the drinks were flowing. Everybody was enjoying their lunch. After lunch the Corps played their 2012 music for the Legion members. This year’s music should be a crowd pleaser – they sounded great in my opinion. Next they headed up to the practice field for a few hours.

Word was sent out there was to be a bash at Berger’s cottage down the road from town. Warren and Hazel had done this for the last three years. Warren and Hazel always make people feel welcome. Having been invited before, I knew what my job was going to be. On with the apron and heatproof gloves, a job that “only a tall person could do” – that’s what the Host told me. He knows how to sweet talk you into doing anything. I still think with a name like Berger why would he want to barbecue Peameal Bacon? If I do say so it is the best peameal bacon I’ve tasted. There was Corps’ music playing in background, people talking, everybody having one goodtime. Times like this are always great and memories flow like water in a stream. Now that the burns on my hands and face have healed, I would like thank Warren and Hazel for the great evening and for allowing all of us to reminisce.



The Legion Honour Guard



The Corps



Impromptu concert for our hosts the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 239



Hosts: L. Margaret Cameron, President. R. Ruth Moody, Sergeant at Arms

The Guard in Bobcaygeon

Front, L to R: Madison Darwin, Yun Jung Park, Eun Ha Bae, Ye Jin Kim. Back: Lani Beirness.

Yun, Eun and Ye are from South Korea and were attending Northstar Master Classes to upgrade their teaching skills as Guard instructors.



Rehearsing for the “Opening Of The Locks Parade” in Bobcaygeon



Leading The Optimists in the parade

“Rose Festival” show and parade – Welland

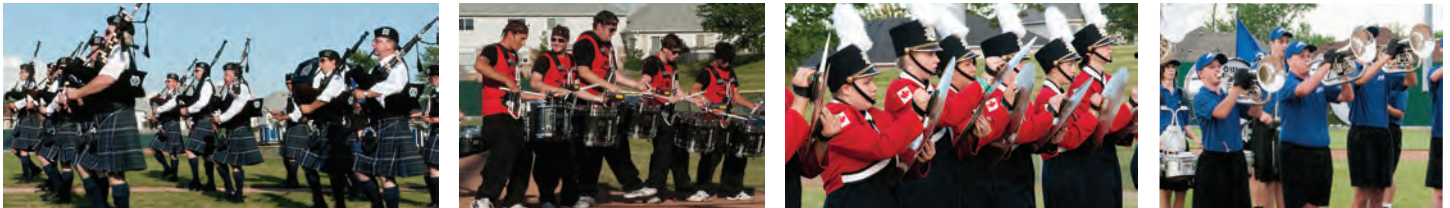
The Welland Rose Festival has its’ roots back in 1962 and there was always a Drum Corps show going on in conjunction with the parade. Back then the first shows were a part of a round-robin circuit of local corps that included home-town favorites like the Welland-Crowland Lancers, the Niagara Militaires, The Grantham Police Boys Band, the Port Dalhousie Guardsmen and the Thorold Black Knights. As the show grew, corps like The Toronto Optimists, De La Salle Oaklands and The York Lions appeared frequently. Nice to see that that old Drum Corps show has been revived.

For some of the old boys in the Optimists, it was also the scene of a quite memorable event, it was primarily remembered as the day that Drum Major Vern Johansson made the one and only mistake of his distinguished career. Yep, he made one. As hard as this may be to believe he actually forgot to bring up the horns after concert. Fortunately the Corps did recover very quickly and we still won the contest by several points. But, for a couple of beats, Vern inspired some anxious moments. (Apologies to Vern, from someone having a pretty vivid recollection of the event). In any case it was nice to be back in Welland, the scene of so many pleasant memories.

Saturday evening performances



The Optimists Alumni



Niagara Region Police Pipe Band

Impact Percussion

MM Robinson High School Drum Line

The Blue Saints



Preston Scout House Alumni Band

The Sudbury Imperial Knights Alumni

Les Diplomates Alumni

Sunday afternoon Rose Parade



“Let’s get the parade underway!”

Niagara Region Police Colour Guard and Pipe Band

Rose Parade continued



The Parade Princesses and The Rose Festival Mascot.



Les Eclairs



MM Robinson High School Drum Line



Les Diplomates



Lincoln-Wellington Regimental Band



Optimists Alumni



E.L. Crossley Secondary School



Scout House Alumni Band



Niagara Militaires Alumni Band

ARTICLE

Our Summer Guard



Front L to R: Taryn Kinnaird, Kaitlin Eagle, Mikaila Bishop-Jensen, and Madison Darwin. Back: Lani Beirness, Alyssa Francis, Hanne Dove and Angie LaPlante



Performing in Sudbury, 2012



Improvised dressing room on the bus in Sudbury. L to R: Kaitlin Eagle, Alyssa Francis, Taryn Kinnaird (holding blanket), Lani Beirness and Mikaila Bishop-Jensen



Doug Darwin,
Manager, Northstar
Guard



John Anderson,
Director, St. John's
Winter Guard



Melinda Loader,
Instructor



Sarah DeFransisco,
Instructor

“Canada Day” parade – Cambridge *by Paul Thompson*

After interviews with a handful of members, GCC prepared this review. Vern Reid was particularly anxious to share his new experience as driver of the Optimists’ emergency van.

Newsflash: The Optimists Alumni presented their first show-stopper of 2012. Well not exactly the Corps. Vern Reid, single handedly engineered this Canada Day block-buster before the parade even began. How?

Not far from the marshalling point Vern noticed an assembly of vintage vehicles. Moments later, he parked the emergency van behind the Alumni bus and then fled the scene in search of the captivating antique cars. Sometime later, a rather irate Parade Marshall complained the Optimists’ SUV was parked in the centre of the road, effectively obstructing the whole parade. “Not very likely — A little over the top, don’t you think?” thought Vern, while rushing to the rescue in the seething official’s golf cart. But utterly surprised and embarrassed, he was, to find the van just feet away from the centre of the right lane, parallel to a float in the left lane.

A corps attempted (like sand through an hour glass) to navigate the tiny space between the float and the van, while a menacing red fire engine bore down on the narrow gap with seeming malicious intent. Vern whisked Ric Brown’s SUV away, seconds before the impending disaster. Whew! Now, the parade could finally commence. “Guilty as charged!” Vern later confessed.

Comfortably behind the wheel, Vern at first empathized with the Corps members, anticipating just how tired and droll it was to play ‘Battle Cry of Freedom’ over and over again. Absolutely astonished, he heard instead, the somber strains of MacKinnon’s unique arrangement of ‘The Maple Leaf Forever’ followed by a robust transition into the ‘Battle Cry of Freedom’ finale. It sounded like a brand new tune just made to order for this patriotic occasion. Brilliant!

From his rare vantage point behind the Corps, Vern fully grasped the impact of the Corps’ performance on a very appreciative audience. And as always, the ensemble grew stronger and stronger as the parade went on. Particularly noteworthy was the fact that the Brass played with just one lead soprano. Kudos to Rick Lang!

So in the end, Vern returned the keys to a grateful Ric Brown, his car and the Corps having survived magnificently. But in 2013, should we consider issuing a ban on Vern’s driving any automobile in Cambridge? Recall, back in 2005, he gave new meaning to the expression, “Hey Vern! Do you mind dropping Don Daber off at the Legion?” Three strikes and you’re out, Vern!

PS: Dave and Debbie Bruce invited everyone back to their home for a feast, a dip, and a fun filled social. But apparently an unnamed trio found themselves just outside of London before it dawned on them, “maybe we are lost.” Well, you were missed.



Canadian Legion always lead the parade



Canadian Veterans



Showing their colours



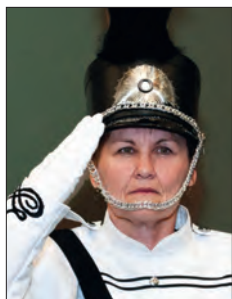
It's a family affair



The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps... on parade

The Drum Major’s Rapport

By Jackie Nicholls



Optimists Drum Major, Jackie Nicholls.

PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY to me, what do you do all summer, seen as how you are a teacher with WAY too much vacation time? If they only knew...

My summer is once again filled with music, traveling and copious amounts of laughter thanks to you, my latest chapter of Drum Corps friends.

The 2012 version of the Optimists Alumni is progressing well. I am

beginning to feel more at home out in front of the corps as well as behind the scenes with “cat herding”, leadership and bartending. I do appreciate those of you that express your concerns about aspects of our development and the kind comments regarding respect, parade, field and of course bus protocol.

It is great to see our dri..., I mean staging almost complete. I do admire the memory work of one of more senior members and his attention to staging details. You know who you are Barry. Unfortunately Barry’s staging for his vehicle is a touch more complicated and I did witness his elevated stress level trying to learn these patterns in Welland, Cambridge and the Highway 400 Car Park.

On that note... our parades to date have been eventful for me at least. For my first Optimist parade adventure, I enjoyed the company of Bass 2 aka Mr. Brown and Bass 5 aka Mr. Giblin on the road to Woodstock. I also learned why it is advantageous to travel with these two gentlemen. Those benefits are, you get to park at the beginning of the parade and your vehicle is at the end of the parade with cool refreshing beverages readily accessible. The best part is not having to drive home in the long week-end traffic and making sure to eliminate dead air time. I’m sure John and Ric may have a different account of their new passenger but they have asked me to travel again with them so I must have done something right.



Woodstock parade

We did have a few things missing from the Woodstock event, water walkers, dedicated “roadies” and the procedure for setting up the podium. Note to self, take glove off before reaching in the cooler for water bottles. This oversight in

staffing also caused myself and the snares to “kill time” in order to set up cymbals and the podium appropriately. More embarrassment was mine when I failed to be successful with regards to unfolding the podium. Never fear though Rick Lang to the rescue and cheers from the audience. I have had some private tutoring on this piece of equipment and it should NOT happen again. However, we are still on the hunt for regular roadies. Please apply in person.

The Welland Rose Festival was an event in itself. It was another scorcher of a day with nice, hot, black, tarmac to rehearse on. Even though the field crew chalked out the yard



L to R. Scott Butcher, Doug Darwin, Lorne Ferrazzutti. Cindy Tracey and Rick Roblin

lines and hash marks in the parking lot, we opted for some time on the baseball diamond converted to a partial drill field. We were lucky enough to have dri... I mean staging that fit this area and we ironed out a few more sets to prepare

for our evening performance. It was exciting to see the drum line rise to the occasion as they came over the pitcher’s mound. Our first performance rendition of Beautiful People had some, shall we say, thin moments, but we made it to the end.

As with any Optimists event the social time is somewhat of a highlight of every trip and Welland was no exception. The fireworks in the parking lot after the show were quite spectacular as were the creative names for each style of explosion. Our tailgating in the hotel parking lot was well attended with snacks both healthy and artery clogging. There were cool refreshing beverages and light comedy provided by numerous players. Last ones standing were members of the baritone section.



The Summer Guard in The Rose Parade in Welland. L to R. Mikaila Bishop-Jensen, Lani Beirness, Taryn Kinnaird, Madison Darwin, Alyssa Francis, and Hanne Dove

Getting to the parade the next day was challenging but no Drum Majors or baritones were left behind. We drove our own form of Triathlon getting to and from the beginning and

Continued on page 9

Yamaha Spectacle of Sound – Sudbury

Since this year's show in Sudbury was on a Saturday instead of Sunday it was a bit hectic. We arrived at Laurentian University Community Stadium with only a little time to warm up, play a bit and perform. To make up for it, we rehearsed AFTER the show! We travelled by bus and the extra time together afforded us an opportunity to bond (hey, we're all new age sensitive people).

Appearing in the show were The Navy League Cadet Corps Band, Les Stentors, Sudbury Imperial Knights Alumni, London Midlanders Alumni, The Optimists Alumni and The Blue Saints. The show closed with a massed brass playing Danny Boy.



Most members read books or newspapers. Ron Chong chose to spend Saturday morning reading the latest edition of "Beautiful People"



Mike Lang turns into "Mr. Frosty" on the bus



Ron Chong places his team "Cavaliers" marker on the board at the start of the game



Heather Hyslop, winner of the Inaugural Optimists Drum Corps Trivia Game. Her team: Phantom Regiment



The Optimists Alumni



The horns from every corps joined together and played "Danny Boy" as part of the finale for the Spectacle of Sound Show

The Drum Major's Rapport continued

the end of the parade. Once again we managed to be at the end of the marshalling area and had to walk a kilometer of pre-parade length. Naturally, we were behind some cowboy transportation which made it necessary for a few diversions. It was great to have the St. John's girls leading our way; many thanks to Melinda, Sarah and John for chaperoning and walking the parade with the girls. Oh and we did manage to have beautiful water walkers this time around. Hat's



Canada Day parade In Cambridge.

off to our dedicated support staff. Canada Day in Cambridge was a hit! One member was so excited for this event that she arrived two hours ahead of time! After the parade we celebrated at the home of Dave, Debbie and Sam Bruce. They were gracious hosts and again the laughter and stories were in abundance. We ate drank and were merry and several people had a sleepover event.

Naturally the big hit so far would have to be our Sudbury excursion via Coach Bus! These trips are always dangerous due to the length of time we are together for the social aspect of our hobby. This event was no exception. I was again impressed by the dedication and flexibility of our members. We knew that practice time would be minimal once we arrived at our destination. We were able to work through



"You can never find an escalator when you need one".

were podium issues once again along with an identity crisis. Mark Ripley director of the Blue Saints (who I might add is

off to our dedicated support staff.

Beautiful People several times and have a quick once over of the opener on a pseudo drill field. This is one of the best things about being part of a predominantly adult organization. We know the demands of the situation and rise to them regardless of location, time restraints and weather. My hat goes off to all of you for making this work.

Of course it would not be an Optimists outing without any mishaps. Unfortunately, there

an old friend) was gracious enough to allow me to use their scaffold style podium. He even put out the ladder and escorted me to the top. That however was the end of his hospitality! He had me announced as Keith Nicholls, much to the enjoyment of the baritone Lang brother and Mr. Ripley did NOT return to help me down the podium. I was however, able to entertain the crowd with my tap dancing and death defying acrobatic descent. I hate to think what Mark would have done if he was not my friend.

Our Sudbury trip was topped off with a variety of activities. The young ladies of the colour guard enjoyed the pizza provided and then headed to the pool area. After viewing ourselves on video and living through the ups and downs of our performance, we settled in to the Inaugural Optimists Drum Corps Trivia Game. Teams of solo competitors and up to four members pitted themselves against each other, to demonstrate their DCI knowledge.

The game saw Phantom Regiment, Cadets, Cavaliers and the ever victorious Blue Devils "duking" it out for Championship status. Participants could choose from Corps related questions or Pot Pourri. It looked like the Blue

Devils would add a 15th Championship to notch to their belts, as they reached the end of the board first but could not answer their final question correctly. This left the door open for our Mellophone soloist Heather, representing Phantom Regiment, to reach the finishline and answer her final question correctly. An undisputed winner and humble Champion was crowned and awarded the official trophy, keeper cup and ceremonial photograph. Judging by the laughter and positive comments, it seems a fun time was had by all.

I would like to thank all who participated and were spectators for the Trivia Game. I wasn't sure how it would go over but it seems it was a hit. For those who wonder how teachers pass the time during their long nine week summer vacation... now you know! LOL.

With a month of frivolity still to go, I look forward to sharing the rest of the 2012 summer with all of you.

Respectfully,

Your Drum Major, Keith Nicholls



Keith (aka, Jackie), Master of Ceremonies, during the Inaugural Optimists Alumni Drum Corps Trivia Game.

The Legends of Drum Corps IV Show

MIDLANDERS



SIGNALS BAND



SIMCOE UNITED



IMPERIAL KNIGHTS



PRESTON SCOUT HOUSE



THE OPTIMISTS



Saturday, August 25, 2012, 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



For more information
www.optimists-alumni.org

2007 Challenge

MAY 2012 IS THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALUMNI CORPS' UNIFORMS

It was in May 12, 2007, at the "Bands Played On" show in Simcoe, Ontario that the Alumni corps first wore their new uniforms in public. The uniform carries on the tradition of the green tunic. How did you feel wearing the new uniform? Please E-mail your story to Bob Carell at: Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com. They will be posted and included in the next issue of GCC.



This photo was taken a couple of hours before the corps' performance. There was a small three row, portable bleacher seats to stand on. It was a little hectic for those in the back two rows. The photo was taken by Eric McConachie who improvised by balancing on an the lid of an overturned 45 gallon garbage can.

1 _____	20 _____	29 _____	38 _____	47 _____
2 _____	21 _____	30 _____	39 _____	48 _____
3 _____	22 _____	31 _____	40 _____	49 _____
4 _____	23 _____	32 _____	41 _____	50 _____
5 _____	24 _____	33 _____	42 _____	51 _____
6 _____	25 _____	34 _____	43 _____	52 _____
7 _____	26 _____	35 _____	44 _____	53 _____
8 _____	27 _____	36 _____	45 _____	54 _____
9 _____	28 _____	37 _____	46 _____	

10 _____

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2007 formal photo at The Alumni Spectacular in Rochester, New York

The Contra Bass

by Donald E. Angelica. DCN [Drum Corps News] August 8, 1962 issue.

IN ORDER TO DISPEL some of the rumors that have been generated by the contra bass and by both Garfield and Hawthorne's use of it. I have decided to discuss the horn and its utilization. The way the soprano bugle is related to the trumpet is the relationship of the contra to the Eb tuba. It is a bell front instrument with one valve and is pitched in the key of G (as are all bugles used in competition by most American corps.)

The function of the contra in my mind is to provide the drum and bugle corps with the one member of the brass family of instruments not available to them. This is the tuba. With the regular bass horns we can play a good standard bass part 1 octave below the french horns, however once we extend below this octave we run into overtone problems and must utilize out of tune rotaries to produce any kind of melodic bass line, (which any arranger will tell you is a fundamental for a good arrangement). **SO HERE WE FIND THE NECESSITY FOR THE CONTRA... IT IS TO PROVIDE AN INSTRUMENT WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO WRITE AND PERFORM IN TUNE, MELODIC BASS LINES WHICH ARE THE FOUNDATION OF GOOD ARRANGEMENTS, IN THE TRUE BASS REGISTER.**

I understand and appreciate the position of the American Legion on this matter, they wish to see if the majority of Legion corps wishes to utilize them before officially approving them. I also rejoice at the musical sagacity of Tony Schlechta in realizing the need for a true bass bugle and approving them for all V.F.W. contests. It was a difficult decision to make and I thank both organizations for their consideration of the contra. There have been many pros and cons discussed about the horns, I have worked with them and will now discuss my reaction to the horn. It is an instrument long overdue in

drum corps circles, it is a true bass horn with all the characteristics of a tuba, it possesses a certain depth and resonance not afforded us by the regular bass bugle, it allows us to use a melodic bass line and affords us better intonation than the E and F rotaries did, it enables us to have complete brass choir instrumentation while still retaining all the basic characteristics of a bugle.

To those critics who feel that this is a step away from drum corps instrumentation I say let us lock up the slides, let us get rid of the french horn and the bass bugle and let us return to the music played 25 years ago. This is certainly not an effort to make a band of the drum and bugle corps, it is an effort to further the musical values of the bugle line, it is an effort to raise the quality of musical arrangements, it is an effort to solve the problem of poor intonation in the low register, and most important an effort which will I am sure, provide a more musical drum corps show. To those who say it is an awkward looking instrument let me state that I have seen some people make a soprano horn look awkward, and I am quite sure those who have seen Garfield and Hawthorne with the contra will not accuse them of looking awkward, if anything it adds a new effectiveness to the visual picture of the show. It is in my opinion, if handled properly, an aristocratic instrument which is not only a musical asset but also a visual one.

In closing let me say that of course the contra has not been utilized fully by any corps. It will be necessary to experiment and find new and varied uses for this new, new instrument, however once it is approved by both the American Legion and the V.F.W. (which I am sure it will be), expect to hear many new and thrilling sounds from the contra bass bugle.

As predicted, we've heard many new and thrilling sounds from the contra bass bugle.



Optimists' Keith Dearlove, 2011 and John Peachy, 2012

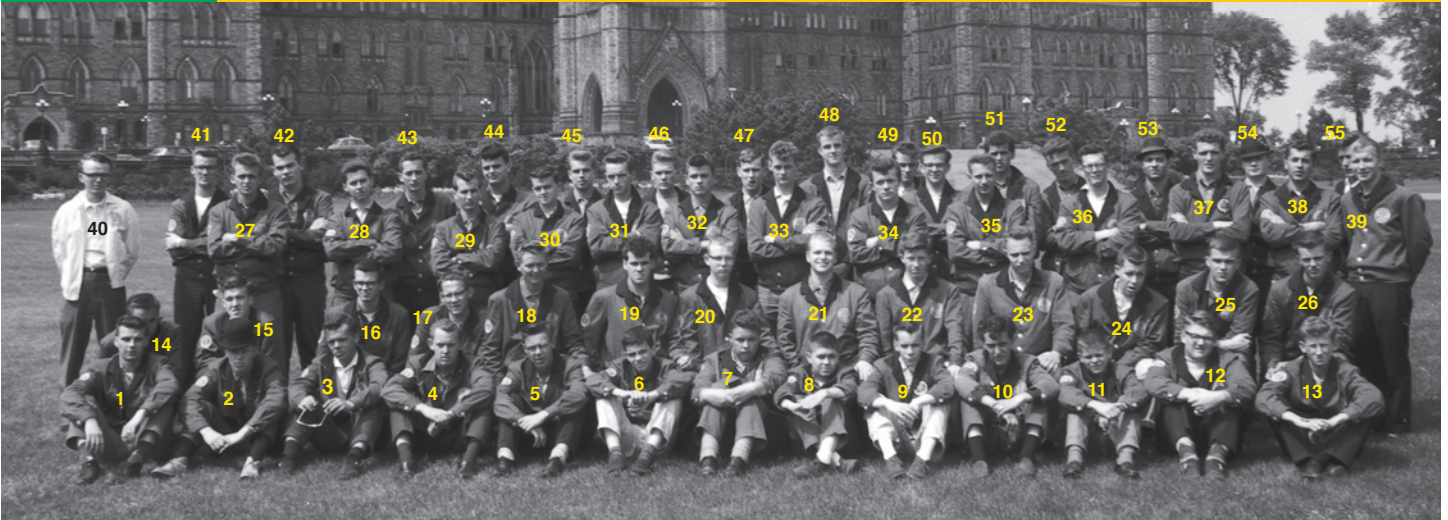


Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni contra line with Optimists' Alumni Rick Robida (fourth from the right), circa 2009

1961 Challenge

DO YOU SEE YOURSELF? DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF YOUR FORMER MEMBERS FROM 1961

This photo was taken in front of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, June, 1961. GCC thanks all those who contributed to this photo challenge. What year would you like to see as the next challenge? Please e-mail Bob Carell at: Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com.



- | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Ron Cook | 27 Andy Henderson | 38 Glen Durish | 51 Robin Weatherstone | Abie Mudric |
| 2 Ronn Prokop | 28 Ron Kaiser | 39 Barry Bell
Drum Major & Horn Instructor | 52 Len Perrin | Executive
and Instructors
(not in photo) |
| 3 Al Miller | 29 Ron Cottrell
or Phil Campbell | 40 Jim Patten
Equipment Co-ordinator | 53 Joe Gianna | Al Baggs
Director |
| 4 Dave Hanks | 30 Terry Sweeney | 41 Mel Day | 54 Don Reid
or Bill McNabb | Don Daber
Publicity Manager |
| 5 Dave Watt | 31 Orest Burak | 42 Bill Thorne | 55 Dave Bignell
or Ron Cottrell | Bernie Beer
Equipment Manager |
| 6 Alex Glover | 32 Roman Perohanycz | 43 Jim Nesbitt | Absent | Instructors |
| 7 John Shearer | 33 Ross Cation | 44 Bob Cook | Glenn Copp | Lorne Ferrazzutti
Percussion |
| 8 Doug MacKenzie | 34 Doug McPhail
Drum Major | 45 Vic Krukalis | Ken Thompson | Mike Layton
Colour Guard |
| 9 Don Clark | 35 Al LaVigne | 46 Warren Mills | Joel Wilner | Ed Nanni
? |
| 10 Warren Berger | 36 Al Morrison
Drum Major | 47 Frank McKittrick ? | Phil Campbell | |
| 11 Bob Harkness | 37 Ivor Bramley
Drill Instructor
and marching member | 48 Frans Rood | Ian McKay | |
| 12 Gary Corbett | | 49 Doug Yarker | Marshall Taylor | |
| 13 Terry McKolskey | | 50 Ross Colville | | |
| 14 Colin Hedworth | | | | |
| 15 Ted Shaw | | | | |
| 16 David Johns | | | | |
| 17 Dick Ward | | | | |
| 18 Karl Bossert | | | | |
| 19 Neil Ibbitson | | | | |
| 20 Cliff White | | | | |
| 21 Mark Wicken | | | | |
| 22 Howie Davies | | | | |
| 23 Brian Williams | | | | |
| 24 Don Willison | | | | |
| 25 Bob Brown | | | | |
| 26 Bill McNabb ? | | | | |



The Garfield Cadets *From Green Capsule Comments – September 1961.*

Garfield regularly contributed to GCC under the heading “The Maroon Line”.

Here we go agin, into a new season with its new drills, songs, faces, and high hopes. For us, the Garfield Cadets, the last few years have been a steady and hard climb up — under the leadership of Mr. Kemmerer, our “Chief” as we proudly call him. He stays awake nights worrying about the boys and their individual problems; he makes all the arrangements for travel accommodations and books all our contests, parades, etc. He is the man who raised Garfield Cadets from the ashes of the old Holy Name Cadets by sheer determination and perseverance.

From a Corps without uniforms, equipment or headquarters, in the short space of two years he bought the Corps to win the American Legion National Championship in '60 and '61. The Corps now has a truck, complete uniforms and horns, two sets of drums, our own headquarters and money in the bank. This was all done, to paraphrase Churchill by “Blood, sweat, and tears...” mostly by Mr. Kemmerer, our “Chief”. When we win a contest, he beams with pride — and when we lose he has taught us to take our loss with our heads high, knowing we did the very best we could — and to do better next time.

With Mr. Kemmerer, as our Director and our new Drum Major, Ray Pych, we start this season with high hopes. Ray has been a French Horn Player for six years and has teamed up with yours truly on rifle to win numerous colour guard honours. Ray will take the place of Hugh Mahon, who is now Drum Major for Hawthorne Caballeros.



With the new season shaping up fast things are popping at all Garfield practices — many new boys have joined the Corps to replace some who have left because of school, work or age. Our first appearance of '62 will be at the standstill contest to be held at the Mosque Theatre in Newark, N.J. This is the first of a series of contests sponsored by Drum Corps News.

Next, we will travel toward Canada — to Rochester, N.Y. on March 10th for an exhibition at “Sound Off '62” sponsored by the Emerald Cadets of Rochester. Then on March 31st we are off to Troy, N.Y. for the First Annual “Sneak Preview” of Junior Corps — the contestants will be Blessed

Sacramento, Bon-Bon Girls, Cambridge Caballeros, St. Catherine’s Queensmen, St. Catherine Marionettes and Garfield.

This is about all the news till press time. We look forward to the visit of Ivor Bramley and Colin Hedworth for the Colour Guard Championship in Philadelphia, Feb. 17th. Oh yes, one last item — the Cadets entered the Skyliners “Dream Individuals Contest” on February 10th. Our drum quartet of Ridings, Blazouski, Conklin and Somara, took fourth place but promising to do better on March 2nd at St. Rose of Lima’s Individuals. Billy Ridings, our solo snare, finished close to the winners. Congratulations on a nice job, by our newest snare. First place on French Horn was taken by your correspondent.

See you all in Rochester... Roger Pratschler.

GCC STAFF

Editor: Paul Thompson.

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

Photographs by: Don Daber, David Johns, Eric McConachie and Frans Rood.

Consultant: Don Daber.

A special **thank you** to all those who contributed to this issue: Ric Brown, Phil Hennings, Jackie Nicholls, and Vern Reid.

CORRECTIONS: We tried to get everything right. If not, please let us know: openrd2002@yahoo.ca

Thank you to all those who send photographs to the Optimists Alumni. Your initiative is appreciated.

NEW MEMBER



Charles Francis

Charles joined the Corps in May. He marched in The Guard carrying the National flag and is now part of the drum line playing cymbals.

PROPOSED 2012 OPTIMISTS ALUMNI SCHEDULE

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

Saturday	May 12	Performance	Confirmed	12:00 noon	<i>And The Bands Played On</i>	Simcoe, Ontario
Monday	May 21	Parade and performance	Confirmed	10:00 am	<i>Midlanders Alumni Show</i>	Woodstock, Ontario
Saturday	June 2	Parade	Confirmed	10:00 pm	<i>Opening Of The Locks</i>	Bobcaygeon, Ontario
Saturday	June 23	Performance	Confirmed	6:00 to 9:00 pm		Welland, Ontario
Sunday	June 24	Parade	Confirmed	12:00 noon	<i>Rose Festival</i>	Welland, Ontario
Sunday	July 1	Parade	Confirmed	1:00 pm	<i>Canada Day Parade</i>	Cambridge, Ontario
Saturday	July 21	Bus leaves for Sudbury – 9:00 am				
Sunday	July 22	Performance	Confirmed	TBA		Sudbury, Ontario
Saturday	August 18	Performance	Confirmed	7:00 pm	<i>Scout House Alumni Show</i>	Waterloo, Ontario
Saturday	August 25	Performance	Confirmed	6:30 pm	<i>Optimists Legends 4 Show</i>	Oshawa, Ontario
Saturday	August 31	Bus leaves Toronto for Annapolis, Maryland – 8:00 am				
Sunday	September 2	Performance	Confirmed	TBA	<i>DCA Alumni Show</i>	Annapolis, Maryland
Monday	September 3	Bus leaves Annapolis for Toronto – 8:00 am				
Saturday	October 20	Performance	Tentative	1:00 pm	<i>Midlanders' Fun-alee</i>	London, Ontario

Let's hear from you...

GCC is published four times a year. Contributor deadline for next issue is **Friday, September 14, 2012**.

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.

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.

Unfortunately there was no winner this issue

ANSWERS FOR MAY

- Name all the official Drum Majors of the Alumni Corps.
 - Phil Hennings, Vern Johansson, Andy Henderson (2003 reunion), Brian Hogan, Jeff MacKay, Jackie Nicholls, David Burgess, Laura King and Brian Byrne. And some unofficial Drum Majors. Jim Dwyer, Glenda Tokiwa, Frank Rivier, Jimmy Russo, Paul Thompson, Dave McKinnon and Jamie Oatt.
- When was Dick Brown appointed Corps Director?
 - 2002.
- What is the longest feature in the 2012 music program?
 - The Field Opener: 2 minutes and 59 seconds... a close second is Concert, 2 mins and 45 secs.

QUESTIONS FOR AUGUST

- What feature was the longest in our Alumni History?
- Who was the original composer of the 1867 tune, THE MAPLE LEAF FOR EVER
- Who from our active membership list have served in every year since our 2002 founding?

Please send your answers by **Friday, September 14, 2012** to: David Johns at: openrd2002@yahoo.ca



March-past after the performance in Sudbury