



and the BANDS played on... 8

When the première annual indoor show sponsored by the United Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps unfolds, you know that summer is soon upon us. As always you can rely upon Simcoe United Alumni to produce an incomparable production – alive with variety, and outstanding entertainment. What’s new: after 7 years, this annual show goes International with the addition of Mighty St. Joe’s Alumni Corps from Leroy, New York. What’s surprising: the inclusion of a mesmerizing visual attraction by St. John’s Winter Guard from Brantford, Ontario, entitled *The Hyste*. The introduction of these two elements does so much to broaden our Drum Corps fraternity and advance the promise of the future sustainability of our cherished activity.

We are forever grateful to The Simcoe Lions Club and the United Alumni Drum Corps, who for the last eight years have been at the very forefront of the impressive Drum Corps revival in southern Ontario (and now beyond). No singular event permits the chance to reunite with old buddies, meet new friends, and promote performance opportunities for both young and old more than ‘and the BANDS play on...’ And – ‘That’s Entertainment’.

We pay tribute to all this evening’s participants in our pictorial feature. Every performing unit produces their own moment of magic and we tried to identify the **Most Memorable Moment (MMM)** in the captions below the individual corps’ photo.



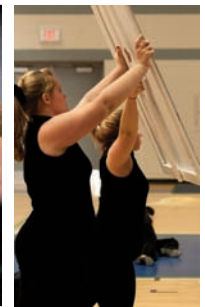
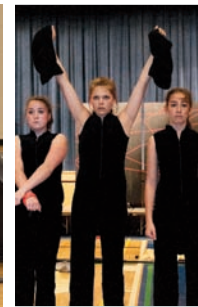
Special thanks go to Master of Ceremonies, Kevin Matthews, for his informative and engaging rapport.



The Haldimand-Norfolk Concert Band: (MMM) Duke Ellington’s *Take the ‘A’ Train...* or as we Canucks say the ‘Eh?’ Train.



DOCA Brass Ensemble: (MMM) Benny Goodman’s *Sing Sing Sing*.



St. John’s Winter Guard: (MMM) When the good guys ‘Catch the Culprits.’



The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps: (MMM) The ‘Judy Garland Medley.’

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THE BAND'S PLAYED ON (CONTINUED)



Mighty St Joe's Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps: (MMM) 'Bully' for Billy.



Preston Scout House: (MMM) Sing Sing Sing.



The Midlanders Alumni Corps & Performance Ensemble: (MMM) 'When I'm Sixty-four?'



United Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps: (MMM) I Go To Rio.



Drum Major, Len Addley, conducts the Mass Brass Ensemble in the performance of *You'll Never Walk Alone*.

The Optimists Alumni CONGRATULATE the UNITED ALUMNI for their success in this 8th annual production of 'and the BANDS played on... 8'

PARADE REST FOR A LAUGH

St. Peter was checking ID's at the pearly gates. He asks the first man, "What did you do on Earth?"

The man replied, "I was a doctor."

St. Peter says, "OK, go right through those two shiny gates to your left. Next person! What did you do on Earth?"

"I was a school teacher."

"OK, through those two gates and to the left. Next! And what did you do on Earth?"

"Oh, I was a musician."

"All right, you go around to the back door, up the freight elevator, and enter through the kitchen."

RIC BROWN – THE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

Well, it seems that time has passed quickly and performance time is here. Following a winter of hard rehearsals, we have our first public performance at “*and the Bands Played On... 8!*”

We have seen our brass line grow in numbers and the percussion section add a new voice to their sound. We look forward to performing our new musical selections for 2012 throughout the summer.

“*The Wearing of the Green*“ was a resounding success for all of us who attended. A wonderful meal was served along with great music for all who wandered on to the dance floor.

Thanks to the commitment of all our members, our instructors, the Show Committee and the Board of Directors as our progress in preparation for our 2012 season is ahead of any previous year. We look forward to this being our best year ever.

The demand for our corps to appear at performances and parades has reached an all time high, and we have had to decline a number of invitations so that we have family time.

Your commitment to attending as many rehearsals as possible is important for the corps to attain its goals for 2012.

1, 2, 3 GREEN

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, Jackie Nicholls, and Ralph Rafson

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.

SHOW COMMITTEE – 2012 FIELD SHOW

Show Committee Update – 2012 Field Show

After much deliberation, the Show Committee arrived at a decision for the 2012 field exit. We will be playing the haunting melody *Beautiful People* by folk singer/songwriter Melanie [Safka] of Woodstock fame. Her single in 1969 received recognition in Europe, but only soared to international prominence with the New Seekers’ 1971 release of the *Beautiful People* album, (Incidentally, Melanie played at the Strawberry Fields Festival, held in August, 1970, at Mosport Park, Ontario.)

Dave MacKinnon has masterfully replicated Ray Roussel’s memorable ‘75’ versions of *Beautiful People* and *The Judy Garland Reprise*.

The brass line began working on this finale on March 18, 2012.

The target date for the first public performance of this tune is June 23, in Welland, when the Show Committee hopes to present the entire 2012 production.

What came to my mind upon hearing this ballad once again were the words “*Save the Last Dance for Me.*” Why? This was the very last field exit by the Toronto Optimists in 1975 while wearing their famous emerald silk blouses. So, in effect, the 1975 finale *Beautiful People* and *The Judy Garland Reprise* was the ‘last dance’ for the ‘Boys in Green.’



Dave MacKinnon and Drum Major Jackie Nicholls discuss the music at a recent rehearsal.

The complete 2012 repertoire we will be:

The Opener of the JUDY GARLAND MEDLEY including *The Man That Got Away* from ‘A Star is Born’ (1954) *The Trolley Song* from ‘Meet Me in St Louis’ (1944) and *Over the Rainbow* from ‘The Wizard of Oz’ (1939).

The Big Band Concert including *The Gene Krupa Theme*, Glenn Miller’s *Tuxedo Junction* and Duke Ellington’s *Caravan*.

Colour Presentation comprised of the American Civil War Hymn *Battle Cry of Freedom* and the popular Canadian Regimental March *The Maple Leaf Forever*.

The Field Exit featuring *Beautiful People* by Melanie and our show concludes with *The Judy Garland Reprise*.

In summary, nostalgia will most certainly resonate with traditionalists from the seventies. At the same time this refreshing new program offers the promise of wide appeal for the general audience in Annapolis this Labour Day. One of our original 1958 members suggests this show is more reminiscent of the DCI era than the fancy drill period of the 50’s and 60’s. Something for everyone, you might say.

From a local perspective, we may wish to dedicate *The Trolley Song* to our esteemed Mayor Rob Ford. We all look forward to this ambitious musical production and encourage all former members and ‘friends of the Green’ to ‘*Come Onboard.*’

Lorne Ferrazzutti – An appreciation

by Roger Rafson, Bass Drum #5

HAVE YOU EVER met anyone so committed to Drum & Bugle Corps as Lorne Ferrazzutti? I am sure there are several, but it became clear to me as soon as I joined the Optimists that we are very fortunate to have Lorne Ferrazzutti as a role model in the percussion section.

I interviewed Lorne over lunch to learn more about him, but he is such a humble man that he always steered the conversation to the history of D & B Corps in southern Ontario. When I told him the reason for featuring him in this article was because he is universally admired by everyone in the Optimists, he replied, “Everyone is equal.” What a well-grounded man!

Lorne started by taking an Orchestra class at Western Tech High School in the west end of Toronto. His instruments were accordion and clarinet (No he doesn't have it any more. Years later, his young granddaughter broke it in half while playing with it). He became fascinated with the sticking by the drummers in the Trumpet Band (what they called it before D & B Corps) and was taught by Lt. McIntyre who not only inspired him to excel in drumming, but showed him how being an instructor can be quite inspiring as well. Early on, Lorne got caught up in the competitive nature of Corps music. The Western Tech Jr A Corps was on a mission to beat Scout House (the dominant corps of the time). They never did beat them in field competition, but did in parade competition. At age 19, Lorne won national competitions for individual snare, duet and quintet.

At this point in the timeline Lorne credits his long-time friend and current Optimists Alumni, Barry Bell for being an innovator for modern Canadian Corps. As director of the Danforth Tech High School Trumpet Band, Barry introduced more modern, contemporary music into the repertoire (less militaristic music, songs like In The Mood and When You're Smiling) and brought March & Maneuvering to the field. Lorne's part was as the drum instructor for the Danforth Tech drum line. This was for the 1956 and 1957 seasons.

At the beginning of the 1958 season, Al “Daddy” Baggs approached Barry and Lorne to leave Danforth and help start the Optimists Boys D & B Corps in Toronto's west end. Lorne and Barry were there for the very beginning of the corps we play in today. In fact it was Barry who designed the green uniform and our Corps' broadly distinctive logo! Barry and Lorne recruited members from other corps in the area and soon, the Optimists were the hot corps, the ones to beat. They won the National Championship in 1958 in Waterloo, beating Scout House in competition in their very first year! Thus began the Optimists' 11 year reign at #1.

In 1959, Lorne was promoted to being supervisor of 30 Loblaw stores throughout the region. At the same time Lorne continued with the Optimists, crediting much of their success during this period to the superior playing of the percussion section. Several drummers from that period, including Harry Clark, Skip Prokop, Vic Krukalis and Ron Kaiser went on to become drum instructors and judges. Lorne comments this level of excellence served to bring up the standard of playing throughout Ontario. The Optimists competed in international competition and finally defeated a top rate U. S. A. corps, Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights, in 1962. In 1963, Lorne (again working with Barry Bell) was also helping the Jesters, which in the fall of that year became the Commanders Senior Corps, featuring 60 horns and a huge drum line. So, in addition to work and home commitments, Lorne was instructing 3 to 4 days per week.

In 1965, he and wife Pam started a family with the birth of their son Adrian, so he had to cut back on the drumming... for a short 2 year period. In 1968 he was back at it as the drum instructor for the Guelph Royales, who regained the Canadian

Championship title that year. Lorne continues with the history by discussing the influence on the corps and the feeder corps when DCI came onto the scene. Corps had to be large, meaning amalgamations and putting several corps, including Seneca Optimists, out of business due to the lack of a feeder system.



Lorne and Lt McIntyre at Western Tech in 1955 (from the Western Tech yearbook).



Bill Dundas, “the Plumber” (deceased), Lorne Ferrazzutti, Vince Macciocchi and Barry Bell (about 1964 or '65).

Lorne Ferrazzutti – An appreciation (continued)

In 1980, Lorne and his family moved to Burlington (in the same home he lives in today) when he began as drum instructor for the Burlington Teen Tour Band. Here's what they have to say about Lorne on their website: "In 1980, he was temporarily assigned to help the Teen Tour Band's drum



L to R. Front: Vic Krukliis, Lorne Ferrazzutti and Ed Law of Commanders (Hamilton, 1964).

line prepare for their annual Hamilton Place Concert. This has turned into an ongoing commitment as the band's percussion instructor. Lorne's love and commitment for percussion has been passed on to countless Teen Tour drum line members, so much so, he is now assisted by 'retired' Band members."

In 2002, Ric Brown, Mhairi Cummings, Vern Johansson and George Wright formed the Optimists Alumni Corps appointing Dick Brown (father of Ric) as the first Director. Lorne got his chops down again, after years of instructing, as a member of the drum line. At that time, Lorne remembers there being as many as 26 members in the percussion section with 10 on snare. In 2008, Jeff MacKay came in and began writing new charts for the corps.

Lorne embodies the history and transformation of corps music over the last 60+ years. He saw the transformation from military music, to rudimental drumming in the 60's. Then with the influence of DCI came faster cadences, many more rudiments, more complexity and more theatrical

performances. What does the future hold for the Optimists? "Our challenge now is to get the numbers up." (Editorial note: Did everyone hear what Lorne just said?)

But we will always know Lorne best as a foundation of the snare line for the Optimists. Lorne has demonstrated his love and devotion to corps music. He is focused on the music; welcoming to members, new and old; and I am sure you'll agree that we are very lucky to have him.



Lorne was a good sport when GCC did a spoof on his classic question "Has anyone seen my other drum stick?"



Lorne (fourth from the right) at our Legend 3 Show in Oshawa, 2011.



L-R: Scott Butcher, Lorne and Rick Roblin at a recent rehearsal.

THE WEARING OF THE GREEN



The evening started with a concert on the patio highlighting the 2012 repertoire.



Holly Adams, Tania Borsellino with her prize and Ron Smith.



L-R Seated: Sue and Brian Hogan, Paula MacDonald and her husband Terry Doulton. Standing: Joanne and Lou Volpe.



L-R Seated: Ron and Josie Chong, Rick Roblin and wife Allison, Jason and Gordana Collingdon. Standing: Brian Collingdon, Heather Hyslop and Ron Smith in background.



L-R Seated: John Swartz and friend Susan McTavish, Ron and Jan Smith. Standing: Eric McConachie.



Holly Adams presenting Brian Flood with his lucky draw prize.



Jan Forsythe and Bill Kane with their lucky draw prize.

MARCH 17, 2012 **St Patrick's Day** saw the revival of a 1970's Optimists tradition. 'The Wearing of the Green' is a dinner, dance and a pre-season preview of the upcoming summer's repertoire. This year was attended by upwards of eighty paid guests, and a strong contingent of uninvited intruders who mercilessly foisted their feast day trickery on the unsuspecting visitors. The first performance of 2012, under the direction of our new Drum Major, Jackie Nicholls, understandably had its moments of interest and

intrigue. But what else would one expect given the devilish pranks played upon the Corps.

Now most attendees, heretical non-believers that they are, will emphatically deny the surreptitious presence of several little, green, gold-seeking Leprechauns. But as sure as the sun rises in the east, they were there 'in great numbers'. So, Jackie, don't be blaming yourself; nor should 'ye' be wagging 'yor' finger at the percussion; and for pity's sake,



L-R Seated: Pat and Barry Bell. Standing: Len and Dianne Ticknor, Warren and Hazel Berger, Holly and Brian Adam.



L-R Sitting: Doug Darwin, Barry and Bernadette Woods. Standing: Jackie Nicholls and Matt Davis.



Brian Flood, Rick Shearer and Rick Tracey.



L-R: Seated: Jim and Heather Hyslop, Standing: Brian Collingdon and Debbie Bruce.



Laurie Brown and Tom Ullins.



Glenda Tokiwa and Rick Roblin.



L-R: Bill Kane, Scott Butcher, Jeff MacKay, David Bruce and Ric Brown.



L-R: Holly Adams, Sue Hogan and Ron Smith.



L-R: Joanne Volpe, Rick Roblin and Sue Hogan.

forget about casting aspersions upon the brass line for the ‘faux pas’ and musical lapses in the Corps’ inaugural presentation. You can point the finger directly at those wee, emerald-clad gnomes hard at work dispensing all sorts of mischief and mayhem at every opportunity.

Reviving the customary battle over tempo ‘betwixt’ the brass and the percussion was just child’s play in their stealthy hands. I might add, the ensemble handled this challenge

comparatively well indeed. But these naughty minions saved their most diabolical energies for the new ending of the Big Band Medley. (You see, on March 10th, Dave MacKinnon introduced a new, driving, full-steam-ahead Finalé to the 2012 Concert number.)

But our diminutive intruders craftily infiltrated the little gray cells of our brass players, urging one half of them to “surge

Continued next page

A focus on our

The Optimists presence on the web exists in three different forms — the main website, a Facebook page and the Photo Gallery. The focus of the main website is the Optimists Alumni, the Toronto Optimists and the Seneca Optimists while the Facebook page relates primarily to our Alumni Corps. The Photo Gallery, on the other hand, highlights not only members of the Optimists organization but many other Drum & Bugle Corps from Canada and the United States. Albums for the last few years are organized by event and include photos of many of the corps who performed.

You probably knew that the Toronto Optimists beat the Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights at Rome, NY in 1962;



Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights.



Toronto Optimists

however, you might not know that, at the 1966 Shriners' International in Toronto, the Optimists beat the Chicago Royal Airs, the reigning American Legion and VFW National champions. Of course, if you had discovered the web page for 1966 you would have enjoyed reading Brian Byrne's write-up which includes this information as well as the scores for that show and for many other contests that were held in 1966. You might even have taken the time to listen to the recording of the 1966 Shriners' International or the '66 Nationals.

There's a wealth of information that can be found on our website. You'll find ► **old yearbooks**, a few ► **past issues of Green Capsule Comments** and **Gold Capsule Comments** as well as **all** of the GCCs (Gray Capsule Comments?) that we have recently published! There are also ► **web pages** for the Rehearsal Reports from the early days of the Alumni Corps! Feeling nostalgic? ► **Listen** to or **download** MP3 Files of past performances for all of Optimists competitive years! In some cases there are multiple recordings for the same year. There's even a recording of the Scout Band from which the Optimists came. Or you can visit our ► **Photo Gallery** where you'll find almost 7,500 photos, not only of Optimists, but of many other corps! If you explore our website you'll find all of this and much more! One possible way to explore the website would be to go to our Site Map (it's under "Alumni Corps") and explore some of the links that are



L-R Seated: Mike and Linda Tustian. Standing: John Giblin, Lori and Tom Ullins and Ric Brown.

forward with the new and out with the old" while stubbornly and relentlessly beckoning the other half to "stay the course with the old 'tried and true'". So with two distinctly different melodies combined to assault the aural receptors of the audience for the last twenty-four bars, the results were predictable. What a delightful train wreck... all in good fun though. he! he! he! [C'mon guys! It only happens but once a year.]

While a marvelous dinner ensued, our invisible urchins liberally spiked everyone's libation, unbeknownst to the unsuspecting banquetees; hence setting the tone for an adventurous and whimsical evening. Holly [Adams] quite appropriately and publically praised all the 'significant others' for adding fashion and finesse to the festivities. But even they fell victim to the "Irish Mist" now shrouding the Legion's dance floor. How else could 'ye' explain all the 'frivolity' and 'foolishness' that overtook these usually staid revelers? You should note that the 'insignificant others' contributed greatly to the nearly shameless evening's entertainment. I felt like I was attending auditions for 'Canada's Got Talent'. The Show Committee might want to consider adding a bawdy 'chorus line' to the 2012 field show.

It appeared the chief protagonists of this brazen exhibition were Glenda and Mary. [TOKIWA and KEATES – now, there's two thoroughbred Irish names for 'ye'.] Thus, at this dynamic duo's instigation, the frenzy and shenanigans continued into the wee hours of the night. It was an exceptionally grand and unforgettable evening as we all dissolved into gales of tears and bouts of gaiety. A proud moment for all adherents and friends of the 'Green' Congratulations to the ambitious organizers for the success of this fine event.

Ah! aye kant whaite fore next yeer!

Just a word to the wise. In 2013, don't try to fight the 'Irish Madness'. As mere mortals, we simply don't stand a chance. Those little fairies are indestructible.

website

By Bob Carell

shown.

We want to make our website even better and you can help

Here are some projects which need your contribution.

YOU can add photos This is a *new* feature that has recently been added to our Photo Gallery. For a trial period, users can upload files to the website; however, before posting, they will be held for approval. Depending on various factors the photos may be modified before final posting. If this works out then it will become a permanent option.



Chicago Royal Airs.

To upload a photo, click on the "Upload File" button near the top of the page. Before you can proceed you need to "Select an Album". You must select "Uploads from Guests". Once you've done this you can use the "Browse" button to point to a photo on your computer that you'd like to upload. We'd prefer that you upload high quality JPGs that are, at least, 1300 pixels wide (we can shrink them but making them bigger results in a lower quality image). Once the file has been identified you'll see a small image of the file. Hit continue. Fill in Title and Description information then hit "Apply Changes". The new information will be added and you'll be presented with the same screen. If you need to make any corrections, do so then hit "Apply Changes"; if you are OK with the information then hit the Home Button at the top of the page. In the description please

include an email address so that we can contact you if necessary (the email address will be removed before posting).

Memories of the years One of my projects is to create web pages for each of the competitive years and, hopefully, for each year of the Alumni Corps. In my recent efforts I've also tried to include some contest scores and recordings for that year. At this point there are pages for 1958, 1960, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1969. I hope that these pages will help to rekindle pleasant memories of years gone by. In order to finish this project I need to collect corps-related memories specific to a particular year (rather than "generic" memories that would apply to all years). Of course, it's not necessary to submit a whole year's worth of memories. Contributions from different people can be merged together to form the web page. Once I have enough material, I will compile these memories into a web page for that particular year and post that page on the website.

Check out the pages that already exist for some ideas (go to the our website and look under the "Our History" section). Please feel free to include memories of the years that have already been posted (those pages can be changed). If you have memories to contribute, please send an email to Bob (Toronto_Optimist at Rogers.com).

Past Issues of Green Capsule and Gold Capsule Comments Another of my projects is to scan all of the old issues of GCC, convert them to Acrobat files and post them on our website. I've already posted a few of them as well as past yearbooks. While I've managed to gather a number of issues, I'm still missing some.

Since no records were ever kept of issues I'm not even sure what I'm missing. If you look below you'll see a table showing what I've managed to obtain. If you have any issues that are not listed and you are prepared to loan them or

Copies of Green Capsule Comments and Gold Capsule Comments that Bob has

Year	Issue I have	Missing	Year	Issue I have	Missing	Year	Issue I have	Missing
1961	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	6, ?	1967	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	?	1973	2*, 3	1, ?
1962	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	5, ?	1968	1, 2, 3	?	1974	1, 2	?
1963	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	?	1969	1, 2, 3, 4	?	1975	3, 4	1, 2, ?
1964	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	?	1970	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	?	1976	None	?
1965	1, 2, 3, 4	?	1971	1, 2, 3, 4	?	1977	2	1, ?
1966	2, 3, 4	1, ?	1972	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	2, 6, ?	1978	2	1, ?

* Missing cover

NEW MEMBER



John Peachey, Contra Bass

John started his musical experience with the City of Burlington's music program where he played tuba for 8 years (1972-1980). Though he never played in Drum Corps until later, he was an active supporter and attended many DCA and DCI shows in Hamilton and the US.

He is an original member of the

Burlington Top Hat Marching Orchestra and has been in and out of the band many times over the years.

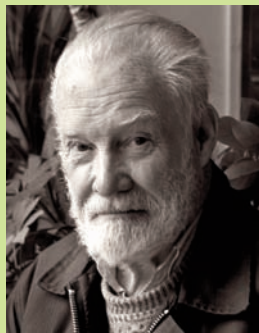
When his children decided to participate in the Burlington Teen Tour Band program, John and his wife Kimm (who he met in the band) were active boosters.

After attending a DCI show in Bristol RI, John's son Michael decided he wanted to pursue Drum Corps. Michael played snare with the Empire Statesmen (2007-2008) and convinced John to play contra (first time playing G) with the corps in 2008 during their 25th Anniversary year. Switching from an 18lb sousaphone to a large Dynasty DEG Contrabass was an interesting experience. During this time John and his son travelled to Rochester with Brian and Ian Adams.

The following year Michael played snare with the Holy Name Cadets and John volunteered on the food truck at camps and on tour.

John has Brian Adams to blame for convincing him to come out to the Toronto Optimists Alumni Corps!

OUR LEGENDARY DRUM CORPS SENIOR STATESMEN



Don Daber turned 83 on May 2, 2012. Don, a renowned illustrator and photographer in North American Drum Corps circles, has served the Optimists in various high profile capacities since 1959 and holds the distinction as the Corps' longest serving Director. He was the founder of GCC and continues to contribute to this publication. Over the years, Don has

personally inspired many young individuals to enter the professions of management, photography, and publishing. His creative contributions to DCW have been an integral part of that publication's enduring success.

We extend our best wishes to Don for continued good health and happiness. We hope to see you often during the 2012 season.



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

Small corps In 1963, several playing members of the Toronto Optimists Drum and Bugle Corps independently founded, designed and executed an exciting Marching & Maneuvering program for Canada's first mini-corps. The musical repertoire paid tribute to the top American and Canadian Corps of the day. Below is a reproduction of a 1963 report on this exceptional and innovative achievement.



THE OPTIMISTS SMALL CORPS...by Dave Watt

For the past two months, the attention of drum corps fans in Canada has been focused on a new phase in Canadian Corps ---The Optimists Small Corps. This compact unit, consisting of 19 of the older and more experienced members of the present Canadian Champion Optimists formed together to create a minute replica of their parent Corps.

The idea of Small Corps was taken from the mid-west, where Small Corps are very common-place, although none of our members had actually seen one of these small corps in action. In Drum Corps periodicals the mid-west small corps were very often mentioned in half-time shows, and even in contests, and it was from this vague beginning that Robin Weatherstone brought together the nucleus of the Optimist Small Corps.

Into this Small Corps are incorporated many of the ideas that Corps members would like to do, but which are, unfortunately, either out of place in our own show, or already done by other well-known Corps. An ardent Drum Corps fan will notice that much of our music is taken directly from the select U.S. Corps. This is intended. The small corps is not at present a competing unit, and if it is to remain a demonstration unit, it should contain the best possible ingredients, which is precisely what it contains at the present time.



The Small Corps has not had, for any long period of time, a permanent instructor in any capacity which is why it should be looked upon as an even greater accomplishment since a large part of the music, drill, and drumming is played by ear. The Small Corps is comprised of: nine horns --- four soprano, two french horns, and three bass horns. There are three in the drum line: one snare, one rudimental bass, and one cymbals. The six guard members constitute: two rifles, one national flag, and three secondary flags.

The music that is included in the repertoire of the small corps is a mixture of the favorite numbers of our own show, and the most popular numbers of other corps. Our Off-The-Line Fanfare is "Ben-Hur" followed by "Vanished Army", both made famous by The Blessed Sacrament Corps exquisite horn line. An original fanfare leads into "The March of The Charioteers," one of the numbers from the Optimists 1963 repertoire. Then a tribute to St. Vincent's Cadets is their never-to-be-forgotten "Land of the Pharaohs" brings the Small Corps into concert.

The concert of "I'm in the Mood for Love" is one of the hold-overs of the '62 field show of the Optimists. A brief, but familiar fanfare to Garfield Cadets, is "Exodus", our out of concert piece and into another holdover from the '62 Optimist Show---"Tabu". The colour presentation is perhaps one of the most famous of all marches, remembered best in the repertoire of Blessed Sacrament--"National Emblem." After a stirring rudimental bass solo the corps heads towards the finish line playing the fanfare, number used so effectively by the Optimists in '62 "The Party's Over". Our final fanfare, on the finish line is a new number for '63 "Barabbas", a fitting ending to a show that must be considered unique, if not for its quality, then for the inventiveness of the people who put it together.

The members of the Small Corps include: Glen Durish, Drum Major; Karl Bossert, Joe Gianna, Terry McKolskey and Doug Yarker, soprano; Ross Cation, Howie Davies on French Horn; Al LaVigne, Dave Watt and Robin Weatherstone on Bass Horn, Bill Grigg on cymbals, Ron Kaiser on rudimental Bass and Vic Krukliis on snare. Chuck Clutterbuck and Andy Henderson are on rifle, Dick Ward carries the National Colours and Gene Chepswick, Bill Hannah and Mike Thys are on secondary colours.

Opening Night, Saturday, April 14th

Also a special recognition for the cast and crew of the very first SMCS Musical, *The Music Man*, 1962 St. Michael's Celebrate the "50th year of Musicals"

by Paul Thompson.

While the Optimists soared to international heights in 1962, I appeared in my stage debut of *The Music Man*. A half century later, I returned to St Mike's to celebrate the anniversary of that inaugural production; and to cheer on Jamie Oatt for this year's remarkable interpretation



and staging of *Guys and Dolls*. The seeming divergent disciplines of 'drum corps' and 'theatre' somehow magically converged into an evening of fond memories and strange overlapping coincidences.

The St. Michael's College School Performing Arts Centre was the state-of-the-art venue for the 2012 production. Surprisingly, several people in attendance have had indirect or historical links to our Optimists Organization.

Three original 1962 veterans were:

- ▶ **Moi, Paul Thompson** (stage performer) – *afterwards an Optimists playing member, instructor, show coordinator, and current GCC editor.*
- ▶ **Marlene Spilchen** (1st chair violin extraordinaire) – *subsequently wife to Ron Kaiser (and incidentally very influential in the Optimists' music program in the early 1970's).*
- ▶ **Livio Leonardelli** (lead trumpet) – *later Music Director of St. Thomas Villanova and the Columbus Centre Concert Band where Joe Gianna is a current member.*

Our family guests included:

- ▶ **Ron Kaiser** – *formerly Toronto Optimists percussion instructor, arranger and Drum Corps Judge.*
- ▶ **Bernardine Thompson** – *former member of several 60's All Girls Corps; and later the Burlington Commanders and Guelph Royalties.*

Within fifteen minutes of this highly energetic presentation, I became emotionally overwhelmed by the all-too-familiar demonstration of tradition, pride and excellence permeating the current day performers and the many, many other alumni on hand. Any readers who have worn the 'Green' undoubtedly know that feeling exactly.

Following the final curtain call earning much sustained and well deserved applause, the 1962 alumni were invited to the stage where I delightedly encountered yet three more longtime associates:

- ▶ **Jamie Oatt** (Production Director) – *former Optimists Alumni music instructor, arranger, consultant; who also provided us with the wonderful facilities at St Mike's.*
- ▶ **Danny Douglas** (Orchestra Contractor/ trombone) – *occasional Optimists music instructor and program advisor to Jamie and Paul and well known Toronto musician and educator.*
- ▶ **Gareth Skipp** (Photography) – *past drill instructor/arranger, and consultant for the Optimists Alumni and Bluecoats from Canton, Ohio.*

Astonishingly, throughout the night I received warm, sincere and unsolicited commendations for the enduring success of the incomparable 'Green Machine.' Someone is heralding our legend. But this was, for me, the long awaited vindication I craved. At least my peers developed an encouraging respect for drum corps – whereas Toronto High School teachers of the day universally condemned the activity. However, I digress.

My sincere and profound accolades go out to Jamie and his outstanding cast and crew for a fabulous theatrical performance and an even more memorable reunion. Congratulations!



Paul and Jamie reminiscing at the St. Michael's College Arts Centre.

The Drum Major’s Rapport

By Jackie Nicholls



Optimists Drum Major,
Jackie Nicholls

Being asked to be Drum Major for the Optimists Alumni is quite an honour for me knowing the corps history.

While I have experience in this area, it is always nerve-racking to come out to the first rehearsal of a new group. There are many things to consider. How is the corps rehearsal organized? Who is in charge at the rehearsal? What are the expectations

of the Drum Major and how do management, membership and Drum Major work together? My first experience with Optimists was quite pleasant and many of my nerves were settled early on.

I must admit, the length of time between rehearsals is a challenge and the first performance on St. Patrick’s Day came very quickly.

Having only conducted one song multiple times and the other two tunes once or twice made my job out front considerably stressful. Not to mention fifteen minutes before Ric says to me, “You’re OK to do all the talking, right?”

I knew that the corps had played these tunes many times and I knew I could rely on them to lead me through to the end. It was quite comforting to see Jeff and Doug looking back at me and knowing that the tempo would be in good hands even if I was less than confident. Many thanks to Jeff and Ric who had confidence in me to “pull this one off” so to speak.

The funny thing for me was the newest song came off the best! After the performance and the many stories of wrong music, lost my place, old version/new version wrong tempo, everything was put into perspective. We made it through and we have, shall we say...room for improvement. LOL.

The rest of the night was great, an international menu, tasty refreshments and great company. I had a blast getting caught up with old drum corps friends and meeting new ones. Thanks to Dave Bruce and his concern regarding the shamrock on my cheek which he insisted I take off in case I got stopped by a Ride Program!

I’m looking forward to the May performance in Simcoe and hopefully will “get it right.” The summer holds many challenges but also new friendships, travels, bus stories and I have an excuse to pad my wardrobe with lots of green. As you will discover I am a HUGE CLOTHES HORSE AND SHOPAHOLIC!

Vern Reid



In a slight departure from our normal format, we at GCC have decided to put the Spotlight on a few of our Corps (Core) personnel who tend to fly under the radar, but who make or have made significant contributions to the success of the organization.

It’s not always about the soloists and the obvious leaders of the Corps, but oft times, it is about character and

dedication. Take for example our good buddy, Vern Reid.

Back in the late fifties and early sixties Vern became involved in drum Corps as a fan, thanks in part to his big brother Clare who, by then, was up to his ears in the Drum Corps movement. As a fan, Vern was a regular at contests all over Canada and the U.S.A. He proved to be an astute judge of talent and became an Optimists fan (back in those days you either loved the Optimists or hated them). Winning so consistently did not always work in the Corps’ favour; sort of like being a Yankee’s fan.

In any case, Vern had a real passion for Drum Corps and in a grand epiphany Vern, in his sixties, decided it was time to learn an instrument and join a Corps. (Or is that in reverse order?) He joined the Sigs and under Barry Bell’s tutelage, the long time fan became a player. After a few seasons with Sigs, Vern decided to join the Optimists Alumni Corps as a player. He never missed a parade, rehearsal or show. In fact, on days when he couldn’t march Vern could be seen walking the parade routes with bottles of water. No matter what the tasks were, Vern was the go-to-guy.

Perhaps even more importantly than his direct contributions to the Corps, Vern is just one of those great guys! Always a gentlemen, custodian of the Don Daber archives, a frequent visitor to hospitals to boost the spirits of various members who have had the misfortune of a serious illness.

For those of us who have enjoyed the pleasures of getting to know Vern, we are unanimous in our praise for him... both as a fellow corpsman and as a friend.

• • • • •

“Thanks to the encouragement of Barry Bell, I had the best 5 years of my life, starting in 2002 when I marched with The Signals Band playing mellophone and later The Optimists Alumni.” Vern Reid.

Excerpt from an interview with GCC in 2011.

1961 Challenge

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

THE CHALLENGE. This photo was taken in front of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, 1961. 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.



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WE REMEMBER

There has been a noticeable increase in Facebook and email condolences for our recently departed members. These messages come from friends of the Optimists, other Corps, and a vast array of individuals within the Drum Corps Family. On behalf of the Optimists Alumni and the respective family members we express our sincere gratitude for your caring messages. Thank you!



Bogo Avsec— 1945 – 2012

Bogo was a kind, thoughtful man with a wonderful sense of humour. His ability to deal with adversity and truly live one day at a time was

an inspiration to all who knew him.

Bogo began his musical life in Slovenia, in a marching band. Very much later in life, long after he had moved to Toronto, he joined the Toronto Signals Band. For a few years, Bogo also played with the Optimists Alumni. Often he would perform with both groups on the same day; sometimes at the same show! Bogo continued marching with the Toronto Signals even after being diagnosed with prostate cancer, having surgery and later chemotherapy and even a knee replacement. He also joined the Burlington Concert Band and continued playing with them when he became physically unable to march. Bogo enjoyed every minute of it and the family became his cheering section!

Bogo had always wanted to attend university. Now that he has donated his body for medical research at the University of Toronto, his dream has been realized.

“He always had a sense of humor and thoroughly enjoyed playing the trumpet. I'm sure God is enjoying his company and his music.”



Glenn Copp – 1942 – 2012

Glenn played Cymbals with the Toronto Optimists from about 1959 through 1962. Many who go back to the early days of the Optimists will remember Glenn's cymbal dance during “In The Mood”. Glenn joined the Alumni Corps at its inception and continued marching with us until about

2008. Of course, he played cymbals but he occasionally carried a flag when we needed support in that area. Glenn also helped with fund raising. In fact, he helped out whenever and wherever he could.

Glenn will always be known for his: “do it himself” attitude, love of jazz, big band music, classic cars, mechanical aptitude, his

willingness to help others, an extensive career at The Toronto Dominion Bank and being a strong provider for his family.

“Glenn was determined and did whatever it took to get any job done. That enthusiasm was always evident at practices and especially in competition. When I started feeling tired carrying my bass drum during a hot afternoon practice, I just had to look beside me for inspiration. There was Glenn carrying and spinning about six pounds of cymbals – all afternoon. Did I mention long parades? His determination and perfection were infectious.” – David Johns

“Talk about commitment! Glenn installed floor to ceiling mirrors in his basement so that he could practice his cymbal moves and see how they looked. He also had a variable speed record player so that he could slow down the music and perfect his moves. What a guy!” – Rick Shearer



Andy Henderson – 1943 – 2012

Andy marched with the Optimists from 1959 through 1965. In 1959 and 1960 he carried a flag in the Colour Guard then, in 1961, he moved to rifle. Andy was appointed Guard Captain in 1963 and, in 1964, Andy and Vern Johansson were our Drum Majors. In 1965 Andy was our sole Drum Major.

After the 1965 season Andy moved to Commanders, a senior drum corps. Andy went on to become a distinguished commercial film editor and director.

On Andy's “We Remember” page, there's a link to an article about Andy from the March 1965 issue of Drum Corps Digest.

“Andy was probably one of, if not the classiest Drum Major(s) I ever saw and/or marched with.” – Mel Dey

“I am very, very sorry to hear this. Andy was very special to me because he took me under his wing in 1964 and made it much, much easier for me to survive in the big leagues. I will always remember him for his kindness.” – Vern Johansson

“When he came over to Commanders as our D.M., I addressed him as A. Henderson. Andy tagged me mmmm Dey. Farewell Andy – gone too soon.” – Mel Dey

“So long Hendergobble!” – Marcel Smolinski

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 4	Parade	Confirmed	11:00 am	<i>Rotary Freindship Festival</i>	Simcoe, 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					

Let's hear from you...

GCC is published four times a year. Contributor deadline for next issue is **Friday, July 27, 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.

No one answered the questions correctly this time

ANSWERS FOR JANUARY

- Name the relatives that have been members from 2002, for example, husbands and wives, fathers and sons or daughters, brothers, sisters.
- Terry Sweeney and sons Shannon and Jason Filipchuk; Barry Bell, his daughter Debbie, Debbie's husband David Bruce and their daughter Becky; Pat Buttigieg and son Douglas and daughter Robyn; David and Jan Burgess, son James and daughter Katie; Ric Brown, niece Chelsea and sister Debi LaPointe; Bill Kane, his wife Jan Forsythe, Bill's brother Jim and Jan's sister Judy Davidson; John and Gaalen Swartz; Rick Lang and brother Mike; John and Rick Shearer; Vern and Clare Reid; Ron and Pat Cottrell; Andrew and Brian Flood; Doug and Rick Roblin; Barb and**

Dennis Roberts; Susan and Jack Roberts; Cindy and Rick Tracey with their daughter Taunia; Erin and Maeve Roy; Doug Darwin and daughter Madison.

- How many members in the largest drum line of the Optimists Alumni Corps?
- 26 in 2004. (8 snares, 5 tenors, 4 quads, 5 bass, and at least 4 cymbals)**
- What was the temperature (F or C) during the Whitney Lake parade in Michigan in 2010?
- 103° F. (but it felt like 1000°)**

QUESTIONS FOR APRIL

- Name all the **official** Drum Majors of the Alumni Corps.
- When was Dick Brown appointed Corps Director?
- What is the longest feature in the 2012 music program?

Please send your answers by **Friday, July 6, 2012** to: David Johns at: openrd2002@yahoo.ca

CORRECTION

On page 12 of the GCC January issue – The 1960 Challenge. Number 38 was incorrectly named Ric Brown.