



Anniversaries! 55th for the Toronto Optimists and the 27th for the Seneca Optimists, 10th for the Optimists Alumni and 5th for the Legends show.

Mark Saturday, August 17 on your calendar and bring your friends and family to the Legends V show.

It's a great place to enjoy some good, old-fashioned drum corps with folks who share your interest and enthusiasm! You'll probably meet some old friends and you might just make some new ones.

We've always included post-show festivities and this year we've added a **pre-show gathering**. Everyone who comes to the show is welcome at both events. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

For former Optimists, let's get together and celebrate. We've been having reunions every five years and the last one was our 50th, in 2008. This year, instead of asking you to come to two separate events, we've decided to make this our **2013 Reunion** as well as a corps show. There's a lot to celebrate. 2013 is the 10th anniversary of the first performance of the Optimists Alumni, the 55th anniversary of the first Nationals won by the Toronto Optimists, the 27th anniversary of the formation of the Seneca Optimists and the 5th anniversary of the Legends show! What a wonderful opportunity for all former Optimists to come together, reminisce and celebrate the good times we had.

Celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the Legends show

The Legends of Drum Corps V Show

THE OPTIMISTS ALUMNI CADRE - PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE MIDLANDERS ALUMNI
PRESTON SCOUT HOUSE BAND SIMCOE UNITED ALUMNI IMPERIAL KNIGHTS ALUMNI

Saturday, August 17, 2013, 6:30 pm
Oshawa Civic Fields
99 Thornton Road South, Oshawa, Ontario L1J 5Y1
Tickets: **\$10.00** Children under 12 - Free
Tickets are available from any member of The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps or at the gate.
For more information www.optimists-alumni.org

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Summer rehearsals

Keating Park, May 19



Drum Major Jackie Nicholls (hat) and Guard instructor Melinda Loader (far R).



The drum line, Some have the new lightweight, practice drums.



Top: A portion of the horn line. Bottom: The rudimental bass section.



John Peachey, contrabass and Heather Hyslop, mellophone.



Kathleen Gander, cymbals, and the drum line.

Oshawa, June 1



"All those wearing blue can continue playing".



Drum Major Jackie Nicholls,



L to R: Barry Bell, Bill Kane and Mike Lang.

Oshawa, June 22



Heather Hyslop demonstrating the latest style and colour in practice rainwear attire.



Rick Lang (standing by the pylon) telling drill instructor Chad Orser, how thrilled he is that his spot isn't in the puddle... like all the other times.



L to R: Rick Shearer, Bob Carell and Ron Chong wearing the traditional style of practice rainware. Gord Brown, in the background, decided on basic black nylon with cap.

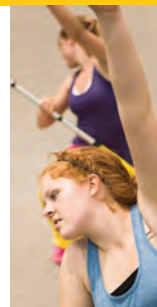
Oshawa, July 7



Drum Major Jackie Nicholls leads the drill rehearsal.



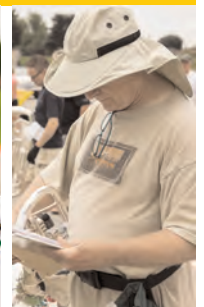
Doug Roblin.



Alyssa.



Ric Brown and Ayaka Miyake.



Bob Carell.

Simcoe May 11 *And The Band's Played On... 9* presented by the Simcoe United Alumni. The corps always looks forward to this annual show that starts the summer season.



The Optimists Alumni

Woodstock May 20. The annual *Victoria Day* parade and field show.



Optimists "On Parade".



Top: Burlington Teen Tour Band, MM Robinson Drumline.
Bottom: Preston Scout House Alumni Band, Toronto Signals Band.

Oshawa June 1. Pre-game and halftime performance at the *Oshawa Hawkeyes* football game.



We had to do a pre-game performance plus one at half-time. The first was wet and the second wetter. Great weather for ducks! None of the soloist "quacked"

Welland June 23 The annual *Rose Festival Parade*.



"Hot Weather" uniforms.



(L to R) Matthew Davis, Dave Bruce, Mike Lang and Gord Brown.



Bass drum section: (L to R) Ayaka Miyake, Ric Brown and Roger Rafson.



Not hot enough? Matt Davis (top) and Ron Chong who felt the need to warm up even more (just kidding).



Part of the drum line. (L to R) Ken Taylor, Judy Ferguson and Lorne Ferrazzutti.

Canada Day

Port Credit and Scarborough July 1 – two parades on Canada Day.

Morning parade in Port Credit



L to R: Ron Chong, Brian Collingdon, Bob Carell and Matt Davis contemplate a joint venture to purchase one of the many boats before the parade starts. Just kidding!



Hazel McCallion, Mayor of Mississauga joining in the festivities.



L to R as pictured: Heather Hyslop, Barry Bell, Ron Chong, Warren Berger, Bob Carell, Doug Roblin and Rick Lang.

Afternoon parade in Scarborough



L to R: Drum Major Jackie Nicholls, Ken Taylor, Lorne Ferrazzutti, Judy Ferguson, Jeff MacKay, Doug Darwin, Michael Sharpe and Guard Captain Glenda Tokiwa.



“OK, let’s do this, on four...”

The Drum Major’s Rapport

By Jackie Nicholls



Optimists Drum Major, Jackie Nicholls.

The heat of summer is upon us and the heat of performance is just around the corner. We have the meat of our season just about ready to serve to our waiting audiences. It’s time for the best part of the Drum Corps season; refining our product, socializing on the road and performing for the applause.

We have come through many changes this spring and fall and our show is almost complete. We have lost and gained several players as time progressed and we still have a few new marching members to integrate into the mix.

It’s important that we concentrate on our personal responsibilities and allow the specific specialists to use their talents in order to put the finishing touches on the overall production.

While the Optimists come from many areas of Central Ontario and display an amount of diversity, it is exciting to

think we will soon become an international organization with the addition of our young friends from The Art Soldier Musical Group. Please brush up on your Korean Language Skills and develop your Canadian Ambassador smiles and handshakes. This endeavour will be challenging to say the least but it will be exciting to join two diverse cultures through the language of music and drum corps.



Ric Lang and Doug Johns – July 6 rehearsal.



Jackie at the July 6 rehearsal in Oshawa

We will be sitting down in Annapolis before you know it reminiscing about the 2013 season. Get ready to perform and don’t miss a second from here on in. The next few weeks are sure to be memorable with laughs, music and “special treats”.

Cheers... Jackie

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THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER – RIC BROWN

T'S HALF WAY through our summer season and now we look forward to the final six week push. We have survived the breakdown in Woodstock (drums are still wondering what happened) the heat wave of Welland (thank goodness for the breeze at our back) and two Canada parades (wasn't all that red and white in Port Credit wonderful to see!!). With the additional rehearsal scheduled, we were able to complete the staging and do a complete run through before the skies opened up with all the rain.

One rehearsal with Randy in attendance to iron out any issues and do more run throughs and then off to Sudbury and the *Spectacle of Sound* where will add some staff members of Art Soldier to solidify and fill out the ranks. We will also be adding Colour Guard for a performance for the first time this year. We also look to having Dave Mackinnon back from touring with the Bluecoats for the weekend.



With a long weekend off, we then have four weekends with three performances two rehearsals and included of course, our own *Legends V* being held once again in Oshawa at the Civic Fields Stadium. In celebrating our tenth anniversary, a special pavilion will be set up outside to accommodate former members and their families.

And then before you know it we are in to September where we have a special invitation from The St. John's Drum & Bugle Corps to celebrate their 60th anniversary to perform our 2013 show. The Board would like to thank all of you for your commitment to excellence and the organization for 2013.

1, 2, 3 GREEN

... AND SPEAKING OF LEGENDS...

An opportunity to meet old Drum Corps friends from any of the performing corps and make new friends at the Legends V **“Pre Show Get Together”** and the **“Post Show Celebration”**



Barry Bell (L) and Lorne Ferrazzutti.

Barry was the horn instructor for the 1958 Toronto Optimists and Lorne was the drum instructor for the 1958 corps. In fact, both of them went on to instruct the Optimists for many years. While Barry was one of the Drum Majors in 1961, neither of them actually played in the corps. With the formation of the Alumni Corps this situation has changed. Others are now doing the instructing which allows Barry and Lorne to enjoy playing. Barry plays baritone while Lorne is on snare.



Joe Gianna (L) and Warren Berger

Both Joe and Warren played soprano in the 1958 Optimists. Warren aged out in 1961 and moved to the Jesters, then Commanders. Joe aged out in 1963 but helped out with instruction and, later, management. When the Optimists Alumni was formed both of these guys were there and, after 40 years they were, once again, back playing in the same horn line.

Get your tickets NOW for the Legends V Show Saturday, August 17. \$10.00 (children under 12 – free)

A wonderful evening of entertainment. Enjoy some great Alumni Corps performances. An opportunity to meet old Drum Corps friends and make new ones at the **“Pre Show Get Together”** and the **“Post Show Celebration”**

You can purchase your tickets from any member of the performing corps: The Optimists Alumni, CADRE Percussion Ensemble, Midlanders Alumni, Simcoe United Alumni and The Sudbury Imperial Knights.



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The Legends of Drum Corps V

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2003

was the year the Alumni Corps gave it's first performance. This year GCC is featuring a series of stories about the year leading up to our first performance. GCC asked some members to tell their stories of those heady days leading up to the GAS (Great Alliance of Seniors) performance in Hamilton.

From Ron Chong (Mellophone)

THE PLEASURE OF REUNITING with people I knew 40 years ago in addition to meeting many new people was and continues to be a wonderful experience. The simple, common bond of making music was the catalyst that brought us back together and provided us with the opportunity to relive and celebrate many past memories and perhaps create new ones.

The GAS reunion came and went. Many members had committed to being part of the alumni corps only for that event. Those who have continued on have formed a very strong bond - one that really is indescribable! Friendships, disagreements, laughter, tears, celebrations - all those things that are part of the human condition and experience are also found within the Optimists alumni experience.

Making music continues to be the common goal that binds but it also provides us with a sense of community in the most universal sense. 🟢

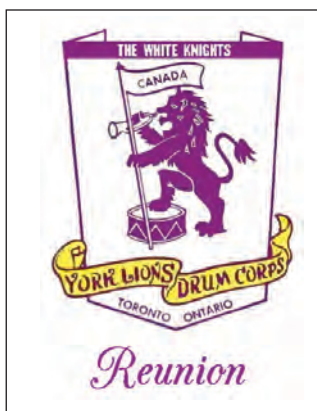
From Paul Thompson (Contrabass)

MY MOST VIVID RECOLLECTION of our Alumni Corps' earliest days was during our very first public performance on the occasion of York reunion of 2003. (York Lions Drum Corps formed in 1961 and disbanded in 1966). Below are two excerpts from their website which tell the story.

The Reunion took place in Toronto on Sept. 19th and 20th of 2003. It started with a Friday night get together for a few beers... followed by a Saturday afternoon BBQ and mini Drum Corps show at the The Royal Canadian Legion on the Lakeshore...



The York Lions White Knights reunion in 2003 at the Legion on the Lakeshore where the Optimists Alumni entertained.



Optimists, though only together for about six months, gave us a wonderful taste of the music that we both feared and loved during the days when they were the Corps to beat in the 60's...

Bill Simon (former White Knights' Drum Major) brought the house down at the end of our first number (WHO WILL

BUY – if I recall correctly) with his touching, nostalgic response “I thought I’d never hear that sound again.” That’s when I knew we were going to sell the Legend. 🟢

From Vern Johansson

I THINK THE THING I remember most was the ease with which this all came together. The four of

us worked really well together and the addition of Clare Reid and Dick Brown in the planning stage was a real help. It was all a lot of fun and the pure joy of seeing so many familiar faces at our very first rehearsal was something.

I'll never forget. Everyone sat down – except the huge drumline which lined up with practice pads made by Rob Judd, on a long plank we brought along for the occasion – and we all just started to play. By the end of

the rehearsal, we had Taboo down well enough to not suck. I was very proud to have been involved in such a worthwhile endeavour. 🟢



L to R: Al Miller, Mhairi Cumming and Debi LaPointe at the 2003 reunion.

From Rick Shearer, (Mellophone)

WHO WOULD LIKE to be in an Alumni Drum Corps was a question asked at a reunion picnic and the thought was overwhelming, reliving a part of my youth was a great idea.

That first rehearsal was like time had stood still, only our looks had changed. Once all of the re-acquainting and socializing was out of the way, we settled down to the business of playing Drum Corps.


I found that we worked hard to get in shape and the results showed. We were told after a short period (few weeks / months??) that we had been invited to play at the G.A.S. convention in Hamilton and the



Optimists Alumni perform at the 2003 reunion.

anticipation started growing stronger and stronger leading up to the performance. The section that I was part of (Mellophone) even had section rehearsals at one of the Bell COs that I worked at in the middle of the week because we wanted to be the best we could be. It was also a chance for us to go next door for a few beers and socialize.

On the day of the performance you could tell that everyone was prepared to do their best and also uphold the good name and reputation of The Optimists Drum And Bugle Corps, and for the members that had not marched with the Corps when they were young I think it gave them the same feeling we had enjoyed for so

many years. And of course the rest is history (again) as we celebrate another 10 years of success. 

WE REMEMBER



Bill Jay

Corps: Danforth Tech, Optimists Bantams, Toronto Optimists and Jesters.

Bill came to the Optimists from Danforth Tech. In addition to marching with Optimists and playing some of the solos, he was

also the first drum major of the Optimists Bantams. After aging out of Optimists Bill moved to the Jesters.

“My first encounter with Bill occurred when I was 13 years old (the late 1950s) and he, as Drum Major, welcomed me as a member of the Toronto Optimist Novice Drum and Bugle Corps. Even then, as a young man, he was willing to give of his free time to, as he put it, “keep young lads out of jail”.

He was an excellent musician himself and instilled a love of the Drum Corps world in so many, that has lasted to this day. Please accept my condolences for your loss of a man who was a champion then, and for so many, was still a champion now.” (Tom Menagh)

“We first met Bill at Danforth Crusaders where he played a very strong soprano horn. At the end of 1957 he moved with Lorne and myself (plus Joe Gianna, Gord O’Halloran,

Ken Poole, Al Morrison, Doug McPhail, Colin Hedworth and many others) to form Optimists. Later he moved to Jesters with Lorne and I. He was an excellent person.”
Barry Bell

“I first met Bill at Danforth Tech, with the Danforth Crusaders or 330th Squadron Air Cadets. He was my section Sargeant and took me under his wing, instructing me on how to play the bugle, single valve at the time. I remember he would have me march the length of the gym where we rehearsed, holding a sustained note for the length of the gym to build up endurance, and of course he would also do it with me.

Ken Poole played a Baritone and was a very good friend of his. We all moved to the Optimists with Barry Bell and Lorne Ferrazzutti in the fall of 1957 to form the 1958 Canadian Championship Corps. Bill was a very powerful horn player whom I admired. He would pick me up in his Volkswagen Beetle for practises and drive me back home.

He stayed with the Optimists ’til he aged out, probably 1960 or 61. His wife Marie was right in there, at the Jarvis St. School where we used to practise, helping to serve the spaghetti dinner that my mother cooked and served to the entire corps in celebration of our first Canadian Championship victory.” Joe Gianna

ST. JOHN'S 60th ANNIVERSARY REUNION



Dates and location

Friday Sept 13
to Sunday Sept 15, 2013.

Army, Navy and Air Force Club,
Mohawk Plaza

645 Colborne Street,
Brantford, Ontario N3S 3M8



St. John's Drum Corps is celebrating "60 years" this year and are hosting a reunion - open to marching members past and present, instructors, chaperones, support staff anyone that was involved with St John's.
The reunion takes place from Sept 13 to Sept 15, 2013.

Friday Sept 13	Saturday Sept 14	Sunday Sept 15
Pub Night	Dinner & Dance	Alumni Corps Performances
7:00pm - Midnight	5:30pm - Midnight	Including St. John's Winter Guard!
Members/spouses Cash Bar	Members/spouses Cash Bar	1:00pm Open to all

All events will be taking place at:
Army, Navy and Air Force Club, Mohawk Plaza
645 Colborne Street, Brantford.

Check out the website for more information:
www.StJohnsDrumCorpsReunion.com

Logo design
Robert Judd

www.stjohnsdrumcorpsreunion.com

A July 4th Memory by Chuck Sydoryk (1965-1970)

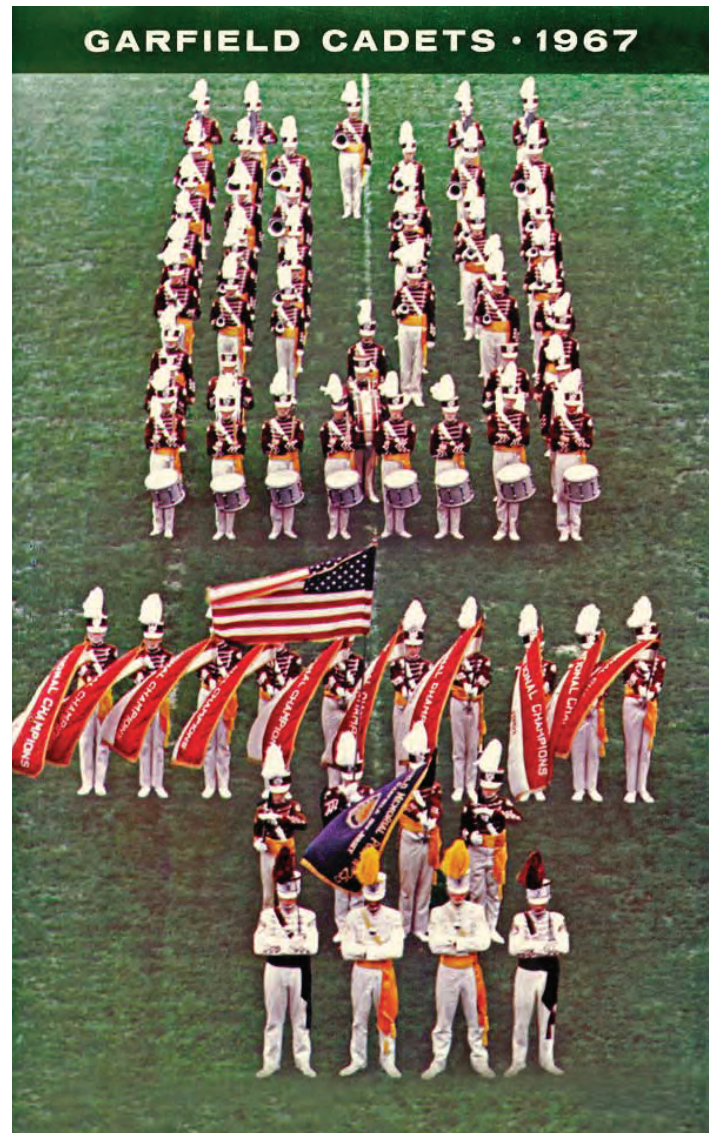
I glanced at the calendar today, noticed the date and a little smile came to my face...for some reason I thought back to a similar day some 41 years ago. Why? I'm not sure other than July 4th was always one of "those special days" in the life of a Drum Corp member, especially if you marched with The Holy Name/Garfield Cadets.

I **N JULY 1967** we were well into our season having already competed since Mid-May and '67 thus far had not been much of a change from the '66 season except for the Shriner's show in Toronto where we placed a respectable 4th, losing to Boston, The Cavies and Opti. We beat the Kilties and few others and were given a "Good" review by most, but especially by the packed Stadium in Toronto. Since the Scout House days we always had that great Canadian following and that day they let us know how much they enjoyed us.

Before I finish my story on July 4th, a little Retrospective please, for the younger amongst us: 1966 had pretty much been as much a disaster as the '64 and '65 seasons together been successful. In '64 we had won our 10th National Title and in '65 while not bringing home the AL Title (losing to the Royal-Airs, who even God and the twelve Apostle's couldn't beat that year) we had a pretty good season with some 17 wins, (10 in a row) and a State AL Title. But in '66, age-outs, the draft and constant changes in the Administration had brought the corp to it's worst season since '59. The age of the corp decreased dramatically in '66 and the loss of all but three of our great '65 solo-soprano line hurt terribly, but the biggest difference I believe was the loss of Uncle Eddie our new Director and long time Quartermaster.

His cancer has gotten progressively worse since the summer of 1965. He never even made the trip to the Al Nat'ls in Portland, Oregon with us and that's when we found out how bad he really was doing. Uncle Ed passed early the following year as did many of those who worked at Raybestos-Manhattan (no one knew of the dangers of Asbestos back then). The Corp administration fell to several people who tried the best they could, but somehow never made that connection with the Corp members and THAT was the critical loss. Our Staff remained pretty much the same as the 64-65 seasons with Jimmy Costello doing drill, Les Parks, drums and Hy Dreitzer, Brass, but something changed. Horn rehearsals were not going well and Hy Dreitzer was a different person in '66, he seemed much more distant to us, he eventually stopped showing up at rehearsals and at one of our first outdoor Monday night rehearsals he came by and announced he was quitting and simply left. By that time though a number of us knew that it was best, he had simply lost confidence in us and we in him.

At one winter rehearsal he had started really bearing down on one of the French Horn players actually picking up a horn and playing a contested phrase over and over again into this young man's ear at FFFF volumes. I was four spots away in



the Bari line and my ears rang for an hour, I don't know how that horn player stood it, but at that point I had lost a lot of respect for that man. He didn't need to embarrass that player that way, nor did he need to punish his hearing. The rest of the '66 season saw us fall to Corps that would have never expected to beat us, but we beat ourselves and the low point

GARFIELD CADET HISTORY – 1967 (CONTINUED)

was the 19th place finish at the VFW Nationals. Leadership seemed to vanish while everything that could have gone wrong did that year, the corp staff even forgot to register us to compete at the VFW's and since we were the last to register we were given the "honor" of competing FIRST at the preliminaries. Couldn't blame that one on Tony Schlecta.

Following that dismal performance, Jimmy D'Amico who took over as Horn Instructor, rallied the Corp, some Alumni came back to fill-in slots and expand us to 38 horns and we went on to the AI Nat's in Washington, DC where we finished in 6th Place, losing to the Royal-Airs (again) for the 5th place and last Finals spot, but by only a few tenths! We had thoroughly believed we would make the top five and probably would have, had we not short stepped the OTL, we actually stopped on the 40 yd line! throwing off our entire GE Visual scores and barely it making Off the Field before going overtime! So the year ended with little fanfare, but with hope for the future.

1967 was looking much better, after early struggles, Jimmy D'Amico stepped up and took over the Corp as Director and Horn Instructor which we all viewed as positive. The Arranger slot was tested by a number of people including Jimmy, Bobby Bunce and finally by Truman Crawford. Truman's arrangements were nothing like anything Garfield had EVER played before. They challenged us at every level and at every position. No longer were even the 3rd bari parts for lessor players. We struggled and slowly became better players, but we still had the "Phrasing problems" as the jazz idiom just never seemed right.

That changed in late June/early July... and in just the span of one hour under Truman Crawford's tutelage, we learned all we had forgotten since "The Donald" had left... not the phrasing, but the meaning of Command and Control. Sgt. Major (at that time) Crawford was an imposing figure, tall, lean, smoked a cigarette like the Gestapo Colonel in "Casablanca" and yet spoke in a quiet dignified manner that let ALL of us know what his expectations were and how disappointed he was in us as Cadets! That's one dressing down I NEVER wanted to relive!

That ONE rehearsal did more for that hornline, did more for the psyche of our entire Corp than any other single instance in my memory. We were Holy Name again! and were about to prove it shortly. Oh, yes and Truman corrected most all the phrasing issues. It's too bad he only had one other practice with us the entire year as the leaps we made could have been staggering if only we could have afforded the extra costs of his instruction.

JULY 4TH started off like every other July 4th for the Corp. in the '60's. Two parades and two exhibitions in the morning, practice during the hottest part of the day followed by a contest at night, but this year we were back in Union City, NJ for The 4th of July Spectacular and Union City has been a very "special" place for Garfield and Fireworks. We won't go into that today, but you can ask some of the early '60's Vets about Union City and what Drum Corp was like back in the days.

After all the early shows and the afternoon practices we were physically exhausted and frankly a little down on ourselves again as we boarded our bus to Union City only to learn that by the luck of the draw we were on second, (which is not where you want to be if you're seriously competing as we learned at the VFW's the prior August). The despair got so

bad, some on the Bus were actually praying for rain so the contest could be cancelled! But as we got closer to Union City a sense of anger starting showing itself and the complacency gave way to a sense of righteous indignation. We were getting mad at ourselves for letting what we could NOT control, control us again, so we started

challenging ourselves and each other to perform and play like we had done for Truman earlier in the week.

The level kept intensifying with each "side" of the Corp challenging the other for the highest leg-lift, the drumline would out-execute the hornline, bets were being laid (never to paid, but bragging rights were always fun). We were whipping ourselves into a frenzy unlike none I had ever experienced! By the time we hit the starting line there was a level of electricity running throughout the Corps that made even the hairs on the back of my neck stand at attention. These next 11 minutes were going to be SPECIAL! The electricity had begun to flow thru the Corp and out into the crowd, but it was soon to start in the skies above!

THE FIRST NOTE of the opening fanfare had always been a bit of a tell for us in the hornline... it was a French Horn lead-in for the rest of the fanfare to "The Man of La Mancha"... a simple 7 note rip that almost always started with a frac... but not that night... it was there... strong, tight and with an accent to the mental strength of lips behind that attack. The show had just started, but the push just kept building. The first 16 steps off the line were typically company fronts and we nailed it, the pinwheels, the Drum Solo's, the Hornline just kept getting tighter and tighter and the crowd sensed it and rewarded us with thunderous applause... that set-up the wildest feedback loop I ever experienced, it seemed unending, finishing "Johnny"



Garfield Cadets at the 1967 Shriner's International in Toronto.

GARFIELD CADET HISTORY – 1967 (CONTINUED)

with the Parade Rest slap of the horn against the Breast Plate and buttons sounded like a Clap of Thunder(maybe it was?). Even the Concert of “Mame” brought wild audience applause... and then it started... the rain, Oh the rain... and the Thunder... the crowd that was not under the vast overhang in the ‘L’ shaped Stadium was getting up and moving back under the cover, but not leaving... we just stood our ground and played the bells off of those G-D horns. The crowd heard this and exploded to yet a higher level.

With the Concert finished we marched backfield to the strains of “March Bravura” one of Truman’s arrangements that just invited the next round of feedback... lightning... lightning and thunder... lightning, thunder and buckets of rain and just as we turned around and charged the Stands in our company front, lightning flashes nearly blinded us followed by a thunderous crack that we would not allow to overpower our hornline. As we raced towards the stands in the company front I never before or since experienced a crowd whipped into such a screaming, foot-stomping frenzy as I saw and heard in those few seconds.


Next I knew, we were in our Off the Field number and all I could think of was seeing Aunt Nellie at the Finish Line worrying about the plumes, the Maroon Cadet Jacket colors running onto the Cream slacks(these were our first New Uniforms since 1960!), but the show wasn’t finished yet... being an ‘L’ shaped stadium, we played our exit number marching into the stands again, filled with locals who probably never saw many drum corp shows but were the most enthusiastic and appreciative audiences in the history of Drum Corps.

Again the foot-stomping applause and we were not about to disappoint them with a quiet exit number, but “It’s Today” from Mame that let the soprano line and the Mellophones ‘Scream’ a little and scream they did, right into the ending crescendo... it was done, a memory seared into my consciousness... those that marched it, will never, ever forget it... this is what Drum Corp was all about....what a rush... what a feeling of accomplishment... marching and playing next to people that just a few short months ago you never knew, yet you did this as though you were a single entity... we were... we were the HOLY NAME CADETS of Garfield, New Jersey!

As we raced to the stands to escape the rain, the realization hit that our “perfect” performance might just go for naught as the contest could now be cancelled!... our first chance for a win in two years was about to evaporate into the same sky that gave us the courage to perform beyond our abilities. They say, be careful what you wish (pray) for as you just may get it!

The rain let up a little, the Muchachos performed and it started again, St Lucy’s tried to start but the sky above was not to allow it... the contest was cancelled and our shot at our first win in almost two years went into the storm drains of Roosevelt Field, in Union City, NJ.

ODDLY, DON ANGELICA was the Head Judge at that show that night and in private, numbers were whispered to a few of us older guys, we were still in-between shock and elation so I don’t remember if heard the all numbers correctly, but the “88” did stand out and drown out the tenths and Don’s comments were that it was the best he had seen the corp perform in years.

That compliment by itself made up for the cancellation of the show as compliments like those from Don were far and few between and it proved to us at least that Holy Name was back. There were to be other flashes of ’57 in ’67, the CYO’s, the NJ AI States were both great performances, but not like Union City, no that was one of those “Special Shows”... the scores didn’t matter, the placement unimportant, the memories of that performance and what it did for that ensemble of young men from Garfield, NJ was priceless... FHNSAB (For Holy Name Shall Always Be) 

LEN ADDLEY – SIMCOE UNITED

Congratulations to Len Addley, Drum Major of the United Alumni Senior Drum Corps from 1998 to 2013.



Len receiving a certificate recognizing his contributions to the United Alumni Senior Drum Corps at and The Bands Played On... 9 in Simcoe on May 11.

LEN BEGAN HIS career in drum corps as a tenor drummer in an all-male percussion line for the St. Thomas Marching Royals all-girl drill team in which his wife Joy was a member in the mid 1960’s.

He was Drum Major for the Simcoe Royal Blues Senior Drum & Bugle Corps from 1966 to 1968 and became Drum Major. Len became Corps Director for the Simcoe Golden Lions Junior Drum & Bugle Corps throughout the period 1969 to 1978. Len was the Drum Major for the United Alumni from its inception in 1998.

The Optimists Alumni offer Len congratulations on his 15 year tenure as Drum Major and best wishes for his future endeavours.

Legends I, II, III and IV



Legends I – 2009 Oshawa



Legends II – 2010 Toronto



Legends III – 2011 Oshawa



Legends IV – 2012 Oshawa

Legends IV – 2012



STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR FAMILY

Keep in touch!

Have you ever wondered how many different people marched with the various corps in the Optimists organization?

We have; however, since we have no current records all we can do is wonder.

Periodically we get messages saying something like “I used to march with Joe Bloggs and I’d like to contact him.

Do you know how to contact him?” Of course, if we did have the information we’d first ask Joe if it was OK; however, since we have very little info we usually have to answer “no”.

AS PEOPLE MOVE, much of the information we have no longer applies. While a few people have filled out the form on our website, we’re missing

both the names and the contact info for hundreds of people. Our goal is bring this information up to date but we need your help. In fact, without your help, nothing will happen.

So, how can you help?

Please don’t be worried about getting lots of junk mail. At this point we are only sending out emails four times a year – whenever a new issue of GCC has been published.

With the cost of postage, unless there’s something major, it’s unlikely that we’ll be sending out anything by regular mail.

By the way, the “We Remember” section on our website honours corps members and staff who have passed so please let us know about those who are no longer with us.

Let’s hear from you. If you choose to share your contact info, we will happily add it to our alumni records and include you in future mailings.

Please send mail to:

Bob Carell,
1407 – 3050 Dufferin Street,
Toronto, Ontario M6B 4G3

E-mail: toronto_optimist@rogers.com

Website: www.optimists-alumni.org

Photo Gallery: www.optimists-alumni.org/photos/

We’re also searching for pieces of our shared history. For example, we’ve heard rumours of a video of the 1978 Seneca Optimists; however, we can’t find anyone who has

a copy. Perhaps you have a copy in a treasure chest or an old banker’s box that contains memories of your youth. Have you looked in it lately? If you looked you might find old photos or film of the Corps. Maybe it contains newspaper clippings about the corps or a journal or a scrapbook or even a corps uniform? One of our members even found an old

corps flag. Who knows what you’ll find if you look! If you do find something to share, please let us know! If you’re interested in seeing some of what others have contributed, please visit our website or our Photo Gallery.

Keep in touch.



Seneca Optimists rehearsal 1977.



Canada Day parade in Port Credit

The corps was marching behind a float filled with many happy people, all making bubbles using bubble guns and this little guy was having a great time hitting as many bubbles as he could with his flag.



◀ Real bubbles
▶ Real bubbles

2013 OPTIMISTS ALUMNI SCHEDULE – FOLLOW THE CORPS

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

Monday	July 1	Parade	Confirmed	9:30 am	<i>Canada Day</i>	Port Credit, Ontario
	July 1	Parade	Confirmed	4:00 pm	<i>Canada Day</i>	Scarborough, Ontario
Saturday	July 27	Performance		1:00 - 6:00 pm	<i>Spectacle of Sound</i>	Sudbury, Ontario
Saturday	August 10	Performance	Confirmed	6:30 pm	<i>Scout House Show</i>	Waterloo, Ontario
Saturday	August 17	Performance	Confirmed	6:30 pm	<i>Optimists Alumni – Legends 5</i>	Oshawa, Ontario
Sunday	September 1	Performance	Confirmed	10:00 am	<i>DCA (Drum Corps Associates)</i>	Annapolis, Maryland
Sunday	September 15	Performance	Confirmed	TBD	<i>St. John's Reunion</i>	Brantford, Ontario

GCC Staff

Editor: Bob Carell.

Editorial Staff: Brian Byrne, David Johns and Eric McConachie.

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, Ron Chong, Jackie Nicholls, Frans Rood, Rick Shearer, and Paul Thompson.

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

Thank you to all those who send photographs.

Let's hear from you...

GCC is published four times a year. Contributor deadline for the **October** issue is **Friday, September 27, 2013**.

Please submit your material to Bob Carell at:

Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com 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.