

## This show kicks off the the 2014 season! Simcoe – and the bands played on, May 10.



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DOWNLOAD FULL COLOUR ISSUES OF GCC FROM OUR WEBSITE: [www.optimists-alumni.org](http://www.optimists-alumni.org)

## ...and the bands played on 10, May 10 – Simcoe

On May 10th we began our 2014 performance season with United Alumni's Annual "And The Bands Played On...". After a long winter it's always great to get back into a "drum corps groove", reconnect with friends in other corps and perform for an appreciative audience. .



Drum Major Jackie Nicholls leads The Optimists Alumni through their opening number – Spiderman.



Len Adler conducts the Gentlemen of Harmony and the Simcoe United Alumni Corps in the closing number for the evening.



Also in the show. L to R, Top: Haldimand-Norfolk Concert Band, DOCA Brass Ensemble and St. John's Winter Guard. Bottom: Niagara Memorial Militaires. Mighty St. Joe's Alumni and Preston Scout House Alumni Band.

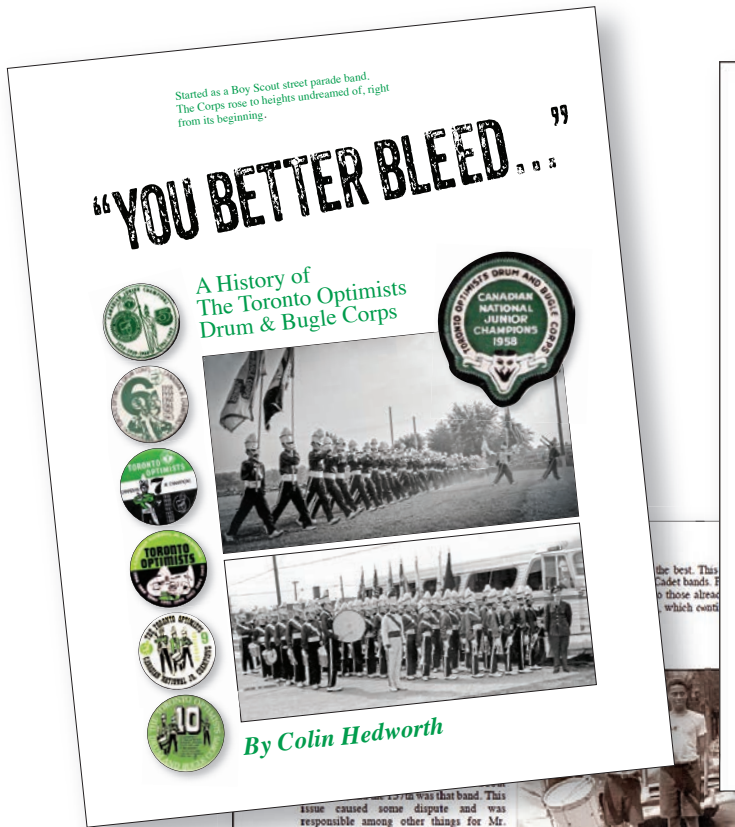
## Victoria Day, May 19 – Woodstock

This annual parade is part of a long week-end of celebrations and highlights the Canadian military and veterans.



Top: Royal Canadian Navy Cadet Colour Party – Woodstock. Middle: Optimists Alumni.  
Bottom, L to R: M M Robinson High School Drumline, Burlington Teen Tour Band.

# A History of The Toronto Optimists Drum & Bugle Corps by Colin Hedworth



8-1/2 x 11 in.  
 Over 370 pages.  
 Over 400 photographs – many never before published.

**If you're interested in ordering a book** please e-mail Bob Carell at: [toronto\\_optimist@rogers.com](mailto:toronto_optimist@rogers.com). Please indicate whether you would like a Black & White or a Colour version.

**Cost and delivery**  
 Cost and delivery details will soon be posted on The Optimists Alumni website: [www.optimists-alumni.org](http://www.optimists-alumni.org)

### Chapter 3: September 1957, East Meets West

Now here we were, in the gymnasium of Jarvis Vocational School, located just south of the intersection of Jarvis and Carlton streets, in the heart of Toronto. This location, the practice place of the Optimist Trumpet Band, was to be the Corps "home" for the next few years.

Jarvis Street, around the turn of the century, was the site of grand homes and one of the haunts of the elite. Over the years it had deteriorated and was now known more as Toronto's "red light" district. Our school was on the fringe of this, and on a few occasions this would lead to humorous, or pathetic, encounters. It would also generate rumours in later years that had no great basis in fact.



#### The First Meeting

These were to come in being formed stood in people were there. I de walls, drummers stood Those who had instrum "A" Drum Corps betti position. Competition away, for a multitude o

With this gathering we the Corps Director, whi as a liaison between th

In those halmy days, such dedication was not generally widespread. In speaking of this, it must be said that this attitude applied only to the Corps in general. There were those who could only be described as hard core fanatics. These were the ones who lived, ate, and breathed the Corps. Nothing got between them and the Corps, and their presence would make itself felt in later years.

Meanwhile, back at the Shell Tower in the Canadian National Exhibition grounds, learning the rest of the drill continued. As the weather improved, it became increasingly difficult to rehearse at this location. A popular place for the citizens of Toronto, this was a public area and could not be commandeered by anyone for private use. Also, the annual Canadian National Exhibition would have made this site unsuitable for summer long rehearsals. So, we had to find another location, and we did.

Driving around, searching, on a Sunday afternoon, we discovered two Corps-sized fields at the foot of Yonge Street, just south of Lakeshore Boulevard. These fields were ideal, being of the right size and far away from any residential area.



1957 was that band. This issue caused some dispute and was responsible among other things for Mr. Parker dropping out of the organization later in the year. However, the band continued its regular activities, mostly street parade work. This year was also the first year that records were kept of such things.

Out of total of thirteen parades, three were unpaid, five paid ten dollars, one twenty, one fifty, and one sixty, and two seventy-five.



1955 Members of Opto-Corps at the CNE.



1955 Opto-Corps members Bob Cook, Jim Cook, Hiram Roberts

These sums seem tiny by modern standards but no doubt helped the band's finances in 1955. The smaller amounts were church parades, and the larger ones usually for businessmen associations.

A high point of the year was marching through the town of Preston as guests of the Preston Scout House band. Despite the seeming success of the band, time caught up and forced changes, as previously noted.

Many of the members of the band had, by this time, reached the rank of Queen Scout. This is about as high as you can go before having to leave the Scouts and go on to whatever came next. Leaving was mandatory at a certain age, similar to aging out in modern Drum Corps. Many of the boys would have to leave at the end of this year, enough that the band would virtually cease to exist. Nobody

More events were still in the works, though, for this year. For others, as well as our Corps. Following what seemed to be a trend, the Flying Dutchmen of Kitchener and the Dutch Boy Cadets merged to form a new Junior "A" Corps, "Northstar". Their director would be none other than Bob Christie, one time, short lived, Director of the Toronto Optimists. He had lately been with the St. Johns Girls of Beauford.



1976 Seneca Optimists (DCI Parade)

In Early September, the Seneca Optimists had appeared at the CNE, for an evening of pageantry that had included bands as well as Drum Corps. Also in this display were the Oakland Crusaders. Both were well received, but the music of the Crusaders would be more pleasing than that of the Seneca Corps. This bore out earlier observations and would lead to changes.

On September 25th, the Corps helped launch a new parade Corps in Owen Sound. This was the Georgian Lancers, and Seneca played their show at a local school in order to publicize Drum Corps. There was not much activity in this region.



1976 Seneca Optimists (DCI Parade)

another Drum Corps in the circle, covered

**For the past twelve months Bob Carell has been creating an enhanced digital version of Colin Hedworth’s two volume, handwritten history of The Toronto Optimists.**

**S**OME OF YOU might know Colin Hedworth. He started his drum corps career with the Danforth Crusaders then marched with the Toronto Optimists from 1957, when they were formed, until 1962 when he aged out. In 1975 Colin joined the equipment department of the Toronto Optimists, moved to the Seneca Optimists when they were formed and stayed with them until the corps folded in 1979.

Even if you knew Colin you might not know that he, in collaboration with Don Daber, once wrote a History of the Toronto Optimists. This book covered the years from a Boy Scout Band in 1952 up to 1975 when the Toronto Optimists disbanded. Of course, upon completing the book he immediately realized that

there was more to be written so he creatively called this book, “Book One”! Photos were added, the book was photocopied, bound with a plastic cover and cerlox bindings and sold to those who were interested. Some copies of the book are still floating around. Sadly the photocopy process rendered most of the photos useless. In order to complete the story Colin wrote Book Two which covers the Seneca Optimists from its inception in 1976 until it folded in 1979. This, too, was photocopied and sold.

These books were a manifestation of Colin’s love for the Optimists. Colin spent a great deal of time, over a number of years, researching the information that he included. Numerous hours were spent talking to Don Daber, reading old drum corps publications and GCCs and contacting those who had been staff and members of the Scout Band, Opti-Corps, the Toronto Optimists and the Seneca Optimists. He also interviewed staff and corps members from some of Optimists competitors. His goal was to gather and discuss various versions of stories in an attempt to validate the veracity of the material included.

For many years Colin’s books remained a hidden treasure. When Colin passed away last year I decided that this treasure should no longer remain hidden. Since most people, with the possible exception of pharmacists, have difficulties reading

even their own hand-writing I decided to create a digital edition which would include both books. I started typing the book but discovered that the text had already been digitized (thank you to whomever did this). I acquired the text and, for the past year, have been working on creating a digital version of Colin’s books. So, where did I spend my time?

The first and easiest job was to read and re-read the book in order to correct errors that were introduced in the transition from cursive to digital format. A secondary task was to add a few footnotes to correct erroneous information or, in some situations, to enhance clarity. In the process I have developed a deep and abiding respect for those who make their living as editors. In all likelihood errors remain hidden in the book, just waiting to be discovered by a new set of eyes.

In an attempt to stimulate the memories of readers I’ve added photos to the digital version. This is the area in which I’ve spent most of my time. Many thanks go to Vern Reid who spent numerous hours gathering and cataloguing as many of Don Daber’s negatives and slides as he could find. Thanks to Vern I

was able to access thousands of previously unavailable black and white negatives and over 1,000 colour slides. At this point almost 1,000 hours have been spent scanning and restoring this material and that task is far from complete!

With all of this material one would expect great shots of every year. I’m sorry, but that’s not what has happened. There are gaps in what I have! When you look through the book you’ll probably notice that some years have more photos than others. I can only use what I have; however, if I manage to acquire suitable photos, including the Seneca Optimists but also Scout House, Del, La Salle Cadets, and other competitors, I might update the online version of the book.

I’m still in the process of adding new photos to the book and, when possible, replacing black and white images with newly acquired shots in colour. Unfortunately the addition of each



... and in second place, from Newark, New Jersey ...” Optimists beats SAC for the first time (1962, Rome, NY)

*Continued on page 6.*

new photo or the resizing of existing photos has been time consuming since it requires layout changes for the whole chapter. At this point the process of adding photos is almost complete. The book currently contains over 370 pages. This includes Colin’s text, a table of contents and an index of the 400+ photos included in the book.



The Toronto Optimists on parade in 1969.

**PRINTING YOUR OWN COPY will be expensive.**

I had assumed that some people might decide use their home printer to get a copy of the book so I purposely designed the book to fit on standard 8-½ x 11 pages (much larger than a standard book). As the number of pages in the book grew, I realized that it would be too expensive to print on one’s home printer since multiple ink cartridges would be required. When I needed a hard copy to assist me with the editing and layout process I took the file to a print shop and chose the cheapest option, a black & white version. Even that cost over \$50!

In order to help those who might want a hard copy I started to explore ways to get the book printed at a lower cost. Surprisingly the best option seems to be a small run at a professional printing house. This includes printing the book, adding a colour cover and Perfect Biding (think of a paperback book). The price for a hard cover is prohibitive (approximately \$50 extra per book for 25 copies or \$30 for 50 copies).

It looks like there will have to be a minimum print run of 25 copies. The “per copy” price will be a few dollars lower if we print 50 copies. The estimates (Black and White: \$30; Colour \$60) are to print and bind 360 pages. These are simply the production costs and no profit is being made on the sale of the books. The final cost will be a tad more since it appears that the final version will be closer to 380 pages. By the way, if anyone wants to have a book mailed to them the cost of postage will increase your cost for the book.

**I NEED TO KNOW** whether there is any interest in a printed version of Colin’s book. In order to help you decide I’ve posted the latest draft in Acrobat format on our website. The acrobat file contains the text, photos and, to help you navigate, expandable bookmarks which work as a Table of Contents. By the way, the Acrobat file does not allow printing.

Would you please let me know if you would be interested in purchasing a book. I also need to know whether you would prefer a Black and White or a Colour version. If there is enough interest it might be possible to print both a B&W version and a colour one. If not, would you accept whatever the majority wants? Having seen the black and white draft, I think that the colour version will look much better.

At this point I’m not looking for any money, just an indication of interest. Of course if we do print the book it will be necessary to pay in advance for both the book and any postage that might be required.

If there is sufficient interest in a printed version I’m guessing that there will only be one print run. If you want a printed version of the book please send an email to: Bob Carell ([toronto\\_optimist@rogers.com](mailto:toronto_optimist@rogers.com)).

Please indicate how many copies you want (the book could be a nice gift) and whether you prefer B&W, Colour or will accept either version.

If the interest is there, when will the book be printed? That will depend on how quickly people respond and, once the price has been confirmed, pay. Since this notice is being posted in the August GCC I’d hope that the book could be published in late September or early October.



*Bob joined the Toronto Optimists in late 1962 and marched with them until 1967. During the 1976 and 1977 seasons Bob and Colin Hedworth drove the equipment truck for the Seneca Optimists. In 1977 Bob also helped out with the care and feeding of the ravenous hordes, etc.*

*Bob joined the Alumni Corps in 2004 playing Alto. Since 2008 he has played Mellophone.*

*In addition to being a playing member Bob manages both the website and the photo gallery, and is the editor of the Alumni newsletter Green Capsule Comments.*

# The Legends of Drum Corps VI Show



**Simcoe United Alumni Drum Corps  
Preston Scout House Alumni Band  
The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps  
Sudbury Imperial Knights Alumni Drum Corps  
And additional corps to be announced**

**Saturday, August 16, 2014, 6:30 pm  
Oshawa Civic Fields**

99 Thornton Road South, Oshawa, Ontario L1J 5Y1

## Heritage Festival, June 14 – Highland Creek

This festival started in 1986 and this year celebrates its 28th anniversary.



L to R: Ken Taylor, Lorne Ferrazzutti, Judy Ferguson, Jeff MacKay and Doug Darwin.



Front row L to R: Warren Berger, Doug Roblin, Rick Lang and Gord Brown. Next row: Sydney Kereliuki, Ron Chong and Bob Carell. Last row: Mike Lang, Kristen Kern and Matt Davis.

## New park dedication, June 21 – Regent Park

On Saturday, June 21, Regent Park became THE MAGIC CITY – alive with pipes and horns, voices and drums, ice cream trucks and orchestras – all to celebrate the opening of Toronto’s newest City park.



Front L to R: Joe Gianna and Ron Chong.



L to R: Jeff MacKay, Lorne Ferrazzutti and Ken Taylor.



Drum Major Jackie Nicholls directing.



# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**“The addition of younger members has breathed a new level of enthusiasm to the organization”.**



Corps Director, Ric Brown.

**W**hen we sit down to map out the summer schedule for performances and parades in the late fall and early winter, it seems so far away with very little urgency. And all of a sudden here we are with four weeks to go before our performance in Rochester.

We have performed at The Wearing of the Green, marched in Victoria Day, Rose Festival and Canada Day parades. The Optimists is the only Alumni Drum Corps to be invited to march in the DCA 50th Anniversary parade. We have performed at “And the Bands Played On”, Kingsville

Ontario, and now the big push with the Scout House Tattoo, Legends VI and the DCA Alumni Spectacular.

The next few weeks is what will make all of the hot rehearsals, personal practice and driving to and from rehearsal all worthwhile. It’s watching our performance on video following our performance in Rochester that we can sit back and say “WOW we did it again”!

Our membership has grown stronger and larger as the summer progressed. The addition of younger members has breathed a new level of enthusiasm to the organization. It is with increased membership like this that we look forward to a successful performance in Rochester and moving forward to next year with renewed excitement and desire.

1, 2, 3 GREEN

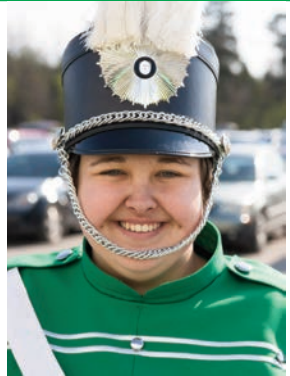


## NEW MEMBERS



**Kristen Kern,**  
Baritone

Kristen has participated in a variety of concert and marching bands as colour guard, winterguard, drum major and brass, and has performance experience with myriad other instruments. She has marched with her high school band the ES-M Spartans, the University at Buffalo Thunder of the East, and the Rochester Crusaders, and has now found a new home with Optimists Alumni.



**Sydney Kereliukl,**  
Baritone

## APPRENTICING CYMBALS



**Cheryl Hewson,**  
Cymbals

Cheryl played in the Durham Girls Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps.



**Courtney Harder**  
Cymbals

Courtney played in the Spartans Drumline, Craig Kielburger Secondary School.



**Andrea Watson**  
Cymbals

Andrea played in the Durham Girls Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps.



**Lion's International Parade**

## Canada Day, July 1 – Port Credit

Once again, we celebrated Canada day with two parades, Mississauga in the West end and Scarborough in the East. Both parades were good but we only have photos for Mississauga.



*Inset L to R: Marilyn Sterino, Brian Collingdon and Judy Ferguson. Also DD (Double Double) who is considering marching with us.*

“OK, on four...”

# The Drum Major's Rapport

By Jackie Nicholls



Optimists Drum Major,  
Jackie Nicholls.

**D**ream Big... push yourself... practice... only as strong as the weakest link... give 110%... don't listen to the nay sayers... it is possible... all statements meant to inspire success or instill motivation. Quitting smoking... dieting... serious illness... work pressures... family... all aspects of life that are difficult to deal with

without dedication and commitment. We as a group and individually, touch on many aspects of the phrases and words listed here frequently. They often cloud our vision and make success difficult to attain.

It seems we have had a very long time to organize and mold our product this year, before presenting it to the audience we know appreciates what we are all about. Perhaps too long and the sense of urgency to complete has not yet pushed us. We know we have a good team that puts together our finished product. We know what part we personally have to play. We know that it takes practice and teamwork to put it all together on the field. Now the fragments of our Winter, Spring and Summer efforts are about to join together to complete the puzzle picture.

Yes, it's just a hobby and No, it's not DCI but IT IS TIME folks to put aside the negative and dwell on the positive to present the 2014 version of The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps. Here's to our culminating task and the success we are about to attain. May the music be beautiful, the weather be dry and the beverages be cold and tasty.

See you on the 50.



## LEGENDS OF DRUM CORPS SHOW V – 2013



# Lion's International, July 5 – Toronto

Toronto was host to the Lion's International Convention. The Corps was part of the parade on University Avenue.



L to R: Guard Captain Glenda Tokiwa, Marilyn Sterino and Debbie Bruce.



L to R: Mike Lang, Warren Berger, Doug Roblin and Rick Lang.



L to R: Ken Taylor, Lorne Ferrazzutti, Judy Ferguson and Jeff MacKay.

# July 12 and 13 – Kingsville

"And yes, we have no photos today". Unfortunately both Corps photographers were unable to attend this event.

## A RARE PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY

Here are a few never before seen photos from the new book "You Better Bleed..." A History of The Optimists Drum & Bugle Corps by Colin Hedworth.



Opti-Corps – Toronto City Hall, 1956



Toronto Optimists – Toronto City Hall, 1960



Seneca Optimists parachute: 1978 version.

## REHEARSALS

### Legion, Branch 344, May 4



L to R: 1. Rick Lang, Doug Roblin and Warren Burger. 2 Ron Chong, Bob Carell and Mike Lang. 3 Dave MacKinnon, Music Instructor. "Hmm, where's the secret metronome I installed in this horn... oh oh, wait a minute, this is Brian's". 4 Dave Bruce, Brian Collingdon, Kunyoon Kim and Matt Davis.



Ensemble on the main floor.

### Simcoe, May 10

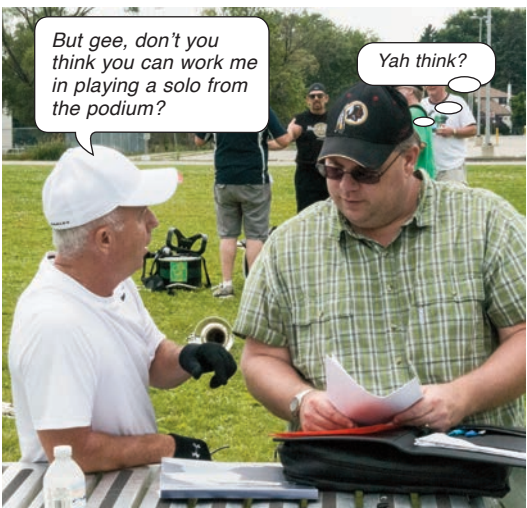


# REHEARSALS

## Oshawa, June 14



## Oshawa, July 26



## 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".*

**A**S 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.

• 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



Center: Al Morrison. Toronto Optimists performing at City Hall. 1960

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.

**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](mailto:toronto_optimist@rogers.com)  
Website: [www.optimists-alumni.org](http://www.optimists-alumni.org)  
Photo Gallery: [www.optimists-alumni.org/photos/](http://www.optimists-alumni.org/photos/)



## 2014 OPTIMISTS ALUMNI SCHEDULE – FOLLOW THE CORPS

Please check the website for any last-minute changes to our schedule.

Date	Status	Location	Time	Activity
<b>JULY</b>				
Tuesday July 1	Confirmed	Port Credit and Scarborough	10 am – 6 pm	Canada Day parades
Saturday July 5	Tentative	Toronto	TBD	Lions Club International parade
Sat & Sun July 12 & 13	Confirmed	Kingsville, Ontario	TBD	Performances
Saturday July 26	Confirmed	Ken Cox Community Centre	Noon – 5:00 pm	Rehearsal
<b>AUGUST</b>				
Saturday August 9	Confirmed	Waterloo, Ontario	1:00 – 10 pm	Rehearsal and Scout House Show
Saturday August 16	Confirmed	Oshawa, Ontario	1:00 – 11 pm	Rehearsal and Legends of Drum Corps VI
Saturday August 23	Confirmed	Oshawa (Athabasca Street Public School 65 Athabasca St. Oshawa)	Noon – 5:00 pm	Rehearsal.
Friday August 29	Confirmed	Rochester, New York	5:00 – 8:00	DCA 50th Anniversary Parade
Saturday August 30	Confirmed	Rochester, New York	10:00 am – 2:00 pm 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm 5:30 pm – 11:00 pm	Rehearsal Annual Corps Dinner Individual and Ensemble Championships
Sunday August 31	Confirmed	Rochester, New York	10 am – 2 pm	DCA Alumni Spectacular
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
Sunday September 28	Confirmed	Legion	11:00 am – 12 noon	Annual General Meeting
Sunday September 28	Confirmed	Legion	12:30 – 4:30 pm	Rehearsal

## 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 and Jackie Nicholls..

**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 **November** issue is **Friday, November 1, 2014**.

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.