

TORONTO OPTIMISTS

Precision—Pride—Prestige

By L. Grabowski

No poetic justice could describe a drum corps as great as we of Drum Corps Digest feature today. Never in my life have I witnessed a corps which invariably electrifies the stands at every competition. Much has been said, much will be said, but no one will capture on paper or through pictures the feeling of true showmanship and sportsmanship as that of the world's greatest musical ambassadors from Canada in the form of the seven time National Champions, The Toronto Optimists.

When one realizes that to have a drum corps of this caliber, one feels he has everything, but when one has a great leader to add, is almost a dream or prayer come true, and no one could dispute the leadership of Mr. Don Daber, "Mr. Drum Corps of Canada."

To see Mr. Daber and The Optimists together is like watching perfection at work. The demand becomes greater every year for this musical organization to the point of being booked in October for the forthcoming year.

The corps is sponsored by the Downtown Optimist Club of Toronto

as part of their boys work activities and it must be kept in mind that these Optimists Clubs throughout Canada are the criterions of Canadian Drum and Bugle Corps.

What most parents look for in a Drum



Colour Guard passes in review

Corps for their sons is easily found in the Optimists pro-gram.

A sound musical program, an outstanding faculty of talented instructors, who have proven their worth in helping develop boys into men for many years. A sound moral training is embraced by each member with their "Honor System" as their code of living.

The Optimists under Mr. Don Daber feature a sound social training within the corps so as to develop a boy in an all-round manner and teaching him to live with his fellow-man. No corps can

boast of the gentlemanly conduct and courteous manners which one displays as a member of The Toronto Optimists.

Each member displays upon a visit to their rehearsals a spirit of friendliness and helpfulness which makes you feel at home, away from home.

From the moment one becomes an Optimist until the final year of competition he knows he has always been accepted as an individual. You know you already have friends when you enroll in this magnificent corps. The spirit is dynamic, especially in the greeting he receives from each officer and from the older experienced members who have built up in the past a traditionship never before equaled in Canadian Drum Corps, past or present.

Never can you find Mr. Daber or one of his elaborate staff too busy to take time from their duties to meet and consult with parents.

The high point of the corps is in the manner in which the corps chooses its Officers and Instructors. Skill, his devotion to this corps duty, his understanding of boys, and a true desire to help each member attain his goal in the drum corps as well as in life.

What is not mentioned enough in the corps publicity is the time that Mr. Daber and all his staff give every day outside of drum corps to help a member, and all done willingly, to fan the spark of interest which could and does help a Toronto Optimist become outstanding in life. There are numerous awards and honors given to the best of the Optimists in all fields of drum corps work, this of course creates the incentive to be best in all that a member attempts while in the Toronto Optimists.





There is a drum corps for every boy, the personal question is, what is the corps for me, and in Toronto and outlying suburbs that answer will always be The Toronto Optimists, black trousers, lifted high in the air with white bucks, give the impression of prancing thoroughbreds showing off Green waves of satin shirts rippling in the breeze and white plumes dancing to-and-fro as this drum corps of drum corps wins the hearts of the world each time it performs.

Perhaps the most read Drum Corps

Publication today would be "Green Capsule Comments", an attractive bi-monthly newspaper, published by The Toronto Optimists working under the direction of Mr. Don Daber; members of the drum corps plan each issue, gathering and writing the news and making up the edition. They derive from this work much valuable journalistic experience and add to their general knowledge.

Six times a year the corps publishes "Green Capsule Comments" which chronicles the events of the year and

presents in words and pictures a view of life within the corps. It is a thrilling and interesting newspaper because it gives a glimpse of things as seen through the eyes of a drum corps boy, with wit and good humor it portrays the corps, the officers, instructors and members.

Each year the members experience a period of mental and emotional unrest within the corps which becomes a crucial challenge to its management. In the Optimists, their corps director, Mr. Don Daber is the "Listening Ear To The Talking Boy" or in informal group

discussions. Together in individual conferences Mr. Daber and the boys plan the necessary steps to be taken to build this mighty drum corps machine into top mental, musical and military condition.

One of the many credited reasons this drum corps specializes in fancy, precision drill so perfect is due to the constant drumming of fundamentals into each mind. A chain is no stronger than its weakest link and believe me this corps has no weak link.

Within this Green Wave in Canada lies

their heart and pulse in the form of The Toronto Optimist Honor Society, a dominating force within the structure of the corps. It is a self-perpetuating group of drummers, buglers and color guard members.

Selected on the basis of character, achievement and leadership, Mr. Daber has charged them with the responsibility of interpreting corps members' opinions and attitudes and of leading fellow members to constantly higher standards of thought and action. The great force which it exercises both

at practice and turnouts us entirely of a moral nature for it neither makes nor enforces rules and regulations. Its dominating position within the drum corps springs from the fact that it has captured and holds the unqualified respect and confidence of the whole drum corps world.

To all the members of Canada's mighty Green Wave, may we of Drum Corps Digest salute you, Mr. Daber and all the Instructing Staff of the mighty Toronto Optimists Drum and Bugle Corps.