



The All Canadian Alumni Drum Corps

CORPS NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1 - 2008

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome Back and Happy New Year

Well another year has passed and we are now looking forward to entering our 10th year. Who would have imagined that something that was started on just a thought would have turned out to be so successful?

All of us still getting together to have fun and enjoying playing music. I look forward to continuing the advancement as a group, and enjoy all the friendships that are made along the way.

I look forward to this year and to all the new experiences it may bring.

Happy 2008 and **Congratulations** to everyone on 10 years as United Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps.

Diane Ransom

FROM OUR CORPS DIRECTOR

I am sure most of you are well aware that United Alumni is entering its 10th year. It is hard to believe it was 10 years ago. How time flies when you are having fun and I truly mean fun. Sure there are those odd times when the sun is beating down the temperature is in the high 30's like Stoney Creek or the wind is blowing below freezing temperatures like many of the Santa Clause parades! Or it could have been in the pouring down rain marching down Robinson Street soaked through to the skin. Or is it the bus trips to Montreal or Leroy? Whether you have been marching for 10 years or 1, I am sure everyone has a memory you love to think back on. Isn't that what it's all about?

Moving into our 10th year, it would be great to be able to look back and have another great memory. We have a number of events planned for this year;

once again we can grab our leprechaun hats and march down Ste-Catherine St. and of course "and the Bands Played on IV" will certainly be another great show! Bringing back our summer BBQ is surely an event you won't want to miss. Of course, no 10th anniversary would be complete without a dinner and dance. All of these events will hopefully make 2008 one of our best ever.

We are strong in spirit we are strong in sound; we can be strong and mighty. Only you can make us strong in size! Make 2008 a 10th anniversary memory worth remembering!

Yours in the Spirit of Drum Corps,

Ed Pow

WELCOME

We have a different kind of welcome this time. We are welcoming a new 'addition' to our drum line, although it will be a few years before he gets a uniform.

Vanessa (bass drum) and Dan are the proud parents of a bouncing baby boy, Ashton Danny. Ashton arrived early on December 24, not wanting to miss his first Christmas.

Also congratulations to Teresa (bass drum) and Rick as new grandparents.

Have Anything to Say?

We've got lots of room and would like to hear from our members. If you'd like to have something published in a future edition of the newsletter, please let us know. You can send it to: unitedalumni@hotmail.com or give it to Gary Ferris or Diana Chambers.



THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION

United Alumni Drum Corps acknowledges the generous grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation

Welcome to the Drum Line

Let me introduce to you our snares/ tenors - Rob Judd, Scott Butcher, Al Sutherland, Karen Pogson, Gord Lefevre and John Reid and our cymbal player Deanna Haskett.

OCCUPATION

Rob Judd	Designer, Illustrator
Scott Butcher	Several, presently nurse in the community
Karen Pogson	Administrative
Gord Lefevre	Director, Information Technology
Deanna Haskett	Kelseys and Special Services Home Worker with Haldimand-Norfolk Reach

WHAT AGE WERE YOU WHEN YOU STARTED IN DRUM CORPS AND HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED?

Robert: I started at the age of 11 – practiced with sticks on a pillow for 1 ½ years before being in my first parade. The Royal Blues were a senior corps and I was real young to get involved but I stuck to it because I was determined that's what I wanted to do! At 14 I received the first ever Corpsman of the Year award!

Scott: Started at the age of 9 with Simcoe Golden Lions as a cymbal player after I moved from Brantford. Saw St. Johns Girls the previous summer on parade and decided that was for me!

Al: When we moved from London to Port Dover, I joined the Royal Blues learning to play a side drum. When the Blues folded, the Golden Lions were formed. I was 17 when I started as an original member of the Simcoe Golden Lions where I was a member until 1972. I played snare and double bass for the Golden Lions.

Karen: I was 14 yrs old when I joined Seneca Princemen. My mum worked with a lady whose daughter was in the colour guard with Seneca Princemen. She invited me to their practice and I joined immediately.

Gord: I joined the Bantam Optimists Corps at 13 years old at the urging of my best friend Ron Kaiser, a terrific snare drummer and drum instructor of the Toronto Optimists.

John: I found out about the drum corps through a sign placed in the old dollar store downtown beside Erie Music.

Deanna: I was 19 years old and I got involved through friends.

WHAT DRUM CORPS DID YOU MARCH IN/WHAT YEARS AND WHAT DID YOU PLAY?

Rob: I started in the Royal Blues at 11 years old (snare), at age 17 I joined the Toronto Optimists (tenor) 1968. Canadian Junior Champs for 11 years in a row! Returned to Simcoe and along with Len Addley started the Golden Lions Drum Corps. For one season I played with Commanders, I helped teach St. Johns, played in Port Dover with Brassmen till this Alumni came along.

Scott: Age 9 – 18 Simcoe Golden Lions-cymbals, triples, snare, Bass. 22-39 Lakeshore Brassmen – Port Dover- same drums. Now United Alumni probably until I'm Art Hayward's age I hope. Also Toronto Optimists Alumni for the last 3 years to test my skill level and improve my listening skills.

Al: Royal Blues, one year 1968-69 until they folded played tenor drum, then Golden Lions 1969-1972 snare drum and double bass, then Royalairens 1973- bass drum. Lakeshore Brassmen 1990-1997 snare drum, timbales and Drum Major. United Alumni until present.

Karen: Seneca Princemen 1975 – I started in the National Party and then moved to the color guard (flag) – Seneca Optimist 1976-1978 (colour guard – flag)

Gord: I played the tenor drum with the Toronto Optimists from 1964 through 1967.

John: I used to belong to Cardinal Legion Pipe Band playing pipes and drums I played for a short time with the O.Y.B. Lamplighters playing snare, as well as The Brockville Rifles Drum and Bugle Corps playing snare, tenor and some horns.

Deanna: Lakeshore Brassmen from 1977-until about 1992. I was in the colorguard at first and then played cymbals – surprise!!!

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY OF DRUM CORPS?

Rob & Scott: I have too many to recall, but winning the triple crown of Canadian Drum Corps and performing 20 years later at the DCA world championships with Optimists Alumni, although not competing are 2 of my fondest memories.

Al: In the Simcoe Golden Lions the long bus trips to competitions in Southern, Ontario, never winning but we always made sure they were not boring ones. The memories from those years, are sometimes hard to recall, so we will just say to sum up all of my fondest memories, as the saying goes – “what happened in those years, stays in those years!”

Karen: Performing at DCI finals in Denver, Colorado – 1977 and looking up at a crowd of over 30,000 people at Mile High Stadium.

Gord: I fondly remember winning the Canadian Junior Championship in Ottawa in 1967. We were gunning for our 10th consecutive championship but the atmosphere in Ottawa was decidedly hostile to the Optimists and La Salle Cadets, a wonderfully exciting corps, was poised to knock us off. I attribute the chorus of boos which descended from the stands when we were announced on the starting line and the maturity of the corps (a large number of members were aging out) for galvanizing and focusing the corps to deliver a championship level performance.

Deanna: I have a lot of fond memories – I can't think of anything in particular

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CORPS?

Rob: The Royal Blues (5 drums and 14 horns) approximately 1964, our trip to Kitchener parade. We met at Wellington Park in Simcoe and loaded all of our equipment into a Black Panel truck owned by Bing Lundy of Jarvis. All the cars followed it as in a caravan, hoping to get to the parade site in time. We were really pushing our luck. The panel truck was black and resembled a funeral hearse. We put our lights on and were off. A farmer along the way, stopped his tractor, got off and stood silent, with his hat over his heart as we zoomed by .. out of respect.... As we entered Ayr, we came face to face with a real funeral procession, they pulled off to the shoulder of the road and waited as we headed straight onto

Kitchener – zoom zoom – I was laughing and embarrassed at the same time, and had to duck down below the dashboard to hide from the situation!

Scott: I have embarrassed myself on too many occasions in too many cities to try to remember, the only thing I can say in my defense is that it seemed like a good idea at the time!

Karen: While on tour with Seneca Optimists in Philadelphia, Penn in August 1976, we stayed at an Army camp. The food was terrible and my friends and I were starving. We found out where the nearest store was, which turned out to be about an hours walk away, but it was worth the walk to fill up on junk food!!

Deanna: I probably have a lot of funny stories and embarrassing moments, I just can't think of any.

Editor's note: This was prepared by Joy Pow and we thank her for taking the time to do this. Joy will be contacting members of other sections for similar updates for future issues of the newsletter.

And the Bands Played On IV

Once again, the Drum Corps community will gather in Simcoe to provide the talent for the fourth annual “And The Bands Played On” concert. This show, May 10th, is held in conjunction with the Simcoe Lions Club, to assist with their continued support of the community. This year we will be expanding our format to include a pipe band and a junior drum corps. More details will become available in the near future.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Corps will be held following rehearsal on February 24, 2008. In addition to financial reports and other business, there will an election for the positions of President, Vice President and 2 Directors. If you are interested in standing for election for any of these positions, or if you wish to nominate a member for any of these positions (with the member's consent), please see Len Addley for nomination information.

COMING EVENTS

Parades and Shows

Here's a listing of where we've been invited in the coming months, as of the writing of this newsletter. If there are changes, we will distribute revised schedules at rehearsals and also put them on our website.

Don't know our website address? It is
<http://www.unitedalumni.com>

Date	Event	Location
Feb 24	Annual General Meeting	Simcoe
Mar 16	St. Patrick's Day	Montreal
May 10	And the Bands Played on IV	Simcoe
May 19	Victoria Day Parade*	Woodstock
Jun 7	Flag Day Parade *	Stoney Creek
Jun 14	Heritage Days*	Ancaster
Jul 1	Canada Day Parade	Port Dover
Aug 2	Friendship Festival	Simcoe
Aug ?	Town Hall Concert*	Waterford
Sep 14	Grand Parade*	Richmond

*These events are still to be confirmed. Check the website for updates.

Please give Ed the consideration he deserves by letting him know if you can or cannot attend a function so that he knows what the turnout will be. It is very frustrating to show up with just a few members and makes it difficult for the corps to continue to perform at our best.

SIMCOE UNITED ALUMNI "10TH ANNIVERSARY"

Imagine that, 10 years ago this organization got together for a one-time event and look what it turned into – "a professional looking, sounding drum corps" – one that is now recognized all over! If you have not marched for awhile because of other commitments maybe it is time to think about picking up that horn, or those drumsticks or that flag pole and join us in marching our way into a successful "10 year anniversary" year!

Plans are in the works to hold a "10th Anniversary open house party sometime in the spring/summer. If anyone is interested in helping on this committee please contact Joy Pow ejpow@rogers.com or Karen Neault k.neault@rogers.com.

Extra! Extra! Local Swimmer Medals at Special Olympics!



Ashley Haskett, daughter of Deanna Haskett, cymbal player, has returned from the Special Olympics adorned with medals. The Olympics were held in Shanghai China in October. Ashley won a silver medal in the relay race and a bronze in the 50-metre freestyle, just missing silver by .22 seconds. She also placed fourth in the 50-metre backstroke.

Ashley generally competes against 6 other swimmers, but here she had to compete against 8. Deanna was very pleased that she raced so well, and shows the determination that Ashley has to do well.

Deanna travelled to China with Ashley and said, "The opening and closing ceremonies were worth the trip itself, but really, it was the way we were treated when we were there that was so memorable."

The United Alumni would like to congratulate Ashley on her tremendous showing at the Olympics and all the best of luck when the next one comes around.

(Quote from: Vibrant Lifestyle, Nov 2007 edition.)

This newsletter is published quarterly by the United Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps for its members. Please send comments to: unitedalumni@hotmail.com
Please feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who is interested in the drum corps movement.