



*The All Canadian Alumni Drum Corps*

## CORPS NEWSLETTER ISSUE 4 - 2008

### FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Well here we are in the final stretch of 2008. It has been an interesting year to be sure. We are close to completing our tenth year of performing almost under our belts. It's a great time to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances.

Our last parade for Oktoberfest was the first I remember as not having our little fingers freeze while waiting for our place in the parade. It was a beautiful day and the crowds were amazing. I tried counting and lost track after 183,412.

And now we have Pumpkinfest. This is usually an easy and fun parade. [Please note that Alex provided his comments in advance of Pumpkinfest and had no way of knowing that the weather would be almost "frightful" although it did clear long enough for United Alumni to *just* finish the parade.]

Our banquet dinner dance is around the corner and is always well done and enjoyable. I hope to see you all there.

We now get closer to the Santa Claus parades. I know that these parades can sometimes be a tidge cool or not as comfortable as staying home but I appeal to you all to try and attend these important parades. These parades bring much needed revenue to help carry our corps from December to spring. Unfortunately expenses do not stop. I do know that parade organizers

count heads and want value for their money. Let's give them just that. It also makes it much easier on our Corps Directors blood pressure when he deals with the parade officials.

I am looking forward to seeing you all on the parade route.

Thanks again for a wonderful 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season and all the best in 2009!

*Alex Forsyth*

### FROM OUR CORPS DIRECTOR

We are now coming into the season when the leaves are falling and the evenings are crisp, a sure sign that Christmas parades are just around the corner. This weekend is one that we all look forward to (especially my wife) the annual corps banquet - a chance to reminisce with friends, show off our fancy dance moves, and share many laughs with each other! It has been a great year and I personally am very proud of our accomplishments; from winning the Montreal St. Patrick's Day parade to celebrating "10 years at our Reunion Dinner/Dance, to seeing the corps continue to grow. I must admit the job of corps director is not always an easy one (Joy often tells me that if a job that needs to be done at home does not have "United Alumni written on it" - it won't get done) but when all is done at the end of the year I am pleased to say it is an honour to be corps director of such a great group of people. I am



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

delighted to continuously have people approach me and ask about our schedule to see if we are available for their upcoming parade or show. We continue to impress everyone around us. As we come into our eleventh year “who would have ever thought” that on that “July 1st one time event” we would still be performing and making “Simcoe United Alumni” a corps that continues to entertain.

In the spirit of drum corps

*Ed Pow*

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## Welcome

We continue to add to our roster and we would like to say hello and welcome to:

**Kim Earl – Soprano**

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## Santa Claus is Coming to Town



It's that special time of year when Santa Claus starts to appear at parades across Ontario. And he always wants first class support to entertain all the boys and girls along the parade route. That's why so many parade organizers turn to United Alumni Senior Drum and Bugle Corps to march in their parades.

As Alex Forsyth mentioned above, these parades are our “bread and butter” – they help generate needed revenue to operate the corps for the balance of the year. But we can't do it without *Santa's “Helpers”* – all the members of our corps. We really do need

everyone's support for these parades and in fact we have cut back a couple of parades from last year to make it a little easier for everyone to get out. A very important parade this year will be the Simcoe Santa Claus parade that is being organized to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Simcoe Panorama (in our home town).

We encourage all members to please make every attempt to participate in as many of these parades as you can and if you can't make it please let Ed know as soon as possible so that he knows what kind of turnout to expect. We also only have two rehearsals before our first Santa Claus parade so please try to attend these to ensure we are all familiar with the music.

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## Thank You

To all the members of Simcoe United Alumni I would like to say “thank you” so much for all the cards and emails of encouragement from corps members and also for the beautiful plant that I received after my knee replacement. You cannot imagine how much I miss marching beside each and every one of you – standing on the outside is not nearly the same! My goal is to march St. Patrick's Day March 2009 (even if it is a block) – I want to be in uniform and be a “marching member” of this wonderful organization!!

Thank you so much.

*Joy Pow*

## COMING EVENTS

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
Nov15	Tillsonburg & London Santa Claus Parades	Tillsonburg London
Nov 29	Simcoe Santa Claus	Simcoe
Dec 6	Paris Santa Claus	Paris
Dec 7	Annual Family Christmas party	Simcoe

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.



## Annual Family Christmas Party

As in past years, the corps sponsors an annual family Christmas party. This year the party will be held on December 7, 2008 at the Junior Farmers building. There will be an abbreviated rehearsal, followed by a short concert for our family members and the highlight of the day – a family dinner followed

by a visit by Old Saint Nick himself with gifts for all the children.

More details will be coming out shortly and we would love to see a great turnout for this family event.

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## U.S Travel Requirements

**As of June 1, 2009**, Canadian citizens will be required to present one of the following documents when travelling to, through or from the United States by land or sea:

- a valid passport; or
- a NEXUS card; or
- a Free and Secure Trade (FAST) card; or
- an enhanced driver's licence (EDL) (in provinces and territories where U.S.-approved EDL programs are implemented).

Canadian citizens 15 years of age and under will only require proof of citizenship, such as an original or a copy of a birth certificate, or a Canadian citizenship card. Canadian citizens 18 years of age and under who are travelling with a school or other organized group, under adult supervision with parental/guardian consent may also present proof of citizenship alone.

Members are reminded that we do have events in the U.S. and passports will be required, otherwise you will be denied entry into the U.S. This is also required for anyone traveling to the United States for any purpose (even day trips). **Given this requirement it is important that you submit your passport application early since it may take up to 12 weeks for the document to be issued.**

## **Pumpkinfest**

Another year of Pumpkinfest under our tunics and even though it was a wet and cool day for the parade, we did manage to have the clouds part long enough for us to finish the parade.

Pumpkinfest is our only fund raising event each year. As everyone knows United Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps sells Pumpkin Pie and Lemon Pie at the annual Pumpkinfest to help raise money. Despite the wet weather, we didn't do too badly with the Pie Booth. Although we did have some pies left over we did manage to sell them off to corps members and other interested folks which is great. Although the final numbers aren't in, we should do well with the pie sales.

We also ran one of the parking lots again this year but with the rainy weather we didn't fare as well as we had hoped. But – there's always next year!!

We would like to thank the following members of the Pie Booth Committee: Al Sutherland (Chair), Scott Butcher, Karen Neault, Larry Post and Teresa Marinuk-Eller

Thanks also to the Parking Committee: Gary Lennon and Alex Forsyth

Of course to all the members who worked at both the Pie Booth and the Parking Lot over the weekend, your hard work did pay off!

## **MARCHING ON**

**Our condolences to George (former soprano) and Debbie Kipp and the family on the recent passing of Pamela Kipp. Pam was a proud member of our colour guard for a short period of time. Pam overcame extreme hardship to continue to march as long as she could and we all appreciate her efforts.**

**Also to Keith Johnston (Baritone) on the passing of his father, Mr Fred Johnston. Mr. Johnston was also the uncle of Diana Chambers (mellophone). For many years he was bandmaster of the Salvation Army band in Simcoe and had the distinction of being the youngest bandmaster to be commissioned by the Salvation Army.**

**Missed by family, remembered by friends  
and all the United Alumni members.**

***"May they never walk alone"***

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This newsletter is published quarterly by the United Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps for its members. Please send comments to: [unitedalumni@hotmail.com](mailto:unitedalumni@hotmail.com)

Please feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who is interested in the drum corps movement