



*Happy Holidays
to all our fans. Thank you for your support.*



Annapolis, Maryland, September 1, 2013.

L to R - **1st row:** John Parkinson, Brady Deroo, Ken Taylor, Lorne Ferrazzutti, Judy Ferguson, Jeff MacKay, Doug Darwin, Michael Sharpe, Scott Butcher, Jackie Nicholls, Rick Roblin and Rick Robida. **2nd row:** Wes Scott, Yun Park, Susan Roberts, Kathleen Gander, Barry Woods, Roger Rafson, John Giblin, Ric Brown and Brian Flood. **3rd row:** Warren Berger, Gord Brown, Doug Johns, Rick Lang, Eugene Oh, Soonjong Kim, Joe Gianna, Alyssa Frances, Madison Darwin, Hanne Dove, Taylor Loder, Eric McConachie, Toby Frechette and David Johns. **4th row:** Bob Carell, Heather Hyslop, Rick Shearer, Ron Chong, John Peachey, Keith Dearlove, Mike Lang, Dave Bruce, Kunyoon Kim, Barry Bell, Matt Davis, Bill Kane and Brian Collingdon.

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DOWNLOAD FULL COLOUR ISSUES OF GCC FROM OUR WEBSITE: www.optimists-alumni.org

REHEARSALS – JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER

Summer rehearsals

Sudbury, July 27



Top: Rehearsing in the dry stands. Bottom: Rehearsing on the wet performance field.

Kathleen and Barry make and serve lunch.

Waterloo, August 10



Keith Dearlove and John Peachey.

Practicing "The Front".... again. "OK, OK, just one more last time".

Oshawa, Legends V, August 17



Drum Major Jackie Nicholls leading the rehearsal. The corps wore their green T-shirts which helped Randy Billings, our drill instructor, to quickly and efficiently address spacing and position issues.

Honour Guard. L to R: Rick Robida, Frank Mitchell, Lynn Clinton and John Parkinson. Missing: Rick Roblin.

It appears Madison (front) could be suggesting a new manoeuvre for the drum line.

Annapolis, August 31



Top: The shady, cool and refreshing rehearsal. Bottom: And another typical Annapolis hot one.

L to R: John Parkinson, Brady Deroo and Rick Roblin.

"Let's eat!" A well deserved break.

REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES – JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER

A bit of this and that... here and there...



Annapolis: Soonjong Kim, placed fourth in DCA Individual Trumpet-Soprano competition.



Sudbury: Art Soldier from South Korea give us an impromptu concert before we headed off to rehearse.



Waterloo: Senior Northstar Colours, L to R: Taylor, Kim (Drum Major – The Art Soldier), Alana, Hanne, and Alyssa.



Waterloo: Junior Northstar Colours who performed with The Art Soldier.



Oshawa: Jackie Nicholls celebrates her birthday with a surprise cake presented by Jeremy Goldie. The corps was quick to notice Jeremy only supplied two plates – one for the birthday girl and for... you get it. Just kidding.



Waterloo: First performance. Front, L to R: Soonjong, Eugene and Kunooyon from South Korea. Back, Keith Dearlove (first show this year).



Sudbury: Gord Brown and a tired member of The Art Soldier Honour Guard.



L to R Front: Yun Park and Sue Roberts. Back: Wes Scott and Kathleen Gander.



Legends V: The Honour Guard, at rehearsal. And on the performance field.



Waterloo: L to R: Jeff MacKay, Doug Darwin, Michael Sharpe and Scott Butcher. Four of the new drums paid for by donations from Carol Munro and Fred Johnson's family.

REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES – JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER

Annapolis, August 31 - The Annual Corps Dinner



L to R: Melinda Loder and Jackie Nicholls suggesting they get to the dinner and Debbie Bruce suggesting perhaps another beverage might be in order before they go.



L to R: Matt Davis. Jackie Nicholls and Melinda Loder are relieved to know "Jello" cubes will not be part of dessert.



Shamay, our server, singing Amazing Grace.



2013 Colours. L to R: Taylor, Hanne, Madison and Alyssa.



Ric Brown presenting Jackie Nicholls with the "I Can't Believe They Got My Name Right" Award.



Heather Hyslop presenting Mike Lang with the coveted "Burp" Award.



Sitting: Josie and Ron Chong. Standing (L to R): Bob Carell, Eric McConachie, Warren Berger, Gord "Fingers" Brown and Rick Shearer.



Front L to R: Soonjong Kim, Kunyoon Kim, Alyssa Francis and Hanne Dove. Back: Madison Darwin, Brady Deroo, Wes Scott, Eugene Oh and Taylor Loder.



Singing for their supper – Sitting, L to R: Brian Collingdon and John Giblin. Standing: Keith Dearlove, John Parkinson, Doug Johns, Rick Roblin, John Peachey and Kathleen Gander.



Also singing for their supper – Sitting L to R: Barry and Pat Bell, Lorne Ferrazzutti. Standing: Judy Ferguson, Roger Rafson, Bill Kane, Judy Davidson and Ken Taylor.



Sitting L to R: Matthew Davis, Melinda Loder, Mike Lang and Susan Roberts. Standing: Jackie Nicholls, Debbie Bruce, Heather Hyslop and Dave Bruce.

The Drum Major's Rapport

By Jackie Nicholls

Here we are in Annapolis
The pinnacle of our year
We've made it through another one
So we raise a glass and cheer

Deb, Glenda and Brown like their wine
While the "Tall One" likes his pop
The libations have quite a variety
Including Jello shots

Back in the fall the Show
Committee met
To choose some tunes to play
Motown, Kiev and Lighthouse
What would go and what would stay?

Christmas brought the time again
For selling chocolate mints
Long-johns, Fireball and carols
And our traditional Santa stints

Through the winter the horns
were played
The drumline grew quite big
We practiced together off and on
To prepare for our first "gig"

At "The Wearing of the Green"
We debuted our 2013 sound
The dancing was so intense
I heard there was a Diva Down

Staging vs you know what
We hired this guy named Randy
140 beats a minute
No problem it'll be just dandy

We started learning dots and forms
In the gym at Humber's Ken Cox
Arcs and files and the parachute club
But we still can't rotate that damn box!

The Bands Played On in Simcoe
As many years before
We offered our new repertoire
And our abundant drumline core

We lost a very special one
A drummer extraordinaire
She loved us all from her heart
In her memory she donated special
snares.

Practices scheduled on week-ends
Are a drum corps mainstay
We even had to share Keating field
While the baseball guys did play

On a rainy night in June
Brown got us a half-time show
We played for the football crowd
Mike said we needed the dough.

Through rain and snow and sun
and cold
The mailmen deliver words
We survived a drill day in this weather
And very few complaints were heard.

Traditionally on Canada Day
The colours are red and white
This year the corps made a new friend,
With bubbles in his sight.

Once again we ventured
To Sudbury, rocks and the nickel
Again the weather was rainy
But the audience we did tickle

The rain caused other problems
Birkenstocks and curly hair
The 2nd Annual Trivia Game
Heather won again despite John's
evil stares!

We were an International group
Of horns and drums and guard
Korean and Japanese ladies
Who all worked very hard

Another group from Asia
Jun and Darwin brought
Art Soldier entertained many crowds
And stirred up lots of talk

Optimists were gracious hosts
With Santa and gifts for all
Kathleen and her many elves
Cooked turkey for short and tall

Katie Perry, Sarah Jessica Parker
Beyonce and Jessica Beal
And a very young sabre friend
On Grandpa Gord a nap did steal

Our drumline is
quite a section
But the basses had
a time
Ayaka, Barry and
Brian
It was a revolving line



*Optimists Drum Major,
Jackie Nicholls.*

One last gathering at Chez Bruce
After the Preston Show
The weather was a wee bit fresh
But into the pool two nuts did go

To celebrate the victory
Of Purple Pants and Crown
World Champions of DCI
Blue Devils did go down!!!!

We again were blessed with colour guard
Who smile, spin and toss
Special beauty, skill and youth
Without them we would be at a loss

The summer of 2013
Is almost over and done
Parades and shows and Legends V
Laughs, bus rides and fun

We hope you have some memories
And enjoyed our together time
But there's one more thing to highlight
As here we sit and dine

He phones, he drives, he emails
He's a drummer and an Argo fan
And even though he cheers for Blue
Devils
He certainly is the man

He is our fearless leader
Many helpers he as around
But he's the glue of this Green Machine
Let's toast and thank Ric Brown

Tomorrow we will take the field
And give 'em our best show
So here's to the Canadian folks in Green
The best group that I know!!!!

On The Road Again...

Both "Back in the Day" and today our Bus trips have been a time for us to connect as friends rather than as corps members. Here are a few photos from our trips to Sudbury and Annapolis.



"Are you sure this isn't the Blue Saints bus?"



"When the seat belt sign goes out, won't you please take advantage of our on-board snack service, and thank you for providing your own beverages".



"It's OK, I have dual citizenship".



"Oh please sir, just one more bite".



On the way to Sudbury Joe Gianna (Right) and Ron Chong discuss a complete rewrite of the show. Rick Lang (Middle) insists that he really likes the show.

BEEN SEEN – Actual behind the scenes unretouched photos. Spine tingling, unguarded moments ripped from the camera!!!

Rehearsals have many unusual things!



"I sure hope no one takes a picture of us doing this."



An actual living music stand.



"This is unreal... I can play cymbals and drum at the same time".



Suggested attire for evening rehearsals.

Fred Johnson donation

IN 2010 The Optimists Alumni participated the dedication of the Fred Johnson Park in Scarborough, Ontario.



Fred was a co-founder of the Toronto Optimists and the founder of the Optimists Bantams. His connection with the Optimists began in the early 1950s with the Scout Band and he lived his Scout Promise every day of his life. Fred was Scarborough Citizen of the Year in 1978 and a Scarborough Councillor for Ward 7 from 1988 through 1997.

At the Legends V show, Fred's family, pictured below, donated \$1,000 to the Optimists Alumni. The donation was

used to purchase a new snare drum. The new drum has a memorial plaque honouring Fred.



L to R: Daughter Carol Brazeau, wife Aileen Johnson holding twin great-granddaughters Mikayla and Meredith Oldman, granddaughter Patricia Oldman, daughter Laurie Johnson.

Other donators not pictured were daughter and son in law Cathy and Roger Gonsalves, son in law Dave Brazeau, granddaughters Tracey Geddes, Vanessa Oldman, grandsons Brendan Oldman, Sean Geddes, Trevor Gonsalves and friends Joyce & Ian Archer, Aphrodite Solakis, Bev Kolaski. Back: Mike Lang and Bill Kane of The Optimists Alumni accepting the donation and a special home made card.

THE ART SOLDIER

The Art Soldier – from Seoul, South Korea

THE ART SOLDIER Marching Band from Seoul, South Korea was founded in 2007 under the name of King of The Cups by Director Yun Jung Park as an outlet for Elementary and Middle School children to participate in a band playing marching music.

In May 2011 the band changed their name to "The Art Soldier" and 28 students were selected from local elementary and middle junior high schools to participate in the band.



The Art Soldier performing on August 10th at the Scout House Show in Waterloo with The Junior Northstar Colours.

The band immediately began performing in metropolitan area shows while continuing to develop percussion, colour guard, instrument and marching skills. This was all made possible through the assistance of a local Yamaha instrument dealer, Butterfly Uniforms, and the local Seoul Police Department.

Every summer since its inception, The Art Soldier has hosted a music and marching camp, and invites lecturers, educators, arrangers and directors from outside the country to assist in providing an international experience for both the students, staff and management.

In 2012 and 2013, former members and staff of The Kiwanis Cavaliers Drum

Corps and The Northstar organization have travelled to Seoul to provide valuable training and assistance to the members and staff.



L to R: Taylor and Alana of Senior Northstar. Yun Park with You Bin, The Art Soldier sword bearer.

Over the past two years The Art Soldier staff have had the opportunity to be guests in Canada and have participated in various programs and clinics hosted by the Northstar Performing Arts Organization. This year the entire Art Soldier band and staff was invited by the Northstar Performing Arts Organization to perform for three weeks in Canada starting in June. Unfortunately not all the members were able to make the trip. The Art Soldier members are proud to have some members of Northstar's junior Stixx Percussion Program and 2nd generation Colours participate in our 2013 presentation

PERFORMANCES

Sudbury: Spectacle of Sound, July 27.



The performance was up close and personal due to the rain.



Our hosts, The Sudbury Blue Saints.



The Art Soldier from Seoul, South Korea playing their "Magical Mystery Tour". Inset: Drum Major Kim ye Jin.



Northstar Colours L to R: Lani Beirness, Hanna Dove, Alyssa Francis and Madison Darwin.

Waterloo: Celebrating the Scout House 75th Anniversary, August 10.



PERFORMANCES

Oshawa: Legends V, August 17



Opening ceremony.



Optimists: Colour presentation.



Closing ceremony. Massed horns playing "You'll Never Walk Alone".

Annapolis: DCA Alumni Spectacular, September 1.



"Uh Oh! This isn't good".



London: Midlander's Funalé Four, October 19.



On stage at The Banting Secondary School.



Mike Lang also plays in DOCA.



Members from all the bands joined together to play "Amazing Grace" and wrap up the evening performance.

Courage Epitomizes Seneca Optimists Corps Members

This article was taken from a 1977 issue of DCI Today.

COURAGE is defined by Webster's dictionary as stubborn persistence or unwillingness to recognize defeat. Ken Mulgrew, a 16 year-old baritone horn player in the Seneca Optimists Drum and Bugle Corps of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, must have enough of it to last a lifetime. His lifetime.

He's got a head start on the rest of his life, for the quiet-spoken young man has already suffered one of the most traumatic experiences anyone could imagine.

Young Ken was a member of the solid horn line with the 1975 Toronto Optimists and the even stronger bugle section of the 1976 Seneca Optimists. The Seneca Optimists became a reality in February, 1976, when the Seneca Princemen and Toronto Optimists merged. Part of the name of each corps was retained to appease all concerned. The merger resulted in the Seneca Optimists finishing 10th at the Drum Corps International finals at Philadelphia in 1976.



Mulgrew, a grade 11 student at Porter Collegiate Institute in Toronto, enjoyed the sensation with the rest of his corps "family" at the conclusion of the DCI finals when the Optimists became members of the elite Top 12. However, when the corps returned to Toronto, Mulgrew perhaps had second thoughts about his future in the corps.

"Ken didn't show for practices from October to December," said corps director, Al Tierney. "I didn't know – perhaps he was contemplating quitting." Then, on December 10, 1976, tragedy struck. While working at a sanitary company, Ken was stuffing trash into a huge garbage disposal unit. One of his co-workers inadvertently pushed the button to activate the machine. The blade came down on Mulgrew's right wrist and his hand was severed. The pressure of the machine was so strong that it pulled him forward. His chin got caught in the "teeth" and was badly crushed.

Further injury was averted only because Mulgrew was wearing safety shoes. The Blade struck his foot but no damage was done. The pain was nearly unbearable, but Mulgrew never lost consciousness.

"I walked into the hospital," he said. "I was in the operating room for five hours for surgery on my wrist and jaw." What

about the hand? "They used a crowbar to pry it out," said Mulgrew. "it was so badly mangled that it couldn't be saved." At the hospital, Mulgrew had an extra inch of his wrist severed for fear of infection. His jaw was wired shut. He now has a one inch diameter steel plate in it. "I couldn't open my mouth for two months," said Mulgrew. "I was on a liquid diet all that time."

Early in March, the wires were removed from his jaw. "I lost 15 pounds between the accident and when I was able to eat solid food again," said Mulgrew. "I must have lost five of those pounds in my arm."

How did he feel when he was — at long last — able to open his mouth again and start eating? "Great! God, it felt good. Guess I'm getting used to it now. I'm starting to get pimples again," he laughingly admitted. When Ken didn't show, two of his friends in the corps, Bill Pullin and Kevin O'Connor called to inquire why he wasn't attending practice sessions.

"I didn't tell anybody about the accident and only after phoning did Bill and Kevin know what happened," revealed Mulgrew. "I guess the guys in the corps thought I had just quit." Quit, he didn't.

While in the hospital, Ken's thoughts quite naturally turned to the corps. "I thought after the accident my horn playing days were over," he recalled. "I thought I'd be in the national (flag) squad. I thought I'd never be able to do anything but carry a flag and stand in the corner of the field while we were competing.

"I also thought I might be able to play the cymbals. When my arm got well enough, a hook was attached to it. I tried out the cymbals at home, but the strain was too much. I couldn't handle the cymbal properly. It would slide down my hook and I couldn't manipulate it." Mulgrew mentioned that his right arm became much smaller than his left one. "Even the right side of my chest got smaller than my left side," said Mulgrew.

Seneca's equipment manager, Evert Botterweg, came up with an idea that gave Ken renewed hope. "Mr. Botterweg fixed up my horn by putting an extension on the rotor so it could

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Courage Epitomizes Seneca Optimists Corps Members

Continued from page 10

be played from the reverse side,” stated Ken. Tierney and the Optimist staff thought at first of asking the Drum Corps International office for permission to use two valves on the horn for Mulgrew. That idea was scrapped thanks to Botterweg.

During the recovery period, and after Mulgrew was dismissed from the hospital, he returned to the corps and took part in marching and timing drills. “Everybody came up to me and offered me all kinds of food,” Ken said. “Guess they thought I didn’t have enough in the hospital. They started calling me ‘Hook’ and ‘Lefty’.”

Then came another phase of Mulgrew’s long road back. “I got an artificial hand early in April,” said Mulgrew, who had begun playing his horn again on March 20. “At first my left , arm got tired, but it got stronger the more I practiced. In about a year I’ll get a new hand, a bio-electric one. They couldn’t, or wouldn’t get me one after the accident. My arm is still growing because of my age.”

Ken didn’t have much trouble adjusting after the painful ordeal. “About the only thing I couldn’t do was button my left sleeve with the hook,” confessed Ken, whose eyes suddenly became misty. “I was able to write left handed okay, but I still write better with the hook than I do with my good left hand.”

Now that his outlook with the corps is much brighter than it was early in the year, Ken plans to stay with the Optimists. “I’d like to stay in until I’m 21 and too old to play in the junior ranks,” he said.



The 1976 Seneca Optimists.

“Since the accident, he’s a different young man,” said Tierney. “He’s more outgoing. You’d think what happened would have had the opposite effect on him. He’s quite a young man now.” Tierney’s assistant, Ric Brown, tended to agree. “It’s hard to say what the accident has done to him,” said Brown. “The trauma of it all might hit some day. Perhaps it already has and he’s been able to handle it.”

One thing: Young Mulgrew knows how to handle courage, for he has lots of it.

REMEMBERING

“Warm” memories

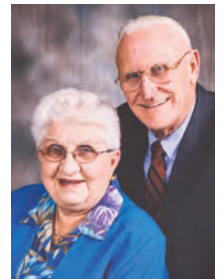


Toby Frechette wearing Evert's original white Seneca Optimists jacket.

My Step-father, Evert, was the Equipment Manager from 1971 to 1978 for The Toronto Optimists and The Seneca Optimists. He was not a musician, however he was able to dismantle a horn and put it back together with ease. Evert built a double pole for the Toronto Optimists Nationals. It was a round pole inside a square pole and, at the pull of a cord, it would become the tallest pole in drum corps history.

He was good with his hands and could fix any instrument. You could often find Evert at the equipment truck rubbing a drum stick on the horns to smooth out any dents and bumps.

I wear Evert's jacket because it holds a special history for me of The Toronto Optimists and The Seneca Optimists.
Toby Frechette.



Doreen and Evert.



Legends V: “You’re right Rick. This’ll be more impressive if we use a flag on a pole in the show”.



Annapolis: “Ron, I think you’re a little flat.”



“So that’s where the Stay In Tune Dial is.”

What a great summer that was!!

Let's retrace our steps from August where we had a full schedule of performances and rehearsals. Each performance was infinitely better from the Waterloo Tattoo to Legends V with the apex being our show in Annapolis. It was a wonderful feeling that all of our hard work paid off with a scintillating

performance at the DCA Alumni spectacular. We received TWO standing ovations from a very knowledgeable and appreciative crowd.

September brought us a short parade and standstill in Cambridge followed

by our performance at The St. John's Drum & Bugle Corps 60th anniversary. The final weekend was the AGM with a recap of the financial status and a look forward to 2014.



a rehearsal in Kitchener with former David Letterman trumpet player Al Chez. The horn line began learning one of our new tunes for 2014 (*Jets* from *West Side Story*).

We have a full slate of Christmas

October was another very good performance at the "Funale" in London (or was that Sarnia) and

parades this year due to the five weekends in November and this will provide a financial cushion for the expenses incurred in 2013 (sopranos, snares, computer system and the defibrillator) and new purchases for 2014.

Next year is looking very promising for the organization. We are considering a variety of new places to perform throughout Ontario and New York. The instructional staff remains from last year and is working hard to come up with an entertaining show.

The Board would like to thank you for your effort and contributions to a successful 2013 and we all look forward to a bigger and better 2014.

NEW MEMBERS



New members (L) Debbie Bruce – Support Staff and (R) Yun Jung Park – percussion section.

Debbie marched in the Colour Guard in 2007 to 2009 and is now turning her talents to the important role behind the scenes, helping make practices, parades and events run smoothly.

Yun has marched with the Kiwanis Kavaliers Drum Corps. She is former Director of The Art Soldier from Seoul, South Korea and participated with them on their Canadian Magical Mystery Tour this year. Yun is a member of the Optimists percussion section.



John Byrne, Soprano.

John began drum corps in 1964 following in the footsteps of both David and Brian, playing soprano for Mighty Grantham. He moved to the St. Catharines Chessmen when Grantham and Denis Morris Majestics merged in the fall of 1965. John remained with Chessmen until they disbanded in 1968.

John played with the Toronto Optimists in 1971, his final year in Junior Corps.



Oshawa: "I threw the rifle up. I'm sure it'll come down... soon."

An afternoon with Al Chez

On November 2nd the Optimists Alumni were honoured to have a very special rehearsal with Al Chez. For those who don't know, Al has his roots in drum corps and played trumpet in David Letterman's band for many years. He started his extensive music career at the age of 9 when he joined his father's local drum corps, the Saints. He went on to join the Garfield Cadets and, in 1979, joined forces with Jon Bon Jovi to create the band the Atlantic City Expressway, which played New Jersey shore clubs for five years. Al still donates his time to drum corps-activity and also conducts brass-music clinics throughout the country.

He mostly works with the Crossmen although he has also kept up with his roots by working with the Cadets.

Al led a rehearsal that was both fun and challenging. He ran us through warmups followed by increasingly more difficult exercises. At one point he had half the horn line playing one pattern with the rest playing a second one. He knew it was time to take a break when he asked whether we wanted to switch rhythms and heard a chorus of "No's!" At the end of the rehearsal we had a question and answer session. Someone asked whether he had Crossmen do more difficult exercises as the summer progressed and he said "No, I just become less tolerant".



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Evert Botterweg

Evert was the equipment manager and truck driver for the Toronto Optimists from 1971 through 1975. When Seneca Optimists was formed in 1976, he became their equipment manager. Evert built an adjustable flag pole for the Canadian flag. At any given time Mike

could pull down on the cord which lifted up the pole inside.

Evert was not only a wiz at managing equipment he was also a gem of a human being. His home for the last 36 years was Winnipeg, Manitoba. He was born in Appledorn, the Netherlands. Evert was 85 years young.

“Evert and Doreen Botterweg were the kind of people every Corps should have. Responsible for one member of their household in the Corps, they became responsible for much of the Corps and its activities. Doreen, along with others, was a stalwart member of the Ladies Auxiliary. Evert’s specialty became the equipment department. The Optimists has long had an equipment department, run well by good people. Under Evert Botterweg, as the Corps grew in size, the department kept pace in capacity and appropriate organization. A strapping ex-Dutch naval officer, he applied his abilities and built the Optimist equipment department into one of the best in North America. Possibly the best. This was verified by the offers from other top Corps, with commensurate salary, to go and organize the same for them. He knew all the ropes, and things only went wrong if his directions were ignored.” — from Colin Hedworth’s book on the Optimists.



John Kernahan

John Kernahan played for the St. Catharines Chessmen prior to his stint with the Optimists in 1969. John played second soprano for both Corps. He passed away on August 22 following a long battle with heart and kidney disease.

John served as general manager of the Niagara Parks Commission from 1998 until he retired in 2011. He is survived by his wife Allanna and sons Matthew and Daniel.



Colin Hedworth

Colin began his drum corps career with the Danforth Crusaders. Together with Lorne and Barry and Joe and many others Colin moved to the newly formed Toronto Optimists. Colin stayed with the Optimists until he aged out in 1962. Many years later Colin

was still helping the corps, this time by driving the equipment truck for the Seneca Optimists.

“Colin was a man who had fine memories of being in The Optimists. He had always been aware of what was going on in the Corps. Colin was a soft spoken kind man.” — Phil Hennings

“In 1976 and ‘77 Colin and I drove the equipment truck for Seneca Optimists. Strange things happen when you’re together almost 24 hours a day and driving thousands of miles over the course of the summer. We were constantly exhausted and suffering from lack of sleep. Why? We not only had to arrive before the corps but we also had to load the truck after the show then drive to our next competition. And we didn’t get much rest while driving because the passenger’s job was to make sure that the driver didn’t fall asleep. I still remember the two of us driving from Rochester up to Montreal. I was driving and turned to Colin and said something like “I’m seeing creatures running across the road.” Colin responded with a “me, too”. I then said that they don’t live on this planet! Colin said: “I’m seeing the same thing!”. We pulled over at the next rest area and slept.” — Bob Carell.



Mike Layton

Corps: Opti-Corps, Toronto Optimists, Guelph Royallaires.

In 1957 Mike played tenor drum with Opti-Corps then, when Opti-Corps became the Toronto Optimists, Mike marched with them. He was Guard

Captain from 1958 through 1960 then instructed the guard in 1961.

“Mike loved Drum Corps. Mike was in the Opti Corps and played a Tenor drum he graduated in 1958 as Colour Guard Captain till 1960. His heart was always with The Optimists.” — Phil Hennings.





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.



1965 Toronto Optimists.

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.

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/



Sudbury: Ayaka Miyake's last day in the Corps before returning to Japan.



2013 OPTIMISTS ALUMNI SCHEDULE – FOLLOW THE CORPS

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

Saturday	November 16	Parade	Confirmed	8:30 am	<i>Sants Claus Parade</i>	Oakville, Ontario
		Parade	Confirmed	1:00 pm	<i>Sants Claus Parade</i>	Acton, Ontario
Sunday	November 17	Parade		1:00 pm	<i>Sants Claus Parade</i>	Guelph, Ontario
Saturday	November 23	Parade	Confirmed	5:00 pm	<i>Sants Claus Parade</i>	Aurora, Ontario
Sunday	November 24	Parade	Confirmed	12:00 pm	<i>Sants Claus Parade</i>	Mississauga, Ontario
Sunday	November 30	Parade	Confirmed	10:30 am	<i>Sants Claus Parade</i>	Uxbridge, Ontario
		Parade	Confirmed	5:00 pm	<i>Sants Claus Parade</i>	Fenelon Falls, Ontario
Sunday	December 1	Rehearsal		2:00 pm	<i>New and existing music</i>	Legion 344, Toronto
		Party-time		4:00 pm	<i>Annual Corps Christmas Party</i>	Legion 344, Toronto
Saturday	December 14	Parade		4:00 pm	<i>Sants Claus Parade</i>	Bobcaygeon, 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, Doug Darwin 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 **January** issue is **Friday, December 6, 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.