

GGCC

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Drum & Bugle Corps

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our website www.optimists-alumni.org



GREEN & GOLD CAPSULE COMMENTS APRIL 2010

Director's corner



Rick Robida, Corps Director

Based on feedback to the initial issue of GGCC, I believe we have a 'Winner'. A lot has happened since that first issue which was published in conjunction with the corps first rehearsal of 2010 in Welland. The success of that rehearsal as well as other 2010 rehearsals is reported in a brand new column entitled 'You be the Judge'. It is the intent of this new column to keep the Corps family, friends and fans informed on our progress. Let us know what you think?

I am pleased to announce that the Members ratified the Corps 2010 Schedule at a meeting following a recent rehearsal. The Corps complete Schedule including

all performances and planned rehearsals can be found in this issue as well as on our website. In addition to returning to the Alumni Spectacular at the 2010 DCA World Championship the highlight of the 2010 season will be performing at The 50th Pageant of Drums set for July 3rd in Michigan City, IN. This DCI tour event is co-sponsored by the Michigan City Summer Festival and the Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary it will feature nine corps in competition and two in exhibition. The participating corps have a combined 18 world championships and 43 national championships. Competing will be the Cavaliers, Rosemont, Ill.; The Cadets, Allentown, Pa.; Madison Scouts, Madison, Wis.; Glassmen, Toledo, Ohio; Colts, Dubuque, Iowa; Teal Sound, Jacksonville, Fla.; Legends, Kalamazoo, Mich.; Colt Cadets, Dubuque, Iowa; and Blue Saints, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. The Optimists will be appearing in a pre-show entitled 'A Look Back through the Years' along with the Classic Cavaliers Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps from Rosemont, IL.



The Chicago Cavaliers (left) and Toronto Optimists on Retreat at Mundelein, IL., 1963

Military and corps honor guards will join the Michigan City High School Wolf Pack Marching Band for 'The Star Spangled Banner' and 'O Canada' in a 'Holiday Salute to the Flag' All branches of the military will be represented in the ceremony.

From 1976 to 1978 The Seneca Optimists fielded what many consider to be the very best Colour Guard to ever come out of Canada. The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps is therefore proud to announce a Tribute to the Seneca Optimists Color Guard. Our goal is to have the Seneca Guard – complete in an exact replica

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By Rick Robida.

2010 SCHEDULE

"WHAT MAKES A CORPS A SUCCESS?" *By Peter Bishop, Director of The Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps.*

PEOPLE NEWS

IT'S GREAT TO BE A MEMBER

John Shearer and Karen Bossworth

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

By David Johns.

SIGNATURE SONG SERIES

By Paul Thompson. This series will provide in-depth background for some of the songs we'll be playing in 2010.

DO YOU KNOW?

2010 REPERTOIRE

DREAM *By Richard Boehnke*

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

MAKING IT LOOK GOOD

In true Optimists tradition, we have engaged the finest talent available

YOU BE THE JUDGE

An ongoing critique of the 2010 Corps from anonymous sources

LIGHTHOUSE

Not the one by any lake.

WE REMEMBER

Remembering David Parker

of the original uniform become part of The Optimists Alumni Drum Corps. The Guard will be identified at all performances as The Seneca Optimists Alumni Colour Guard. This plan is undoubtedly one of the more significant events in our 7 year history.

This plan which was developed and approved by the Management Committee was also announced at our recent Members meeting and was endorsed by the Corps. Please visit the Facebook Page – I SUPPORT THE SENECA OPTIMISTS COLOUR GUARD PROJECT to register your support. Additional information can also be obtained from the Corps website.

Thanks, Regards, Rick Robida



Seneca Optimist 1976 – Pageant of Drums – Michigan City, IN

MAKING IT LOOK SO GOOD

Steve Meikle, Drill instructor

I started with The Optimists Alumni Drum Corps in June 2009 and found myself in a position that I have never experienced before. With all my accomplishments I had no idea of their past achievements and the pride for the Optimists colours. Was I born? These members after all their accomplishments wanted to achieve a modern day visual show but hang on to the tradition of the Optimist style. Humour aside, these men and women worked as hard as any member I know to achieve our goals. Our vision, as I see it,



Steve (left) discussing the drill with Bob Carell and Bill Kane.

is to amalgamate the history of the amazing past the Optimists had with their desire to achieve it again. Our vision going forward, as I see it, is to move visually in a modern style while representing the great tradition of the Optimists. Our 2010 visual show will be a balance – *tradition meets the present day.*

Steve's drum corps biography

Steve began his Drum Corps experience in Dutch Boy Drum Corps in 1977 through 1983 as a soprano player winning a Class A DCI championship in 1982 and making top 25 in open class in 1983. He then joined Garfield Cadets for 1984 and 1985 winning 2 world championships.

Steve then gave up his age out year to teach marching technique with the newly formed Star of Indiana. In 1987 he was reunited with Garfield Cadets as a marching instructor winning a championship.

Steve's instruction experience includes:

- 1988 – started writing drill for St. Johns Drum Corps out of Brantford and also toured with Suncoast Sound from Florida.
- 1989 – concentrated on St. Johns Drum Corps.
- 1990 & 1991 – joined the newly formed Magic of Orlando as an instructor
- 1992 – started writing drill for Conqueror II in Hamilton.
- 1994 to 1995 – joined the design team of Cardinals Drum Corps from Scarborough and became an Assistant Director in 1995 for the next three years.
- 2000 Steve moved back to Kitchener where he was reunited with his roots and joined Dutch Boy Drum Corps' design team.
- 2001 to 2008 – acted as the Director for Dutch Boy taking the corps to California in 2007 to compete in DCI World Championships, where they received a Bronze Medal, Most Improved Drum Corps and the highly coveted Spirit of Disney Award.
- 2009 & 2010 – Steve looks forward to his new experiences as the drill designer for The Optimists Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps.

PEOPLE NEWS is an ongoing feature telling the personal stories of our members. We are not just brass players, drum majors, drummers, colour party, etc.... we are indeed more than the sum of our parts. Please feel free to nominate persons of interest for future publications by getting in touch with our editorial team. See page 16 for contact details.

OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE

from our own Carol Munro

DOING THE 2010 Olympics in Vancouver has been a 19 year dream in the making... Joining the Ski Patrol in 1991, my first aid instructor participated in providing medical care at the Calgary 88 Olympics. I thought wow – that’s what I would do if the opportunity came again to Canada; provide first aid care at the biggest sporting event on earth!

After submitting my name and passing all the security checks required (thankfully) in February 2008 all those interested in the Toronto area were asked to attend one mandatory session during a 2 week period in December near the Downsview airport. For me, there was only one day available – I had already booked vacation time in Florida previously. Fate.

In order to secure the best possible outcome, I had to be prepared to finance everything – airfares, find my own accommodations (I had life long friend there), AND be there for the duration.

And then came the waiting. And waiting. And waiting. And waiting. And then one midnight (on October 30th), I discovered an email in my inbox from Vanoc. My first choice of doing the freestyle skiing wasn’t available; but providing first aid for spectator care at Hockey Venue was... hmmm... Do Hockey?? THAT sport? Not skiing? DA... needless to say it took awhile to get to sleep that night... the phone calls and emails would have to wait until morning.

So I had my dream job at TBS AND was fulfilling my dream job at the Olympics... NOT !! A week and a half before I was scheduled to leave, I was told that my job was redundant at The Body Shop... (That only took 5 minutes to become unemployed). March on...

I arrived the day of the Opening Ceremonies – Friday Feb.12. My shifts were to start on the Tuesday at Hockey Place for the men – 3 games per day – and went 12 days straight – ending the day before the men’s gold game. I already knew that the Women’s Gold Medal game was being played there during one of my shifts. My dream was being fulfilled.

But being there was an experience that went FAR beyond my expectations. It was over the top! The City of Vancouver embraced everyone from around the world with class,

dignity, enthusiasm and helpfulness for all. The vibe downtown was electric. The anticipation – you could cut with a knife. The pride of being Canadian was demonstrated everywhere imaginable. Red and white were the dominant colours you saw. And then there were those thousands of blue smurfs everywhere– me included... the acknowledgement and thank you’s for the volunteer support by Vanoc AND the world public was evidenced at every single game, event – even just walking down the street!

It was truly an honour and a privilege to have witnessed our Olympics; highest medal count for Canada – 26; most gold medals by a host country – 14; the spirit of Joannie Frachette; Canada’s first gold – Alex Biladeau in the moguls (I had just finished my orientation and was out on the street when I heard the symphonic roar of people which was almost deafening); and then there was the hockey...



Going to the Olympics. Mississauga resident Carol Munro (right), seen here with friend, Terry Smith, at the Horseshoe Resort in Barrie. Munro, a member of the Canadian Ski Patrol System, is heading to the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver on Friday to work as a First Aid volunteer.

Being part of the medical team for Hockey Place meant being surrounded by paramedics, doctors, nurses, orthopedists, emerg. staff, and yes other ski patrollers (all from Alberta and BC). My response to all was of course different from what everyone expected me to say when asked “what do I do” – construction! Then they think - oh yes – you are a volunteer ski patroller!

We did have to treat the odd heart attack, fainting, allergic reaction, panic attack, etc. but thank goodness they weren’t plentiful.

The majority of incidents involved Band-Aids, ice, Advil, earplugs and tampons.... (Go figure). But being medical also gave us unrestricted access throughout the entire venue... players area, media, Olympic family section, private suites... my Band-Aids were poised and ready to apply just in case Sydney needed one... or Wayne, or Walter, or Hayley or whomever.

So on the last Friday of the games, the final roster for the men’s game was announced – and I was on it. OMG – not only had my dream been fulfilled (culminating with the women winning the night before), it was going to overflow big time with the men... OMG.

You can guess the rest and how it ended and how I finally found my voice again. I may be home now, but I haven’t landed. It was pure magic.

For the Mississauga.com article:
www.mississauga.com/community/article/607712

DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS RETURNS TO WELLAND

Posted by Richard Robida: For The Tribune Newspaper

WELLAND – For a brief time last Sunday, the north end of the city was reverberating once again to the unmistakable sound of drums and bugles as the Optimists Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps held an open house at Auberge Richelieu.

The corps brought their road show to Welland as part of an ongoing mission to revitalize drum corps activity in southern Ontario.



Auberge Richelieu in Welland, Ontario

Throughout the 1950s, 60s and well into the 70s, drum corps or trumpet bands as they were then known were thriving. In fact at one point in the mid-60s there were 17 trumpet bands just in the Niagara area. Some of these were the Welland-Crowland Lancers, Grantham Police Boys Band, Niagara Militaires and Port Dalhousie Guardsmen. By 1990, only four were still active in southern Ontario, Toronto Signals, Kingston Grenadiers, Kawartha Cavaliers and Dutch Boy from Kitchener.



Ed Finoro (left) and Bill Kellas.

However, in the last two decades, corps reunions and open houses have spawned drum corps performing units inspiring an exciting new movement.

Welland's own Bellerophone Drum and Bugle Corps began in 1993 and continues to thrive today. The United Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps from Simcoe was formed in 1998 after a drum corps reunion.

Membership was comprised of former members of the Simcoe Boy Scout Trumpet Band, Optimists Band, Royal Blues, Simcoe Golden Lions, and Lakeshore Brassmen. All the corps operated out of the Simcoe area. A decade ago the

famous Preston Scout House fielded a virtual replica of their legendary 1950s Corps complete with uniforms, glockenspiels, drill formations, and their unforgettable crowd pleasing repertoire.

The Optimist Alumni began in 2003 and evolved their program into a full field show in 2007 with old familiar Toronto Optimists tunes.

That same year Les Diplomates from Quebec City reappeared with their trademark 'one of a kind' presentation.

In 2006, the Niagara Falls Militaires restarted as a parade corps after a long hiatus. London Ontario Midlanders struck up a mini-corps in 2007 and rumour has it they will produce a field corps in 2010.

Fierce rivalries from the 1950s through to the 70s unfortunately meant, "competition separated us." In today's climate, fortunately, "camaraderie binds us together."

One of the many guests that showed up on Sunday was 90-year-old Welland resident Ernie Christie. Ernie



Peter Barclay (left) and Ernie Christie.

remembers the drum corps "heyday" in the Niagara area as he often chauffeured his two boys, Bob and John to and from rehearsals and performances.

Both of Ernie's boys were members of the Optimists Drum Corps in the late 1960s. "It's great to know that the activity

we all enjoyed so much is undergoing a renaissance" Ernie said as he watched the corps perform. Other guests included Pete Barclay, from Fonthill, who was a member in 1967, and Mark Bishop, from Wainfleet, who at one time played with the Oakland Crusaders from Etobicoke as well as the Cadets from Garfield, NJ.

"Our corps... is pleased with our reception here in Welland this weekend," said corps Director Rick Robida at the end of the event.

Article ID number 2265100

New members

Laura King (Fin) started her drum corps career (a few years ago) in the Colour Guard of the Etobicoke Crusaders and was promoted to Drum Major in her second year. She later signed on with the Toronto Optimists and was named Guard Captain the following year. Laura holds the honour of being the first Guard Captain of the Seneca Optimists as well as a backfield music conductor.



Laura King

Laura brings to us wide-ranging music education... piano during primary school years... instrumental music (flute) at Burnhamthorpe Collegiate Institute ... and extensive post secondary choral experience up to the present day. We are already struck by both her notable conducting skills and her evident leadership skills. Laura is personally engaging, modest in her demeanour, with a great sense of humour. I am sure we will extend to her the 'same respect' that we have to all previous Drum Majors... right guys?

Laura, terse and to the point, when asked about her goals as an Optimist simply replied: *"I'm honoured to have been asked to join the Optimists Alumni Corps as Drum Major. I'm looking forward to a great season!"*

Heather Hyslop (Lowe) joined St. John's Girls, in September of 1972, 1st carrying a sabre on the National Colour Party, later moving to the hornline over the years playing french horn, mellophone and soprano until her age-out year, 1983.



Heather Hyslop

Heather also enjoyed the opportunity to be principal Horn in the Brantford Symphony Youth Orchestra from 1979-84 and continued with the Brantford Symphony until 1991.

About 10 yrs ago, Heather mustered the courage to audition for a show with Scarborough Music Theatre ultimately being cast in Anne of Green Gables. Her stage, not a football field, became the theatre.

When asked about the Alumni Heather replied: *"Imagine all these years later, back in uniform and marching with my former instructors, Barry, Bill Kane, & Brian Collingdon. Thank you Optimist Alumni for the warm welcome. It is good to be back in the GREEN"*.

The Legends of Drum Corps Show

Announcing Legends II

Celebrating the sounds, colour, and marching of the Golden Years of Drum Corps

Optimists Alumni
Drum & Bugle Corps

Preston Scout House
Alumni Band

United Alumni
Drum and Bugle Corps

Midlanders
Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps

Toronto Signals
Band

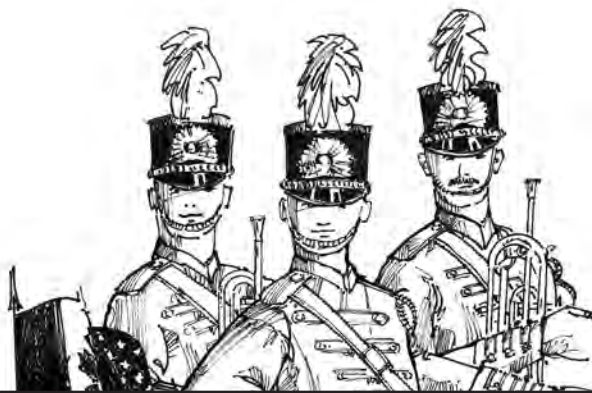
Plus, one more corps to be confirmed

Saturday August 28, 2010
Oshawa Civic Fields

99 Thornton Road S., Oshawa, Ontario L1J 5Y1

Check the Optimists Alumni website in June for complete details.

optimists-alumni.org



JUDGES CRITIQUE... You be the judge

IN OUR competitive years we relied upon our drum corps judges to determine how we might modify our program or improve our performance in search of the Championship Title. No longer do we have that reassuring vehicle.

So... we decided to revive the tradition... except our GGC JUDGE is not a real person. The opinions in his

feature are actually compiled from comments solicited (or overheard) from corps members; instructors; guests to our rehearsals; and innocent, unsuspecting attendees to our public appearances. By way of disclaimer, you can anticipate some contradictory views as people will differ in their response to our show. Do what you may with this evaluation... in effect you can judge the Judge.

Sunday, January 10 – Recap

Rehearsal Club Richelieu, Welland

The Optimists met in a barn today in some isolated farmland near Welland, Ontario. (Actually, it was the beautifully restored Grist Mill.) Outside this two storied wood structure five propane heaters stood sentry signaling plans for an outdoor rehearsal of some sort. Unfortunately the unexpected frigid weather and blustery winds rendered the heaters impotent, forcing the drum line, brass ensemble, support staff and guests to this Open House and Clinic into the protection cavernous interior of the Club.

A support staff of about 10 wives and friends graciously set out a banquet of refreshments, cookies, pastries and hot beef on a bun.

The 24 (or so) brass formed on the main floor; their sound rising up to the rafters 35 feet above and easily reverberating through every nook and cranny in this enormous enclosure. Dave MacKinnon, the brass instructor for the day, masterfully employed a superb sound system to counter the ubiquitous echoes of scraping chairs, voices, coughs, sneezes, and the incessant tapping of the drummers.

An estimated 10 side drums found some tables on a second level gallery that encircled the stage below and somehow conducted a meaningful rehearsal on drum pads. The four bass drums found refuge in some cubbyhole, adding to the cacophony and chaos that engulfed the entire venue.

The 20 or more visitors this day sat a mere 10 feet from the brass or escaped to the second-floor balcony, where they were assailed by the battery.

I elaborated (perhaps over-extensively) on the rather strange ambiance of this venue only because, if anyone revealed the plans for the day in advance, one quite conceivably would predict failure. “You’re nuts! I would have advised”. So did the plans bomb?

Quite the contrary! The hospitality, the productivity, the environment proved to be “bloody magnificent”.



Dave MacKinnon directing the hornline.

First, Dave ran the brass through a fairly elaborate vocal exercise. The quality of the singing was so good that a newcomer could easily assume that they mistakenly were attending a choir rehearsal instead of a drum and bugle corps. But once they converted to their brass instruments it was easy to see (or hear?) that these guys are dead serious about musicality.

JUDGES CRITIQUE... You be the judge (continued)

The stated objective of the 'open house' was to introduce the two new songs added to the 2010 repertoire. They first tackled OVER THE RAINBOW. In pretty quick order the tune sounded reasonably presentable. With a little more fine-tuning the attending audience was convinced that this indeed was a very good choice for the upcoming year. In fact they reward the brass line with enthusiastic applause following the final playing of the number.

Next, Dave moved to WHAT KIND OF FOOL AM I. This, by the way, is the first time in the Alumni's eight year history that the Optimists have attempted a tune outside of their past repertoire. About four minutes passed before you could feel



The drum line during ensemble at Welland.

the bold enthusiasm for this decision. The tune fits so very well into the genre of 1960's drum corps nostalgia that it is infectious. I think there is little doubt that once the brass reaches their desired performance standard, OVER THE RAINBOW and WHAT KIND OF FOOL AM I will be overwhelmingly appealing and also shatter any lingering doubts from the traditionalists.

Finally the drums joined the ensemble in their first efforts with OVER THE RAINBOW. I think most people expected a couple of cymbal rides, refined bass drum rolls, and a few taps from the battery. NOPE. Instead we were introduced to a full, daring and imaginative percussion treatment. Actually it is pretty scary. We'll have to wait for a little to see if this novelty will sell, but you've got to give the music team top grades for coming up with something so stunningly unique.

In conclusion, this first rehearsal for 2010 was a smashing success. The welcome mat was seductive; the presentation was bold and gutsy. The show designers exude confidence and the performers demonstrate a competence beyond past years.

If the Optimists told me their next Open House would be held in a remote location like the Manitoulin Islands in the height of black fly season... I'd be there. Cuz I can't believe how they make the impossible seem so very plausible

Sunday, February 21 - Recap

Rehearsal at the Legion

To the uninitiated, this rehearsal might have appeared a smorgasbord of trivial exercises, a casual work out, or just a time-filler for those few who attended. You would be wrong (as was I).

Dave MacKinnon took the brass line through its paces... touching a bit on OVER THE RAINBOW... a bit on BATTLE CRY... a bit on PATTON... even had time for O CANADA. There was no obvious musical focus although he frequently referred to (a) timing and (b) proper initiation of sound.

Then, as if it were unimportant, he announced that the minor changes made to the repertoire today meant the 2010 music program was now complete. This was the earliest date the music program had concluded in the Alumni's history. (February 21? Wow!)

Meanwhile, Jeff MacKay shuffled from one drum section to the other doing whatever drum people do? Lacking that understanding, I did, however, notice a high level of motivation. I suspected much progress was being made.

The next surprise occurred during the brass and drum ensemble as they began the tedious chore of integrating the percussion into OVER THE RAINBOW. The repetition permitted the soprano soloist to explore variations of the theme... and Gerry's solo did not disappoint. (Terrific job). About half way through the lesson both Jeff and Dave simultaneously expressed, "I think the drums are ready to go." With that said, Dave instituted a tempo change and indeed the drums were raring to unleash. It was just a modest change, but "my oh my, what a difference!" For the second rehearsal in a row I was stunned by the textural change the percussion brings to this tune. I hope this works outdoors.

Summary: Yet again this Corps seems to be surging forward at an unprecedented speed. Even though attendance was somewhat wanting, it did give the observer an opportunity to see just how much each performer contributes. I think the 2010 Corps has set the bar very high.



Bob Carell.

JUDGES CRITIQUE... You be the judge (continued)

PS: I learned a new word today in a brief interview with Dave MacKinnon... ACCOUNTABILITY! I took this to mean every performer must know their music, and the importance of that role in the overall scheme? It may have something to do with arriving to practice prepared?

Sunday, March 7 – Recap

Rehearsal at St. Michael's College School

Unexpected spring weather vaulted the Optimists into their first outdoor drill rehearsal of the season — the earliest ever in the Optimists' 52 year history. Yet another record breaker in 2010. They shared the lined field with the monstrous dome and, for a while, a team of 11 and 12 year- old boys who unobtrusively performed calisthenics in the backfield.



Toby Frachette.



Jamie Oatt directing an ensemble in parade formation.

I am sure everyone was caught off guard by the superb level of preparation by Steve Meikle (this year's drill designer and instructor). He handed out drill sheets and the corps enthusiastically launched into the 2010 field show. Kudos to every one on the field and to Laura King (the newly appointed Drum Major) for a highly productive M & M (Marching and Maneuvering) rehearsal.

Now typically the first outdoor rehearsal yields a shallow sounding corps as they struggle with the new drill, a novel venue, and as of yet un-memorized music. Although today's drill performance was far from perfect and the sound not exactly robust, the overall presentation was actually quite impressive.

In fact, while the Corps prepared for its first uninterrupted run-through of OVER THE RAINBOW, those youthful backfield athletes coincidentally began their trek to the comfort of the school's locker room. When 'boys of

St Michael's' reached the top bleacher level, they unexpectedly paused to watch the Corps' opening number. Then suddenly they broke into spontaneous applause before trotting off to their intended destination. I believe their reaction was genuine, well-earned, and a precursor of the great accolades to follow as the season progresses.

Additionally, the outdoor contribution from the drum line put to rest any earlier concerns one might have had. The accompaniment for OVER THE RAINBOW is beautifully structured, especially the underlying bass drum vamp – a part, in my estimation, as vital as the soprano soloist. The overall production of OVER THE RAINBOW is inspiring, imaginative, and magnificent – an unbelievable adaptation of a popular ballad to the drum corps medium. As the Corps continued into Lawrence of Arabia and El Cid it became apparent that this field opener is a seller: lots of drama, theatre, suspense and surprise.

The last word...

In summary: this winter's program has witnessed unparalleled results

- The show design promises an entertaining field presentation beyond expectations.
- The brass line is already performing at the highest level of musicality since the 2002 founding of the Alumni.
- The percussion ensemble, though small in numbers, is exhibiting the long awaited stability and reliability the Optimists were known for.
- The instruction is superlative and the members have demonstrated the potential for matching the confidence and competence of the instructors.

Congratulations to all for an outstanding beginning to the 2010 season. We wish you continued success.

ROCK ORCHESTRA PIONEERS MARK THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

By Brian Towie, Metro Canada

THIS ONE TIME, at band camp, Skip Prokop decided to change rock 'n' roll forever.

But first thing's first. Prokop's Canadian orchestral rock outfit will hit Toronto to celebrate the release of *Lighthouse: 40 Years of Sunny Days*, a collection of 16 remastered classics, including their go-to singles *Sunny Days* and *One Fine Morning*, liner notes documenting the band's history by Grammy Award winner and York University music professor Rob Bowman and a live performance DVD of the same tracks recorded at Q Music Studios mixed in 5.1 Dolby Digital surround sound. "You'll think you're sitting in the middle of my drum set," adds Prokop.



Lighthouse's blend of jazz, rock and pop gave it a stranglehold on Canadian airwaves throughout the early 1970s, made it the country's first ever group to go platinum, packed such venues as Carnegie Hall and the Fillmore East and West and boasts such alums as film and television score composers Paul Hoffert and Howard Shore (the latter noted for *Lord Of The Rings* and *Silence Of The Lambs*).

But Prokop says his earlier days in the Toronto Optimists Drum and Bugle Corps – a lesser-known activity involving intense field marching and playing sweeping brass-led symphonies while on the move – planted the seed of his brainchild that would ultimately prove to be miles ahead of its time, providing a blueprint for such bands as *Electric Light Orchestra*, *Chicago* and *Blood, Sweat & Tears*.

"You think about the power in a drum corps of about 60 or so horns," Prokop says. "And you go, 'Wouldn't it be great if you put a band together that had a rock nucleus, a string quartet and a brass quartet?' And then you could basically cover any kind of music you wanted to cover."

You could also go out on stage and perform what

you perform on a record, so people wouldn't come and say, 'Where's all that stuff that I love?' It was right there. That became the word-of-mouth appeal with *Lighthouse*. People had never seen a rock orchestra. We had to invent it."

For the complete article:

www.metronews.ca/toronto/entertainment/article/449525--rock-orchestra-pioneers-mark-their-40th-anniversary

OOOOOPS!

At a recent drill practice at St. Mike's, Ron Chong (left) confers with Phil Hennings (middle) and Ric Shearer (right).



Phil, check the bottom of your shoe. I think that's doggy do, **not** brown marker tape!

OOOOOPS!

Lorne Ferrazzutti asks the question... again...



Has anybody seen my other drumstick?

DREAM

January 10th, 2010: The day following our first website publication of GGCC Barry Bell received the following communication from Richard Boehnke. Richard served in various capacities with the Optimists Organization since the early 60's. Did you feel a chill this morning?... was Richard's recollection of a dream inspired by his first reading of GGCC.



Richard Boehnke, 1963

Barry passed the story around to the immense pleasure of a number of people. We were so moved that we thought we would share Richard's dream with you in the hope this may evoke similar flashbacks of your memories of our Corps.

Did you feel a chill this morning?

It was freezing when I stopped at the old **Commissioner Street incinerator** and went wandering across **McLeary Park*** crunching hard snow and a flood of memories. You kept coming past me... Mark Wicken; Barry Bell; Don Daber; Ivor Bramley; Ron Prokop; Al Pezniack; Lorne Ferrazzutti; Ron Kaiser; Ross Colville; Joe Palanica; Al Lavigne; Bill Thorn; Glenn Copp; Joe Gianna; Al Miller; Paul Thompson and his dad Bernie; Glen Durish; the Bedfords; my brother, Hans, and so many others came back a half-century. For some magical seconds on the frozen sod it was 1962 once more. In dreams such things are easy!

Crossing the border – everyone born in Toronto; the three white Plymouth station wagons from Avis; playing through a cold sore; watching the drummers with their incredible patience; colour guard rifles spinning in the air; Phil Hennings rushing about on a Schenectady or Batavia afternoon looking for a practice field; trying to sleep in the YMCA camp outside **Pittsburgh** and “rowing” one of their street car stops... all of it was happening again!

Doug McPhail was there, getting advice from Granny Corbett – our greatest fan... I could hear the wind carrying the music when the horns changed direction – especially from a distance... the strange little 2nd floor Keele Street office just north of Dundas Street Don rented. I remembered having to ask McNab for his Corps jacket for some reason, and how unpleasant that duty was... all straightened out later.

I was introduced to the ‘shandy’ by Barry and Lorne because I hated beer... and I remember the thin improvement it offered – I still hate beer – but they tried.

Helen met the Corps at McLeary Park. After two practices hanging about with the other girl friends, she was telling me of the incredibly active social life within the Corps. I never had any inkling of it. “Don’t you remember?” Guess not ‘cause I never knew we had a social undercurrent until I met Helen – how stupid and disconnected of me!

Al Baggs also showed up... a fine man and a great example to everyone. A scowl from him was all that was necessary – such was the respect for Al.

Rome, New York... it came back... those memories blossomed large. With our win over Blessed Sacrament we all recognized that the joy was not in ‘beating’ them (luck is always good to have), but simply to being spoken of in the same breath – the Golden Knights; the Chicago Cavaliers; Holy Name’s Garfield Cadets... maybe we finally belonged and it was wonderful.

The last chords of *Ave Maria* settle on the bright green uniforms in Kitchener’s **Mount Hope Cemetery**. Hopefully it’s still OK for old men to cry as Hans and I again watch you carry our mother, Magdalena, from her funeral Mass to her rest. After all, she made it happen for Hans and me. The heat she took at home allowed both of us to be gone weekends... weekends, just when our father needed us in the business. We knew she appreciated her honour guard as much as we did.

Yes, a whole crowd of you were with me at **Commissioner Street**... we never called it McLeary Park... and it was still cold as a bastard. As I headed across Bouchette Street for home Barry pulled his *Daimler* out while Ivor fired up the white *Rover* - his *Renault Dauphin* was laid up. Luckily my *Mini Cooper* was ahead of him so I was able to get away first – and you all faded away again... but I was much warmer now and I thanked you all for coming out in the cold morning air!

* *McLeary Park is better known to Optimists as Keating Park.*



L to R. Richard, Phil Hennings and Hans Boehnke at the Optimists 50th Anniversary Reunion, 2008.

EASTERN DRUM PAGENT: Rome, NY, 1962

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Toronto Optimists | 86.200 |
| 2 | Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights | 84.450 |
| 3 | St. Catherine’s Queensmen | 82.200 |
| 4 | Magnificent Yankees | 76.550 |
| 5 | St. John’s Girls | 60.350 |
| 6 | Appalachian Grenadiers | 57.100 |

Source: www.corpsreps.com/scores

HAWTHORNE CABALLEROS ALUMNI DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

WHAT MAKES THE CORPS THE SUCCESS IT HAS LONG SINCE BECOME?

By Peter Bishop, Director, Hawthorne Caballeros

ON OCCASION, as the director of the Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps, I am asked what makes the corps the success it has long since become. That is a difficult question to answer because there are so many reasons. We started out very humbly in 1994 with 18 horns, a small percussion section and almost no guard – but they were all former Caballeros. Contrary to what you might think, we were not a welcome addition to the



Hawthorne Caballeros having a photo taken at The DCI Alumni Spectacular in Rochester, 2008.

Hawthorne organization for several reasons, the most notable of which was the fear that we might negatively affect the competing corps. Given the choice, there was concern that their members might opt to march with us because of our less demanding schedule and practice sessions. I think there was also some concern that this upstart alumni corps might prove to be an embarrassment – a reasonable concern at the time. We persisted, however, and improved, and little by little, gained acceptance.

Going back to the late 1950s, The Hawthorne Caballeros had established themselves as the premier senior corps in North America, and members of many other corps in the US and Canada dreamed of some day marching with “Hawthorne,” as the corps was popularly known. They wanted to wear the uniform, play the music, and enjoy the prestige of being a

member of the most famous senior corps of all time. Unfortunately, very few were able to realize that dream. Just as had most DCA corps, by the late ‘80s and early ‘90s, the Caballeros competition corps had become a hi-tech unit— bigger and better to be sure, but not necessarily the “Hawthorne” that many so fondly remembered.

By the end of the 1999 season, the original membership roster of the Alumni corps was beginning to dwindle and it became obvious that if we wanted to stay in business we would need to open the ranks to non-former members. As it turned out, this proved to be the best move we ever made. Looking and sounding very close to the popular corps of the 1970s and ‘80s, by early 2000, the Alumni Corps suddenly became a viable option for people wishing to fulfill that life-long dream of marching with Hawthorne. New members came from all over the US and Canada. Currently we have people from 15 states, as well as Ontario and Quebec, and they are the most enthusiastic, reliable and committed members we have. They expend the most travel time, effort and money, but after just one season with us, they all are considered Caballeros. No division exists based on former membership.

Many factors combine to make the Caballeros Alumni Corps a success. One of the most important is the music of Larry Kerchner. Larry wrote all the arrangements during the decade of the ‘70s, garnering 5 DCA Championship titles in 7 years. Another is drum major Jim Russo, who presided over the competing corps in all of their 9 DCA Championship seasons. Jim has been DM of the Alumni Corps since 2004.

One of the most important components, however, is the so-called “family” element that is pervasive throughout the corps. Like any group of 150 human

beings, we don’t all love each other, but we do care about people, and this care is evident when any member is in need, whatever that need might be. In addition, we share a mutual respect with the competition corps and support them financially whenever we can. If you have ever attended the Sunday morning DCA Alumni Spectacular at the finals in early September, you have heard a sizable cheering section comprised of members of the competing corps who take a timeout from their own practice session to be with us.

Whatever the reasons for the success of the corps, we never rest on our laurels, but continue to strive in an effort to excel beyond each previous season. We expect to field an enjoyable unit for our members and an entertaining corps for our fans for many years to come.

PETER BISHOP – BIO



Peter Bishop, Director,
Hawthorne Cabaleros

PETER BISHOP'S DRUM CORPS "career" started in 1954 at age 16, playing baritone in a VFW parade corps in his hometown of Cortland, NY. In 1959, after a stint in the army, he joined the recently formed Matadors: a small M&M corps in Cortland. In 1962, he entered Rochester Institute of Technology as an art and design student. While there, he played

contra with the Irondequoit (Rochester) Crusaders through 1964. After graduation from RIT in 1966, Bishop marched with the Syracuse Brigadiers through 1969.

In early 1970, he moved his young family to southern New York State and immediately joined the Hawthorne Caballeros, where he played contra from 1970 through 1977. In 1993, Bishop was one of the founders of the Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps, and played soprano until 1998, when he was appointed director of the corps.

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT



Brian "Everything's going to be just fine" Byrne.

This on-going saga explores the overwhelming demands placed upon the driver of the Corps support van – *spine-tingling adventures unfold.*

In the last issue we asked:

Does running out of gas during a parade build character?

"Oh yes. In ways you can't imagine".

Would you elaborate? "No".

Well... tell us about some of the things you do before you start the engine.

"I try to familiarize myself with the controls about half an hour before the start of a parade. However, on a couple of occasions, with no time to spare, I've had to jump in and experiment with all the knobs, buttons, and levers plus the audio commands... while on the move.

One eye on the road, one eye on the controls and one eye on the corps. It's not as easy as it looks".

"Did you know the ear-shattering, gut-wrenching anti-theft siren and horn can be activated from inside the vehicle just by rolling up the window and closing the door the wrong way. I didn't know that... NOW I do".

"Would you write down your next question, I'm having trouble hearing".

Roadside Assistance is here... again!

WE REMEMBER...

We sadly announce the passing of former Optimists member Dave Parker (1944 – 2010) who served the Toronto Optimists Drum Corps during the 1972 and 1973 seasons as field design consultant & M&M caption head.

Dave came to the Optimists with high credentials.... first as famed drill instructor for the De La Salle National

Championship Corps of 1969 and 1970... and second as recently nominated (1971) Chief M&M Judge for the CJA (Canadian Judges Association).

In a bold move (for the times) Paul Thompson (1972 Show Coordinator) appealed to Dave to join the Optimists. He abdicated his role as Judge in the hopes of raising the calibre of yet another Canadian Corps. Indeed, with Dave's help, we did regain the National Title in 1972.

Paul fondly remembers him as "audacious inspirational, innovative, and unbelievably energetic, exuding an infectious yet crusty charisma". Dave returned to the judging in 1974 where he remained highly influential for another two decades. When they last met in 1989, Paul was struck by the

fact that Dave was very much the same as he was in the 70's displaying the same generous spirit; radiating immense passion for drum corps; inspiring hope for all young performers and educators of the day and was as magnetic and compelling as the first time we met.

In tribute to Dave Parker, Paul simply said; "He may have been with us for only two years, but Dave remained an eternal Optimist till the very end. Thanks DAVE!" We extend our sympathy's to Dave's wife, Marg, and his family.

Late News Bulletin – Optimists web.site posting on April 7, 2010 – News of Interest to Corps Members

Just hours before our press deadline we sadly learned that Bob Cook (1941-2010) passed away. Bob and his brother Ron (pre-deceased) go back to the Davenport Boy Scout band, Opti-Corps and the Toronto Optimists where Bob marched as Guard Captain in 1961. We promise a full and deserving tribute to Bob in GGCC's July publication. Our condolences to his wife Margaret and family.

SIGNATURE SONG SERIES

IF IT AIN'T GOT THAT SWING (Part one) *Essaying the Big Band Concert*

Glenn Miller, artistically, epitomizes an overnight “rags to riches” story. In 1937, following the break up of his less than distinguished first band, a dejected Glenn Miller sought advice from Benny Goodman. “How do you make it?” he asked. Benny simply replied, “I don’t know Glenn. You just stay with it.”



Glenn Miller

Undeterred, Glenn engaged in studies with Joseph Schillinger, under whose tutelage he composed what became his signature theme **MOONLIGHT SERENADE**. To achieve a unique sound Miller decided to make the clarinet play a melodic line with a tenor saxophone holding the same note, while three other saxophones harmonized within a single octave.



Joseph Schillinger

A more romantic legend tells of an accidental discovery of the hallmark Miller sound. Apparently while on tour (in Chicago, as I recall) the trumpet section indulged in some unsavoury (well illegal) stimulant usage and Glenn sent them packing. When the local brass stand-ins proved unequal to the task of interpreting the melodic line to Glenn’s satisfaction, he



Dave MacKinnon rehearsing “Big Band Medley” at The Legion.

reassigned the melody to his more seasoned woodwind section while relegating the rookie trumpeters to the background utilizing a muted, syncopated rhythm. And behold... the ‘Miller sound’. True? I doubt it. But sometimes Hollywood myth sells better than truth.

Glenn dispassionately described his success in a 1939 interview simply by declaring: “The fifth sax, playing clarinet most of the time, let’s you know whose band you’re listening to. And that’s about all there is to it.” And boy did they listen... then and now! In 2004, Gary Giddens for the New Yorker wrote: “Miller exuded little warmth on and off the bandstand, but once the band struck up its theme,

audiences were done for: throats clutched, eyes softened. Can any other record match **MOONLIGHT SERENADE** for its ability to induce Pavlovian slaver in so many for so long?”

In any event, Glenn Miller and his band soared to the summit of popular music by 1940 and **TUXEDO JUNCTION** was heard on juke boxes all over North America. There are others who attribute Miller’s sonic distinction to many of his chosers of exceptional performers (like saxophonists/clarinetists Wilbur Schwartz, “whose tone and way of playing provided a fullness and richness so distinctive his contribution remains unmatched by later Miller imitators”). Indeed Miller was very generous with his fellow entertainers. He encouraged innovation by adopting original arrangements by his bandmen into the Glenn Miller repertoire, and afforded them due credit. For example, **TUXEDO JUNCTION** is actually the creation of Erskine Hawkins, William Johnson, Julian Dash with words by Buddy Feyne. In fact, Gene Krupa acknowledges Miller as one of his earliest and most influential mentors as you will see in later Signature Series.



Gene Krupa

Not all of his elite counterparts thought so highly of Miller’s mercurial rise to fame. Artie Shaw, well known for his cantankerous personality, disparaged Miller after his death: “All I can say is that Glenn should have lived and **CHATTANOOGA CHOO CHOO** should have died.” General Jimmy Doolittle was far more respectful in his tribute to Miller’s military career in saying “next to a letter from home, that organization was the greatest morale builder in the European Theater of Operations.”

SUMMARY

Once again, the question arises as to how the Optimists Alumni Corps can best succeed when adapting such signature songs like **MOONLIGHT SERENADE** and **TUXEDO JUNCTION** into our repertoire. Is it possible to incorporate saxophones and clarinets into our Drum Corps? I think not. The onus really falls on mellophones to emulate that Miller sound... so I guess you better sharpen those reeds?

But there is something else that all brass and percussion must consider... and that is musical interpretation. You’ve got to believe in ‘persuasive expression’. You’ve got to incite those ‘warm, fuzzy feelings’ inside our listeners. You’ve got to accept that ‘it isn’t the song that creates the magic ... it’s the songsters’.



Duke Ellington

Duke Ellington, jazz royalist supreme, most eloquently described the essential criteria for success was when he wrote: ***It Don’t Mean a Thing, If it Ain’t Got That Swing.***

It's great to a member of the Optimists Alumni Corps

John Shearer

What instrument do you play?
The alto soprano.



Why did you join the Corps?

I marched in the Toronto Optimist Drum Corps from 1961 to 1965. I hadn't seen many of my friends from the corps in over forty years and when I heard the Alumni Corps was forming with a lot these old friends, I decided to join. I enjoy the camaraderie and I've made a lot of new friends since I joined.

What about instruction?

We have professional instructors, so I've improved my music ability, taking full advantage of the instruction.

Is the marching difficult?

No, nothing fancy. The practices and the parades really help me keep in shape.

You're having fun.

I've been in the Corps since it's inception and I'm enjoying every minute.

Karen Bosworth

What instrument do you play?
The rudimental bass drum



Why did you join the Corps?

I'm a former member of the Seneca Optimists Drum Corps. I was in the Guard. I wanted to get back into drum corps. I've learned to play drums, which I never thought I could. I'm now playing rudimental bass drum. Our instructors are great.

Is this something you would recommend to your friends?

If you've ever marched in drum corps I strongly urge you to come out to one of our practices and see what we're all about. We have the best drum corps going and have a wonderful time together.

Is there much travel?

We travel in Ontario and the United States.

Are you nervous in front of a crowd?

No. It's great to be on the field, marching again, especially being able to perform at a DCI showin. I enjoy being on the field in front of a crowd – it brings back memories of the good old days. It makes you feel young being in drum corps.

DO YOU KNOW?

IN EACH ISSUE there will be three questions related to Drum Corp, past and present. The winner will be selected randomly from entries having the three correct answers and will receive the Optimists Anniversary Plaque showing photos from 1955 to 1978. The answers will appear in the next issue.

Thank you to all those who sent in their answers, however no one had all three correct.

JANUARY'S ANSWERS

1. What was the informal name of this Corps hat?
There are a number of names, however the one we were looking for is "The Wedgie".
2. What Corps won the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) and the AL (American Legion) championships in 1954?
The Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights.
3. How do you distinguish between the 1976 and 1977 Seneca Optimists?
The horn line wore black shoes in 1976, the flags changed and a paint stripe was removed from the timpani drums.



APRIL'S QUESTIONS

1. Who was the first contra bass player in Canadian drum corps?
2. As the crow flies, what was the furthest destination from Toronto made by the Seneca Optimists?
3. Who designed the Whaley Royce "Imperial" bugle?

Please send your answers by **Friday, May 31, 2010** to:
David Johns, openrd2002@yahoo.ca

GGCC

Editor: Rick Robida

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Staff: Gordon Brown, Brian Byrne, Bob Carell, Margaret Gianna and David Johns.

Consultant: Don Daber

CORRECTIONS: We tried to get everything right. If not, please let us know: rick-robida@livemail.com

A special thank you to all those who send photographs to the Optimists Alumni. Your initiative is appreciated.

VISITOR'S GALLERY

WELCOME to our Visitors' Gallery. Each issue of GGCC we will publish excerpts from publications relating to the Optimists (and/or the drum corps movement) as well as Letters to the Editor. We encourage are readers to forward you input. We look forward to your response in future publications and extend thanks for the kind words from the following:

From: Richard Boehnke, Etobicoke
Tuesday, January 19, 2010,

Hi Paul, Greet Don there for me... In GCC, for the next printing, see if you can insert St. Mary's Boys Band, which subsequently became St. Mary's Drum Corps in a modernization effort. Vince Macciocchi, who very active in judging circles, and a close friend of Barry Bell and John Feeney headed the Corps to around 1962.

My brother Hans and I were members of St. Mary's for several years prior to joining Toronto Optimists. In the picture to your left that just may be Joe Palanica seated at the front.



St. Mary's Drum Corps in concert, circa, late 1950s. Jim Bedford, Drum Major.

From: Mark Lewis
Tuesday, January 19, 2010

There certainly was a lot of content. A lot more "mature" than the old days (I don't know if that's entirely a good thing – as it was missing the "fun" aspect of the publication). As a member of Golden Lions, I could always find someone who had a copy of "GCC". I appreciate the nod to Seneca Optimists (of which I proudly marched 2 years).

From: Dave Kirton, Thailand
Wednesday, January 20, 2010

I spent 3-4 years as a playing member in the corps (1st Soprano and Mellophone). I have just finished reading the first issue of GGCC. EXCELLENT! EXCELLENT! EXCELLENT!!! I was most appreciative and impressed with Dave McKinnon's instruction style whenever he was with the Alumni Corps... I had no idea that he had such an extensive list of outstanding credentials. I never knew that "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" had such a storied past! (Thanks Paul). GGCC made for some absorbing reading .You can be sure

that I'll be looking forward with anticipation to the next issue! Proud to be "green".

PS: Hope to see all of you when I visit Canada this year.

Article appeared in: thenewsd Dispatch.com
Michigan City, Indiana. Published: Sunday, January 31, 2010

50th Pageant of Drums is set for July 3
MICHIGAN CITY – Tickets are on sale for the 50th Pageant of Drums Drum & Bugle Corps Show; co-sponsored by Michigan City Summer Festival and the Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps... 7 p.m. Saturday, July 3 featuring nine competition and two exhibitions corps who have a combined 18 world championships and 43 national championships.

Appearing with "A Look Back Through the Years" will be the 11-time Canadian National Champion Toronto Optimists Alumni From Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and the Classic Cavaliers from Rosemont, Ill.

Competing are: Champion Cavaliers, Rosemont, Ill.; The Cadets, Allentown, Pa.; Madison Scouts, Wisconsin.; Glassmen, Toledo, Ohio; Colts, Dubuque, Iowa; Teal Sound, Jacksonville, Fla.; Legends, Kalamazoo, Mich.; Colt Cadets, Dubuque, Iowa; and Blue Saints, Sudbury, Ontario.

The last time the Seneca Optimists were in Michigan City was in 1976.

PAGENT OF DRUMS: **Michigan City, Indiana, July 10, 1976**

| | | |
|---|------------------|-------|
| 1 | Phantom Regiment | 78.15 |
| 2 | 27th Lancers | 76.35 |
| 3 | Seneca Optimists | 71.85 |
| 4 | Cavaliers | 70.80 |
| 5 | Blue Stars | 66.7 |
| 6 | Royal Crusaders | 66.0 |
| 7 | Kilties | 56.6 |

Source: Seneca Optimists yearbook, 1976

For the complete article:
thenewsd Dispatch.com/articles/2010/01/31/news/local/doc4b64e09305ac6305916335.txt

From: Phil McArthur, Gurgaon, Haryana, India
Saturday, February 6, 2010

Thanks for the copy of GGCC... was a pleasure to read. Please pass along my congrats to the editorial team for such a newsy issue and a pleasant format. Best of luck for 2010!

2010 OPTIMISTS ALUMNI SCHEDULE - UPDATE

The Management Committee and the Show Committee will be finalizing the rehearsals including one weekend off per month, the full list will be posted to the website before the end of April.

| | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Saturday | May 8 | Performance | Confirmed | And The Bands Played On | Simcoe, Ont. |
| Monday | May 24 | Parade and performance | Confirmed | Victoria Day | Woodstock, Ont. |
| Saturday | June 5 | Parade | Confirmed | Opening of the Locks | Bobcaygeon, Ont. |
| Sunday | June 13 | Parade | <i>Tentative</i> | Rose Festival Parade | Welland, Ont. |
| Thursday | July 1 | Parade | Confirmed | Canada Day | Cambridge, Ont. |
| Saturday | July 3 | Parade and performance | Confirmed | Exhibition performance at Cavaliers DCI Show | Michigan City, Indiana |
| Sunday | July 4 | 2 parades while returning to Toronto | <i>Tentative</i> | | Locations to be determined |
| Saturday | July 24 | Performance | Confirmed | Dutchboy Show | Waterloo, Ont. |
| Sunday | August 8 | Performance | <i>Tentative</i> | Drums Along The Waterfront DCI Show | Buffalo, NY |
| Saturday | August 21 | Parade | Confirmed | Toronto Warriors Day | Toronto, Ont. |
| Saturday | August 21 | Performance | Confirmed | Scout House Show | Galt, Ont. |
| Saturday | August 28 | Performance | Confirmed | Optimists Legends Show | Oshawa, Ont. |
| Sunday | September 5 | Performance | Confirmed | DCA Alumni Spectacular | Rochester, NY. |
| Saturday | October 23 | Performance | <i>Tentative</i> | Midlanders Show | London, Ont. |

2010 REPERTOIRE

The Optimists Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps 2010 Production features a blend of old and new titled simply...

SOMETHING OLD – SOMETHING NEW Somewhere Over the Rainbow: ‘Over The Rainbow’ (often referred to as ‘Somewhere



Over The Rainbow’) is a classic ballad with music by Harold Arlen and lyrics by E. Y. Harburg. This beloved Judy Garland tribute was first played by the Optimists in 1975 with an added Dave MacKinnon update for 2010.

EL CID AND LAWRENCE OF ARABIA MEDLEY: A reprise of the classic Optimists Off the Line from 1963.

BIG BAND CONCERT MEDLEY: The big band sound of the 1971 and 1972 Optimists originally arranged by Larry Kerchner with updates by Paul Thompson and a Dave MacKinnon “twist” for 2010.

BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM AND PATTON: A reprise of this rousing Colour Guard Presentation from the Optimists of the 1960s and 1970s.

WHAT KIND OF FOOL AM I?: A brand new tune arranged for the Optimists by Dave MacKinnon.

Let's hear from you...

GGCC is published four times a year. Contributor deadline for next issue is **Friday, June 4, 2010.**

Please submit your material to Paul Thompson at: sharevillegta@hotmail.com in one of the following formats:

E-MAIL. A Microsoft Word document, saved as “Rich Text Format” or “text only”.

Or **MAIL** to Paul Thomson, c/o 306 - 205 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario M6P 2K1.

PHOTOS should be sent to: Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com

If your photos were taken using a digital camera, please save the photos to your hard drive then email the unedited photos.

If you have prints, there are two options. Scan the prints at 600 dpi (dots per inch) then email the unedited images, or mail the prints to Bob Carell. He will scan the photos and return the originals to you. If you wish to do this, please email Bob at: Toronto_Optimist@rogers.com.

NOTE: GGCC may need to edit your stories for space allowances. We will make every effort to retain the spirit and intent of your submission.