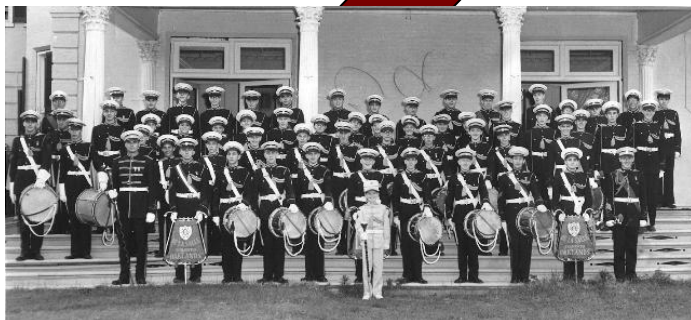




# DE LA SALLE IN TRANSITION 1955 - 1960

## FROM MARCHING BAND TO MODERN DRUM CORPS

### TRIBUTES AND ROLL CALL



# De La Salle Drum Corps – Transition 1955 – 1960

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## De La Salle Drum Corps – Transition 1955 – 1960

**CONTRIBUTORS – IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER:**

Name	Rank - Roles	Years	
		Blue & Gold	Drum Corps
Ken Burns	Recruit Instructor - Soprano Bugler	1953 -1957	1958
Cos Capone	Sergeant-Major, Drums, Composer - Arranger	1948 - 1957	1958 - 1964
Brian Coleman	Corporal - Soprano Bugler, Soloist	1953 - 1957	1958 - 1959
Gerry Feraday	Corporal - Soprano Bugler, Soloist	1952-1957	1958 - 1960
Terry Marren	Lance Corporal - Tenor Drummer	1952-1957	1958 - 1959
* Dan Moloney	Baritone Bugler	1956 - 1957	1958 - 1963
* Werner Nuss	Sergeant - Baritone Bugles - Music Director	1950 - 1957	1958 - 1966
Ernie Wesson	Bugle Major, Music Director, Soloist	1947 - 1957	1958

\* - Deceased

## De La Salle Drum Corps – Transition 1955 – 1960

### TRIBUTES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Many individuals contributed to the transformation of the Band into a Drum Corps. As agreed at the outset of this effort our group of “historians” did not intend or wish that this document would be a monument to any group or individual. Too many others contributed to the transition; it would simply be dishonest and contrary to the spirit of Del to highlight the contributions of the few, or of those of us still around to tell the story. The Band could never have become a Drum Corps, nor could this history have been assembled without the contributions of those living and those no longer with us. We give tribute to those gone before us, and we acknowledge the few that helped put this history together. Also, we acknowledge all those not directly mentioned here for their contributions during the years of transition that made it possible for De La Salle to continue its traditions of excellence.

### TRIBUTES

Each of us that experienced the transformation on a day-to-day basis feels a deep need to pay tribute to those who are no longer with us, and whose memories remain dear. Due solely to the availability of information and photos tributes vary in length. The following are given in alphabetical order.

#### **Mike Delaney (ca 1936 – ca 2000)**

As described earlier Mike joined De La Salle around the end of 1958. He gave the corps leadership in the critical area of marching and maneuvering (M&M). At present we lack details of his years with Del but know only that around the year 2000 he died suddenly of heart failure while on a business flight for Disney – the company he worked for. At the time of this writing we are still attempting to locate Mike’s surviving family members for details.

#### **Paul Frasca (ca 1942 – Dec. 6, 2011)**

Paul played French Horn and was a member of the transition corps. The following obituary appeared in the Toronto Star.

FRASCA, Paul Russell - Passed away peacefully and courageously with family at his side at the Dorothy Ley Hospice on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at the age of 69 after a six year battle with cancer. Predeceased by his parents Mamie and James and brother Anthony (Nino). He will be lovingly remembered by the many cousins of the Barreca and Frost families, an extraordinary number of close friends, teacher colleagues and students. Paul's legacy as a retired teacher will be his students whom he taught and guided by his example of strong faith and dedication to learning. A Memorial Mass will be held at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 3055 Bloor St. W., Toronto (west of Royal York Rd.) on Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Paul's memory to the Dorothy Ley Hospice would be appreciated.

#### **Brother Hilary (1916 – 2006)**



Brother Hilary had a long career with the Christian Brothers that started in Toronto in 1931 and spanned 70 years. After teaching assignments in Montreal, Quebec City and Silery, Quebec he joined the staff at De La Salle Oaklands in 1950 and remained until 1965. Shortly after his arrival at Del, Brother took over as Moderator of the Band. Highlights of his time with the Band include the very successful trips to Montreal in 1954 and to Waterloo in 1955. It was also during his watch that the transition to Drum Corps started and made significant progress. After eight years he passed the Moderator’s duties to Brother Eugene.

Brother Hilary was also very active in the management and operation of the De La Salle Camp at Jackson’s Point on Lake Simcoe. Always caring he arranged for at least two Band members to attend the camp as “working campers” that did not have to pay fees. Band instruments, teaching charts and uniforms were well looked after, as were the logistics of getting the Band to and from engagements. He was fair and fastidious in whatever he did and was well liked and regarded. Brother was just a month short of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday when he died at La Salle Manor in Scarborough, August 20, 2006.

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### Norm Hutchinson (ca 1930 – ca 2003)



Norm joined the Band in 1943 and received successive promotions, becoming lead snare drummer in 1951. In 1952 following Warren Leonard's resignation he stepped out of the ranks and took on the responsibilities and work of Drum Major and Band Master, posts that he would hold until the end of the Blue and Gold in late 1957. During his tenure Norm continued the high quality and traditions laid down by John Jackson. Under Norm's leadership we were always as proud as ever of the Band and its "greatness". At ceremonies marking the change of command, Brother Hilary, speaking on behalf of the Brothers, the Bandsmen, and the whole school found it difficult to express adequately the admiration and gratitude all felt for Norm's devoted work.

### John Kidner, (ca 1938 - September 5, 2006)



John originally played soprano when he joined the Blue and Gold in 1952. In 1956 he teamed with Ernie Wesson and Jim Nantais to pioneer the French Horn section. John was the Bugle Sergeant of that section and continued with the Drum Corps into the Silver Shirts seasons of 1958 -9.

The following is taken from the obituary that appeared in the Toronto Star.

"John Kidner passed away after a courageous battle with cancer ...on Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in his 68<sup>th</sup> year. Devoted husband to Susanne (nee Foster), loving father to Paul (Natalia) Kidner, Jane Kidner, and Andrea (Paul) Kwasnik; wonderful grandfather to Bridget, Ben Reid and Davis; and loyal friend to many. John's thirst for knowledge, love of music, appreciation for a good book, and above all his devotion to family and friends were his hallmarks. John was a top student at De La Salle, Oaklands in the 1950s where he played the French Horn Bugle in the Drum and Bugle Corps. It was during high school that he met and fell in love with Susanne, the love of his life. Following his articles with Thorne Mulholland, he became a chartered accountant and spent 20 years in successful practice before deciding to leave the corporate world to turn his hobby in astronomy into a full-time career. For the past 25 years John and Susanne have operated their business, Perceptor, with great integrity, honesty and passion, attracting loyal customers from across Canada. John's charm, warmth and great enthusiasm for life will be missed beyond words by all who knew him and loved him."

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### Dan Moloney, December 9, 2010



The following tribute to Dan appears on the Toronto Optimist Alumni website. "Dan was well known amongst many in the Drum Corps fraternity. He was a member of the Blue and Gold at Del during the late 50's and the Del Drum Corps up until 1963. Recently Dan marched with the Bridgemen at the DCA in Rochester and was a member of the Bridgemen Alumni for many years. He was also a member of Preston Scout House, the DOCA ensemble, Toronto Signals and the DCAT Chorus, as well as a past member of Canada's Marching Ambassadors. He is survived by his wife Mary his children and grandchildren.

Dan was a great guy to know and well respected by his peers, he was a dedicated and committed member in the organizations in which he took pleasure. Dan was integral and vital to both the Del - Oakland Crusader Alumni Assoc and the Stage Band (now Brass Ensemble). He will be sadly missed by all."

### Werner Nuss (ca 1936 - March 1, 2011)



The following obituary notice appears in the News section on the Toronto Optimist Alumni website.

**NUSS, Werner Francis** - Passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at his home. Passionate about science, history, literature and especially his family. Proud former member of De La Salle Drum Corps. He was a Professional Engineer, graduating from the University of Toronto, and later achieved his BA of Philosophy. Lover of computers, gadgets, photography and corny jokes. Beloved husband of Marie McBride. Loving father of Catherine, Jeannine (Thomas), Stephanie (Darryl), and Margaret (Steve). Devoted grandpa to Kayla, Evan, Mackenzie and Julian. Missed by cousins Barbara and Kathy, family in Germany and New York and his many

friends. Friends may call at the Turner & Porter 'Peel' Chapel, 2180 Hurontario St., Mississauga (Hwy. 10, N. of QEW) on Thursday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011 at St. Dominic's Church, 625 Atwater Ave., Mississauga at 10:30 a.m. Interment Assumption Cemetery.

Those of us that worked with Werner during his years with Del remember his dedication, and in particular his joy. He loved music and the Drum Corps and could find humor in just about any situation. We miss him.

### Bill Parker (ca 1931 - January 25, 2008)



In late 1957 Bill was just 26 when he took over Band Master responsibilities from Norm Hutchinson. However, that is not to say that Bill was a novice. Far from it, he was a Bugle Sergeant at Del when he graduated in 1951 and had received his 5-year medal. Following that Bill continued his Band activities with the famed championship Band of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Divisional Signals Regiment (2<sup>nd</sup> Sigs). In his 6 years with "Sigs" Bill rose again to the rank of Sergeant, and by the time he re-joined De La Salle in late 1957, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sigs had already established its name in the competitive Drum Corps world as Canada's Marching Ambassadors. As a result, Del acquired the experienced leadership and vision essential to its transition from street parade Band to competitive Drum Corps.

As Dan Moloney's write-up states Bill remained with Del until the late 60's, and even returned later to guide another transition. And, later still Bill served the Drum Corps community as Deputy Chief Judge. Born around 1931, Bill was about 76 years of age when he died January 25, 2008.

## De La Salle Drum Corps – Transition 1955 – 1960

### ROLL CALL

The following are the names of Band / Corps members of the wider transition era, some from as early as 1954. Many are from the Blue and Gold days, and others – as listed by Cos Capone on his DVD and marked with \*are names of members of the 1958 Drum Corps.

Jack	Ardis	Snare
*Gary	Armstrong	Soprano
*Arthur	Ayley	Soprano
*Joe	Banel	Snare / Tenor
*Len	Barreca	Baritone
*John (JC)	Bauer	Baritone
*Bob	Boase	Soprano
Jim	Boase	Soprano
Michael	Boase	Tenor Horn
*Anthony	Bowden	Snare / Tenor
*John	Buklis	Soprano
*Vince	Buklis	French Horn
Ken	Burns	Soprano
*Larry	Calderone	Snare / Tenor
*Cos	Capone	Drum Line Director
Joe	Capone	Snare
*Bob	Cobham	French Horn
*Brian	Coleman	Soprano
*Ron	Crane	Baritone
*Bob	Crawford	Color Guard
*Bill	Current	Color Guard
*Mike	Delaney	M & M Director
Ron	Doncaster	Baritone
*Dan	Donovan	Glocks
Robert	Duggan	Soprano
Larry	Duke	Tenor Drum
Steve	Eatman	Soprano
Victor	Fatta	Tenor Horn
*Gerry	Feraday	Soprano
Robert	Fortin	Glocks
*John	Foster	Bass / Cymbals
Bob	Fradette	Cymbals (Twirler)
*Paul	Frasca	French Horn
*Peter	Gain	Glocks
*Paul	Gain	Bass / Cymbals
Ron	Garunther	Soprano
Richard	Gaughn	Baritone
Gerry	Godsoe	Tenor Drum
*Bernie	Haberstroh	Snare / Tenor
Gerry	Horan	Tenor Horn
Denis	Jobin	Soprano
*John	Kidner	French Horn
*Rich	Lawson	Color Guard
*Rob	Lawson	Color Guard
*Vince	Liotta	Glocks
*Neil	Lovatt	French Horn
*Terry	Marren	Snare / Tenor

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James	Massie	Color Guard
*Chris	McBride	French Horn
Owen	McBride	Snare
*Eugene	McCallen	Snare / Tenor
*Doug	McGuire	Color Guard
*Bill	McLean	Glocks
*Dan	Moloney	Baritone
Jim	Munroe	Soprano
*Paul	Murray	Soprano
*Tom	Murray	Soprano
*Phil	Nagy	Soprano
*Jim	Nantais	French Horn
Francis	Navin	Color Guard
Steven	Navin	Color Guard
Frank	Napolis	Snare
*Mike	Nugent	Glocks Director
*Werner	Nuss	Music Director
Jack	O'Donohue	Snare
*Bill	Parker	Business Manager
*Ted	Pernu	Baritone
David	Ponesse	Tenor Horn
Ted	Pritchard	Soprano
*Paul	Quinn	Glocks
Robin	Quinn	Color Guard
*Paul	Robert	Bass / Cymbals
*Bob	Roy	French Horn
Bob	Sanford	Soprano
*Paul	Sauve	Soprano
*Rick	Scanlan	Soprano
Bill	Scott	Soprano
*Art	Short	Color Guard
Jack	Smith	Snare
Bob	Stumpf	Baritone
*Pat	Sullivan	Bass / Cymbals
Neville	Sweeting	Soprano
*Mike	Wallace	Soprano
*John	Walsh	Color Guard
*Mike	Weatherhead	Baritone
*Ernie	Wesson	Music Director