

LaSalle second

10,000 attend drum corps contest

By Ronald Grantham
Citizen staff writer

Thundering skies greeted LaSalle Academy's bugle corps as it marched briskly on to the field at Lansdowne Park Saturday afternoon to take part in the Canadian Drum and Bugle Corps championship competition.

But the growl of threatening storms was soon drowned out by the rap of drums, the blare of horns, and the clash of cymbals.

And the display of intricate flowing drill patterns by the Ottawa boys drew roars of applause from several thousand spectators.

Cheers and whistles greeted the colorful corps. The cadets wore red-topped military caps with black bands and maple leaf badges; white shirts with

crimson fronts and a diagonal white-and-black bar; white belts, trouser stripes and shoes and red socks.

Their color guard carried rifles and swords. The flag bearers displayed many-colored Centennial banners.

Strong bid for first

For Ottawans, the big drama of the national event was LaSalle's bid to end the nine-year reign of Toronto Optimists as junior A champions. Last year LaSalle came second, ranking first in top line, color guard and horn line.

Before a crowd of 10,000 Saturday night, LaSalle again took second place to the Optimists — 86.1 points to the Torontonians' 86.31. It ranked first in horns, color guard and marching and

manoeuvres, but second in drums.

The LaSalle band now has a recording of its most popular numbers, including Regiment de Sambre et Meuse, Tchaikovsky's piano concerto and Softly I Lean on You.

Taking part in the several classes of the Canadian competitions were 38 bugle corps, 15 of them from Quebec, with memberships totalling about 2,700.

Quebec bands colorful

The Quebec bugle corps, some of them the oldest in Canada, show special interest in color and spectacle. The Ontario corps, more under United States influence, emphasize precision.

In the United States, the corps started with a simple B flat bugle. Now all corps use a one-piston horn, with a wider range — soprano, base, baritone, French horn and contra-horn.

Eye-catching band

The Chatelaines de Laval, Quebec girl champions, were one of the most eye-catching bands. Their shakos were white and gold, their jackets crimson and gold, their skirts and boots, white.

Another colorful group was Sarnia's Lionettes, with tawny plumes and skirts, and its Marching Angels, wearing white-plumed red shakos, red-sashed white blouses and black skirts.

From Sarnia, too, came the Sertomanaires (service to man) boys' corps, which spends summer weekends touring in the U.S. and Ontario.

Cold cuts spectators

Late Saturday afternoon the bands marched through centre town and across Parliament Hill in a chilling wind that discouraged spectators.

The championship event was sponsored by the LaSalle corps, Hull's Les Troubadours (who could not take part because of their involvement with Centennial events) and radio station CKOY.

Band officials in the organizing committee were Raymond J. Bordeleau, chairman, with Denis Châtillon and Robert Roy, of the Troubadours; and Ron Chartrand, secretary, with Jean-Pierre Renaud and George Bertrand of LaSalle.

Other champion bands are:

Junior A — De la Salle of Oakland, third; Sertomanaires of Sarnia, fourth.

Senior A — Canada's Marching Ambassadors, Toronto; Canadian Commanders, Toronto, second; Royals, Guelph, third.

Girls' corps — St. John's Girls of Brantford, for the second year; Chatelaines de Laval, second; Marquises d'Auteuil, third.

The Ottawa Citizen

Band displays end Hill shows

Stirring music and lively marching by three colorfully-costumed bugle bands closed the Centennial Commission's summer-long program of entertainment on Parliament Hill Sunday afternoon.

As the bright afternoon warmed up and bugle notes echoed among the flag-flying buildings of Centre Town, hundreds of people streamed toward the Hill until some 2,000 were seated and standing for a performance by the Kawartha Cavaliers.

Dashing in appearance and performance, the Cavaliers, a 60-member band

from Lindsay, Ont., wore black cavalier hats with golden plumes and black uniforms with gold waistbands and trouser stripes.

First on the program were Les Jouvencelles de l'Est, 110 girls from Pointe aux Trembles, near Montreal. They marched to the middle of the lawn to the tune of Canada.

Picturesque contrast

Their white shakos with green plumes, and green and white dresses, blended and contrasted with the greensward on the Hill.

Cameras clicked as the smart-stepping girls went

through their routines, their flags of the provinces billowing in a brisk breeze.

The baton-armed twirlers' group won the most applause.

Les Diplomates de Quebec gave a band concert and a spirited marching display. They wore red jackets and black, red-striped trousers with green plumes on their shakos and green sashes.

Late for competition

These 85 boys from Quebec City were Canadian Senior A bugle corps champions in 1965 and 1966, but their entry was not received in time to qualify them for the Canadian competition in

Ottawa this past weekend. "We're undefeated champions," they say.

The two popular bands from Quebec were making return performances on the Hill.

In chilly weather, they performed Saturday afternoon as well as Sunday.

First Championships in Ottawa

Drum Corps Battle Draws 12,000

More players than ever before were competing to score points on the football field at Lansdowne Park Saturday.

In one of the most spectacular shows ever held at the stadium, three out-of-town drum corps walked off the gridiron with the top honors at the first Canadian Drum Corps championships to be held in Ottawa.

CLOSE COMPETITION

LaSalle Academy drum corps lost a heart-breaking decision to the Toronto Optimists corps in the Junior "A" competition in the night final by two-tenths of a point.

The crack troupe from Toronto has now won the class for 10 straight years. To do it the corps had to put on a superb show at night to beat out Ottawa's LaSalle Cadets.

LaSalle had won the afternoon preliminary round, scoring 84,216 points, tops among seven corps. In the afternoon the Optimists rated 83,783 points to come second. De La Salle from Toronto ranked third during the day as they did in the finals.

The Sartomanaires from Sarnia placed fourth in the afternoon and again in the finals. The corps was judged to have the best drum major in Junior "A" competition.

Most of the crowd of 12,000 spectators watching under the lights cheered the local LaSalle Corps wildly as it finished the performance, hoping that this would be the year the Optimists' winning streak could be broken.

The Optimists scored 84,311 points of a possible 100. LaSalle tallied 84.1.

However, the LaSalle Cadet color guard handled by Denis Ethier won the trophy for the best Junior "A" color guard.

In Senior "A" competition the Ambassadors of Port Credit eked out a 82.4 to 82.283 win over the Commanders from Toronto with the Guelph Royalaires third with 75.8.

The Ambassadors also won trophies for having the best Senior "A" color guard and the best drum major.

In the third night final class,

the Girls "M and M" class (marching and manoeuvring), K of C St. Johns from Brantford, Ontario chalked up 73,888 points to win over runners up, the Chateaines of Laval with 72,183 and the Marquises of D'Auteuil with 69.35.

The three girls' corps were the top bands from afternoon competition involving nine groups.

In all, 37 bands took part in the mammoth championship. Practice fields all around Ottawa and Hull were occupied during the day as the different corps practised for the show. One group got permission from the RCMP to practice on Parliament Hill in the morning when other accommodation was taken.

A 5 p.m. parade involving 18

drum corps thrilled a sidewalk audience of thousands as they marched from Dalhousie and York Streets past the Parliament Buildings to the Supreme Court Building.

It was the first time the championships were held in Ottawa. The Canadian Drum Corps Association members come almost exclusively from Ontario and Quebec. One member corps is established in Vancouver but travelling expenses prevented it from competing, officials said.

Results of other daytime competitions were:

Junior "A" — (beginning with 3rd place finishers) Metropolitan, Montreal, 78,218; Arron, Lions, 75,683; Olympiques, Verdun, 70,133.

Girls M and M — (beginning with 4th place finishers) the Satellites, 75.05; Laurentiennes, Montreal North, 74.618; Marching Angels, Sarnia, 71.65; Sarnia Lionettes, 69.05; Riveraines, Chateauguay, 61.483.

Senior "B" — Kawartha Kavalier, Lindsay, 71.616, and OVB Lumpsters, Smiths Falls, 69.60

Junior "B" — Optimist Midlanders, London, 77.183; Marching Saints, Carleton Place, 72.616; Scarborough Firefighters, 72.183; Les Dynamiques of Buckingham, 68.783; Les Compagnons of Embrun, 66.733.

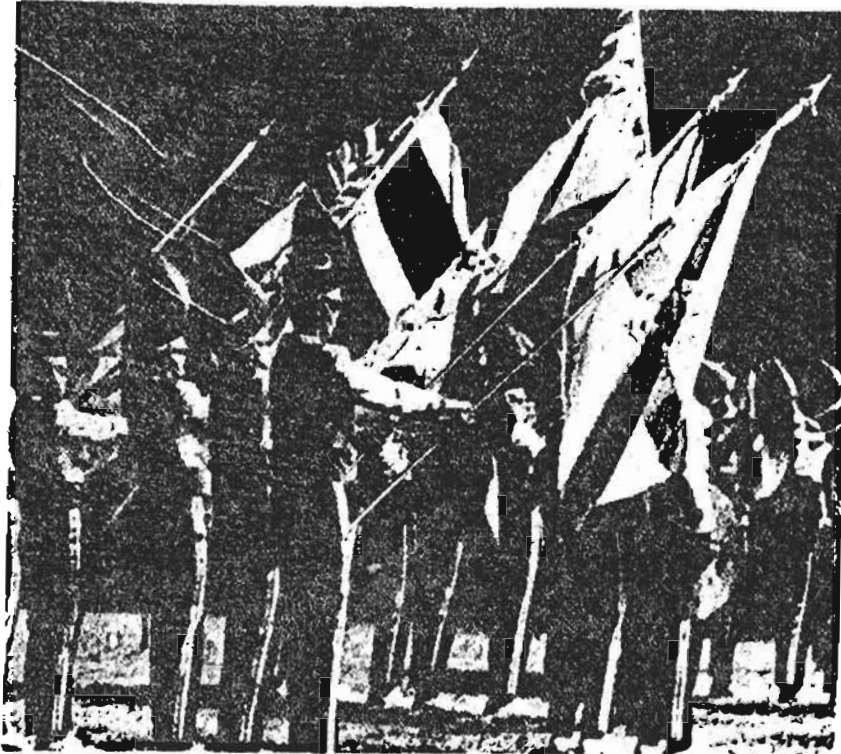
Armed Forces — RHLI, Hamilton, 64.983.

Junior Standstill — Opti Knights, Guelph, 83.3; RCSCC Ajax, Guelph, 79.4; Markham Collegettes, 67.3; Pickering Blue Notes, 64.5.

Parade Class — Hanover District High School, 78.4.

Senior Novice — Flying Dutchmen, Kitchener, 89.8.

Trumpet Class — Fantaisies Laurentiens, St. Jerome, 69.168.



WITH POMP AND PRECISION

The annual Canadian Drum Corps championships brought nearly 40 bands into Lansdowne Park Saturday to the delight of more than 12,000 spectators. This corps formed part of the huge and wildly colorful retreat ceremony that marked the end of the day's events.

(Journal Photo by Dominion Wide)