



FANFARE

Cross Canada Chorus Competes In Tampa Florida

Well, the dust has settled and the Cross Canada Chorus gave an awesome performance that resulted in a 5th place finish with a score of 1389 for an average of 77.2.

This is truly an amazing result given the short space of time and limited rehearsals of the group. As you know the Ontario contingent had their first rehearsal November 21st, followed up but the awesome Saturday rehearsal and show at Leadership Academy in Orillia on January 9th. The complete Cross Canada Chorus got together briefly on Thursday evening, with the first full rehearsal Friday morning, and second rehearsal Friday afternoon. After a brief rehearsal (their third as a full chorus) this morning they headed over to the contest site and gave an over the top performance.



Picture by Rein Breitmarier
The Ontario Contingence on stage
January 9th, Orillia Opera House

Their third song Fare Thee Well Love resulted in an immediate standing ovation (the audience stood up as one...almost levitating). Ontario District should be very proud of the great job done by our guys led by the outstanding direction of Jordan Travis. Thanks again to the chapters, quartets, and individual barbershoppers who gave so kindly to ensure such a wonderful first time

appearance by a Canadian chorus. The experience is one none of these young men will forget. Many new friendships have been made.

Thanks again from
The Cross Canada Chorus
Committee Sharon and Barry
Towner
Jordan Travis
Dave Pearce
Bob Gibson
(e-mail from Barry Towner)

Three members of the Vocal Federation, the Strathroy Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society participated in Tampa at the youth festival. Adrian Smith, Geoff Laskey and Stewart Irvine represented Strathroy, Western Division, Ontario and Canada. We couldn't be any prouder of these young men.
(Editor)

CHRISTMAS CAROLING in STRATHROY

Real Canadian Super Store

Bosson's Pharmacy

MacDonald's Restaurant



Saturday the 19th of December had the Strathroy Vocal Federation out and about town with the annual Christmas Caroling. Starting at 10:00 am, meeting in the Canadian Tire parking lot the chorus visited some eighteen locations as they wound their way from the south end to Home Hardware at the northern limits of town. With sixteen members in attendance some locations were more than a little crowded. After singing for the staff a hardy lunch was enjoyed at the Gardenia Restaurant. Duke of Earl Pub was the final stop of the day and getting very close to 3:00 PM

Presidential view

This, my first year as your newly elected president for Strathroy Chapter has started off with my attending Leadership Academy in Orillia, learning the basics of being a president from Chuck Alexander. Goal setting for the chapter was one subject we spent a lot of time discussing and the first and most important goal we agreed upon was increasing the membership within all our chapters. What would be a realistic goal? Would 4 or 8 new members do? Maybe 10, you tell me.

Every where we look, in the Harmonizer, the Trillium, the society web sites or e-mails, a very common subject is membership decline and that it's a problem that needs to be addressed.

As Jim McDougall, Chapter Development VP would say this is the responsibility of each and every one of us. It is a proven fact that face to face conversations work better than all the advertizing and

promotions we could and have done in the past. I'm not saying that membership drives and special promotions don't work, which they do and we will continue to use them. All I'm saying is that the statement that "Strangers are just friends you haven't met yet" is true, you don't need to know the man your about to invite to a guest night, although it helps. Something I was taught years ago was how to introduce myself to a total stranger, and we all know how to do that, just walk up and say "hi, how are you today". Now here comes the trick part, where do you go from here, just remember one simple word, **FORM**. Ask about his:

Family, are you married, got kids, do you live here in town. By the way my name is (insert your name here) what is yours. Ask him about his

Occupation, what do you do for a living, etc. Now here is the most important one, what do you do for **Recreation**, how do you spend your free time. Most people enjoy

talking about themselves and what they do. Lastly is the **Message** ask if he knows anything about barbershop harmony, does he sing or would like to learn to sing, hand him a card or invite him to that guest night coming up, ask for his number so you can follow up, be bold, what's the very worst that can happen? Gee I don't think that's something I could do. Well how do you know till you try it?

Just think how great the Vocal Federation would sound at the 2011 show with a chorus twice the size it is now, couldn't each and every one of us bring in a new member over this next year, or is that aiming to high?

Remember that if you aim for the moon you may drag your feet through the trees, but if you aim for the tops of the trees you will drag your feet through the mud.

It's just my opinion, and I may be wrong.

Coming Events

Wednesday, February 17, 2010:

Chapter Novice Contest

Wednesday, February 24, 2010:

Sing-out at Strathmere Lodge

Saturday, February 27, 2010:

Division Novice Contest, in London.

Saturday, March 6, 2010:

Annual Spring Show Retreat @ SCCS

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Sing out North Meadows 11:45 am & SDCI 1:00pm

Saturday, April 10, 2010:

Annual Spring Shows, "ONE MORE TIME".

April 16-18, 2010:

Ontario District Spring Convention.

Saturday, September 18, 2010: The Vocal

Federation's 15th Anniversary Show

Happy Birthday

January:

January 9 – Eunice Fennell

January 9 – Marilyn McPherson

January 20 – Blake Hughes

February:

February 1 – Bill Robertson

February 5 – Gil Craenen

February 6 – Rae Driessens

March:

March 16 – Joanne Vanderheyden

March 22 – Maxine Mason

March 23 – Fran Galbraith

March 28 – Henry Wiersema

Official Scoring Summary, International Youth Chorus Festival Contest

				SUB	TOTAL	AVG	#
FINALS	SONGS	MUS	PRE	TOTAL	SCORE	SCORE	
1 52eighty							
	<i>Yesterday I Heard The Rain</i>	168	167	169	1503	1503	83.5
	<i>Hello, My Baby</i>	159	163	161			31
	<i>Ave Maria (NC)</i>	172	172	172			
2 Vokal Kombat							
	<i>World War I Medley</i>	158	168	160	1465	1465	81.4
	<i>Where The Southern Roses Grow</i>	156	164	160			32
	<i>Joshua Fit The Battle of Jericho (NC)</i>	165	171	163			
3 HD Chorus							
	<i>The Way You Look Tonight</i>	166	156	170	1458	1458	81.0
	<i>It Is Well With My Soul (NC)</i>	162	158	164			22
	<i>Smile Medley</i>	161	155	166			
4 The 505							
	<i>Drivin' Me Crazy</i>	150	155	155	1442	1442	80.1
	<i>Last Night Was The End OfThe World</i>	153	156	154			24
	<i>Somebody To Love (NC)</i>	171	177	171			
5 Cross Canada Chorus							
	<i>Good Luck Cham</i>	152	155	157	1389	1389	77.2
	<i>Love Me</i>	148	151	156			53
	<i>Fare Thee Well, Love (NC)</i>	156	156	158			

What's Been Happening at Harmonize for Speech

The year 2009 was a difficulty year for your trustees. Although our total donations were excellent considering the economic conditions of the time, we were down in total by 24.5% from 2008.

This has a significant impact on funding, particularly to those who depend on us each year for part of their funding requirements.

The totals in funding in 2009 by category follows:

Universities and Colleges	\$ 37,891.51	28.2%
Hospitals	\$ 6,500.00	4.9%
Clinics, schools, etc.	\$ 80,086.00	59.7%
S/L Conferences	\$ 8,422.00	6.3%
Administration	\$ 1,326.35	1.0%
TOTAL FUNDING	\$134,225.86	100%

A Tip of the Hat to

the following chapters in Ontario District for their total donations to the Harmonize For Speech Fund since the inception of the fund.

East York chapter surpassed	\$400,000.00
Kitchener/Waterloo chapter surpassed	\$300,000.00
Sarnia chapter surpassed	\$100,000.00
Peterborough chapter surpassed	\$75,000.00
Quinte Regional chapter surpassed	\$75,000.00
St. Thomas chapter surpassed	\$75,000.00
Owen Sound chapter surpassed	\$40,000.00
Seaforth chapter surpassed	\$40,000.00
Strathroy chapter surpassed	\$35,000.00

The Ontario District chapters have donated in excess of \$4,634,000.00.

(reprinted excerpts from the H4S report)

Strathroy Chapter
Western Division-Ontario District-Barbershop Harmony Society
Home of the "Vocal Federation"
The performing chorus of the Strathroy Chapter

Meeting at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
At the corner of Albert and Richmond Streets
In Strathroy – Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM

Board of Directors

President	Bill Robertson	519 - 245 - 0979
Past President	Gil Craenen	519 - 245 - 2888
District Delegate	Bill Robertson	519 - 245 - 0979
Secretary	Orval Allen	519 - 246 - 1234
Treasurer	Les Campbell	519 - 245 - 0359
Chapter Development	Jim McDougall	519 - 601 - 4843
Music	Ros McPherson	519 - 245 - 1711
Communications	Frank Knoll	519 - 264 - 2856
Program	Bob Fennell	519 - 693 - 4280
Performance	Ray Mason	519 - 264 - 1850
Marketing & P. R.	Henry Wiersema	519 - 589 - 5562
Member at Large	Leigh Laughton	519 - 264 - 1464

Appointments

Quartet Chairman	Bob Howlett
Historian	Ernie McEwen
Service Projects & Fundraising	Bill Smith
Uniform Chairman	Bill Galbraith
Show Committee Chairman	Orval Allen
Fanfare Editor	Bill Robertson
Kitchen Steward	Les Campbell
Sunshine Chairman	Leigh Laughton

Music Team

Music VP – Ros McPherson	Ernie McEwen
Music Director – John Gough	Bob Howlett
Music Director – Jim McDougall	Ray Mason
Librarian – Orval Allen	Craig Bycraft

Websites

Vocal Federation: www.bam.on.ca/vocalfederation
Ontario District: www.ont.spebsqsa.org
Barbershop Harmony Society: www.spebsqsa.org

Remember to share your Fanfare with all of your family, friends and neighbours.

Share the joy of singing.

PROBE – Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors

The Most Influential Fraternity in the Society

Vision Statement

The Strathroy Chapter will provide the opportunity for men of all ages to blend their voices in the unique style of barbershop harmony singing and will provide the wholesome musical entertainment to people of all ages throughout this and neighbouring communities wherever our services may be desired.

Mission Statement

To realize our vision, the Strathroy Chapter will:

- Provide the means for men to participate in and enjoy the singing of barbershop-style harmony, both in chorus and quartet singing
- Provide for its membership an organized process to learn and sing barbershop-style harmony from written arrangements, or by "ear singing".
- Develop member's vocal talent and performance abilities so that each time they sing together, they perform at the best level possible.
- Provide an atmosphere and programs, which result in a high level of camaraderie and social benefits to members.
- Be a community leader in the cause of preserving and encouraging vocal music in our schools and our communities, by singing barbershop music for schools, churches and social events.
- Enrich the lives of less fortunate people in our communities, by singing barbershop music for senior citizen homes, nursing homes and hospitals.
- Initiate, promote and participate in charitable projects, especially those, which will benefit the Ontario District's barbershop charities.

The Vocal Federation's

Fanfare

Editor – Bill Robertson

104 Middlesex Drive

Strathroy, ON. N7G 4G5

E-mail: magee104@hotmail.com

The Vocal Federation's Fanfare is a publication of the Strathroy Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Fanfare is published on eight occasions annually. Contributions are invited and will be acknowledged. The Editor may edit all for clarity, content or to fit the space. All stories written by the Editor, except those carrying another byline, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Chapter, its officers or members.