



Fanfare

Strathroy, Ont.
Chapter
Established
1995
Member of
Ontario
District

"Home of the
Vocal Federation
Chorus"

Notes from the Prez:

Congratulations are very much in order to all you hard working and dedicated members who make our Chapter successful and enjoyable.

We are currently enjoying our tenth anniversary year and deserve to be proud of our accomplishments and all the fun and fellowship in our first decade. For those of us who are charter members, those years have gone very quickly, (Time flies when you're having fun), and we all look forward to the future of this great Barbershop hobby in Strathroy.

Hats off to Gil Craenen who has graciously accepted the task of reviving our "Fanfare". Please support Gil in making the bulletin as great a success as when John King was editor.

Several of our past events are noteworthy of mention since our last edition of the Fanfare. Two quartets make our Chapter Singing Valentines event a fun day again on February 14th. One of these quartets, "The Romantics", went on to win our Chapter Novice Quartet Contest on February 16th. Great work Hugh, Orval, Les, and John! At the Western Division Contest in London on February 26th, our senior quartet entry "Never Too Late" placed second. Congratulations Bob, Bill, Gord and Ros!

Again this year, the hard work of Bill Robertson and his Show Committee resulted in both of our annual shows on April 2nd being almost sold out. The tremendous efforts of this group needs to be continuously commended as they are already working on next year's shows!

At the Ontario Spring Convention on the weekend of April 15th-17th, "Misnomer" qualified to represent the Ontario District at the International Convention in Salt Lake City in July in the College Quartet Division. One of it's members is Mark Gough who is the son of one of our chorus directors, John Gough. We are proud of these guys and wish them well in July.

Currently, the Vocal Federation is ecstatic about its newest members, Matthew and Joel Bunch, and Gary Albers. These guys will definitely be assets to our singing chorus. Warmest welcome!

Among all our accomplishments in the last six months, the only regrets we have are the loss of two great members, John King and Hugh Nisbet. Their busy lifestyles have taken them away from us but they know their return is always welcome.

On a final note, I would personally like to congratulate our 2004 Barbershop of the Year, honored at our Christmas party in December 2004. This selfless humble gentleman was unable to be present to accept the award but has informed me that he will be ever thankful and certainly proud to make room for another item on his shelf of trophies.

Sing-cerely, Frank Knoll



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HARMONY COLLEGE NORTH [HCN] SUMMARY

I went to Harmony College North for the first time this year, and WOW I was impressed. Besides the impressive architecture of the university, the fabulous food - lots of it! - and the nice room/cafeteria set up, there was an extremely talented group of individuals (I mean besides our Strathroy guys!) that were our faculty and staff/teachers. There were two large classes for everyone, which covered all topics. These classes were informative, clear, and interesting. They also left us with a good selection of singing and breathing exercises. After a good nights rest (depending on who you talk to!) we had our two main classes interspersed with scrumptious meals and bathroom breaks. (The former being the cause of the later.) After much searching for the whereabouts of my first class, I finally gave up and broke the golden rule of manhood... I asked directions... needless to say after that I found the class. My first class was new age breathing, an excellent class, recommended for people who breath (if you don't, then barbershop classes are probably the least of your worries) The exercises and stretches were unique to say the least, but I can confidently say (in one breath!) that my breaths are fuller, less forced, and I can post a lot longer than I could before. This class is a must for any first timer. My second class, though less physical than the first was no less important. It covered pretty much everything that would ever pertain to a singer, from pitch, to where to breath in your mouth, to singing through a cold. Clear, informative, helpful, and interesting are just some of the adjectives that come to mind Over all this Harmony College North is a relatively untapped wealth of knowledge. It is something that every Barbershopper young or old should attend at least once. And I guarantee that you will want to come back.

by: Matthew K. Bunch

Harmony College was, again, a rich and interesting experience. Although I found the whole experience rewarding, my ultimate satisfaction was the enjoyment of the fellows from our group who experienced the college for the first time. I hope Orval Allen doesn't mind but I heard someone ask him if he enjoyed the conference and he said, "I'd go back tomorrow". I guess that gives you and indication of how worthwhile the weekend was. As you read the comments of the seven people who went to the college perhaps you might consider going yourself next year. Harmony College is a hands on training exercise that I'm sure will be beneficial for our group performance.

Gord Vair

"There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats."

Albert Schweitzer



Where it all began!!

Orval's pot-pourri of comments on HCN.

- It was a wonderful and worthwhile experience and yes "I Would Go Back Tomorrow".
- Of all the quartets there for coaching, ours was the only true "pickup" foursome. I've seen some of the others at COTS or in Ontario District contests.
- We concentrated on "Hello, Mary Lou" and sang all or parts of it numerous times. Despite that, I still love the song. Surprisingly, none of our coaches were familiar with it and, I think that was good for a couple of reasons. They had to refer to the sheet music instead of going from memory to ensure we were hitting the correct notes and their thoughts on interpretation/presentation were fresh on the spot, not from some past personal experience.
- Our coaches are all very talented singers [see separate article on Gene Hanover] and, in my opinion, very good teachers. However, as to be expected, they sometimes held a different opinion about the same topic and that created some confusion for us as the day progressed.
- Notwithstanding the confusion, we did improve significantly as a quartet during the day.
- We sang our song at the "Afterglow" and near the end I accidentally made eye contact with David Hampel standing in the audience. As our eyes locked he gave the two thumbs up signal and that made me feel real good about our performance.
- The three quartets, "The Fixx", "Mirage" [Ontario District] and "Reveille" [Mid Atlantic District] are competing at the International Convention, Salt Lake City in July, 2005.
- I have never before seen anyone brought to tears during the introduction of a song. It happened during one of the general sessions. "Reveille" was giving tips on different ways to improve performances/win-over your audience and proceeded to show what a difference the "introduction" can make. Their tenor, Roger Payne, chose Danny Boy to demonstrate two introductions before they sang it. The first was a very straight two sentence type introduction. The second was in a more emotional tone and explained the story that's in the song. It tore at the heart of a man in audience who obviously had lost a son at war and he broke down. Roger paused to comfort him but it wasn't enough to stop his weeping during and following the song. I'm not sure, but I think Roger might also have lost a son at war.
- I have slept on mattresses filled with straw, feathers, air, water, etc. but, never have I tried to sleep on any so hard as at HCN. I think it was filled with one inch diameter stones spread on a one inch thick plywood sheet. Closest thing I could imagine to spending a night in a prison cell. Then, to make matters worse, I was sharing the room with a guy who snores and has a small bladder. Just about the time I convinced myself it was possible to adapt to the stones and snoring and get some sleep, this guy would spin out of bed, noisily search for slippers and housecoat, open the squeaking door and journey down the hall to the bathroom. His re-entry to the room and bed was similarly hectic.
- Of course, I cannot reveal my roommate's name because of the expression "what happens in ----- stays in -----". However, I can tell you that the great respect I already have for his wonderful wife of almost 50 years was definitely enhanced.
- I'll get even another time, buddy!

Orval Allen

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There's an expression that says "If you don't go, you won't know" and this is so true for a weekend at College North. It's hard to put into words what an experience this is, the opening warm up with some of the best directors in the district, and Bill Rashleigh from Kenosha. To hear nearly two hundred voices all hitting the chords. Wow!! what a great time.

My morning session was the Standing Ovation Program certification class with Chuck Alexander the Ontario District Executive V.P. and Keith Baldrey the SOP Chairman presenting. I found the material very informative and have been accepted as a certified member of the Ontario District Standing Ovation Program Reviewers team and can hardly wait until my first assignment.

The afternoon session was directing with Bill Rashleigh who touched on the subjects of interpretation, mouthing the words, hand movements, patterns, cutoffs and motivation. This class was designed to help front line directors improve their skills. Although this training certainly didn't improve my directing skills (duh) it will give me a better understanding as to what and possibly why John and Jim are trying to get us to do a piece a particular way. War Memorial Hall was the venue for the Saturday night show, and what a show it was. Features quartets we're FIXX, MIRAGE and from New York the comedy of REVEILLE. Chorus's from the Hamilton, Peterborough and Kitchener-Waterloo chapters also did a wonderful presentation, and to finish the show all three chorus's combined to create a one hundred plus chorus that raised the rafters of War Memorial Hall.

Bill Robertson

We had a very good trip to Guelph on Friday afternoon and arrived in time to register and go to the evening program. We did some singing and had some warm up demonstrations.

Reveille, a comedy quartet from New York State sang for us. We then were off to bed about 11.30pm.

Saturday morning we were up again about 6.30am to get ahead of the crowd for the showers. Breakfast was at 7.30am. The meals were very good with lots of variety. Then we were off to the opening session at 8.30am.

The general session began with introductions, announcements, and Reveille put on a class on performance. They told us how they would put words together for a song and how they would perform that song. They sure know how to put on a show.

I went with Gord, Orval, and Bob Fennell as a pick up quartet. We had six, one-hour sessions of coaching, each session with a different coach. This included two members, Bob Gibson and David Hampel from "Mirage", Dave Campbell from "The Fixx", John Ward from "Reveille" and Gene Hanover from Bridgman, MI. We enjoyed each session and won't mention if any one made any mistakes.

The program at night, called "The Parade of Harmony", included three Choruses and Four Quartets. It was a great evening of entertainment.

At 10.45pm, after the evening show, we all headed to the "University Club" where each Quartet was to perform one song, and that included "Just For Fun". (That's us.)

Some of us were off to bed about 12.30 AM.

Sunday morning, at 7.30, we left for home. It was a beautiful sunny day.

All seven of us had breakfast together on the way home and talked about the good time we'd had.

Roswell McPherson

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Harold' Angels

The garage sale was a sound success.
The weather was beautiful and we did it all in one day.
We took in \$625.00

Thanks for all your supplies and your help.

See you in September.

Diny

HARMONIZE FOR SPEECH

*IF YOU HAVEN'T VIEWED OUR
WEBSITE, IT'S PACKED WITH
INFORMATION AND NEWS ITEMS.*
Log on to: www.harmonize4speech.org

Ontario's Harmonize For Speech Fund:

Provides funds for numerous speech-related projects and equipment at hospitals, clinics and treatment centres throughout Ontario.

Supports the work of the Speech Foundation of Ontario, including its Children's Centre located in North York and proposed centres.

Founded and operates the Voice Laboratory & Treatment Centre of Ontario, for assessment and treatment of a full range of vocal disorders.

Supports Aphasia Centres dedicated to helping Stroke Survivors communicate.

Supports projects and seminars of the Ontario Association of Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists (OSLA).

Supports the work of the Canadian

Association For People Who Stutter, (CAPS) and the Ontario Association For Families of Children With Communicative Disorders.

Provides text books, bursaries and scholarships for Speech Pathology students at the University of Western Ontario (London), the University of Toronto, Université d'Ottawa, Laurentian University (Sudbury), Georgian College (Barrie); and funds research studies at various Universities and Treatment Centres.

Sponsors annual scholarships for Ontario Students to study Speech Pathology at qualifying Universities outside of Ontario.

Maintains the Memorial Donor Plaques at Harmony Hall (address shown below).

The Ontario Barbershop Singers dedicate their joy of fellowship in harmony to the task of opening the doors of communication and the thrill of song for thousands of children and adults in Ontario. We believe that we could have no finer purpose than to answer this silent plea – *the cry that can't be heard!*

**MAILING ADDRESS: HARMONIZE FOR SPEECH FUND
C/O HARMONY HALL, 2 GOWER STREET,
TORONTO, ONTARIO M4B 1E2
TELEPHONE (416) 759-9922**

Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes (Federal Registration No. 0429936-22)

ONTARIO DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF CHAPTERS SPEBSQSA

We Sing That They Shall Speak

A Little Parable

This is a story about four people named: **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody**, and **Nobody**.

There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** would do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody**, when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.




Empathy

**A baritone stood at the golden gate,
His head was bent and low.
He meekly asked the man of fate,
"Which way should I go?"**

**"What have you done," St. Peter asked,
"To gain admittance here?"
"I've been a baritone," he said,
"for many and many a year."**

**St. Peter opened wide the door,
And gently pressed the bell.
"Enter, sir, and choose your harp,
You've had your share of hell."**

From the Binghamtone, Binghampton, NY, 1986, as found in Pal-Pac Choruspondent, Lloyd Davis, Editor.



IT WAS A GREAT DAY FOR THE IRISH !

I just finished previewing the video of "It's A Great Day For The Irish", and what a show.

This was the first time seeing the whole show, beginning to end.

I would like to thank everyone that helped to put this thing together.

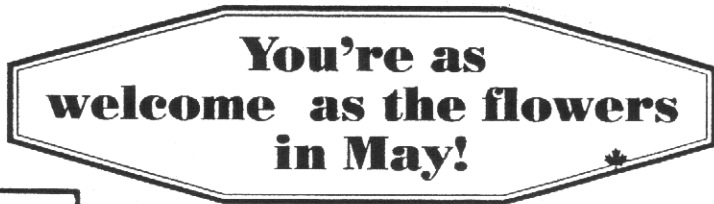
This being my first crack at chairman, I have to admit I was a little afraid to follow in Orval's foot steps.

But everyone went about doing what needed to be done and Orval was only a phone call away for advice.

Congratulations goes to the Strathroy Chapter for another great show.

Show Chair

Bill Robertson



TYPICAL CHORUS MEMBER

Permanent furrowed brow from worrying about what's the next move

Wrinkles caused by worrying about missing notes.

Crooked neck from having to look around someone to see the director

Weak eyes, trying to read music and look at director.

Bent nose from holding music folder too close to face

Extra long arms from helping set up risers

Protruding stomach caused by too much diaphragmatic breathing.

Extra nimble fingers for turning pages rapidly, looking for the correct page in the wrong song.

Knobby knees from kneeling down in big finish.

Tennis shoes for dashing into meeting hall late without slipping on the floor.



"Let's face it, you're not an angry young director any more!"

CELEBRATIONS



Chapter Birthdays

July 2 Betty Schieman
 July 7 Barbara Knox
 July 9 Leigh Laughton
 July 20 Mary Vair
 July 22 Ken Vanderheyden
 July 28 Harold Boekhoven
 July 31 Dan Schieman



August 1 Walter DeRuiter
 August 7 Elaine Linden
 August 10 Norma Allen
 August 17 Bill Gough
 August 17 Gord Nisbet
 August 19 Nancy Langs
 August 31 Diny Craenen

Chapter Anniversaries

July 7 Gil and Diny Craenen
 July 9 Bob and Eunice Fennell
 July 16 Grant and Barbara Knox
 July 18 Doug and Nancy Langs
 July 23 Blake and Audrey Hughes
 July 25 Brian and Sandy McDougall

August 14 John and enid Gough
 August 20 Harold and Deb Boekhoven
 August 28 Ken and Joanne Vanderheyden

GET WELL SOON!

*To Barbara Howlett
 and
 Tom Linden

Coming Events

* *Saturday August 13*
Fund Raiser: Zehr's B.B. 2.
Sale. 10. a. m. to 3 p. m

* *Wednesday August 17*
Annual Double Horseshoes
Competition at
Michael Robertson Residence.
3187 Napperton Drive.

* *September 20th*
Chapter's 10th Anniversary

* *Saturday September 24th*
Annual Family Golf
Tournament and Dinner.
Caradoc Sands, Strathroy

* *Tuesday October 4th*
Women's Institute 100th Anniv.
Sing- Out Mt. Brydges
Community Centre

* *October 14-16, Brantford.*
Ontario District Fall Covention

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

Meeting at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
the corner of Albert and Richmond Streets in
Strathroy - Wednesday Evenings at 8:00 pm

Board of Directors

President	Frank Knoll	(519)264-2856
District Delegate	Frank Knoll	(519)264-2856
Treasurer	Less Campbell	(519)245-0359
Secretary	Orval Allen	(519)246-1234
Chapter Dev. V.P.	Bob Feunell	(519)693-4280
Music V.P.	Arnold Dixon	(519)294-0128
Communication V.P.	Gil Craenen	(519)245-2888
Program V.P.	Bill Gough	(519)245-2244
Performance V.P.	Bill Robertson	(519)245-0979
Marketing & Pub.Rel. V.P.	Henry Wiersema	(519)245-1711
Board Mem. At Large	Roswell McPherson	(519)245-1711
Board Mem. At Large	Ray Mason	(519)264-1850

Appointments

Quartet Activity Chairman	Gord Vair
Historian	Ernie McEwen
Nomination Committee Chairman	
Service Projects & Fundraising Chairman	Bill Robertson
Uniform Chairman	Bill Galbraith
Show Committee Chairman	Bill Robertson
Fanfare Editor/Directory Publisher	Gil Craenen
Kitchen Steward	Less Campbell
Sunshine Chairman	Gord Nisbet

Music Team

Music V.P. - Arnold Dixon
 Chorus Director - John Gough
 Chorus Director - Jim McDougall
 Librarian - Arnold Dixon

Section Leaders

Tenor - Ernie McEwen
 Lead - Bob Howlett
 Baritone - John Gough
 Bass - Jim McDougall

WEB SITES

Strathroy Vocal Federation

www.bam.on.ca/vocalfederation/

Ontario District- www.ont.spebsqsa.org

Barbershop International- www.spebsqsa.org

Ashow

www.ahsow.or

*Remember to share your Fanfare with all of
 your family, friends and neighbours.
 Share the joy of singing.*



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 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 members vocal talents 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 benefit 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 the 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 projects which will benefit the Ontario District's barbershop charities.

The Federation's

Fanfare

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The Federation's Fanfare is a publication of the Strathroy Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society

P . R . O . B . E .

The Fraternity of
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS AND BULLETIN EDITORS.