

# *Fanfare*

Strathroy, Ont.  
Chapter  
Established  
1995  
Member of  
Ontario  
District

"Home of the  
Vocal Federation  
Chorus"

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*"Trumpeting the Federation's news to its border"*

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Notes from Frank

Joan and I had the privilege of being able to attend the Quartet contest finals and Saturday evening program at the Ontario Spring convention in Toronto on April 22, 2006.

We were certainly well entertained by a well-organized event and I would like to mention a few highlights. I guess I'm prejudiced, but after just having them sing on our show, I have to say that "Bob's Yer Uncle" put on their usual great crowd-pleasing performance. "The Fixx" won the contest with a command exhibition of singing and stage presence.

The four guys in "Chameleon" brought the crowd to its feet, even though they sang only one song on the show. What talent!

Both the "MegaCity Chorus" and "Northern Lights" showed us how proud we should be to have them represent us at the upcoming international convention in Indianapolis.

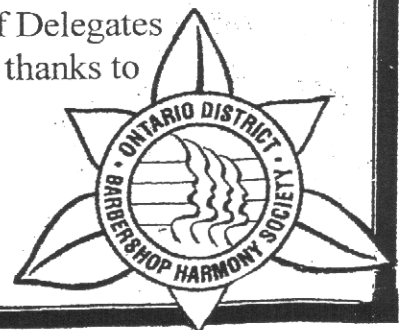
Certainly a major highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Society's Honorary Lifetime Membership to Mr. Gordon Lightfoot.

Of all the awards presented, I was most impressed by the "Barbershop of Renown" award presented to a barbershopper from our own Western Division, Doug Doull, from Sarnia. Way to go, Doug!

We returned home Sunday after lunch, after I attended the House of Delegates meeting at the Delta Toronto East. (again a well organized meeting thanks to Chuck Alexander.)

It's great to be a barbershopper!

Frank Knoll



On Friday and Saturday, June 2 & 3, the Vocal Federation was well represented by 6 chapter members and one non member, at Harmony College North at the University of Guelph. Larry Driessens, Bob Fennell, Bob Howlet, Jim McDougall, Blake Hughes, Bill Robertson, and Garney Snelgrove, all attended the weekend learning experience.

The Chapter supports any member who wants to go to this workshop by paying 100% of the registration, etc. for the weekend. A hearty thank you from all who attended. It was very much appreciated.

Bob Fennel (tenor), Bill Robertson (lead), Jim McDougal (bass) and Garney Snelgrove (bari) formed a quartet and named it "4-Fun".

On Saturday morning we had three 45 minutes sessions by 3 different groups of coaches, and the same again in the afternoon.

Our first coach sang bass in a quartet called "The Humdingers" (Dapper Dan's from Disney Land in Florida.) He was great at showmanship and presentation, body language and how we sang our phrases and sometimes to put the most emphasis and meaning to the words.

The song we picked for the day was "I Love That Old Barbershop Style".

The second coach sang lead in the "Humdingers". He was strong on presentation and audience appeal and interaction.

Both these gentlemen commented on the fact, that when we started, our quartet had four individual voices, but in the end we were four fellows harmonizing as a unit blending together as one, not four voices. It's amazing what happens in six 45 minutes sessions.

The next set of coaches were part of an Ontario quartet named "Mirage".

Brian Etmanski, was the lead and Dale Lock was the bass. These two coaches got us into more techniques, such as vowels and shape of our mouths. Also, to make us sound like one unit.

It was amazing, the difference it made in the sound of our foursome and how much easier it was to harmonize.

In the afternoon, we had Jamey Marr, who coached us, following the "Mirage" lead and bass. He was a young man who sure knew Barbershop sound and loved it. He helped us along the same lines as the two gentlemen from "Mirage".

After all coaching was done, "4-Fun" sang their song at the evening show in Convocation Hall at the University of Guelph.

I very much enjoyed this weekend.

Personally I got more out of Harmony College North than I got out of COTTS.

This was a rich learning experience, being coached and taught by some of the best in our district and SPEBSGSA personell.

**Bob Fennell**



### From The Editor's Desk

**Thank you for your contribution to this issue of the "Fanfare", Bob Fennell, Orval Allen, Henry Wiersema, Barbara and Grant Knox, President Frank, and Marilyn McPherson.**

#### **Smile!**

**It was Friday night, and when I got home, my wife asked me to take her out to someplace expensive. So I took her to a gas station!**

**Notice in a field:** The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges!

A big thank you to the Vocal Federation and the Angels for your gifts of flowers and a fruit basket.

Also, for all your calls and cards.

My chemo treatments are over and now I will be concentrating on getting stronger.

We hope to go to our trailer at Harmony Ranch in early July.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we travel along!

Regards,  
Barbara and Grant

## Harold's Angels

Summer is on the doorstep and soon we will be busy with summer activities.

The Angels have been active as ever with fund raising projects such as cheese orders and Diny's knitted articles.

Thanks to Audrey Gough for the stepping stone she made for the raffle at the annual show. It was well received and very successful as a fund raiser.

Thanks also to the Nisbets for hosting the yard sale. It was a successful day, a little chilly, but not raining this year.

Dates to mark on your calendar:

Horseshoes - August 16<sup>th</sup>

Family Golf Day - September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Next meeting** - Watch for a date early in the fall.

See you then.

Marilyn.

## (From our V.P. Marketing and P.R.)

As part of the marketing plan a number of brochures have been placed at strategic locations throughout Strathroy.

Each location has 10 brochures placed in a plastic stand, that has Vocal Federation on the back of the stand, which has been placed on a counter, window sill, etc.

The reason for letting everyone know about this is so when you are at one of these businesses or services, you can check to see if any of the brochures have been taken and let me know.

The following places have been targeted: Strathroy Medical Clinic, Horniyak, Waters, Johnson, Kreuzer, McGuigan, Sydenham C.U., St. Willibrord C.U. Bank of Montreal, Scotia Bank, TD Bank Financial, Library and Kersey's.

Another item that needs your input, is to keep the recent back issues of "Harmonizer" and give them to me.

I will see if we can put these in waiting rooms and who knows, someone may read them and be interested in finding out more.

I will be putting a new label on them for contact and information.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Henry Wiersema.



**ANNUAL SHOW TIT-BITS****TICKET SALES**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Bob Fennell  | 110 |
| Bill Galbraith   | 59  |
| Gil Craenen(including tickets sold<br>at the Treasure House) | 56  |
| Les Campbell   | 48  |
| Arnold Dixon   | 42  |
| Ernie McEwen   | 32  |
| Blake Hughes   | 28  |
| Henry Wiersema   | 26  |
| Gord Vair  | 22  |
| Jim McDougall  | 22  |
| John Gough   | 21  |
| Orval Allen  | 19  |
| Bill Gough   | 18  |
| Jean Nesbit  | 17  |
| Ros McPherson  | 17  |
| Bob Howlett  | 13  |

The other members sold 10 or fewer tickets.

**Tickets collected at door vis-à-vis sales:**

|         |            |
|---------|------------|
| Matinee | >326 – 330 |
| Evening | >268 – 252 |
| Total   | >594 - 582 |

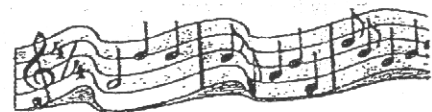
**PROGRAM ADVERTISING**

[list is based on highest \$ sales, NOT # of sales. \$ amounts not shown for confidentiality reasons.]

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Gil Craenen and Gord Nisbet duo | 45 |
| Bob Fennell                     | 25 |
| Orval Allen                     | 24 |
| Jim McDougall                   | 22 |
| Les Campbell                    | 20 |
| Bill Robertson                  | 19 |
| Ernie McEwen                    | 9  |
| Frank Knoll                     | 9  |
| John Gough                      | 3  |
| Blake Hughes                    | 3  |



- Saturday July 15 – Hotdog Sale, Giant Tiger 10.00 AM
- Wednesday August 16 – Double Horseshoe Contest.
- Tuesday September 5 – B.B.Q. in Seaforth
- Sunday September 17 – St. Andrews Church Service, 11 AM
- Saturday September 23 – Family Golf Day
- Saturday October 14- Cabaret, 5:00 PM
- October 20 – 22, Ontario District Fall Convent.
- Saturday November 18 – Middlesex County Warden's Banquet
- Saturday November 25 – Santa Claus Parade
- Sunday November 26 – Western Division Annual Christmas Concert, Seaforth



**Next Fanfare Deadline : August 15**

## We must all become salesmen

**D**uring my comments at the spring House of Delegates, I mentioned that we need to provide some specific sales tools to chapters that find themselves unable to find new guests.

Gentlemen, we must all become salesmen if we want to increase membership, especially if we have run out of contacts that we feel would be interested in our hobby. Sitting around and watching your chorus get smaller is not a good thing. If you are worried about it, do something about it.

To help with this problem, I want to tell you how you can meet new potential chorus guests easily.

The actual activity is called contacting and is based on being friendly and listening. It has three very simple steps or stages.

Step 1. Be friendly to everyone you meet or talk to on the telephone. A smile goes a long way to breaking down barriers. Just practicing this part will make you feel better.

Step 2. Find a way to strike up a conversation. If you hear someone humming a song or tapping their foot to some music, that is a sign that you could chat with them about it. They could be wearing something that has music associated with it. It does not matter where this happens: in the line at the market, theatre, restaurant, elevator or record store. I have even struck up a conversation with a person calling me to have my lawn fertilized or my windows cleaned. How about your bank teller, or the postman?

Step 3. At some point the exact question you want to ask is "Do you sing?" The three answers you need to prepare for are if they say "No," if they say "Yes" or if they say "Only in the shower." Pretty simple, eh?

If they say "Only in the shower," tell them that's where you started out as well. Give them your 30-second story about how you enjoy singing with your chorus or quartet. Then listen.

If they say "No," ask them if they are interested in learning to sing? If they say no at this point, you are done. Just say "OK" and nothing more. If they then ask you "Why?" then you have an opportunity to give them your 30-second story about how you enjoy singing with your chorus or quartet. Then listen.

Alternatively, if they say "Yes," then ask them to tell you about their singing experiences. Listen, then listen some more. Keep them chatting about it. At a suitable point, give them your 30-second story about how you enjoy singing with your chorus quartet. Then listen.

That's it. If they are interested in more information, get their phone number or e-mail address and get it to your chapter membership vice president or chapter president.

Please read this to your chapters at your next meeting. It may help reduce the barriers that some older members feel are holding them back from making contacts.

**VP Membership Dev  
Marshall Goodman**

<membership@ontariodistrict.com> 

## Birthdays



July 2 – Betty Schieman  
July 7 – Barbara Knox  
July 9 – Leighton  
July 22 – Ken Vanderheyden  
July 28 – Harold Boekhoven  
July 31 – Dan Schieman

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

## 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

Aug. 14 – John and Ined Gough  
Aug. 20 – Harold and Deb Boekhoven  
Aug. 28 – Ken and Joanne Vanderheyden

## From Limericks Unlimited

A soprano once married a bari  
And they soon had a tenor named  
Larry,

With a lead they named Pete  
The quartet was complete  
With a bass that they had to name  
Mary.

**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 Evenings at 8.00 pm**

Board of Directors

|                                  |                   |                |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>President</b>                 | Frank Knoll       | (519) 264-2856 |
| <b>District Delegate</b>         | Frank Knoll       | (519) 264-2856 |
| <b>Secretary</b>                 | Orval Allen       | (519) 246-1234 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                 | Less Campbell     | (519) 245-0359 |
| <b>Chapter Dev. V.P.</b>         | Bob Fennell       | (519) 693-4280 |
| <b>Music V.P.</b>                | Roswell McPherson | (519) 245-1711 |
| <b>Communications V.P.</b>       | Gil Craenen.      | (519) 245-2888 |
| <b>Program V.P.</b>              | Bill Robertson    | (519) 245-0979 |
| <b>Performance V.P.</b>          | Raymond Mason     | (519) 264-1850 |
| <b>Marketing &amp; P.R. V.P.</b> | Henry Wiersema    | (519) 289-5562 |
| <b>Board Mem. At Large</b>       | Larry Driessens   | (519) 245-2851 |
| <b>Board Mem. At Large</b>       | Leigh Laughton    | (519) 264-1454 |

Appointments

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Quartet Activity Chairman</b>                   | Gord Vair      |
| <b>Historian</b>                                   | Ernie McEwen   |
| <b>Service Projects &amp; Fundraising Chairman</b> | Bill Robertson |
| <b>Uniform Chairman</b>                            | Bill Galbraith |
| <b>Show Committee Chairman</b>                     | Bill Robertson |
| <b>Fanfare Editor/Directory Publisher</b>          | Gil Craenen    |
| <b>Kitchen Steward</b>                             | Les Campbell   |
| <b>Sunshine Chairman</b>                           | Gord Nisbet    |

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Music Team</u> | <u>Section Leaders</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------|

|                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Music V.P.- Roswell McPherson   | Tenor - Ernie McEwen  |
| Chorus Director - John Gough    | Lead - Bob Howlett    |
| Chorus Director - Jim McDougall | Baritone - John Gough |
| Librarian - Dan Schieman        | Bass - Jim McDougall  |

WEBSITES

Strathroy Vocal Federation  
[www.bam.on.ca/vocalfederation/](http://www.bam.on.ca/vocalfederation/)  
 Ontario District-[www.ont.spebsqsa.org](http://www.ont.spebsqsa.org)  
 Barbershop International-[www.spebsqsa.org](http://www.spebsqsa.org)  
 Ashow-[www.ahsow.or](http://www.ahsow.or)



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

**P . R . O . B . E .**

*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 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 and organized process to learn and sing barbershop-style harmony from written arrangements or by "ear-singing".
- Develop members' 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 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**

**Editor—Gil A. Craenen**

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

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