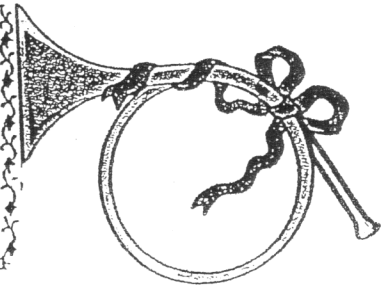




Fanfare

"Home of the
Vocal Federation
Chorus"

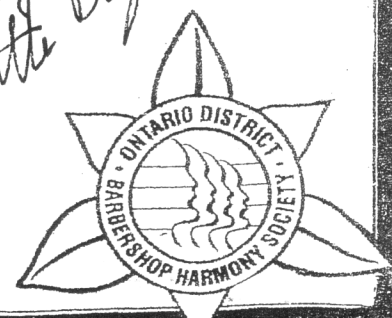
"Trumpeting the Federation's news to its borders and beyond"



Don & Mary Bough
 Mary & Bill
 Les & Penny
 Les & Donna Campbell
 Grant Knox
 Joan & Frank Knoll
 Norma & Quock Allen
 Dan & Betty
 Robert & Leanne
 Jim & Sylvia McDougall
 Bill & Gail
 Blake & Audrey
 Craig & Pat
 Bill & Heather Green
 John & Ernie Bough
 Roswell & Marilyn McEwen
 Hugh & Phyllis
 Bill & Fran Gallant
 Adrian Smith
 Ernie & Alan McEwen
 Kenneth & Pat Wilson
 Ross & Pat Smith
 Ray & Marcie Major
 Angus & Pat Bagnall



"Keep the light of hope glowing at Christmas for those in need...give to the Harmonize for Speech Foundation,so that Barbershoppers can help those with speech and hearing difficulties"



From The EDITOR'S DESK



As we finish off this year with the sing out at the Strathroy / Caradoc Horticultural Society Christmas party, the Forest Nursing Home, a great Saturday caroling around town, that for me is a huge highlight of the season. Also the chapter Christmas party with Blake's little band of troubadours to entertain us and St. Andy's Kitchen serving a spectacular turkey dinner it has certainly been a great Christmas season for the Vocal Federation but its with great sorrow that I quote from Silva's speech; *"Since the inception in 1996 of Harold's Angels, Donna Campbell, Mary Vair, Patti Bycraft, Jean Nisbet, Norma Allen, Eunice Fennell, Audrey Gough, Audrey Hughes, the late Barbara Knox, Sandy McDougall, Eileen McEwen, Marilyn McPherson, Pat Dixon, Diny Craenen and myself (Silva McDougall) have served in various capacities on the executive. To date we have given \$37,000.00 to the Strathroy Chapter through our various fund raising efforts.*

Its been 12 years and we are all that much older. We have decided to disband as an organization, but we will be available to help with the retreat and the show. So once again Les, Santa has a present for you, please accept this cheque from Harold's Angels."

and Silva handed treasurer Les Campbell a cheque for another \$2750.00 bringing a grand total of \$39,750.00 that these ladies have toiled so hard to raise over the past 12 years. When we look at the assets the chapter possess it becomes very apparent that we are what we are because of the support our wives have given us over the years. Hey guys give you wife a big kiss and a heart felt thank you from all of us they sure deserve it. Thus ends another year but a new one is just around the corner so onward we go and may everyone have a,

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"

Your editor, Bill Robertson

Chapter Christmas Carols Across Town

The Strathroy Chapter visited eighteen locations on Saturday, December 6th spreading some Christmas joy to the shoppers of Strathroy. Starting at Canadian Tire at 10:00 a.m. and working our way across town. A lunch break at the Gardenia restaurant included singing to the staff and patrons between ordering and receiving our meal. An annual event for some years and it's still a thrill to see people stop and enjoy a carol or two it sure is a great way to spend a Saturday.



The Vocal Federation at Real Canadian Super Store



*Under the Direction of
John Gough, Jim McDougall and Ros McPherson*

Christmas Card Collection

Thanks to the generous contributions made by our chapter members for this years Christmas Card, \$ 250.00 will be sent to Harmonize For Speech. A well deserved THANK YOU !!!!



2009 Board of Directors

(rear row left to right) Leigh Laughton – Board Member at Large, Orval Allen – Secretary, Bill Robertson – VP Communications, Henry Wiersema – VP Marketing & Public Relations, Gil Craenen President

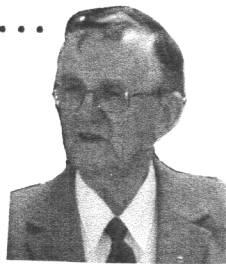
(front row left to right) Frank Knoll – Past President, Ray Mason – VP Performance, Roswell McPherson – VP Music, Les Campbell – Treasurer, Bob Fennell – VP Program, Absent: Larry Driessens (VP Chapter Development)

The prez says

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families. Another year has Passed and it was a very enjoyable one.

Highlighted by our annual show and our sell out crowds. Singing Valentines and our participation at the Western Division's Novice contest, were both record setting in numbers by our chapter. Our participation at St. Thomas' 40th Anniversary celebration was another event to remember. Our Christmas and awards dinner was enjoyable as always.

Now, we are looking ahead at the new year, and a busy time is awaiting us. Starting with COTS,



Singing Valentines and the Western Division Novice Concert, to be held at Seaforth on Saturday February 28.

I'm sure we'll do well, thanks to Bob Howlett's enthusiasm.

Then follows the Annual Show, the time of year we all look forward to.

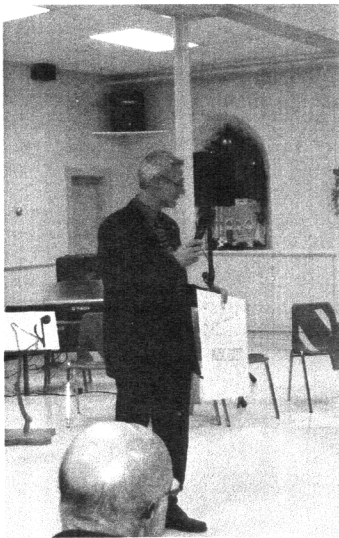
It's the time for hard work and intense preparations, but knowing our directors, and Blake's determination, together with Orval's leadership.

"Remember When" will be another topnotch show.

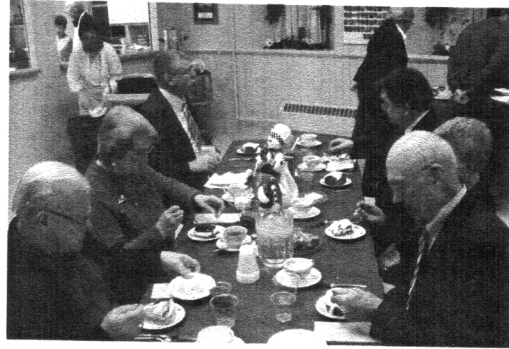
So, let's put our shoulder to the wheel and sell our program advertising and show tickets.

Gil

2008 CHRISTMAS DINNER



Master of Ceremonies
Ken Vanderheyden



The folks at St. Andrew's served a wonderful turkey dinner



Jimmy and Joey entertain us



"The Mystery Quartet" sings
(Ernie, Jim, Frank & Ros)

R & AWARDS BANQUET



Harold's Angels executive past & present



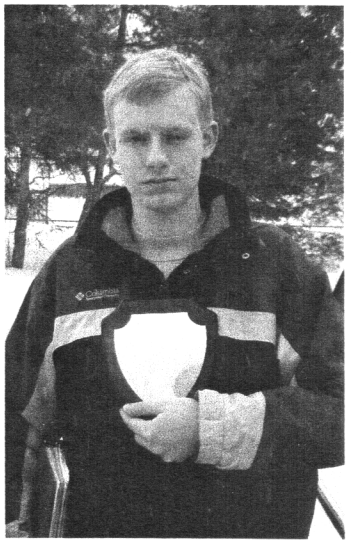
Sylva announces disbanding Angels



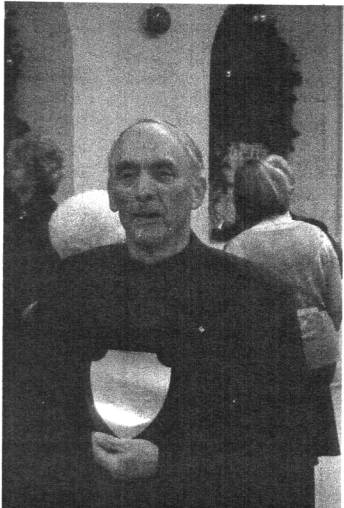
Les Campbell accepts cheque



Bob Fennell presents Jean Nisbet Barbershop Hall of Fame Award



Rookie of the Year
Adrian Smith



Barbershopper of the Year
Roswell McPherson

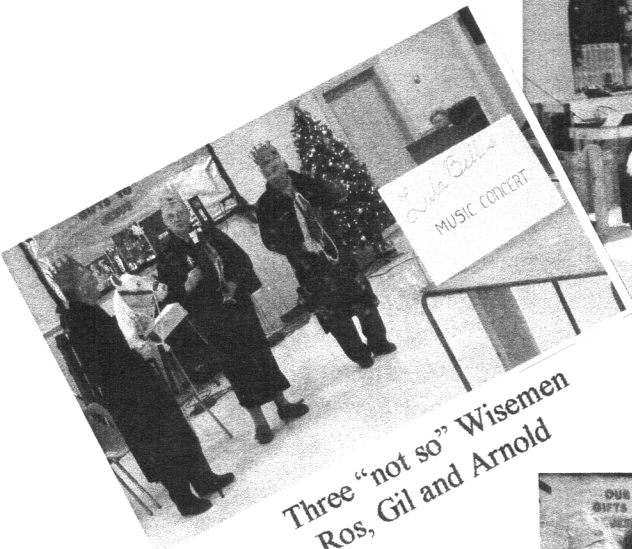


Member Achievement Award
Bill Robertson

Lula Bell's MUSIC CONCERT



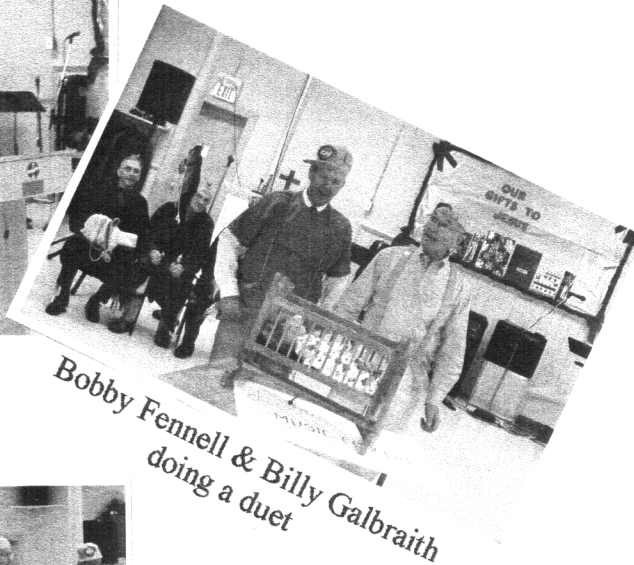
Miss Lula Bell
a.k.a. Blake Hughes



Three "not so" Wisemen
Ros, Gil and Arnold



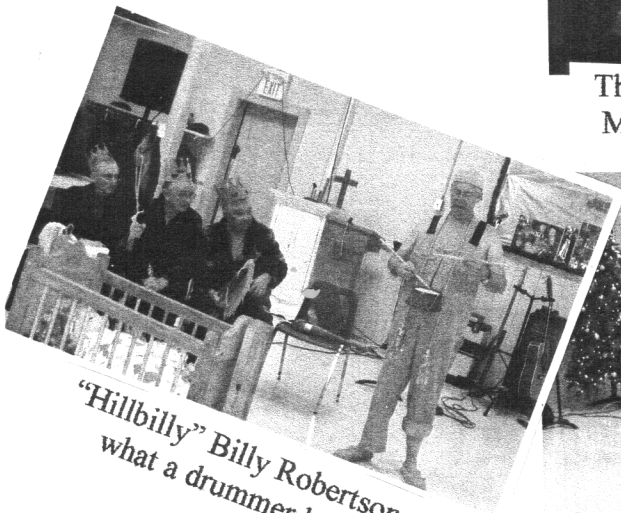
Orvalla's solo
Orval Allen



Bobby Fennell & Billy Galbraith
doing a duet



The Graduating Class of 2008 from
Miss Lula Bell's School of Music



"Hillbilly" Billy Robertson
what a drummer boy



Little Raymond on kazoo
& Orvalla on vocals



English exchange student
Raymond "Alfalfa" Mason

Birthdays

November:

November 2 – Dianne Carradine
 November 8 – Don Bazely
 November 16 – Jean Nisbet
 November 19 – Craig Bycraft
 November 20 – Larry Driessens
 November 25 – Bob Howlett
 November 27 – Gail Wiersema

December:

December 3 – Bill Bowron
 December 12 – Doug Langs
 December 13 – Patti Bycraft
 December 16 – Eileen McEwen
 December 26 – Arnold Dixon

January:

January 1 – Peggy Abel
 January 9 – Eunice Fennell
 January 9 – Marilyn McPherson
 January 20 – Blake Hughes

Anniversaries

November:

November 2 – Craig & Patti Bycraft
 November 6 – Don & Mary Bazely

December:

December 18 – Gord & Jean Nisbet
 December 25 – Les & Donna Campbell
 December 31 – Ron & Dianne Carradine

Canadian naval officer spends off hours singing barbershop

Bill Graveland, THE CANADIAN PRESS
 KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - You might say he's a member of a 'barber-ship' quartet. Most days, Canadian Navy Lt. Brendan Ryan has his hands full working out of the OCCP (Operational Co-ordination Centre - Provincial) attached to the governor's palace in Kandahar city. In his off hours, however, he pursues his true passion - singing barbershop. "Back in 1991, I went to a CBC reunion at the station in St. John's and I saw a quartet on the stage there. They had acts from the past and that sort of thing and

there was a quartet on the stage and I was just awestruck listening to these guys," said Ryan, a native of St. John's, NL.

"They told me a little bit about it and gave me a business card, and then about a year later I just showed up at a practice one day - and have been involved ever since."

"I come from a pretty musical family," Ryan chuckled. "It's in the blood."

There are any number of places a more typical musician would be able to ply his trade at Canada's myriad bases in southern Afghanistan. Not so for Ryan.

"Here, it's difficult - all you can do is go over your music. We have a website we put all of our written music on there," he said. "There's some learning tracks, so you can sing along with that stuff and learn new music off the sound tracks."

Ryan is a member of the Ottawa-based Capital City Chorus, which competed at an international championship put on by the Barbershop Harmony Society in Nashville last June. There are barbershop quartets and barbershop choruses, which can have as few as a dozen singers and as many as 150.

Barbershop is a form of a cappella, or unaccompanied vocal music, characterized by consonant four-part chords for every melody note. Each of the four parts has its own role. Generally, the lead sings the melody, the tenor harmonizes above the melody, the bass sings the lowest harmonizing notes, and the baritone completes the chord.

It's estimated about 80,000 people embrace it as a hobby worldwide.

Although many people equate barbershop with old ditties such as 'Down by the Old Mill Stream' and 'Let Me Call You Sweetheart,' it's not like that any more, Ryan said.

"It's come a long way," he said. "You're no longer singing stuff from the 1920s or 1930s - you're singing stuff that's from about two years ago."

The Capital City Chorus, which has about 100 members, finished 13th out of 18th at the Nashville competition after earning the right to go by winning Ontario first. And while Ryan was the only active military participant, he said there's a deep tradition of retired soldiers in barbershop.

Ryan admitted he has a hard time limiting himself to a single group of partners.

"I can sing a couple of parts - tenor, lead, baritone. It's like whatever quartet needs me at the time." In fact, said Ryan, there's a less-than-savoury term used to describe someone who can sing all the different parts.

(linked to Ontario District web-site December 2008)

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	Gil Craenen	519 - 245 - 2888
Past President	Frank Knoll	519 - 264 - 2856
District Delegate	Gil Craenen	519 - 245 - 2888
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Performance	Ray Mason	519 - 264 - 1850
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Member at Large	Leigh Laughton	519 - 264 - 1464

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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	Gord Nisbet

Music Team

Music VP – Ros McPherson
 Music Director – John Gough
 Music Director – Jim McDougall
 Librarian – Larry Driessen

Section Leaders

Tenor – Ernie McEwen
 Lead – Bob Howlett
 Baritone – John Gough
 Bass – Craig Bycraft

Websites

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

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 Strathroy, ON. N7G 4G5
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