

# The Federation's Fanfare

January 1997

Strathroy Chapter-Est. 1995

Member of Ontario District

"Trumpeting the Federation's news to it's borders and beyond."

## First Annual Novice Quartet Contest

The First Annual Strathroy Chapter Novice Competitions took place on Wednesday, January 22nd. Many guests including the Contest Judges, the quartet HIGH TIME from London, and Contest Master of Ceremonies Rick Madzia, also from London, joined us in a vocal warm up. After President Jim McDougall welcomed all in attendance, we broke up into our three chapter VLQs (Very Large Quartets) and had an opportunity to practice before each VLQ performed one song which they are preparing to sing in Mitchell at the Western Division Novice Competitions on the 22nd of February. We were joined by Harold's Angels at the close of their meeting as we took a break for refreshments prior to the Novice Quartet Contest. Despite a lengthy disabled list due to injuries and illness, nine quartets competed in the competition which is designed to give new or inexperienced barbershoppers the opportunity to experience the thrill of barbershop quartet singing. Ten new quartet men had their first performance experience and each performed very well. The first quartet experience for anyone is very exciting, although that is seldom the word used by the rookie in his description. Butterflies and a dry mouth, shaking knees and hands and even the odd wavering voice are often the case in novice competitions but not so with our competition as every man did himself proud.

The quartet "Shoulder Deep" featuring Veterinarian tones of Ted Gough and Frank Knoll, supplemented by John Gough and Brian McDougall placed third with Ted performing in his first quartet competition. Second place went to "Rural Routines", who were a late entry formed from a late scratch with Ernie McEwen, Bob Howlett, Roswell McPherson and Les Campbell doing a masterful job filling Craig Bycraft's shoes (Craig - watch your back!). The top spot was left to the lowest form of man who were ever bold enough to cross the stage. Four men simply named Huh, Uhg, Duh and Ahg caused such mortal fear in the hearts of the judges that a congressional committee on the ethics of grunting will be reviewing tapes of the competition to determine if the competition should be retried with a new jury. If nothing else, "B.C." proved one thing - even blonde cavemen have more fun! The real winner in the novice competition is the Vocal Federation. Each of the men that participated in this competition or even the preliminary competition in December is a better performer because of it and the entire chapter along with each individual member will benefit from competing. Quartetting is a lot of fun guys; keep it up!



*The Federation's Fanfare is a publication of the Strathroy Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing In America, Inc.*

The Strathroy Chapter meets Wednesday Evenings at 8:00pm at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at the corner of Albert and Richmond Streets in Strathroy, Ontario Canada.

**"Get Your Tickets Here!"**  
**1997 Show Ticket Chairman**  
**Ernie McEwen**

## Letters from Larry

**Larry Driessens**  
**Program V.P.**

Well guys our Annual Show is just twelve weeks away. **Time to start selling tickets!**

We are going to have a ticket selling contest this year. The chorus will be divided into three teams. The team which sells the most tickets will be the winner.

At the chorus meeting on the Wednesday night following the show we will have a pizza party. The team that sells the most tickets will eat for free while the other two teams will pay the bill. Teams will be posted on the bulletin board at the chapter meeting. *See me for tickets and start selling.*



**"Tickets!!!  
Get your  
tickets here!!!"**

Well my second year of Barbershopping has started and it started with a bang as I attended my first COTS. For a new barbershopper there is a lot to take in: singing, the Program V.P. course, which I must say was a head full, and the "Happening". It was very exciting to represent the Strathroy Chapter and present our donation to Harmonize for Speech. I would highly recommend going to COTS to anyone who wants to learn more about Barbershop and have a lot of fun and food!

Enough about COTS and on to the next event, our Novice Quartet Competition. I must say, it was an evening to remember; hats off to the organizers and participants for a great evening.

The Western Division Novice Competition in Mitchell is just around the corner and the "Vocal Federation" is priming up and our quartet and VLQ representatives are going to light up the stage. Hang on to hats guys, its going to be a great year for the Barbershoppers of Strathroy.

### Boy, We Get Around!

On Sunday afternoon, December 1st, a mere 14 staunch Vocal Federation singers performed their best at a musical variety program held at the Glencoe District High School. This was a community fund raising effort for youth in the Glencoe area. Solos, instrumentals and several other vocal choral groups supported the show. We certainly were appreciated for our talents.

Barbershop blew into Appin on December 8th as the Vocal Federation performed a twenty - five minute package of Christmas and repertoire songs at the Appin Community Centre sponsored by the St. Charles Catholic Womens League. The eighteen man chorus sung very well for an appreciative audience. Other variety acts rounded out their show which raised funds for the handicapped, area seniors and community people. Following a tremendous standing ovation at the end of the performance, a representative of the Catholic Womens League presented us with a cheque for \$50.00 toward our service project - Harmonize for Speech. Thanks to Director John Gough and also Bob Day and Jim McDougall for their emceeding efforts.

## **COTS PLUS 1997 - IN TRANSITION -**

Once again COTS, January 10th - 12th, was a fantastic learning experience. Six Strathroy members travelled through snow and slush to land at Geneva Park late Friday afternoon. After a fantastic dinner, we assembled in the Main Auditorium for a little gang singing and then an address from keynote speaker Society President Tim Hanrahan. President Hanrahan's address focused mainly on the recent and future happenings and changes at the Society's Head Office. He discussed the new administrative setup of both at the Society and chapter level and the introduction of vision statements for chapters.

The District Board Meeting brought a changing of the guard within the District. Retiring District President Don Pyper passed the torch to Mac Dallman and his expanded District Team. Immediate Past President and Society Board Member, and our beloved Chapter President Jim McDougall is replaced as IPP by Pyper while Brian O'Leary represent both Ontario and Northeastern Districts at the Society level. The new President and each of the District Vice Presidents presented their goals for 1997 and the 1997 Ontario District budget was reviewed.

"The Happening" is an event that every Barbershopper should experience once in his career. The Happening is a general meeting for one of our service projects, Harmonize for Speech. We received thanks from a recipient of Harmonize for Speech funds who has written curriculum for an elementary school program which incorporates music with speech to help not only children with speech difficulties but all children. She also introduced a poet who will be writing some lyrics and songs for new programs which she has planned. Representatives of chapters, quartets and auxiliaries paraded to the front of the Auditorium to present their year end donations. It is hard to believe that over

\$100,000.00 was presented to our charity in just over an hour.

A video presentation put together from some of the greatest all time barbershop presentations as well as a presentation by all of the faculty members commenced our core classes. No matter how often you attend the same class there is always something new to be learned to better your chapter and yourself as a Barbershopper.

After a couple of class sessions and a chapter planning session we had the chance to see and listen to some of the best quartets in the District. Gold Rush, Tribute, Kingpins and Jukebox all sang and entertained very well. After the show concluded, we went back to our rooms and after discussing the events of the day, we sang until we thought we had an International calibre VLQ or at least that's what it sounded like to us.

Sunday morning came very early but we all made it to the first class, but I don't think John made breakfast. Each of us that attended has their own story to tell but we all learned a great deal and you are already starting to see it each week. If you ever have a chance to attend, please take the opportunity; you will not be disappointed.



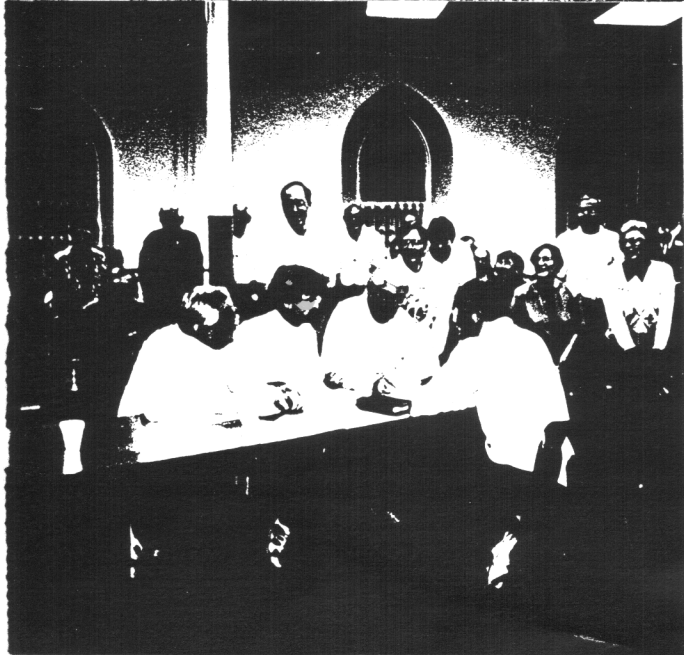
**"We  
found  
some!"**

A huge welcome to the two newest members of the Strathroy Chapter and the "Vocal Federation" - **Tim Dayfoot and Orval Allen**. We are very happy and proud to welcome you into the fold.

Also a pat on the back for John Gough and Jim McDougall who got Tim and Orval to come and see what Barbershop is all about.

(Editor's Note: Look for profiles on Orval and Tim in upcoming additions of the "FANFARE".)

*Candid shots from the First Annual Strathroy Chapter Novice Quartet Contest.....*





## The Prez Sez

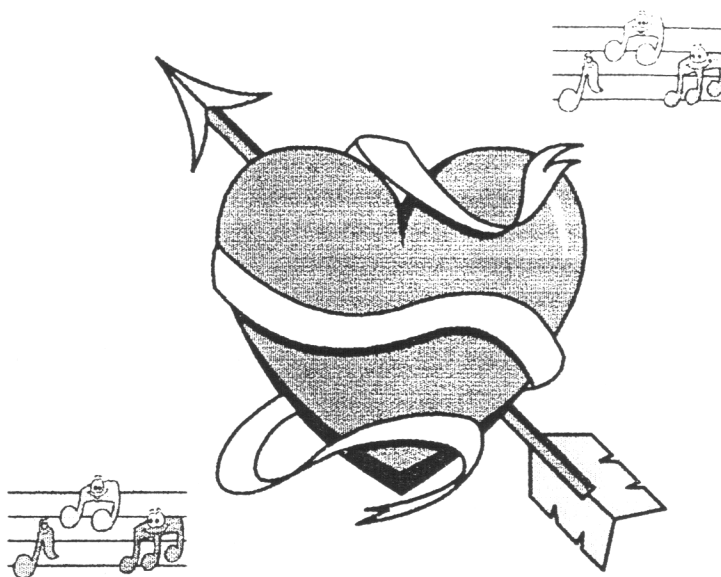
Jim McDougall  
President

Chapter Officer Training Seminar has started off 1997 with a huge bang. It certainly was a lot of fun to accompany the five members who attended and I thank all the guys for making the effort and giving up their weekend for the Strathroy Chapter. It's always an experience just to watch the "Greenhorns". Larry Driessens with no sleep - Bob Day taking the flack, kept us all in stitches all weekend long. Larry Driessens and Brian McDougall representing the "Strathroy Chapter" presented our proud contribution to "Harmonize for Speech". Both Craig Bycraft and John Gough have come home with some great new ideas to help our chapter proceed.

Our annual Chapter Novice Contest certainly was a huge success. Nine quartets and three VLQs entertained their best with enthusiasm. A huge thank you goes to the quartet "HIGH TIME" for not only judging our contest and entertaining us but we were totally surprised with their donating a Chapter Novice Quartet Trophy. Our Chapter will cherish their kind donation forever. Special thanks to Rick Madzia for emceeing the evening and Craig Bycraft for his fine organization of the entire contest. Last but not least another big thank you to Harold's Angels for joining us and providing lunch.

Now it's on to the next step. Prepare yourself to entertain at the Western Division Novice Contest in Mitchell.

Happy Valentines Day!



*"Away we went a Carolling...."*

Jim McDougall

On the Friday evening preceding Christmas, a caroling we did go. The Strathroy Downtown Business Association invited us to entertain along with a youth group that acted out the Christmas Story. This included wisemen and shepherds with animals and all. Of course this was right downtown, outdoors on Front Street.

It was a windy, freezing, bitter cold night. The wind chill was lower than low. Nonetheless, fifteen members of the Vocal Federation with Christmas in their soul and a song in their heart braved the cold and entertained the late shoppers. In between the outdoor shows, we would slip inside one of the different downtown businesses and sing more carols for more shoppers. Improving as we went, people really seemed to enjoy our carols in barbershop harmony. Several of the business owners expressed their thanks with sincerity. Many thanks to Hamilton's Bakery for providing coffee, hot chocolate and cookies for us at the end of the evening.

# Happy Valentines Day!

# PROFILES

A brief look at chapter members  
in Barbershopping and  
beyond Wednesday nights.

(Third of a continuing series of member profiles)

**John Gough** - Music V.P., Chorus Director  
Barbershop

Membership: 17 years with London, St. Thomas  
and Strathroy

Quartetting: Several quartets - Constellation -  
with Jim and Brian McDougall and London  
Times - who have performed across the  
continent, have produced a tape and continue to  
sing together when they can even though they  
live in Mount Brydges, Dorchester, Virginia and  
Florida.

Involvement: Assistant Director in London.

Sings: Baritone and Lead

Home

Married to Enid. Two children, Michael and  
Mark - both at home but not much. Lives in  
Caradoc Township.

Employment

Owner/Operator of Nova Farms, one of the  
largest and most advanced hog operations in the  
area.

**Burke Walker** - New Member

Barbershop

Introduced to Barbershop by Frank Lewis.

Membership: Joined Strathroy Chapter in Fall of  
1996

Sings: Lead

Home

Married to Marj. Two children neither of which  
live at home. Lives in Glencoe.

Employment

Self Employed with a Decorating Business in  
Glencoe

**Bud Jackson** - New Member

Barbershop

Brought to Barbershop by Jim McDougall.

Membership: Joined Strathroy Chapter in Fall of  
1996

Sings: Bass

Home

Married to Stella. Three children, none of  
which remain at home. Resides in Strathroy.

Employment

Retired Secondary School Principal.

---

## News from HEADQUARTERS

(From SPEBSQSA Update - January 1997)

As of December 31, 1996, the Society has  
34,225 Members in 808 chapters and 19  
licensed sites. That's up 877 members for the  
end of 1995, a solid 2.6% growth. Fifteen of  
the sixteen districts grew with Rocky Mountain  
showing the greatest gain of 8 percent. Pioneer  
District was second in gain, growing by 5  
percent and Central States, Dixie, Seneca Land,  
Southwestern and our own Ontario District each  
increased membership by 4 percent. The two  
membership campaigns of last year, Operation  
Harold Hill and Let's Make A Deal had a great  
deal to do with the growth. A new campaign is  
already on the horizon. Get ready to play  
Barbershop Bingo.

Our toll free phone line at the Society head  
office in Kenosha continued to be busy in 1996  
with over 80,000 calls received. Remember 1-  
800-876-SING for all your Barbershop questions  
and queries.

The U.S. portion of the Sing America/Sing  
Canada service project will have a chance to  
jump onto the national stage in a March 13th  
event in Washington D.C. The event is to  
coincide with the 13th annual "World's Largest  
Concert" which is planned to be broadcast on  
PBS via satellite hook-up and 1:00 pm.

Our first meeting of the new year was held on January 22, 1997. We met at the Presbyterian Church in the Parlour. We discussed the new telephone system that was set in place to help improve communications amongst the auxiliary. It was used to reschedule this meeting and seemed to work quite well.

Our fundraising adventures and realized profits from 1996 were discussed and notes made for improvements were recorded. All in all, Harold's Angels had a very successful first year and we were more than happy to forward a "pot of gold" on to our fellows, the Vocal Federation, at the Christmas party. Through our efforts, the Strathroy Chapter was able to forward funds to Harmonize for Speech, including a donation made on behalf of Harold's Angels. Our auxiliary's name will now be added to a special plaque in Harmony Hall in Toronto. Way to go girls!!

New business at the meeting included fund raising ideas for the year, we decided we would repeat some of this years activities including: the Strawberry Social (June 97), Yard Sale (May 10/97), and a Christmas Bake Sale (December 97). Some of the new ideas involved hosting a Country Home Party (October 97) and a Jewelry Party (Spring 97). We also discussed the possibly selling Cheese and Gift Packs.

Harold's Angels will again be responsible for the Afterglow following the Vocal Federation Chapter Show on May 3, 1997. We will also be working during the afternoon and evening performances selling tickets, etc.

After all of this planning, the entertainment for the evening was about to begin as the Vocal Federation held their first annual Novice Quartet Competition. It was a very enjoyable time and we were honoured to have High Time act as judges for the competition and perform as well. Little did we also know, we have a few

**The Angel Connection**

*Harold's Angels Report  
Rae Driessens*

comedians in the chorus, Uhg, Uhg !!! Afterwards a wonderful table of sweets, cheeses and coffee were served. Thanks to the girls who helped with the dessert table and dishes

afterward.

The next meeting of the Angels will be held on March 19, 1997 at 7:30 pm at Sylvia's McDougall's home. See you there!

*"You're as welcome  
as the flowers  
in May"*



<u>Guest</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Singer Bringer</u>
Bill Bowron	December	He found us!
Earl Morwood	January	Bob Fennell
Grant Wolfe	February	Bill Galbraith
Ted Spencer	February	Bill Galbraith

**News about QUARTETS**

**Rural Roots**

*from Ernie McEwen*

Rural Roots has had a very busy January. The quartet sang at Trillium Village in Strathroy on Thursday, January 16th to a very appreciative audience of about 60 people. It was a very pleasant 'pain free' twenty minute performance.

On Saturday, January 25th, with Craig still not fully recovered from the fall which kept him from competing in the Chapter Novice Competition, we performed for the 150th Anniversary of the Plympton & Wyoming Agricultural Society. Craig toughed it out through a thirty performance, but the rest of us had a good time.

(Editor's Note: Get healthy Craig, we can't wait to have you back singing with us again!)

# Strathroy Chapter

Western Division - Ontario District - SPEBSQSA

*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	Jim McDougall	(519) 245-0843
Treasurer	Les Campbell	(519) 245-0359
Secretary	Bob Day	(519) 246-1791
Chapter Dev. V.P.	Frank Knoll	(519) 264-2856
Music V.P.	John Gough	(519) 264-1031
Program V.P.	Larry Driessens	(519) 246-1791
Communication V.P.	Brian McDougall	(519) 245-5747

## Music Team Leaders

Music V.P.	John Gough
Chorus Co - Director	John Gough
Chorus Co - Director	Brian McDougall

## Section Leaders

Tenor	Ernie McEwen
Lead	Brian McDougall
Baritone	John Gough
Bass	Jim McDougall

## Appointments

Quartet Activity Chairman	Craig Bycraft
Attendance Recorder	Frank Knoll
Historian	Ernie McEwen
Nominating Committee Chairman	Tom Linden
1997 Show Committee Co-Chairman	Jim McDougall
	Bob Day
Kitchen Steward	Les Campbell
Fanfare Editor/Directory Publisher	Brian McDougall
Harmonize For Speech Chairman	Les Campbell
Sunshine Chairman	Gord Nisbet

## The Federation Fanfare

Editor - Brian J. McDougall

R. R. #1 - 8009 Scotchmere Drive,  
Strathroy, Ontario, Canada, N7G 3H3

The Federation 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, its officers or members.

*Next ♪ Fanfare ♪*

**Deadline:**

**March 19, 1997**

Said the bass to his bari and lead; (H. Earl  
"I fear a new tenor we need, Martin)  
For the one that we had  
Strained his gizzard real bad,  
When the last song was so sharply keyed."

## CHAPTER CELEBRATIONS

### Chapter Birthdays

February 4	John King
February 6	Rae Driessens
February 8	Bob Day
February 22	Doug Simpson
March 4	Pat Schmidt
March 8	Bill Stanley
March 20	Jeanne King
March 23	Fran Galbraith
March 25	Bert Schmidt

### Chapter Anniversaries

March 12	Bob & Jill Day
March 15	Mark & Chris Carruthers
If your Birthday or Anniversary Date is not included, please let me know.	

## Coming Events

February 22	Western Div. Novice Competitions - Mitchell D.H.S.
February 26	Strathmere Lodge Performance - 7:30 pm
March 5	Chapter Business & Goals Meeting - 7:00 pm
March 19	Fanfare Deadline
April 12	Bothwell Performance
May 3	Chapter Shows 1:59 pm & 7:59 pm
May 14	Chapter Guest Night
May 30 - June 1	Harmony College North - Guelph