

March
1998

Issue 3 - 2



The Federation's Fanfare

Strathroy
Chapter
Established
1995

Member of
Ontario
District

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

The Strathroy Barbershoppers hosted 300 barbershoppers from the region for competitions and a charity show last Saturday at Strathroy District Collegiate Institute. These competitions were for the Western Division of the Ontario District of the Society for the Preservation of the Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. The Western Division comprises two groups from London and one from each of St. Thomas, Sarnia, Chatham, Seaforth, Woodstock and Strathroy Chapters.

The Chorus competition kicked off the afternoon activities. The chorus of the host chapter, the Vocal Federation kept the gold in Strathroy, winning the competition for the first time in the chapters brief history after finishing second each of the past two years. The Harmony Kings, chorus of the Seaforth chapter, finished second, while The Elginaires, chorus of the St. Thomas chapter finished third.

The next competition of the day was for Very Large Quartets (VLQs) which are groups with between 5 and 11 participants. Again the entry from the host chapter emerged victorious. Should-A-Been-There took top spot with Ernie McEwen and Bruce Cameron singing tenor, Orval Allen, Bill Bowron, Bob Fennell, Gord Nisbet and Norm Leckie singing lead, John Gough singing baritone and Don Nisbet, Arnold Dixon and Jim McDougall singing bass. The Maitland River Chord Company, from the Seaforth Chapter took home the silver, while Elgin 11, from St. Thomas took home the bronze.

The afternoon closed with a quartet competition which had both Seniors and Novice quartets participating. Just Four Us, a seniors quartet from the St. Thomas chapter, with Ron Madill (from Mount Brydges) singing tenor, Ron Smith lead, Max Charlton baritone and Gord Stacey bass won the Seniors Quartet Championship. The Strathroy Harmonizers, Ernie McEwen singing tenor, Jim McDougall lead, Roswell McPherson baritone and Les Campbell bass, from the Strathroy Chapter took home second place honours. Riverside, from the Sarnia chapter, garnered the third spot with John Hopkins singing tenor, Ted Stewart lead, Glyn Jones baritone and John Chorostecki bass.

The Chairmen of the Board were crowned champions in the Novice Quartet division. The Chairmen of the Board are Darcy Smith singing tenor, Bruce Gripton (from Strathroy) lead, Eric Booth baritone and Doug Beattie bass and they are from the London Chapter. Sounds Exciting, from the Sarnia chapter captured silver medals with Don Fowlie singing tenor, Bob St. Onge lead, Bruce McCallum baritone and Don Lantz bass. The Strathroy Harmonizers, who were eligible to compete in both of the quartets competitions took home bronze medals in the Novice competitions to go with their silver in the Seniors division.

The champions of the afternoon competitions as well as the Bluewater Chordsmen, chorus of the Sarnia chapter, the Men of Accord, chorus of the London chapter, and three fantastic quartets including 4 Reasons Y with Brian Dixon (from Strathroy) singing tenor performed on a Charity Show Saturday evening. An audience of 400 enjoyed the fast paced show chocked full of talent. One of the service projects of Ontario District Barbershoppers is to assist children with speech and hearing difficulties. A youngster, Cameron Mackey, from the Parkhill area, who has a serious speech delay affliction had a fund established to continue with his speech therapy treatments with the proceeds from the evening show.

*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 8:00 pm at St. Andrews Presbyterian
Church at the corner of Albert and Richmond Streets in Strathroy, Ontario Canada.**

Vocal Federation
Soar in Western
Division Competitions
(reprinted from the Strathroy Age
Dispatch - March 3, 1998)

From The Big Chair

JIM McDOUGALL
PRESIDENT

Another spectacular chapter novice quartet contest is behind us. The congratulations go out to all of the participants because you were all winners in my books. Fifteen quartets from a two year old chapter is really phenomenal. A big thank you to Bill Bowron for his organizing and also to his brother-in-law, Gerry Allen, for emceeing the contest. An applauding thank you to 4 Reasons Y for judging the contest is also due.

Who said quartetting wouldn't make a difference to our singing quality as a chorus? Congratulations Champs! What a wonderful feeling. I like being among champs, and to think we're only two years old. I'd go away on vacation again if I thought I could come home to that. The Vocal Federation can be very proud of our accomplishments within the division. Congratulations also to our VLQ, "Should A Been There", for winning gold. I think we surprised ourselves. Some senior looking quartet, Strathroy Harmonizers, had notable mention also. Way to go gang.

I have received considerable compliments for our hosting of the division day and all of its activities. However, the compliments are spread chapter wide - you are the guys that made it happen. Thanks for all your efforts. Much thanks also to our judges, Nash Ramblers. I certainly am pleased that we were able to recruit them for the whole day. They along with 4 Reasons Y, High Time, the Bluewater Chordsmen and the Men of Accord combined to make a wonderfully entertaining show. They all performed well and we thank each and every man for their efforts.

Our extra curricular activities seemed to be quite popular on the off hours too. Barbershop Videos were watched at all times. The BarberPole Cat room was full to overflowing for more than an hour and a

half and several members qualified on many songs. Woodshedders gathered in another area with good participation. In fact, Sarnia member, Glyn Jones, qualified for membership with AHSOW.

But the most talked about activity of the day was filling our stomachs with the tastiest, most delicious meals you would ever believe. Our gals, Harold's Angels, have done it again. The lunch of awesome sandwiches and savoury soup sure was appreciated. But the meal at 5:00 pm was the talk of everyone. The ham and scalloped potatoes were extra delicious and everything just made for a wonderful meal. Many thanks go out to the gals because all of the great food just put a cap on this special day. The compliments are still rolling in. Division Day, February 28, 1998, will be remembered for a long time.

Now its time to sell tickets to our show just a mere 8 weeks away. Carry your tickets with you at all times. Ask everyone you see. Most people buy - They really do!

Judges Barbershop Speak

From the pen of Paul Sherry comes this list of things judges say at A&R (Analysis & Recommendation) sessions, and what they really mean! (As printed in Direct Line SPEBSQSA)

1. "That is one of my favourite songs."
(If I hear that song once more, I'll scream.)
2. "Jazz numbers don't always make good barbershop songs."
(I was tapping my foot so fast it nearly fell off.)
3. "Have you ever thought of asking for a coaching session?"
(Please, God, don't let them ask me.)
4. "Let's go back to basics."
(This is a pitch pipe.)
5. "How do you think you sounded?"
(I think you sounded pretty awful.)
6. "It's always refreshing to hear songs we don't know."
(But let's face it, who would want to know that song?)
7. "There are no losers in barbershop competitions."
(But your chorus is an exception to the rule.)

Quartets WOW!

Bill Bowron

Quartet Activity Chairman

Yes, we can be very proud of our chapter. February 4th, we held our second annual chapter novice quartet competition with 15 quartets participating. It was truly fantastic - keep up the good work. To all the competitors, your time spent in practice and performance was well worth the while. We all extend to you another loud round of applause. I feel we were all winners and the entire chapter is the winner in the long run. The only disappointment was that there weren't more in attendance to enjoy the night.

We all owe a lot of thanks to our directors, Brian McDougall and John Gough, for the time and effort that they have given to us. Without them we would not have our accomplishments. Also to President Jim, who drove all the way from Florida straight through to be here with us and to compete in the contest, leaving his lovely wife behind in Florida. A hardy thanks to all three of you.

What a performance at the Western Division Barbershop Competitions on Saturday, February 28th: Chorus - first place, VLQ - first place, Seniors Quartet - second place and Novice Quartet - third place. Thanks to all of you for your extra time and effort so this could be accomplished. Way to go VOCAL FEDERATION. I would hope that we can keep the VLQ going and learn some new songs.

The men in the chapter are incredibly proud of the terrific job accomplished by Harold's Angels in putting together and serving 260 people over two meals at the Western Division Barbershop Competitions. Harold's Angels, you have once again gone above and beyond the call of duty. You set a new level of support and accomplishment that will be almost impossible and most certainly can not be beaten. The Vocal Federation is truly blessed to have a group that supports us like you do. Ladies, once again many, many thanks.

Yours Alone

The fulfillment of your dreams lies within you and you alone. When you understand and accept this, then nothing, or no one, can deny you greatness. The power to succeed or fail is yours. No one can take that away.

(From The Vocalizer, Vocal Majority, September 1997)

Songs and Flowers

Keith Campbell

Singing Valentines Chairman

Romance and excitement filled the air as the Vocal Federation Singing Valentine program swung into tune on February 13. February 13 you ask? What better day than Friday the 13th to deliver messages of love and make people feel good!

Bright and early, the two quartets met at St. Andrew's and made up the schedule of deliveries for the day. The two quartets were comprised of Les Campbell, Ted Gough, John Gough and Keith Campbell and Rural Roots - Ernie McEwen, Bob Howlett, Ros McPherson and Craig Bycraft. Our engagements were spread from Rodney and Newbury in the west to London and Thorndale in the east. On Friday evening was Gord Nisbet, John Gough, Frank Lewis and Bert Schmidt delivered a couple of valentines in the Glencoe area.

I would like to thank all of our members who took the time to support this great fund raising project for Harmonize for Speech, whether it was the singing or organizing or selling the engagements.

I can only speak for myself about the range of feelings that one goes through while presenting the valentine greetings. As we sang our message of love the reactions ranged from giggles to red faces, from laughter to tears, but always with appreciation for the loved one who thought enough to do something special.

Our quartet, and I'm sure the other one too, were the real winners because of the fantastic feelings we were each left with at the end of the day.

This year since the actual date of February 14 fell on a Saturday, we had some engagements of the second day as well. Again, they were met with much appreciation and again the quartet counted themselves fortunate to be able to take part. Thanks to Frank Knoll, John Gough and Ted Gough who joined me in singing Saturday.

I don't know how to possibly relate the feelings that go through your mind as a teary eyed lady is hugging and kissing her husband as we deliver her valentine's greeting. "Feelings from the Heart" is an understatement.

Thanks again for all your hard work. Next year lets sell three times as many so we can get more quartets involved. When you get involved, I'll bet it will be one of the most memorable days of your barbershop year.

Chapter Novice Quartet Contest

On February 4th, the Strathroy Chapter hosted it's second annual Novice Quartet Competition. Fifteen quartets crossed the stage including 7 different tenors, 10 different leads, 5 different baritones and 9 different basses. The applause was tremendous for each competitor and the laughs were shared all around.



Freshman Experiences, with Keith Campbell - Tenor, Bill Bowron - Lead, Bert Schmidt - Baritone and Jim McDougall - Bass, were awarded third place honours in a close fight as two other quartets were within half a point.



Still Shoulder Deep, carried on the proud tradition of last years medalists Shoulder Deep and took second place, moving up a spot from last year with a positive changes in personnel. Still Shoulder Deep are Keith Campbell - Tenor, Ted Gough - Lead, Ros McPherson - Baritone and Frank Knoll - Bass.



Not to be outdone by the classy white fedoras, the new chapter novice quartet champions brought their "cabbage patch kids" on stage and sang to them lovingly.

Fourthwith Sound, named using a little manufactured legal terminology courtesy of Gord Nisbet, were crowned champs at the close of the enjoyable contest. Fourthwith Sound are comprised of: Keith Campbell - Tenor (making a clean sweep of the top spot at tenor), Jim McDougall - Lead, John Gough - Baritone and Frank Knoll - Bass.

Amazingly despite a listed 10 point spread, the judge 4 Reasons Y, understanding the intent of the competition, declared that the remaining competitors all tied for the fourth spot in the competition. Well done Vocal Federation! Quartets tied in fourth place included:

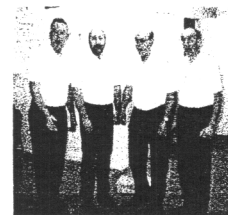
The Village Quartet: Hugh Nisbet - Tenor, Bob Fennell - Lead, Don Nisbet - Bari & Frank Lewis - Bass



The Liver Spots: Bob Fennell - Tenor, Orval Allen - Lead, Bert Schmidt - Bari & Bud Jackson - Bass



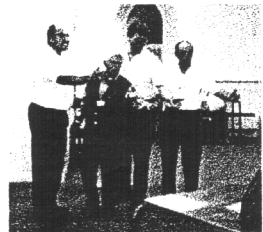
What's Available: Keith Campbell - Tenor, Ted Gough - Lead, Ros McPherson - Bari & Les Campbell - Bass



Early Arrivals: Bruce Cameron - Tenor, Bill Bowron - Lead, John Gough - Bari & Les Campbell - Bass



Aforementioned Reputation: Brian McDougall - Tenor, Gord Nisbet - Lead, Ros McPherson - Bari & Frank Knoll - Bass



After Thought: Ernie McEwen - Tenor, Bob Howlett - Lead, Tim Dayfoot - Bari & Arnold Dixon - Bass



Songful Portrait: Keith Campbell - Tenor, Blake Hughes - Lead, Bert Schmidt - Bari & Jim McDougall - Bass



Last Entry: Brian McDougall - Tenor, Bob Howlett - Lead, Bert Schmidt - Bari & Craig Bycraft - Bass



Sold For A Song: Ernie McEwen - Tenor, Brian McDougall - Lead, Ros McPherson - Bari & Les Campbell - Bass



Just Half Campbell: Keith Campbell - Tenor, Bill Bowron - Lead, John Gough - Bari & Les Campbell - Bass



Burke Four: Bob Howlett - Tenor, Burke Walker - Lead, Tim Dayfoot - Bari & John King - Bass



Recruits Aloft On A Ground Swell: Bruce Cameron - Tenor, Blake Hughes - Lead, John Gough - Bari & Jim McDougall - Bass



Way to go guys!

An Open Letter To Harold's Angels

Mrs. Patty Bycraft
 President, Harold's Angels
 R. R. #5, 4520 Egremont Drive
 Strathroy, Ontario N7G 3H6

Dear Patti:

February 28, 1998 was an important date in the Chapter Diary of the Vocal Federation.

It marked our first "shot" at hosting the Western Division Competitions. We knew that our colleagues in the Western Division would be watching - to see if we had really arrived - not only as singers, but as hosts of a competition of this complexity.

Looking back, we think that the operation was a success on both counts; but without Harold's Angels we simply couldn't have brought it off.

Thank you for providing that looked after among other things, the admissions and the money.

Thank you also for the delicious lunch and dinner, and for all the hard work that went into it's preparation. If the compliments we received from our out of town guests is a reliable guide, this was the high point in the day for many of them! The food was simply delicious.

Harold's Angels is more than our auxiliary. It is a part - a very important part - of the Vocal Federation.

Again, our sincere thanks to all our Angels - for that is what you are!

On behalf of a truly thankful chapter of men,
 Gordon S. Nisbet

Revelation 101

Larry Driessens

Let me set the stage for you: Its Saturday morning and we're setting up for the Western Division Novice Competition. I'm standing on the stage with Frank Knoll, Ernie McEwen, John Gough and Bob Howlett.

We were basically just standing around talking about what else had to be done and watching Shawn Bilinski, The Sound Man, set up his myriad of equipment when he asked for a sound check, if four guys would oblige. So Frank, Ernie and John step up to the microphone and Bob says to me "Go on, get up there!" I have to say I was a little apprehensive as I walked up to join the others. I have sung in pick up quartets before, so I thought they'll likely pick a polecat to sing and I know all those pretty well. However,

much to my surprise, John suggested we sing our contest songs. Eeeoowh!

Instantly, I began to question myself. I have never sung these songs in a quartet before. Will I get the notes right? Will it sound okay? Will I get my cut-offs and my lead-ins right? Of course, I'm also singing with three guys who together, have been around barbershop longer than I have been alive.

Well, when all was sung and done, Bob came up and said, "You did alright." That was a nice pat on the back from him and a boost to my morale.

The moral of this story, I guess, is that we need to keep quartetting in our program. I realized, when I'm singing these songs in the chorus, I'm leaning on others and not holding my own. In a quartet, you have no choice but to hold your own. So when someone asks you to sing in a quartet, you should take the chance. It can only make you a better singer and that will improve the Vocal Federation.

MORE BARBERSHOP ON THE SILVER SCREEN

From Update, SPEBSQSA, February 1998

The recently opened movie, *Good Will Hunting*, has a segment filmed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The script called for a barbershop quartet to perform at a MIT alumni reunion.

Central casting contact Northwest Connection, and offered the gig, which was naturally accepted with alacrity. Filming took place last April.

To avoid royalties, the foursome, Matt Mercier - Tenor, Ralph St. George - Lead, Dan Washington - Baritone and Bob Lynds - Bass, were searching for a public domain song. Joe Liles gave them permission to use his "If I Had The Last Dream Left In The World."

About 28 seconds of the song may be heard on the sound track, and the quartet got about 8 seconds of screen time, but both appear in the closing credits. Good show! *Good Will Hunting* is currently showing at a theatre near you.

What Do The Judges Want From Us?

Taken from the *Derbytown Gazette*,
Edited by Ed Crosley

Music

Judges in this category adjudicate the musical elements in the performance: melody, harmony, range and tessitura, tempo and rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments.

They judge the extent to which the musical performance displays the hallmarks of the barbershop style, and the degree to which the musical performance demonstrates an artistic sensitivity to the music's primary theme.

Presentation

These judges evaluate how effectively a performer brings the song to life. They respond to both the visual and vocal aspects of the presentation, to evaluate the interaction of these aspects in creating the image of the song, as well as everything about the performance that contributes to emotional impact upon the audience.

Singing

Judges in this category evaluate the degree to which the performer achieves artistic singing in the

barbershop style: the production of vibrant, rich, resonant, technically accurate, and highly skilled sound, created both by the individual singer's use of good vocal techniques, and by the ensemble processes of tuning, balancing, unity of sound and precision.

They listen for a sense of precise intonation, a feeling of fullness or expansion of sound, a perception of a high degree of vocal skill, a high level of unity and consistency throughout the performance, and a freedom from apparent effort that allows the full communication of the lyric and song.

Each judge may award up to 100 points per song.



"AND STOP ORDERING ME AROUND AS IF I WAS YOUR CHORUS!"

EXERCISES FOR BETTER FACES

(by Arthur Miller, via Tiger Town Tags)

Here is a short list of exercises to improve facial expressions for stage presentation that can help anyone, even experienced barbershoppers.

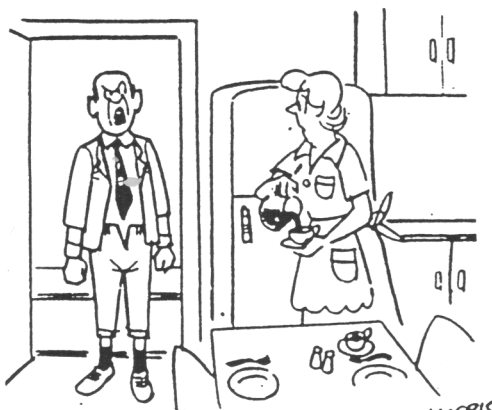
First, warm up your facial muscles before singing. Open your mouth and your eyes as wide as you can. Then scrunch you face up like a child about to cry. Repeat several times. Move your jaw side to side. Do some neck rolls and turn your head from side to side. Then take a mirror and try smiling and frowning in the mirror to get a real sense of what you want to look like.

Second, sing the song to your mirror. Often, we have no idea what we look like when we sing. In our own minds, we have a great big smile on our face, but the mirror won't lie. That smile is almost never as big as you think it is.

Many of us are concentrating so hard on how to sing that our faces lose most of their expression. If you are singing before rehearsal with a few friends, you can try an exercise called mirroring. Pick the singer who has the best face, then as you sing, all of you watch him and try to consciously mirror his face with your own.

Finally, read the song. This seems obvious, but actually most of us do not do it until we are told to. Read the words, and THINK about what the songwriter is trying to say. What effect or emotion are they trying to produce? Once you have thought about that, it becomes easier to make your face work on trying to create the effect.

None of these exercises will immediately make you the best face in the chorus, but regular use of them will make you a better performing member of the chorus.



"It seems our new chorus uniforms are NOT WASHABLE!"

JOHN MORRIS
D.O.C.

Quartet Corner

Fourthwith Sound

December 1st - Inaugural Performance - Performed at Strathroy Lions Club Annual Christmas Party.

December 15th - Sang for the Forest Rotary Club at their Annual Christmas Party. One of those typical service club performances - some significant delays. An 8:30 performance was delayed over an hour by a late serving of dessert and a visitation by an ambulance to care for an angina victim. Staff of the restaurant were so appreciative we were served dessert following our performance and were even entertained by the restaurant staff.

December 20th - Did our own Caroling Tour dropping in to see some friends and visiting several parties in and around Strathroy. The Vet, Frank, was on call. After five visits, he was beeped and we had to return to the clinic to assist a feline in distress. Then we returned to our journey and made several more stops before ending our tour at Les and Donna Campbell's.

February 4th - Participated in the Chapter Novice Quartet Competition.

March 7th - Performed at a community dinner hosted by the Mount Brydges Baptist Church. Introduced as three hick farmers and a vet, we must have sung well as we were described by the emcee as 'professionals' following the performance.

IT WAS A POLECAT PARTY!

Ros, Craig, Bob & Ernie
"Rural Roots"

A couple of weeks before the Western Division Barbershop Competitions, we were asked to help orchestrate and manage the Barber Polecat Activity Room between the competitions and supper. It was expected that there would be some interest but we were amazed at the participation.

Twenty two men from five chapters performed in quartets. It was very exciting to hear some of the men sing in quartets for the first time.

A good time, ringing good chords was had by all.

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.	Blake Hughes	(519) 264-1245
Program V.P.	Larry Driessens	(519) 245-2851
Performance V.P.	Bob Fennell	(519) 693-4280
Communication V.P.	Bud Jackson	(519) 245-0607
Board Mem. At Large	Ernie McEwen	(519) 245-1051
Board Mem. At Large	Keith Campbell	(519) 666-0090

Music Team

Music V.P. - Blake Hughes
Chorus Director - John Gough
Chorus Director - Brian McDougall
Librarian - Arnold Dixon

Section Leaders

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

Appointments

Quartet Activity Chairman	Bill Bowron
Attendance Recorder	Frank Knoll
Historian	Ernie McEwen
Nominating Committee Chairman	Tom Linden
Service Projects Chairman	Les Campbell
Uniform Chairman	Bill Galbraith
1998 Show Committee Co-Chairman	Jim McDougall
	Bob Day
Kitchen Steward	Les Campbell
Fanfare Editor/Directory Publisher	Brian McDougall
Sunshine Chairman	Gord Nisbet

The Federation Fanfare

Editor - Brian J. McDougall

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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 4, 1998

"The impossible is often the untried."

Jim Goodwin

Chapter Celebrations

March 20
March 23
March 25
March 29
March 31
April 3
April 8
April 9
April 12

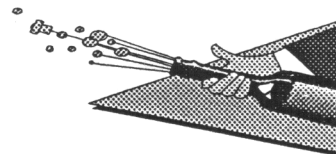
Chapter Birthdays

Jeanne King
Fran Galbraith
Bert Schmidt
Ted Gough
Jiggs Gough
Orval Allen
Frances McCutcheon
Tim Dayfoot
Barb Howlett

Chapter Anniversaries

Jim & Sylvia McDougall

April 17

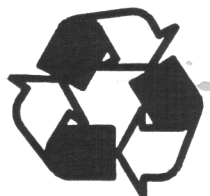


If your birthday or anniversary has been missed please contact the Editor.

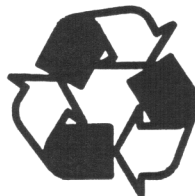
Coming Events



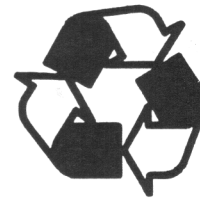
March 28	Chapter Show Comm. & Board Meeting
7:00 pm	Jim McDougall's Home
April 17-19	Ontario District Spring Convention
	Inn-On-The-Park, Toronto
April 27	Chapter Show Comm. & Board Meeting
7:00 & 8:00 pm	Jim McDougall's Home
May 2	Annual Chapter Shows
1:59 & 7:59 pm	Strathroy D.C.I.
May 13	Chapter Guest Night
8:00 pm	St. Andrew's
May 25	Chapter Show Comm. & Board Meeting
7:00 pm	Jim McDougall's Home



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Issue Of The
Federation's
Fanfare



It Pays To Share
Your Bulletin.
Let Your Family
In On The FUN!



We Sing.....That They Shall Speak

*Speech, like song, unites the voices of children and men in common understanding.
Like singing, speech is easily learned by some; for others special effort is required.*