



The Federation's Fanfare

Strathroy, Ont.
Chapter
Established
1995

Member of
Ontario
District



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

This was my first COTS experience and it far exceeded my expectations with outstanding fellowship the foundation for this learning and singing experience.

In the latter respect, I was indeed nervous when Don Pyper drafted me and then Barry Towner and Ken Fisher to do some quartet singing. About an hour of singing polecat songs and many tags with this threesome is a great way to relieve nervousness and relax.

However, my most memorable experience was "The Happening" session Saturday morning with 250 plus men attending. Silence hung over the audience as Genese Warr-Leeper, Ph.D. School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, U.W.O. spoke about the extensive complications speech and language disorders cause. She was followed by George Shields, Chairman, Harmonize For Speech (H4S) Fund. He spoke about the Funds achievements, current and long term objectives and its annual financial fund raising target of \$200,000 which was a matter of concern as receipts to date only amounted to approximately \$76,000. As he spoke, I noticed a line of men forming along one side of the auditorium and before he finished the line extended to the length of it. Speech completed, these men commenced presenting H4S Fund cheques to George representing individuals, quartets and chapter fund raising activities as well as memorial and corporate donations. The cheques ranged from \$40 to \$10,000 and the H4S Funds

A COTS Rookie Speaks Orval Allen

coffer grew from \$76,000 to approximately \$230,000. As each cheque reduced the original target gap, emotions in the auditorium rose and peaked at a level I have never experienced anytime in my lifetime. Tears and tear swollen eyes were common throughout the crowd. I was highly impressed by the strong commitment by the Ontario barbershoppers to the H4S Fund and its ongoing success. Volunteer

barbershoppers make it possible for the H4S Fund to distribute 98% of funds raised to individuals and/or programs to attack speech and language disorders. The H4S Fund has moved to the top of my charitable organizations donation list and I hope more and more members will do the same.

My first COTS seminar was a very rewarding experience and I hope to attend next year. Its truly great to be a Barbershopper.

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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.

HARMONET SCORING SUMMARY, International Seniors Quartet Contest
 SPEBSQSA, Inc., Biloxi, Mississippi, January 30, 1999

Quartet Finals	SONGS	MUS	PRE	SNG	TOTL
1 Tri-County	I Found A Million Dollar Baby	145	146	148	866
Reclamation Proj.	Wedding Bells Breaking Up Old Gang	138	143	146	72.2%
2 The Alumni	Yes Sir, That's My Baby	131	145	139	825
	Mississippi Mud	127	146	137	68.8%
3 Chicago Shuffle	My Gal Sal	133	138	138	813
	I Want A Girl	131	135	138	67.8%
4 OK 4	I Love That Old Barbershop Style	135	140	132	804
	When Paw Was Courtin' Maw	132	132	133	67.0%
5 Grumpy Old Men	April Showers	130	134	132	791
	Wait 'Til The Sun Shines, Nellie	132	131	132	65.9%
6 240-Four	Back In Dad And Mother's Day	130	128	134	790
	If You Were The Only Girl In The World	131	133	134	65.8%
7 Harmony Bound	Love's Old Sweet Song	127	134	133	780
	If I Could Write A Song	121	130	135	65.0%
8 A Touch Of Class	You Must Have Been A Beautiful Baby	128	129	129	777
	Tie Me To Your Apron Strings Again	135	122	134	64.8%
9 Brass Rail	Gotta Be On My Way	130	129	126	761
	Back Home Again In Indiana	128	124	124	63.4%
10 Golden Opportunity	Back In Those Days Gone By	121	127	128	747
	Louisville Lou	120	124	127	62.3%
11 Cincinnati Pops	Barefoot Days	123	130	124	745
	Oh Suzanna, Dust Off That Old Pianna	117	128	123	62.1%
12 Show Biz	Listen To That Dixie Band	115	134	120	730
	My Melancholy Baby	111	131	119	60.8%
13 Just-Four-Friends	Sam, The Old Accordion Man	111	130	126	729
	There'll Be No New Tunes.... Piano	110	125	127	60.8%
14 AARP Angels	There Never Was A Gang Like Mine	123	124	118	728
	Heart Of My Heart Medley	123	121	119	60.7%
15 Live Music	After You've Gone	122	126	120	724
	My Wild Irish Rose	122	121	113	60.3%
16 Naptime	You Made Me Love You	124	127	119	714
	Keep Your Eye On The Girlie You Love	114	117	113	59.5%
17 The Barons	When I See.. Lovin.. Waste.. Babies	112	125	123	710
	Bring Back Those Vaudeville Days	109	125	116	59.2%
18 Older Not Wiser	Down Where The Swanee River Flows	118	111	110	691
	Down Where The South Begins	123	112	117	57.6%
19 Panhandlers	Memories	113	118	112	678
	Ring To The Name Of Rose	110	113	112	56.5%
20 Contemporary Sound	I'm All Alone	107	120	124	670
	My Wife Is On A Diet	92	114	113	55.8%
21 Never Home 4	Gimme The Moonlight, Gimme The Girl	118	121	118	662
	Twelve Days of Christmas Parody	86	116	103	55.2%
22 Main Street Four	Walkin' A Beat	104	101	94	597
	It's You	106	96	96	49.8%
23 Graytones	Ragtime Cowboy Joe	95	97	99	595
	I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen	100	102	102	49.6%
24 Four At A Time	For Me And My Gal	104	100	90	564
	Dear Little Boy Of Mine	96	92	82	47.0%
25 The Gondolaires	Gondolier Medley	100	109	95	558
	Who Told You Parody	85	83	86	46.5%
PANEL:	ADMINISTRATOR	MUSIC	PRESENTATION	SINGING	
	C. Hill-SWD	G. Lyne-LOL	S. Elswick-SUN	L. Deters-DIX	
	H. Lathom-SUN	D. Wright-CSD	M. Schlinkert-DIX	D. LaBar-SUN	

From The Poolside - Prez Missin' You
Jim McDougall Chapter President

Far behind us now is that happy Christmas season when we performed so many times. But I am still receiving compliments from us caroling for the thirty five businesses on December 23rd. Splitting the Vocal Federation into two groups was a very wise decision to protect our voices when you consider that we probably sang over 100 songs. We still had a guys with over worked and very tired vocal cords. However, from all reports, it is a very worthwhile project that is appreciated and most people just love to hear Christmas carols in the Barbershop harmony style.

On the weekend of January 8 - 10, seven members of the Strathroy Chapter travelled to Geneva Park for our annual COTS. Two of the seven were rookies and it was interesting to hear both Orval Allen and Bill Stanley express their learning and exciting experiences. Of course, the Happening kept it's significance as the event of the year by surprising our Chairman, George Shields, and raising over \$35,000.00 above and beyond his expectations. I even had a new experience myself this year in attending the new Chapter Coach sessions which brought together all the Chapter Support and Leadership people for training. I am looking forward to assisting some of our Western Division chapters. The most fun I had all weekend was the woodshedding sessions on both Friday and Saturday nights after hours. We were able to qualify eight new members for membership to AHSOW and six of the eight qualify on all four parts.

When I look ahead in 1999, our relatively young chapter has some hurdles to overcome that will be a challenge for us. First I see us returning to the Western Division competitions in St. Thomas to defend our championship of last year. Participation is the name of the game - no matter where we finish. Our VLQ championship is also on the line and should be defended. Maybe we could even produce two this year. Best of all, get those quartets cooking and ready to go. We can do it! Following that event will be our District Convention in Toronto April 16 - 18. Get ready for this one - we can really entertain that district crowd. Soon after is our show on May 1st. This will be

our first show without the assistance and support of another chorus appearing with us. I know we can maintain the high level of performance and entertainment value we have established and I am excited about it already. The people we sell tickets to want to see us on stage. Let's give them more of what they want and sell more tickets so we have a full house.

Following our annual show and the Bothwell performances two weeks later, we will be losing some direction up front. Brian has resigned his duties as chorus director and we sure will miss him. However, business will continue as usual with John continuing as Director and several people sharing the duties that Brian has been completing and I know we will continue to be the fun loving, strong and growing chapter that we are. I will save my thanks to Brian for a later date.

Sing and be happy.

Prayer of the Day

purloined and submitted by Bud Jackson

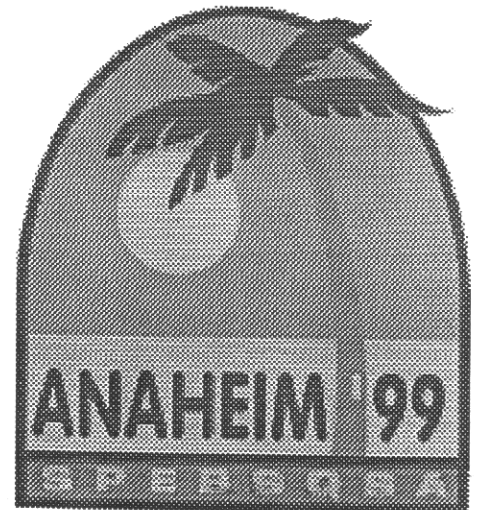
"Dear God,
 I have been pretty good today.
 I have not lied or gossiped.
 I haven't thought ill of anyone.
 I haven't given in to greed or selfishness.
 And I haven't been angry or short - tempered with anyone.

...

...

...

But in a few minutes I'm going to get out of bed, and I'll need your help.
 Amen."



The Sense of A Goose *purloined by Bud Jackson*

When you see geese flying along in "V" formation, you might consider that science has discovered the reason they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone - and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those people who are headed the same way we are.

It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs whether with people or with geese flying south.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

What message do we give when we honk from behind?

Finally - and this is important - when a goose gets sick or is wounded by a gunshot, and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies, and only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up to the group.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.

• Old Age

When the gleam in your eye
is just the sun on your bifocals.

A Five Line Limerick In Two Lines

*The Director said, "Come men let's go.
Your singing's all wrong.*

So I'm changing the song.

International Seniors Quartet Competition
at the Mid-Winter Convention
Courtesy of Steve Tremper and the Internet

The contest was to start at 1:00 pm, so I made sure I was down to the theatre a little past 12 to get set up early...but when I got there I saw several hundred people waiting at the closed doors to get in...so I joined the patient throng and waited for the doors to open at 12:30.

The house filled up quickly, and the setup was a little different, with the judging panel seated on either side of a central runway that fed off the stage from the center. I found a table down front behind the judges tables, and was able to hook up to power with an extension chord.

Precisely at 1:00pm Dr. Saul Schneider opened the contest, and brought out the 1998 Seniors Quartet Champions JURASSIC LARKS to sing a couple of songs. They repeated two I had heard yesterday, and were well received by the crowd. Saul ran through the prohibitions and ground rules and we were off! (The report included a section on each competitor but was trimmed for Ontario purposes)

20) GRAYTONES (ONT) (Grant Goodfellow, Sam McComish, Gerald Jones, Earl Kettle)

Ragtime Cowboy Joe

I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen

The baritone had a straw cowboy hat on as they started the first song, and played the part of Joe as they rode along with this fun number. Their ballad was more tender and gentle, a nice change of pace. they gave it an easy dreamy treatment, and it was effective, as the audience warmly applauded.

(Editor's Note: Graytones - you have achieved a feat few men in our District have accomplished. My pride is only surpassed by my envy. Well Done!)

*There's only two more days 'til the show!
We've got to sing something we know!*

A Change In Priorities

Brian McDougall - Co-Director

As many of you are already aware, I will be resigning my duties as Chorus Director after the Bothwell Performances on May 16th.

The reasons are solely personal, but there are only so many hours in a day and a very active family (specifically two sports minded boys and yes Sandy is busy too) and a chance to quartet (my first barbershop love) a little more were the keys to my decision.

I plan to take the opportunity to over the next few issues to offer more thoughts and thanks, but for now lets talk about the near future.

The last couple of new songs for the show are in the learning process and we are in good shape as we glimpse past the up coming competitions.

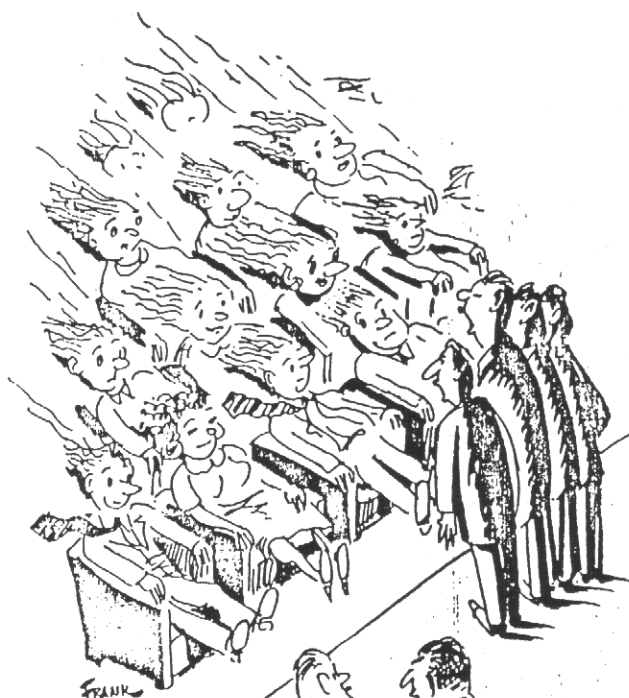
We have the opportunity to defend our first ever Western Division Chorus Championship on February 27th. The date is coming up faster than you think. With just a couple of practices left and some time each meeting to be offered for quartets to practice our chorus rehearsal time will be at a premium and your concentration and cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Every performance, be it in competition, on a show or at the mall, is a personal opportunity to improve your singing. If we each take the responsibility to improve our personal performance, the Vocal Federation will continue to improve and the chapter will flourish and grow.

April 16 - 18, the Ontario District Chorus Championship will again be held at the Inn-On-The-Park in Toronto. We have 'been there done that' and we all now know exactly what to expect. We are going to be better prepared and these two factors combined are going to allow us to elevate our performance substantially. I can't wait - It's going to be great!

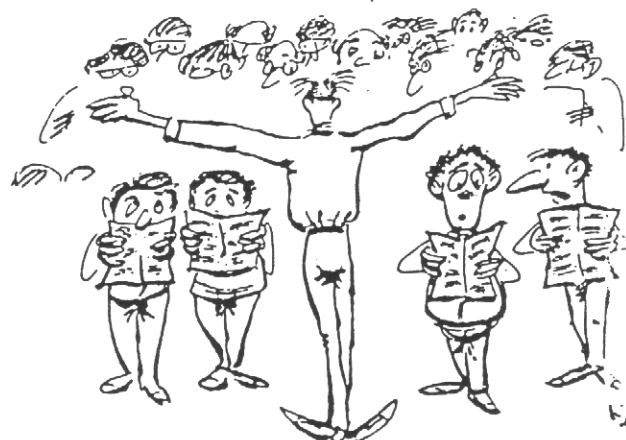
I can't believe it as I write it but we are approaching our 4th Annual Chapter Show (boy it doesn't seem like that long) on May 1st. After three years of featuring other choruses and combined choruses, this year we are the 'main event'. We are bringing in a comedy

quartet from Michigan as our headline performer, but every other performer appearing on stage will represent the Strathroy Chapter. "... A Song Comin' On" will be a fast paced show with entertainment from curtain to curtain. Start talking tickets now - your friends, neighbours and even your relatives will be sorry if they miss this one - don't let them be disappointed.

Three C's, cooperation, concentration and commitment, can turn the good things we are doing into great things. The only things that is left...is to "DO IT".



"This is what I call a really powerful performance!"



"He didn't say your voice was heavenly... he said it was 'unearthly'!"

The AHSOW Room Was A Happening Place To Be At COTS

Jim McDougall - AHSOW Vice President & Ontario District Chief Certifier

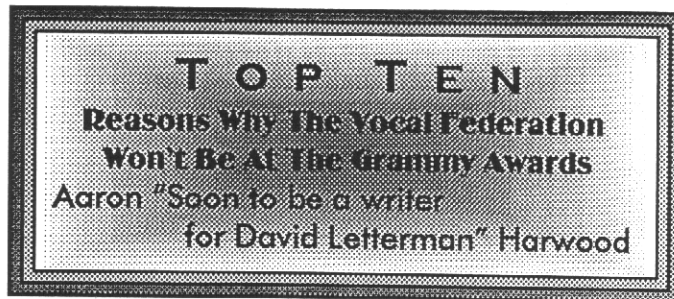
I was dearly surprised and pleased to welcome 35 plus guys to the AHSOW room at Ontario District COTS. I do thank all those guys for their interest in finding out more about a widely unknown activity that should be practiced much more often at our chapter meetings. During our time together, I explained and accentuated that this activity was not a spectator sport. Through some demonstration, I feel our session was very beneficial and I thank all the volunteers for taking part. No one ever said that woodshedding at a qualifying level was easy and some may have found out the hard way. I'm sure no one was embarrassed in front of the large group. I do urge those with the interest to continue trying another voice part on their own because practice works. This is wonderful ear training that will improve your barbershop singing at any level.

I must report that our sessions both Friday and Saturday were very successful. Congratulations to those qualifying for membership to AHSOW: District Music V.P. Chris Arnold, Chorus Director Development V.P. Paul Tamblyn, Contest & Judging V.P. Barry Towner, Rob Lamont, Chris Scappatura, Stewart Peterson, Laurens Van Graft and Al Vetter. Six of these men qualified on all four parts, which is certainly a credit to them and a credit to AHSOW. Congratulations again and please try to drop by the woodshedding room at our next convention.

ATTENDANCE WAS GREAT IN '98!

Jim McDougall - President & Frank Knoll - Membership Development V.P.

The chart to the right presents the attendance of the top nine chapter members based on their attendance at both weekly chapter meetings and chorus performances for 1998. Gentlemen, congratulations and thank you for your support throughout the year. Special congratulations to Norm on achieving perfect attendance. (Way to go!)



10. The Americans don't want to be shown-up by any more Canadian Talent
9. Gord Nisbet couldn't negotiate a fair deal for us
8. Rumours started, that we were somehow linked to the Clinton-Lewinsky affair
7. Producers were afraid Frank Knoll's personality would out-shine the host's personality
6. The Spice girls already took the song we were going to perform
5. We didn't get nominated for anything, and we're sore losers
4. Celine Dion has a restraining order against ten of our members
3. Garth Brooks has a restraining order against twelve of our members (but we are still trying to recruit him anyway)
2. All the bald heads would cause too much of a glare from the TV lights
1. The award show is on the same night as our chapter meeting

Rank	Name	No. Of Absences
1	Norm Leckie	0
2	Gord Nisbet	3
2	Les Campbell	3
3	Blake Hughes	6
4	Arnold Dixon	7
5	Jim McDougall	8
5	Ernie McEwen	8
6	Don Nisbet	10
7	John Gough	11

Quartet Corner

We have two great quartetting opportunities coming up soon. February 12th - 14th, we will be delivering Singing Valentines across the region. February 24th is the third annual Strathroy Chapter Novice Quartet and VLQ Competition. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the thrill of barbershop quartet singing.

Fourthwith Sound

(Keith Campbell-Tenor, Jim McDougall-Lead, John Gough-Baritone, Frank Knoll-Bass)

December 18th - Sang at the Town of Strathroy - Township of Caradoc Christmas Party at Bear Creek Country Club

December 18th - Performed at five different house parties in and around the Strathroy area

January 15th - Sang two sets at *Uncle Sam Night* in Windsor hosted by the Windsor Chapter with 120 (mostly americans) in attendance

Despite Jim's absence the quartet plans to work toward competing at the Western Division Novice Quartet Contest and they'll be looking for your support.

RURAL ROOTS

(Ernie McEwen-Tenor, Bob Howlett-Lead, Ros McPherson-Baritone, Craig Bycraft-Bass)

These guys were so tired by Christmas that they had to take a break - but it gave them a chance to practice a little and get a cold and go on a vacation too! They are working towards competing at the Western Division Novice Quartet Contest and we'll be there in throng to support them.

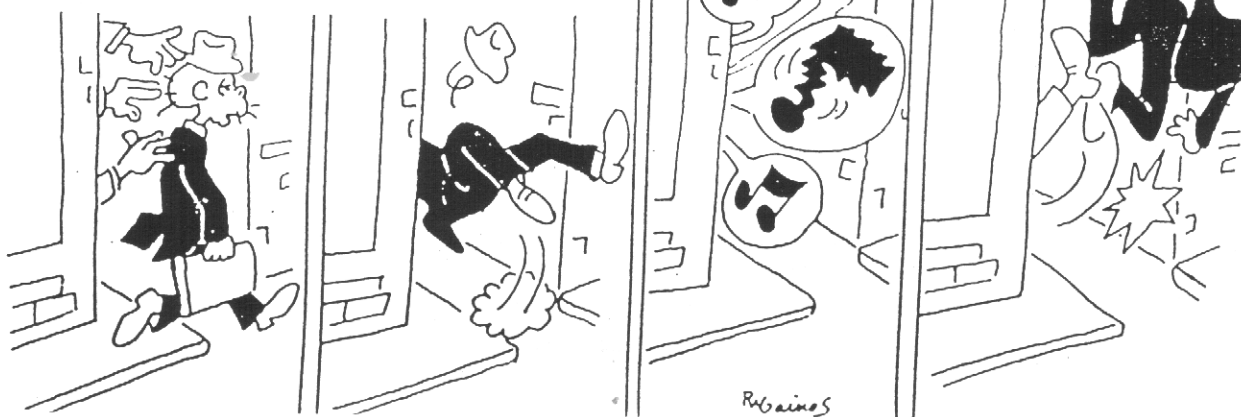


(Steve Stewart-Tenor, Brian McDougall-Lead, Rich Lauzon-Baritone, Gord Miller-Bass)

December 19th - Sang at a house party hosted by quartet tenor Steve Stewart and his wife Stacey - a Barbershoppers

Christmas Party

The Wave is still looking forward to competing at the District Convention in April as long as they can properly schedule the next birth in the quartet family. They are also looking forward to acting as judges for the Strathroy Chapter Novice competitions on February 24th.



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.	Bill Stanley	(519) 296-4795
Performance V.P.	Bob Fennell	(519) 693-4280
Communication V.P.	Bud Jackson	(519) 245-5747
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	"Rural Roots"
Attendance Recorder	Frank Knoll
Historian	Ernie McEwen
Nominating Committee Chairman	Tom Linden
Service Projects Chairman	Keith Campbell
Uniform Chairman	Bill Galbraith
1999 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 17, 1999

*"What really matters is what happens
 in us, not to us."*

The Rev. James W. Kennedy

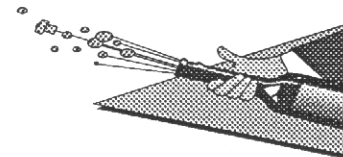
CHAPTER CELEBRATIONS

Chapter Birthdays

February 22	Doug Simpson
March 8	Bill Stanley
March 9	Audrey Gough
March 20	Jeanne King
March 23	Fran Galbraith

Chapter Anniversaries

March 1	Bill & Isabel Bowron
March 12	Bob & Jill Day
March 15	Mark & Chris Carruthers



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

COMING EVENTS

February 12-14	<i>Singing Valentines Performances</i>
February 23	<i>Show Comm & Chapt Board Meeting Jim McDougall's Home</i>
February 27	<i>Western Division Novice Contests St. Thomas</i>
March 3	<i>Strathmere Lodge and Sprucedale Care Centre Performances</i>
March 30	<i>Show Comm & Chapt Board Meeting Jim McDougall's Home</i>
April 16 - 18	<i>Ontario District Convention Inn-On-The-Park, Toronto</i>
April 27	<i>Show Comm & Chapter Board Meeting Jim McDougall's Home</i>
May 1	<i>Chapter Show Strathroy D. C. I.</i>

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

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.