

Fanfare



Strathroy, Ontario Chapter Established 1995
Member of Ontario District
"Home of the Vocal Federation Chorus"

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

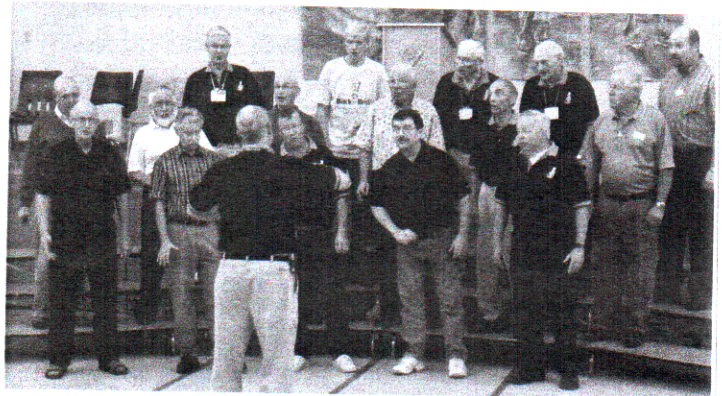
Last Rehearsal for St Thomas Show "Thanks For The Memory"



October 8th, 2008 Strathroy Christian School 62 men on stage



(Above) St Thomas (Below) Seaforth



(Above) Strathroy (Below) London



From The EDITOR'S DESK



Well the summer is officially over as of Monday September 22nd, and what a busy time we have had with pitching horseshoes and devouring sausage on a bun with corn on the cob to the golf tournament with a amazing steak dinner, we certainly had lots of exercise and a healthy diet not to mention being hydrated well as we partake in these events. Fund - raising endeavors such as in hot-dog sales or the Scott Woods show , being of mediocre success or a great resounding thunder clap of found money are also a great source of fun and camaraderie, and each and every member should thank Bill Smith for the effort he puts into fund raising for us. Now it is time to get to work and learn the show tunes as quickly as we can. Blake and John will soon want to start the long and arduous expedition of installing into our minds, the stage presentation that will accompany the various songs to be perform in upcoming show.

You must also remember that with October here Christmas caroling is just a few weeks away , and John will be reminding the leads how to correctly sing " We Wish You a Merry Christmas" again this year.

Your Editor Bill Robertson

UP COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

4th Annual Meeting Strathroy Chapter at 9:15 pm at St. Andrews

October 17 to 19, 2008

Ontario District Fall Convention
Kingston, Ontario

Saturday, October 25, 2008

St. Thomas Chapter 40th Anniversary
Arthur Voaden Secondary School
Florence Street, St. Thomas

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Performance for Strathroy Horticultural Society
Strathroy Senior Centre

Saturday, December 13, 2008

Annual Chapter Christmas Dinner

Saturday, March 07, 2009

Annual show retreat at SCCS

Saturday, April 04, 2009

Annual Chapter show at SCCS

April 17, 18 & 19, 2009

Ontario District Spring Convention
Blue Mountain Resort,
Collingwood, Ontario

Did You Know....?

There are 1,218 peanuts in a 28-ounce jar of peanut butter

There are 10 million people sharing your birthday

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar

There are 300 distinct different types of honey

EASY AS 1, 2, 3

GETTING NEW MEMBERS

Recruiting Tip # 25

This tip comes from Wyman Schmidt who has recruited more than 20 men into the Society.

Some of my thoughts are:

1. You have to be sold on the whole barbershop scene yourself - music, performing, camaraderie, etc.
2. You have to like people.
3. You have to have barbershop as a significant part of your personality and it has to show through.
4. Play the high percentages - those who you know that have a strong interest in music, e.g., fellow choir members, work associates who you know like to attend music functions, etc.
5. After you succeed in getting them to give it a try, pick them up and take them the first several times, introduce them to as many people as possible (there is usually someone in the group with a similar vocation or something in common) Picking them up is critical.
6. Follow up, follow up, follow up.
7. Include their family in some function, if at all possible, early in the game.
8. I have had the most success with people who have recently moved into the community, before they get involved with every other organization in town.
9. Timing their first visit with the night the chapter is going to have a good planned program.
10. Follow up, follow up, follow up.



Here's How You Can Grow Your Chapter

by Bill Campbell, Member Services VP

Have you ever wondered how it would sound if you were singing with a chapter larger than the one you are singing with now? How nice it would be to have several more leads singing the melody line while simultaneously hearing many other voices adding their rich harmony? Oh the sounds we might make! It could be awesome!

Some of you might say that this could never happen with your chapter. Well, why not? Growth can happen in any chapter if you and your fellow members want it. "Growing" your chapter starts with a conscious decision by everyone that you want your chapter to grow and that you are willing to plan and work to make it happen.

Begin by asking yourself, "Why does my chapter need to grow?" If your chapter members can't generate good and positive answers to this question, then growth will be difficult. There are hundreds of success stories where chapters of all sizes have decided growth was important, made the commitment to growth, and then set out to accomplish that objective.

Instead of active planning and involvement, many chapters have relied upon just announcing to their members, "Next week is guest night, so please bring someone." This method normally isn't very productive and it certainly isn't effective. Instead, here are seven easy steps for you to try:

1. The entire chapter must "commit" itself to the desire for growth and be ready to support the effort.
2. Develop a "plan" and share it with the membership. Be sure it contains specific actions, dates and individual responsibilities.
3. Use "maximum" effort to reach potential singers. Advertising, contacting musical and fraternal groups, and individual research works. Be creative and offer the prospect of "an evening of fun".
4. Before the scheduled guest night, personally contact all potential guests to offer rides and answer questions, etc.
5. Guest night must be well organized. Schedule a variety of activities that prospects can enjoy and actively participate in. *Involvement* is the key word.
6. Greet guests at the door, provide name badges and be sure members interact with the guests.
7. After your "evening of fun", call the guests to seek their reactions, answer questions and invite them back for a second night.

(As seen in the Burlington Chapter's ROADSHOW'S TRAVELLER-

Dave Daniels, Editor.)

Vocal Federation Golf Tournament

Well another year has come and gone and the Vocal Federation Annual Golf Tournament has been played. Arkona Fairways was the place for this year's event, with 18 golfers and a host of others joining in for dinner at the end of a grueling round. Good weather lasted throughout the day and made for the most enjoyable time for those of us who love the sport.

Highlights:

I got to play with Oval Allen and Dan Smith (Adrian's dad), and one of them is a great golfer! I had control of the scorecard, which may be the reason I finally won a trophy at this event. Oval kept giving me wrong numbers and advice I might add.

Leigh Laughton lost more golf balls than all the rest of us combined, but that was only because he had John Gough as a team coach. As I understand, through insider information John carried on a dialogue pretty much non-stop for the entire 18 holes. He proved his ability to be courteous the few times we came close on the course. Even the beer cart-girl was encouraged to stop by his group frequently, just to keep harmony and give John someone who cared to listen. Arnold's Cooking: Pat says that he even burns the boiling water at home, but with a minimum of supervision he managed a large number of steaks with ease. I would think that in another 30 years or so, she'll be able to leave him home alone to do the house-chores: now that there off the farm.

The Robertson team was made a bit lopsided by the late arrival of Bill Galbraith. But they managed to turn in a respectable score, mostly thanks to Bill R's miracle shots from behind the ladies tees (using a driver yet). It always makes me wonder though how a successful farmer like Bill G can manage, but then I suppose Fran keeps the extra keys when they travel any great distance.

Those Absent and Noticed:

Jean Nisbet came for the dinner and offered Gord's excuse for absence. She told us that he was attending a reunion for the graduating law school class of 1904. I personally didn't know he was that old but she said that Sir Wilfred Laurier was one of his teaching professors. No wonder most politicians act like lawyers.

There were some participants that missed Frank Knoll and Bob Howlett, but we simply won't invite them next year.

McDougall's were busy moving, and I can fully understand why. When I visited them the last time, it took Sylvia nearly 10 minutes to find Jim in their apartment.

Ray Mason, from the team of the defending champs didn't show this year. I think the pressure of trying to live up to all his boasting during the year was more than he could take. He told us he had a very important wedding to attend and it wasn't even his. A wedding, more like his wife told him where he was going to be.

Closing Comment:

Thank you to all who participated and those of you who indulge my sense of humor.

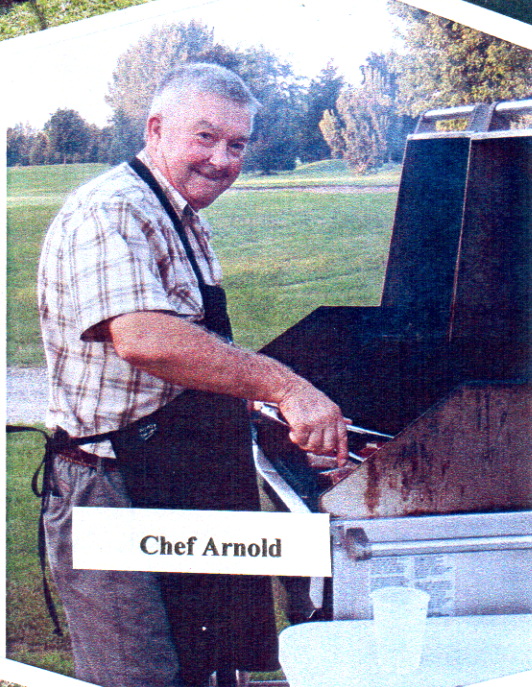
Bill Gough



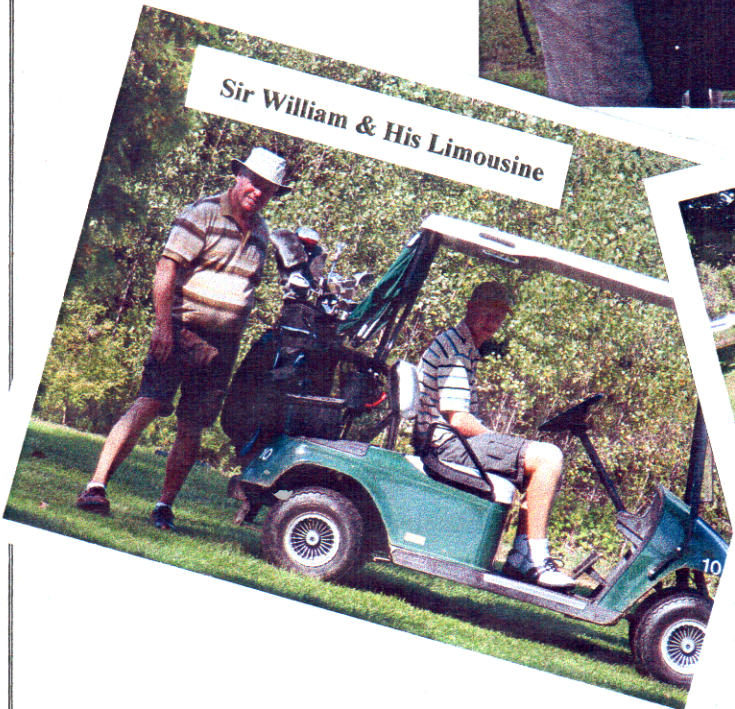
Is That A Trout?



The Champs



Chef Arnold



Sir William & His Limousine



The Pause That Refreshes

Pitching Shoes 2008

Once again the horseshoes were dusted off and the weeds removed from the pits, the fridge stocked and supper prepared for the Strathroy Chapter Annual Horse-shoe Pitch Tournament. Hosted by Les Campbell and Bill Robertson we were served sausage on a bun with all the fixin's, corn on the cob and Donna's famous crockpot baked beans, and for dessert Arnold arrived carrying a large box of his wife's renowned cookies.

(thanks Donna and Pat) Blake Hughes did his usual great job of setting up the teams and governing the elimination process. As each team was eradicated the true champions began to emerge the tension grew to astronomical dimension. The final round came down to the teams of Arnold Dixon and Bill Gough vs. Ken Vanderheyden and Henry Wiersema. When the final shoe dropped at the conclusion of the event the team of Ken and Henry were declared winners of the contest.

To all the Ontario District Membership Fall Convention News Update

Have you heard the news? There are all sorts of new events taking place at the Fall Convention in Kingston on October 17-19, 2008.

What are some of these new events? Well for one, TNL (back from their visit to the U.K.) and MegaCity (back from their visit to Russia) have partnered together to run a Hospitality/Chorditorium on Saturday night in the Ballroom "West" back at the Ambassador Hotel. It will feature both competing and non competing choruses and quartets.

On top of this great event, on Saturday night following the Quartet Finals, we will actually be having a "Show", not just the "Parade of Champions", as our



Team...Vanderheyden/Wiersema & Les Campbell



Team...Dixon/Gough & Les Campbell

stage will feature none other than SEP (Saturday Evening Post), 2007 International Quartet Finalist. Bobby Gray, Baritone for SEP, will also be sharing his talents with us by directing the Joe Barbershop Chorus so brush up on your Pole Cat songs and show up at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning at the Gospel Temple for the rehearsal. Dress in your chapter casual attire for this event. Bobby not only will direct us but will be acting as the Chorus Contest Presenter/Emcee.

And speaking of members of SEP, I can't wait for Saturday night as we have the pleasure of having Allan Gasper, Lead for SEP, acting as the Presenter/Emcee. I am sure that he will be bringing with him all sorts of Cajun stories and jokes.

I hope you plan on joining us in Kingston for a weekend of fellowship and song on October 17-19, 2008.

Chuck Alexander

Birthdays

September:

September 1 – Les Campbell
September 12 – Ros McPherson
September 26 Joan Knoll

October:

October 3 – Grant Knox
October 7 – Ron Carradine
October 11 – John Gough
October 16 – Bob Fennell
October 22 – Donna Campbell
October 24 – Patricia Dixon
October 27 – Ernie McEwen
October 28 – Brian McDougall
October 30 – Sandy McDougall

Anniversaries

September:

September 5 – Bob & Barb Howlett
September 7 – Dan & Betty Scheman
September 28 – Arnold & Patricia Dixon

October:

October 8 – Ros & Marilyn McPherson
October 16 – Frank & Joan Knoll
October 21 – Bill & Fran Galbraith
October 31 – Orval & Norma Allen

The Benefits of Barbershopping

Laughter.

They say laughter is the best medicine. Well, we get large dosages in this hobby! We probably sing more than we laugh, but you'd never know it by the way we carry on sometimes! Any time you gather a group of men with a similar interest, they are guaranteed have a blast; the singing just takes it to a higher dimension.

Friendships.

Barbershoppers are just a bunch of ordinary guys who want to succeed in

striving for a common goal. Friendships are made easily because singing just brings out the best in each of us! Even men's families become well acquainted as members get to know one another. The poet couldn't say it any better: "There is a destiny that makes us brothers, no one goes his way alone. All that we send into the lives of others, comes back into our own."

Great Family Entertainment.

People of all ages seem to enjoy barbershop. When you hear the laughter and applause, you quickly understand that we do, indeed, connect with our audience. Audiences fondly remember barbershop shows and often talk about them for years to come.

Opportunities to Express Your Creativity.

Very few men are likely to have an opportunity to express all (or any!) of their creativity at their jobs. Everyone should develop this dimension in their life to provide personal balance and a sense of personal accomplishment. There is a little "ham" in all of us! You may be surprised at what you can do and how satisfying it will feel!

Personal Enjoyment

There is nothing more pleasing to the ear than four-part harmony produced by male voices. The resonating bass voice combined with the melodious lead, then enriched by the sparkling tenor and dignified baritone, produce a sound together that makes each chord a work of art. This unique harmony of male voices remains unaccompanied by any musical instruments, except a humble pitchpipe which only gets us started in the right key.

From The Kentuckians Chorus web site

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
Secretary	Orval Allen	519 – 246 - 1234
Treasurer	Les Campbell	519 – 245 - 0359
Chapter Development	Larry Driessen	519 - 245 - 2851
Music	Ros McPherson	519 – 245 - 1711
Communications	Bill Robertson	519 – 245 - 0979
Program	Leigh Laughton	519 – 264 - 1464
Performance	Ray Mason	519 – 264 - 1850
Marketing & P. R.	Henry Wiersema	519 – 589 - 5562
Member at Large	Bob Fennell	519 – 693 - 4280

Appointments

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