



# The Federation's Fanfare

Strathroy, Ont.  
Chapter  
Established  
1995  
Member of  
Ontario  
District

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

May the warmth and happiness of the Christmas season put a song in your heart, a smile on your face and a twinkle in your eye.

Cross & Patti / Bigney

Bob Turner  
Gus Lugo  
Hugh M. Litcher  
Tom & Elaine Linder  
Russell McPherson  
Norman P. Pechel

Brian & Sandy McDougall & Boys  
Grant  
Bob & Barb Houbolt  
Doug Simpson  
Bill Johnson  
Stanley  
John & Ernie Lough  
Frank Knowlton  
Cora & Norma Allen  
Fred Wilson  
Peter G. Petraitis



Jim McDougall & Sylvia  
All the best of the Holiday season from all the members of the Vocal Federation and Harold's Angels  
Bill Lough

## As The Calendar Turns

### Jim McDougall - President

Singing at the "Evening of Sharing" was a gratifying performance even if we felt the sound left a little bit to be desired. The sound system was part of the problem. Nonetheless people enjoyed the Vocal Federation because I have had several compliments since. It certainly makes you feel good to be part of a community fund raiser that earns over \$18,000 for a food drive for the needy administered by the Salvation Army. This is a 20% increase over last year.

Exactly two weeks later on November 20, we were back on stage at the Bear Creek Golf and Country Club. Our very first attempt to host a Cabaret was a wonderful success. Thanks to London Sweet Adelines who asked us to co-host with them because we would not likely have attempted this event on our own. We had a good turnout, the singing was wonderful and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Thanks to all the members for supporting both these events.

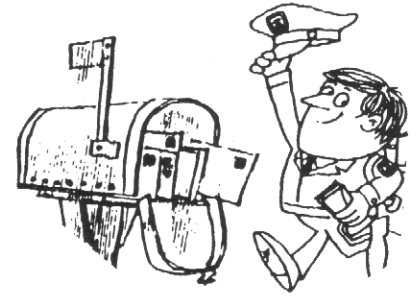
I am certainly looking forward to November 28, when we will once again take the stage as performers in the benefit concert "Come Let Our Voices Sing". We are proud to have been invited and we hope our Christmas selections will ring true to the cause of hospitality meals through all the London churches. Thanks to the London Chapter for hosting this ambitious and wonderful event.

Our Christmas party and awards night is only one week away. Plan to be there or you will miss out.

As the curtain comes down on 1999, I am retiring as your President and I want to again thank all the members that served the chapter over the last four plus years. I plan on staying close to home except for winter vacation. Sylvia and I will be away extensively from December 5 through February 15, with a couple of trips home to change clothes.

Have a wonderful holiday season and by all means keep singing.

## We Get Mail



November 24, 1999  
To: Vocal Federation

What a great evening we had at Cabaret '99 - Voices In Harmony!

When your chorus and the Sweet Adelines accepted the idea of a joint cabaret in Strathroy a few months ago, we could only plan and hope it would be a success. I'm sure you agree that it was.

Just wanted to say my personal thanks to the committee members and the chorus for all your work, your ticket selling and of course your performance that evening.

I have heard nothing but good comments about the whole evening and hope you have heard the same. Thanks again!

♪ In harmony ♪  
Karen Dixon  
1999 Cabaret Chairperson



# Angels Song

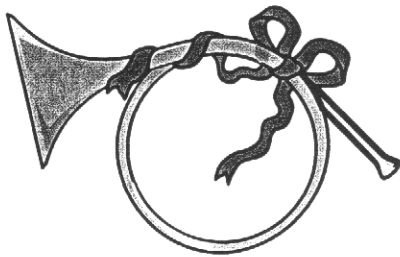
*Marilyn McPherson*

It feels as though September played a trick on us it went by so fast. The Harvest Dance sticks in my memory, however, so the month didn't go by entirely unnoticed. There have been so many nice comments about the music, the food and the overall organization that there can be no doubt that everyone enjoyed themselves. Once again many willing hands helped to make the evening successful and special thanks go to Patti, Sylvia and their helpers, and to all the men working behind the scenes. We will look forward to the next Big Band dance scheduled for April 1, 2000 at the Caradoc Community Centre in Mount Brydges.

In September, a Sparta Candle Party was held during the meeting, with generous support from all. The following month, a Christmas Around The World fund raiser was also well attended.

Our biggest challenge is to fill the slate of officers for the coming year. Anyone who is willing to participate in this way is asked to contact Patti.

Cabaret, held November 20, was another great event. The Sweet Adelines from London entertained us royally and our fellows can never be beat.



Now, as we approach Christmas, it is once again Bake Sale time. This year's sale will be held December 4, at the Kenwick Mall but something more

has been added. We are accepting orders for Christmas goodies by phone ahead of time. These trays can be picked up at the Mall on the morning of December 4 and sell for \$3.00 a dozen. Donna Campbell is the person to phone if you are interested in ordering. For those who want to send baking for the sale ahead of time, you may send the goodies to the chorus practice on December 1. The packing will take place at Sylvia's on Friday evening December

3<sup>rd</sup>.

Then, with the work behind us it is time for the Christmas Party. What a special time this is, to spend the whole day working with friends and then to sit down to such a delicious dinner followed by a good time of stories and games.

Special thanks to Patti for leading us through another year, to Sylvia for opening her home and to everyone

who so willingly supports all the activities and who "work to make it happen". Capable and energetic leadership with many willing hands are a combination bound to succeed.



Merry Christmas, may each of you have a happy holiday time as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

## We Get More Mail

November 1999

To: Vocal Federation

Thank you for participating in the Eighth Annual Evening of Sharing. As always, it is a magical experience that touches the lives of many people in our community in many ways. You should feel great pride in your involvement in this year's event. As we continue to grow, the future of this project is bright. It is only with the commitment of people like you that we feel confident in the direction of this wonderful fundraising effort.

Thank you for caring, and sharing in the magic.

Yours truly,  
Cathy Truelove-Blackwell

Don't forget to check out our web site at:  
[www.bam.on.ca/VocalFederation/](http://www.bam.on.ca/VocalFederation/)

# They Came To The Cabaret

*Gord Nisbet*

By most of the tests that critics apply to such an event, our experiment with "Barbershop in a Cabaret setting" was a success

### *There Was Contrast*

The elegance of the Sweet Adeline was nicely balanced by the bolder and more direct presentation of the Vocal Federation. Each style has its distinctive subtlety. The audiences responses showed they appreciated the distinctiveness.

### *There Was An Attractive Ambience*

While some of us may have had some misgivings about singing into the far reaches of a hall that once accommodated four sheets of ice in a curling rink, our fears were not well founded. Perhaps it was the comparatively low ceiling, but the acoustics were surprisingly good. Well modulated amplification provided a decided plus.

Besides, where else in the area could we have found a site that provides room for a stage that comfortably accommodates fifty singers on risers, sufficient area for tables and chairs for 400 guests in a cabaret setting, an adequate dance floor in the center and a bar at each end? The selection of the site was a good one.

### *There Was A Receptive And Enthusiastic Audience*

I am sure all of the performers felt it. This audience came to be entertained and got what they came for. How many times were we asked, "When are you going to hold the next one?"

### *The Experiment Was An Economic Success*

It was not possible to stage this kind of entertainment in the absence of certain economic risks. It was a new and different approach in our attempt to be innovative and happily it turned out to be a success if not a triumph.

Our Board of Directors is to be congratulated in their ongoing attempt to de-mistify barbershopping and restore its original objective. Its music and style is, after all, indeed the "music of the people" and this

cabaret was one of those nights that demonstrated that very thing. Just ask "the people".

Will there be another one? The decision is in the lap of the gods and the Board of Directors.

Special thanks to Bob Fennell, whose efforts, as usual, went far beyond the call of duty, and to Mr. Buck (I don't know his given name), whose D.J. selections provided a nice "nite cap" to an otherwise very satisfying evening.

## Notes and Accidentals

♪ ♭ ♯ ♮ ♯ ♮ ♭ ♮

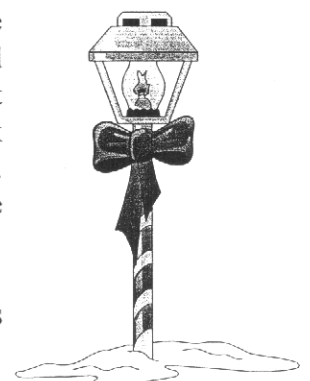
Usually once a year I like to thank all my colleagues for singing with me and putting up with me singing anyone of three parts in the lead section. I do it because I love the harmony but seldom get to sing it.

The Cabaret was the most pleasurable barbershop experience I have had for quite some time. Being able to see and hear the whole show, as well as participate is a real bonus. Congratulations to the organizers, on the format of the show and the whole shows smooth running. Good pacing, lots of quartets, no lengthy jokes that don't set up songs, great D.J., good lunch, let's do it again.

A number of us demonstrated a cappella, four part harmony in the barbershop style at the Strathroy High School on Wednesday, November 24. The students and teacher received us very well. One student even sang with us. In the future, I hope we can get them all singing something. Participation is where it's at. All in all we had a great time. Thanks to all the guys who were there to perform.

Just recently I had the opportunity to meet an old buddy of mine and I even got him singing some tags. I think I might have planted a seed. Maybe a guest at future chapter meeting?

Can't wait for the Christmas party, we'll see you there.



# THE PYPE LINE

*Don Pyper, Chorus Director*

It seems like just yesterday that I became part of the Vocal Federation of singers. With membership card and uniform in hand, my future is planned. Before we forget, Ruth and I would like to wish you all the best of the season. It's true that we never know what's coming next to surprise us, but we can hope and plan for good things to happen in the new year.

The chorus is developing our 2000 Show songs on schedule. It would help if each and every one of our singers would spend half an hour, twice a week on your learning tapes. It is really obvious when we do. The Music Committee will be meeting on Monday, December 13 at Blake Hughes' to set a pattern for our rehearsals, performances, new member introductions, etc. If you have any ideas or concerns speak to Jim, Blake, John, myself or anyone else on the committee.

By way of observation, the telethon performance seemed a little "pressured" to me, but the cabaret experience was much more user friendly. It would seem that our chorus is probably ready for some good, regular vocal and performance coaching. There's a pride of ownership when we know what we're doing and we do it well. I am personally pleased to be associated with the "Federation" and expect to work hard on your behalf. Our chorus has the potential to develop into a fine singing group. We need to plan for improvement. Unfortunately it doesn't just happen.

It would be my hope as one of your directors that we set our goal at 45+ singers on the risers and begin to generate the enthusiasm to make it happen. We need to remind ourselves often that:

**"ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE"**

Vocal Federation, in my humble opinion, has a healthy respect for all the things that make us musically better. Let's work together to make the Strathroy Vocal Federation a "force" to be reckoned with.

Again I thank you all for treating me with such great hospitality in these first few months.

## Youth Outreach at SDCI

*Bob Fennell*

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, 13 ½ Barbershoppers (Bill Gough came late) sang at the Strathroy District Collegiate Institute for 2 music classes between 9:00 am and 10:45 am. President Jim enlightened the about Barbershopping from it's origins through the formation of the Society in 1938, then into Canada in 1944 through to 33,000 members of today. Jim also communicated many interesting facts about our hobby.

Half way through the mini concert, we used a quartet to explain the different voice parts with each of the quartet singing a solo then adding the parts to the lead one at a time to build the quartet sound. John & Enid Gough's son, Mark, sang bass in one of the quartet demonstrations to the delight of his class. Quartet lead, Bob Howlett attempted to throw him off by singing a different version of "My Wild Irish Rose" than we usually do, but it didn't work. Mark looked quite dapper with his baseball cap in reverse (I would like to have the uniform committee look into this as a possible addition to our uniforms).

Les Campbell's grand daughter, Jessie and Orval Allen's niece, Amy also came up to sing with us.

During our exhibition of Barbershop singing we had both the boys, and then the girls, come up and stand amongst us while we gave our rendition of a pole cat song. All the students seemed to get a kick out of doing this.

Our aim and goal in doing this is to show young men and women the fun and enjoyment of Barbershop singing. It's a hobby that one can participate in whether you are 8 or 80.

Some of our group asked the students what they thought of our music. One young fellow said, "Cool!" So you see we must be a groovy bunch of guys.



## The View From The Expensive Seats

*Edna Simpson*

Because I was travelling with 2 of the Barbershop singers, I arrived early at Bear Creek Golf and Country Club on November 20, 1999. Therefore, along with a few other early arrivals, I was able to see the whole show from preparation to end. The Sweet Adelines were practising on the risers, and we were a bit concerned that with the set up of tables, leaving a large vacant area in front of the risers, a large portion of the audience would be viewing the performance from one side or the other rather than from the front.

Our other concern was that as time went on, so few people were seated around the tables. What we did not realize was the doors were not opened to the public until just before the show.

It was a relief when Jim McDougall invited the audience to move their chairs away from the tables and fill the open space in front of the risers. Now all was set for the singing, and what wonderful singing it was. The Vocal Federation gave their usual polished performance, personally I found their rendition of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" most moving and felt it was perhaps the best I have ever heard.

"Murphy's Bad Day" was extremely well done and obviously captured the whole audience. The ladies of the London Chorus provided an excellent performance with well blended voices and well rehearsed actions and movements. It was a wonderful evening of entertainment, well balanced with the male harmony anchoring the London chorus.

It was a good combination and I hope they will repeat it in the future.

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## *And The Torch Is Passed*

Firstly, not today or at any other point in my life have I ever considered myself a writer. My parents, school teachers and colleagues at work would also concur without exception. It is at this point that you ask "Then why has he been the editor of our chapter bulletin for the past four years?" Well, to be honest I can put it into one word - COMMUNICATION. When I was chorus co-director I'm sure I frustrated

some of you by the amount of time I would spend talking to you instead of directing you in song. It is for this same reason that I took on the task, and by the way very much enjoyed the task, of editing the chapter bulletin.

Communication within the chapter, with other chapters, with the District and International and even with the public is very important. Through our bulletin everyone who reads gains a level of understanding as to 'where we're at'. International and District Officers can assess our chapter health, other chapters check out whether we are busy with performances or activities and hopefully borrow some ideas to make their own. Even Joe Public (those who get the chance to read it) learns what we are up to and who we are.

Next month John King takes over as Editor of the Federation's Fanfare. I have worked with John and know that he not only wants to put a good bulletin together he will.

As I put this issue to bed I ask each of you just one favour. I have been very fortunate to have had one articles of your thoughts, feelings, performance assessment, etc. from almost everyone of you. Please give John that same support. If I never gave you credit for an article in four years time you have obviously been saving up so you should be first in line for the next edition of the Fanfare.

To those of you that have been there each issue or every other issue I am truly thankful. You are truly the backbone of the Fanfare and I hope that you will continue to support John also.

I haven't been out to often since resigning my duties as director. The Wave has been quite busy with preparations for and competing in the Fall District Contest. We also sang on Sarnia's Chapter Shows, unfortunately the same date as the Cabaret, as the headline quartet and felt very good about our performance with many compliments.

As winter approaches (quickly with this white crap on the ground), I have again put on my cheerleading skirt for both Matt and Ryan but now I am wearing it not only in the arena but also in the gymnasium with both boys on highschool basketball teams. Hopefully I don't strain too many vocal chords.

# Quartet Corner



## Fourthwith Sound

(Keith Campbell-Tenor, Jim McDougall-Lead,  
John Gough-Baritone, Frank Knoll-Bass)  
October 26<sup>th</sup> - Performed for a meeting of the  
Mutual Re-insurance Directors Group at the Hilton  
Hotel in London  
November 6<sup>th</sup> - Sang on the Evening of Sharing at  
the Strathroy Arena  
November 12<sup>th</sup> - Performed at the Grand Opening of  
the Commonwealth Centre, new facility for the  
Investment Centre in Strathroy  
November 19<sup>th</sup> - Sang at the Caradoc Community  
Centre for the 1999 Middlesex County Warden's  
Banquet  
November 20<sup>th</sup> - Performed with the Vocal  
Federation and the London Sweet Adelines on  
Cabaret 99 at the Bear Creek Golf and Country  
Club in Strathroy  
The guys are working up some new material for  
several spring shows.

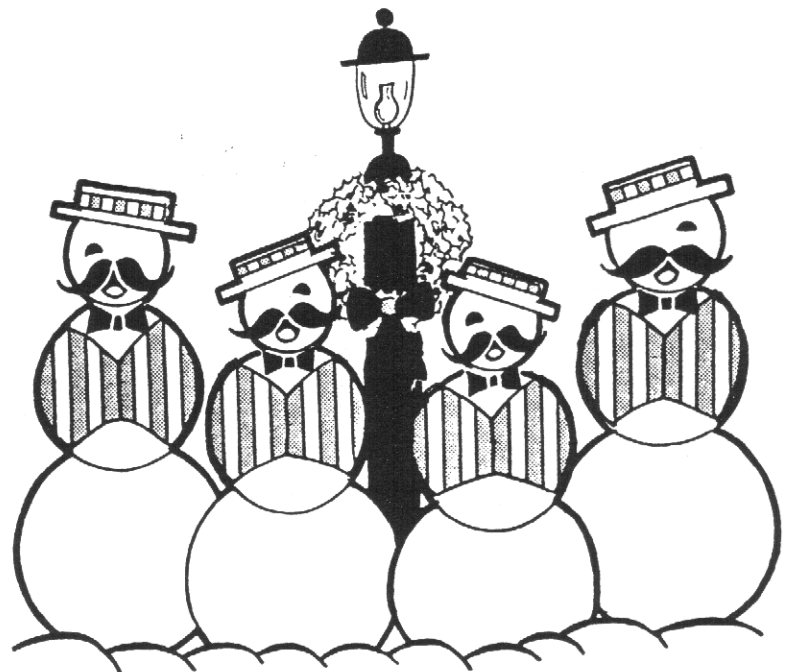
## RURAL ROOTS

(Ernie McEwen-Tenor, Bob Howlett-Lead,  
Ros McPherson-Baritone, Craig Bycraft-Bass)  
November 20<sup>th</sup> - Performed with the Vocal  
Federation and the London Sweet Adelines on  
Cabaret 99 at the Bear Creek Golf and Country  
Club in Strathroy  
Rural Roots is finally back rehearsing after having a  
very busy harvest and look forward to singing at the  
Vocal Federation's Annual Christmas Party.



(Steve Stewart-Tenor,  
Brian McDougall-Lead,  
Rich Lauzon-Baritone,  
Gord Miller-Bass)  
November 20<sup>th</sup> -  
Performed on both the  
matinee and evening  
Sarnia Chapter Shows  
at the Imperial Theatre  
as well as the afterglow.

The Wave is singing at a performance with the  
London Chapter next week with a report to come in  
the next issue.



## 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 - Jim McDougall  
Chorus Director - Don Pyper  
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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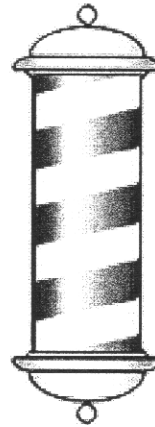
The Editor may edit all for clarity, content or to fit the space. All stories are written by the Editor, except those carrying another byline, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Chapter, its officers or members.

*Next "Fanfare" Deadline:*

**January 26, 2000**

*"Communication is a cornerstone of  
modern life."*

*Unknown*



**ONTARIO DISTRICT**

### *♪* **COMING EVENTS** *♪*

December 22	<i>Downtown Carol Sing</i> Strathroy
Dec. 28	<i>Show Comm. &amp; Chapter Board Meeting</i> Jim McDougall's Home
January 7 -9	<i>COTS</i> Geneva Park YM/YWCA Camp Orillia
Jan. 25	<i>Show Comm. &amp; Chapter Board Meeting</i> Jim McDougall's Home
February 26	<i>Western Division Novice Contests</i>
Feb. 29	<i>Show Comm. &amp; Chapter Board Meeting</i> Jim McDougall's Home (We even added an extra day on the calendar for this one.)

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.