



♪ Fanfare ♪

Strathroy, Ont.
Chapter
Established
1995
Member of
Ontario
District

"Home of the
Vocal Federation
Chorus"

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

All In All I'd Rather Be Playing Golf

by **Barry Done**

Sarnia. "Nerve Centre" of the Western Division, or so it turned out for me!

When our quartet won the chapter competition on Feb. 21, it was suggested and we readily agreed, that we would enter the competition in Sarnia---JUST 3 DAYS A WAY. From that point on, I could feel my nervousness building. To prepare, I bought a pitch pipe and, 15--20 times each day--in the car, at work, even on the train back and forth between Strathroy and Toronto, I sang our two songs until I felt I had them down cold.

WRONG!!!

Competition day started out odd and just kept getting odder! On arriving at the church I walked totally unprepared into a room of half-naked men. No "biggy", right? It did occur to me though that I must have led a very sheltered life for I never knew there were so many kinds and colours of men's underwear. However, I didn't have long to reflect on that, for as I glanced around the room, I saw an even stranger sight--guys putting on rouge and lipstick, and even more unnerving, some big guy seemed anxious to put some on me!! What the-----

Now, timing is everything, and that was very definitely the wrong time, being as I said, surrounded by two dozen men in various stages of undress. Remember, I already said my nervousness was building. These events did nothing to restore my state of tranquility--on a scale of 1 to 10, I had hit 57 and soaring.

Right about then my ever-escalating nervousness ended, only to be replaced by a Guinness

world-record setting panic attack. As I said, timing is everything, and it showed up right on time. "Ain't life grand?"

We were first up for chorus and that seemed to go well. While our VLQ was out winning first prize, John and I ran through our two songs, and now I couldn't remember the lyrics or gestures, or even the order we'd agreed to sing them in. The day just kept on getting better!

Showtime!!



Sarnia Contest

by **Gordon Vair**
Quartet Activity Chairman

Barry Done and I were newcomers to the Sarnia contest, as far as quartet participants are concerned.

It is a lot more comfortable being in a large group than where you have to stand out there on stage and do your part and you are it- no back up! I remember Barry saying, just as we were about to go on stage, "What am I doing here???" I think he was speaking for both of us.

It was great to have pros like John and Ernie on either end. I must say I was surprised to see us get third after I saw the competition we were up against, a nice surprise!

A great day overall. Our group gave a fine effort coming first in the VLQ and second in the chorus group. A big thank you to our directors who are responsible for our group being where it is today.

Editor's Report

by *John King,
Fanfare Editor.*



Well here it is almost spring again and the end of a long and harsher than usual winter. After shoveling two feet of snow off my roof, I am certainly glad that winter is over.

This is the first year in many years we haven't gone south for a least a week and I can sure say I missed it. 120 days with very little sunshine and of course no outside warmth, can be a bit of a drag. Mind you I am not complaining, this climate has its advantages, particularly if you like winter sports.

We have some great winter sports in this country including curling and skiing which you can pretty well participate in for a lifetime with reasonably good health. There is also old-timers hockey but after one year of this, where most of the old-timers were under 20 years of age and loved to body check, fight and slap the puck, I decided to stick with curling and skiing.

Now curling has its place but there is not a lot of excitement unless someone falls in front of their skip's rock and you win the game. Unfortunately, that doesn't happen very often for me so I am left with alpine skiing.

Alpine skiing, for those of you who don't ski, is some times called downhill skiing and I'm sure many of us can identify with the downhill part.

Every year a friend of mine from my university days asks me to ski with him at Mont Tremblant in Quebec and every year I oblige.

This year was no exception and in February my wife and I did the drive to Mont Tremblant. Each year that Mountain looks a little higher but height was not the issue this year...the issue was -25 C plus a wind chill factor of about an additional -15 C for a total of about -40 C. When I was coming off the top of that mountain, the wind was so strong it took a few seconds to build up speed. Naturally every thing was well covered or I wouldn't be here to write about it, I could be frozen stiff at the base of some remote cliff.

Well the mind does funny things when its cold and all I could think of at that time was "what am I doing here?...I wanna go to Miiiiiaaami". My second thought was of barbershoppers like Tom Linden, Gary Snellgrove and Bud Jackson who were probably

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drinking a "cold one" somewhere in the deep south and here I was skiing down a mountain side almost frozen to death.

As the day wore on and my bones began to ache from the cold, I was reminded of a poem, I believe by Robert Service, which described the cold endured by a Sam McGee. As I recall, Sam was so cold he crawled into a hot stove to get relief for his bones. But there wasn't a stove in sight.

Now I know what you're thinking; this guy can't even plan a good vacation, but you're wrong. I go skiing for the excitement of flying through the white powder and around those moguls. After all, as Canadians, we are a nordic people and too much sun and warm weather is not good for us, right? Sounds reasonable but if you believe it totally, I have a used car for you.

So if any of you want to join the ski group next year just let me know, but remember, I am only your editor and I can't be responsible for accidents, frozen or lost barbershoppers....on the other hand maybe a barbershop cruise would be a better idea.

Sing out at Strathroy Community Christian School-Feb. 21.

On Wednesday February 21, 18 members of the Vocal Federation chorus gathered in the library of the Strathroy Community Christian School located on Highway 81 about 2 miles south of Strathroy. (The location of this school is important as this is the site of our spring concert to held on April 28).

About 200 students from the school and some of their teachers were introduced to barbershop singing. Due to limited size of the library the students were entertained in 3 groups of between 60 and 70 students each.

John Gough provided direction for the chorus, Jim McDougall explained barbershopping and Blake Hughes advised of upcoming show at the school. The chorus sang for about 30 minutes for each group. The selection of songs included 2 Disney songs planned for the spring show.

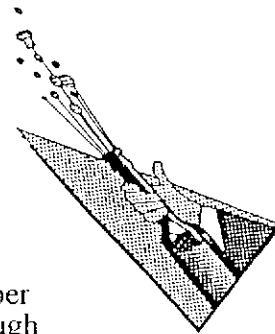
The interesting part of this sing-out was the introduction of barbershopping to the students. Jim McDougall did a very good job with this by explaining a bit of barbershop history and introducing the students to the different parts of barbershop harmony.

The principal, teachers and students all seemed very appreciative of the entertainment.

**Next Fanfare Deadline:
April 25, 2001.**

Harold's Angels

by Marilyn McPherson



Chapter Birthdays

March 26	Don Pyper
March 29	Ted Gough
March 31	Jiggs Gough
April 3	Orval Allen
April 12	Barb Howlett
April 28	Hugh McCutcheon

Chapter Anniversaries

March 28	Bill & Audrey Gough
April 17	Jim & Sylvia McDougall
May 4	Gord & Mary Vair

(Celebrations since last issue of Fanfare. Please report any errors or omissions to the editor.)

Coming Events



- Mar. 21.....Guest Night.
- Mar. 22.....Sing-out West Williams School.
- Mar. 24.....Chapter retreat.
- Mar. 31.....Sing-out at Strathroy Seniors Centre.
- April 20-22.....District Convention Toronto.
- April 28Strathroy Chapter--Disney Show.
- May 2.....Guest Night.
- July 1-8.....International Convention-Nashville.
- Aug. 18.....Vocal Majority and Acoustix in Concert-Toronto.
- Sept. 12.....Guest Night.
- Oct. 26-28.....Fall Convention-Brantford.

Here we are, March already and aren't we looking forward to warm weather, even if it is wet warm weather!

Here is an outline of the many opportunities we will have to be together this year.

First - Congratulations to Vocal Federation for a great showing at the South Western Ontario Novice Competition. The Chorus, V.L.Q. and quartet won standing and our applause.

Retreat Day - March 24th - This year it is being held at the Strathroy Community Christian School and a soup and sandwich lunch will be served to our fellows.

Spring Show - April 28th - To be held at S.C.C.S. Show times afternoon and evening. Help will be needed for both of these performances as well as dinner preparation and afterglow.

Garage Sale - May 26th - Our sale this year will be held at McDougall's on Carrie St.. Save those treasures! We will be wheeling and dealing that day.

Dance - Interest has been shown in another Big Band Dance and the details are being checked out.

Stay tuned and keep your September dates flexible. One possible date is September 28th.

Village Ladies - Nov. 25th at Petrolia Playhouse (Eunice Fennell's choir). Tickets available in Sept.

The next meeting of Harold's Angels will be March 21st at Sylvia's.

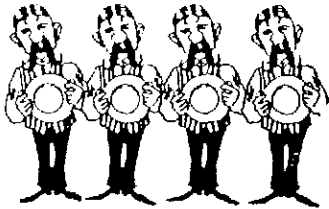
Everyone is welcome and we would like to see you there.

My First Experience as a Singing Valentine

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by

Bob Fennell
V.P. Chapter Development.



On Monday Feb. 19, I was lucky to sing lead with Keith Campbell, John Gough and Jim McDougall. We helped celebrate a belated singing valentine. Our first performance took place at One London Place on Queen St. in London.

The receptionist was a young lady. The four of us walked into the law office of Cohen and Highly and asked the receptionist to see Carol. We advised that we had a singing valentine for her. After a 2 or 3 minute wait, Carol came to the reception area and we heard her say, Oh No! She has her hand over her heart and a smile on her face.

The four of us were all dressed in our white shirts, black ties, red vests and black pants. I urged Carol along and suggested she sit down in a chair in the reception area of the office and that we were going to sing.

By this time, 12 or 14 young ladies had come out of the "wood work" to see and hear the performance. We then heard Carol say "I have been in front of judges". I believe her heart was beating faster than normal by this time.

The performance started with "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" which we sang softly with lots of feeling. At the end of the song Carol bounced off the chair before the last note dissipated in the air. I think she was a little excited, feeling self-conscious, her heart beat by now was about 40 beats faster than normal and she was wondering what to do with herself.

With a smile, Jim asked me to get the rose. I gave Carol the rose in my hand and said "you had better come and sit down again, we have another song for you".

The last song of course was "Heart Of My Heart" which we also sang very softly and lovingly. Some of the young ladies standing there now had a tear or two surfacing. Our valentine card was given to her

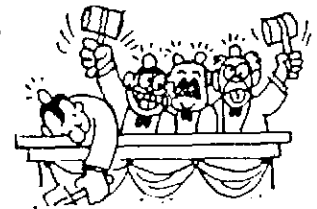
and after the song, Carol gave us all a big hug (John said when we were going out that he liked the idea of a big hug). I heard Carol say as we were going out "Its going to take me two weeks to get over this

Obviously, Carol had a good warm feeling in her heart and so did the four of us. I was a little nervous myself with this being my first valentine singing experience. It was a barrel of fun and I got a real kick out of it.

Our next performance was for a couple in Byron who were 92 years young. Both enjoyed barbershop style music and had been to several performances by barbershop chorus and quartets in both Canada and the U.S.A.

We had a short interesting visit with them in their home. I hope when I am 92 (if I make it), I am in as good a shape as they were and may mind is just as lively as these two.

Board's Business



- February 27, 2001 Meeting
- Sheet music for 6 new songs "Harmony Classics" music program has been received. A cassette tape for each part has also been received.
- Arnold Dixon arranged for a sing-out at the West Williams Public School, Parkhill.
- Board pleased with attendance at SCCS on Feb. 21. A joint show with their music students is being considered.
- Western Division Novice Day rewarding for chapter.
- Church performance repertoire to be reviewed and some new songs to be considered.
- Three guest nights to be held in 2001 ...March 21, May 2 and Sept 12.
- Membership advertising campaign approved.
- Messrs. Vair and King to do chapter audit for 2000.
- Successful chapter novice quartet contest held Feb. 21.

Helloooo, Hello, Hellooo, Well Helloooow!

by **Bob Howlett**

To all the Vocal Federation members, "Helloooo, Hello, Hellooo, well Helloooow" (of course in four part harmony). Thank you everyone for your thoughts, concerns and well wishing. Thank you for the get well card signed by many of the members.

Thank you Gord Nisbet for sending me a beautiful pot of spring flowers, it brightened up the hospital room considerably and sent sunshine on a gloomy day. A special thanks to Grant Knox for visiting me in the hospital and offering to come all the way to Embro to pick me up to take me to a chapter meeting at Strathroy. I am not supposed to drive for six weeks so this is much appreciated.

Now, just for the record previous do my hip surgery, I had been busy finishing the inside of our house. The house that we physically built ourselves. You see there is a wedding for our daughter Laureen on April 21 and everything has to look just right. Now that I can't physically do anything, maybe I will have some time to sing. I am doing my homework, so I will know the songs and I will be back A.S.A.P. for the chorus and Rural Roots. The show must go on.

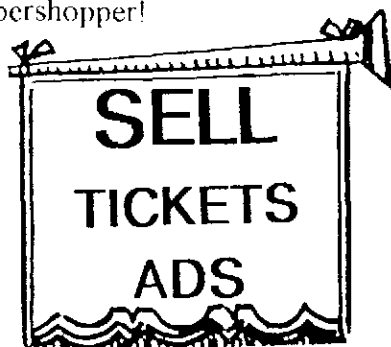
Also for the record, I have been standing on a total hip replacement for 9 years, (I was injured at age 22) and it felt fine, but x-rays revealed that it needed repair. Pain for gain.

Now that I feel that my life is an open book . I will finish by announcing that there will be no more raw oatmeal or cooked oatmeal in my diet. Don't get it, than ask Ted Gough, maybe I could replace the void by eating carnations but not for breakfast.

We have a great show coming up and many of us have been away so lets get focused and work on our music at home. Sell lots of show tickets and have a great show.

Thanks Orval for helping Rural Roots again experience the joy of delivering singing valentines. I bet you had fun too

It's great to be a barbershopper!



We Get E-Mail

(i) From: Waldo Redekop, Trillium editor.

Hi John:

Thanks for sending your bulletin to me. Looking Good! Keep it up. I am sending the following to those editors who have sent me their bulletins.

I receive the final figures for the Ontario District H4S and will be publishing them in the next issue of The Trillium and thought that you might want to write an article and include your chapter's donations in your next issue since your members should be proud of their work. The first figure is the placement. Sorry about the format, but I had it formatted for The Trillium and just copied the data to this e-mail.

Chapter	Totals	Membership	Average
24 th Strathroy	\$2,380	37	\$64.32
District Totals	\$254,594	1594	\$159.62

(ii) From: Mary Vair.

John:

I don't know if the new chapter directory is completed yet. If not, I have a corrected e-mail address to give to you.

Roswell McPherson is now:
rmmcpherson@sympatico.ca

GUESTS

(iii) From: Orval Allen
(Excerpt)

Hi John:

I am finally getting around to updating my directory with the 2001 pages attached to your Feb. 12th letter, and believe there are two changes to be made on page 20 to the Member Achievement Award section.

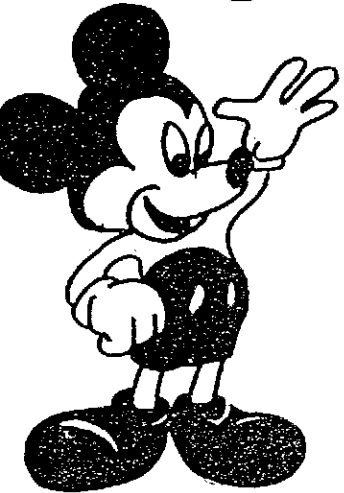
1. The second category should read:
**Bring guest to chapter meeting -----30 points
(maximum 90 points for same quest).**
2. Add the following category, which was approved at the June 27, 2000 Board Of Directors meeting:
committee members attendance at each committee meeting.....10 points.

(Editors's note:- since the Feb. 12, 2001 Directory is not likely to be updated again for some time, I thought this e-mail might be helpful to members.)

SALUTE TO DISNEY

EVENING

Starring:



featuring:
Internationally
Renowned
Quartet

“Cornerstone”

Fourthwith Sound

Strathroy Chapter Quartet

RURAL ROOTS

Strathroy Chapter Quartet

Needham Dance

School Performers

and Strathroy's Own

Vocal Federation

Chorus

April 28, 2001 - 7:29 pm

Strathroy Community

Christian School

Highway 81 south of Strathroy)

Tickets: Adult \$10.00

Under 13 \$5.00

Family Package \$25.00

Family Package - Parents and children under 13

*Strathroy Chapter is a member of the Ontario
District Association of Chapters of SPEBSQSA*

For further information

For tickets contact

Donnie McEwen at (519) 245 - 1051

or Jim McDougall at (519) 245 - 0843

(your local Barbershopper)

John King at (519) 245-0762



SALUTE TO DISNEY

MAINE

Starring:



Fourthwith Sound
Strathroy Chapter Quartet

RURAL ROOTS
Strathroy Chapter Quartet

Needham Dance
School Performers

Courtney Fox
Mark Gough

and Strathroy's Own
Vocal Federation
Chorus

April 28, 2001 - 1:59 pm
Strathroy Community
Christian School
(Highway 81 south of Strathroy)

Tickets: Adult \$10.00
Under 13 \$5.00
Family Package \$25.00
Family Package - Parents and children under 13

For further information
or tickets contact
Ernie McEwen at (519) 245 - 1051
Jim McDougall at (519) 245 - 0843
or (your local Barbershopper)

John King at (519) 245-0762



Hi-Ho, Hi-Ho it's off to sing we go



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 7:30 pm

Board of Directors

President	Frank Knoll	(519)264-2856
Past President	Jim McDougall	(519) 245-0843
Treasurer	Les Campbell	(519) 245-0359
Secretary	Orval Allen	(519) 641-0331
Chapter Dev. V.P.	Bob Fennell	(519) 693-4280
Music V.P.	Blake Hughes	(519) 264-1245
Program V.P.	Bill Gough	(519) 245-2244
Performance V.P.	Arnold Dixon	(519)294-0128
Communication V.P.	Bud Jackson	(519) 245-5747
Board Mem. At Large	Roswell McPherson	(519) 245-1711
Board Mem. At Large	Ian Cooper	(519) 287-9902

Appointments

Quartet Activity Chairman	Gord Vair
Attendance Recorder	Hugh McCutcheon
Historian	Ernie McEwen
Nominating Committee Chairman	Jim McDougall
Service Projects & Fundraising Chairman	Ian Cooper
Uniform Chairman	Bill Galbraith
Show Committee Co-Chairman	Orval Allan
Fanfare Editor/Directory Publisher	John King
Kitchen Steward	Les Campbell
Sunshine Chairman	Gord Nisbet

Music Team

Music V.P. - Blake Hughes
Chorus Director - John Gough
Chorus Director - Jim McDougall
Chorus Director - Don Pypier
Librarian - Arnold Dixon

Section Leaders

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

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.

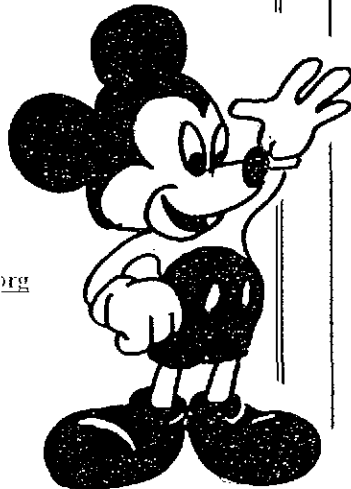
WEB SITES

Strathroy Vocal Federation
www.ham.on.ca/vocalfederation/

Ontario District- www.ont.spebsqsa.org

Barbershop International- www.spebsqsa.org

Ashow
www.ahsow.or



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 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 members vocal talents 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 benefit 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 the 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 projects which will benefit the Ontario District's barbershop charity, Harmonize For Speech.

Fanfare

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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.

Fanfare is a publication of the Strathroy Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing America, Inc.

Remember to share your Fanfare with all of your family,