



# *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"*



## **DONALD W. PYPER, SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER FOR ONTARIO/NORTHEASTERN DISTRICTS**

It was with some considerable regret that I learned that **Don Pyper** will be leaving us as chorus director at the end of June. Don has brought a lot of talent to this chapter as well as a sense of humour and considerable patience. He will certainly be missed. Perhaps one of his biggest accomplishments with our chapter was the successful **Salute To Disney** show on April 28 .

As I understand it, Don will be the new chorus director for the St. Thomas chapter. St. Thomas needs a chorus director as their current director is moving to Eastern Ontario. Don lives just down the road at Port Stanley and St. Thomas will be much closer for him than Strathroy. I'm sure the St. Thomas chapter knows how fortunate they are to get Don and that they will be getting one of the best chorus directors.

Don brought more to our chapter than his musical skills, sense of humour and patience. He is a veteran barbershopper who continues to serve the society at a senior level. He has completed over 25 years of membership and service to the Society and he is the Society Board member for Ontario/Northeastern Districts.



**Porky Pig (Bill Galbraith) salutes Chorus Director Donald Pyper after a successful Disney Show.**

He is also one of our chapter's 6 members of the Ancient Harmonious Society Of Woodshedders. In my opinion, he has a lot of friends, influence and knowledge about the barbershop Society and he brought that to our chapter. **I'm sure we all wish him the very best in his new role as chorus director for the St. Thomas chapter.**



**Don relaxes between performances at the 2000 Christmas sing-out.**

# Editor's Report

by **John King,**  
*Fanfare Editor.*



## The Future

Naturally, the rank and file, including me, are wondering who will fill Don Pyper's shoes. John Gough and Jim McDougall have always done commendable work as chorus directors but most of us know this job involves a lot of time, commitment and work. It was certainly a great luxury for our chapter to have 3 chorus directors so I suspect our leaders will try to find another director to help with the work load.

I've noticed that a few chapters in Ontario have "folded" in the past year or so. It appears that this has occurred as these chapters lost their music directors and were unable to find replacements. It seems clear that the role of music director is pivotal to the success and very survival of barbershop chapters. Naturally, the loss of a chapter results in a loss of members and the Society's decline in membership over the past 5 years is likely related to disappearing music directors and the resulting folding of chapters.

Hence, in my opinion, it behooves the Society to train and help insure a supply of music directors if barbershopping is to survive long term.

### Benefits of old age

- In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
- It's harder and harder for sexual harassment to stick.
- Kidnappers aren't very interested in you.

## 2001 Strathroy Chapter Show

### Show ticket Report

by **Jim McDougall,**  
**Show Committee Chairman.**

This is a final report on our 2001 Disney Show. I am pleased to report a highly successful effort on most everyone's part. A number of members deserve much congratulations because of their high increase in sales over last year. We did a great job, however, I know we can do better next year even though our night show was virtually a sell out. Great job guys!

Gross ticket sales (both shows) - \$ 5755

Member sales 562 tickets (including children & family packages for both shows ).

At door sales 22 tickets.

Complementary 9 tickets (2 Arts Council, 2 Mayor, 2 Western Division Co-ordinator, 2 Standing Ovation, Ann Crisp 1)

### Individual member ticket sales:

Bob Fennell	61	Gord Nisbet	9
Bill Galbraith	57	Bob Howlett	9
Jim McDougall	57	Frank Knoll	8
Ernie McEwen	50	Grant Knox	8
Les Campbell	45	Don Pyper	6
Arnold Dixon	36	Ian Cooper	5
Blake Hughes	34	Barry Done	5
Ros McPherson	26	Bob Day	3
Hugh McCutcheon	23	Craig Bycraft	2
Ted Gough	23	Brian McDougall	1
John Gough	20	Bruce Cameron	0
Bill Gough	19	Keith Campbell	0
Orval Allen	18	Larry Driessen	0
Gord Vair	17	Bud Jackson	0
John King	14	Tom Linden	0
Doug Simpson	13	Don Nisbet	0
Hugh Nisbet	12	Garn Snelgrove	0

A special congratulations to Bob Fennell, our top ticket seller for 2001.

Several of the members were compensated for their good work with a special promotion incentive for high tickets sales and program advertising sales. The following are recipients: \$30 to Orval Allen, Les Campbell, Bob Fennell, Bill Galbraith, Jim McDougall, Ernie McEwen and Gord Nisbet; \$20 to Arnold Dixon and Blake Hughes; \$10 to John Gough, Hugh McCutcheon and Ros McPherson.

Another congratulations to Hugh McCutcheon on winning the draw for two free tickets to Huron County Playhouse or Victoria Playhouse or \$75 towards tickets to Ontario District Vocal Majority Show.

Again, I am delighted with our performance. with both singing and sales.

To those fellows who said they didn't like selling, but sold 34 and 26 tickets respectively, I'd sure like to see the numbers if you did.

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### Next Fanfare Deadline:

**August 8, 2001**

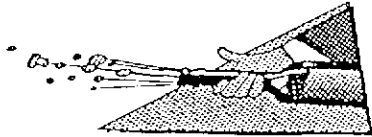
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## Coming Events

- July 1-8.....International Convention-  
Nashville.
- Aug. 18.....Vocal Majority and Acoustix  
in Concert-Toronto.
- Sept. 12.....Guest Night.
- Oct. 13..... Big Band Dance.
- Oct. 26-28.....Fall Convention-Brantford.
- Oct. 28.....Parkhill United Church  
Anniversary 11 a.m.
- Dec. 15.....Christmas Party ..Strathroy  
Legion Hall.
- Feb. 23, 2002.....Host ..Western Division  
Novice Contest.
- March 9, 2002.....Retreat.....SCCS.
- April 6, 2002.....2002 Show...SCCS.

## Celebrations



### Chapter Birthdays

June 20	Sylvia McDougall
June 24	Jim McDougall
June 29	Audrey Hughes
July 1	Hugh Nisbet
July 4	Edna Simpson
July 7	Barbara Knox
July 9	Jill Day
July 14	Barry Done
July 20	Mary Vair
August 2	Keith Campbell
August 7	Elaine Linden
August 10	Norma Allen

### Chapter Anniversaries

June 30	Bud & Stella Jackson
July 9	Bob & Eunice Fennell
July 2	Don & Ruth Pyper
July 16	Grant & Barbara Knox
July 23	Blake & Audrey Hughes
July 26	Barry & Candis Done
July 25	Brian & Sandy McDougall
August 14	John & Enid Gough

## We Get E-Mail

### Uniform Sale:

From the **Simcoe Chapter.**

The Simcoe Chapter has 33 grey tuxedo uniforms for sale with jackets and pants. Contact Doug at 1-519-583-1192.

### Director of Future Day

From **Paul Tamblyn.**

Ontario chapters are encouraged to send a least one member to attend the Director of Future Day at Harmony Hall, 2 Gower St. Toronto, on Sept 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a training opportunity for section leaders, assistant directors, warm-up guys and director "wanna bees" to improve in the basics of music directing. For registration please contact Paul Tamblyn at 1-613-547-2920.

### "ANNUAL SHOW TRIVIA"

From **Orval Allen**  
**Chapter Secretary.**

Strathroy Chapter has produced six very successful Annual Shows since its' inception. What was the theme name for each? Here are some suggestions:

All Aboard, Say It With Music, A Song Comin On, Touchdown, The Music Man Medley, Sentimental Journey, The Sound Of Music, A New Beginning, A Musical Showcase, Springtime Harmony, A Tune For All Seasons, Barbershop Comes To Strathroy, Barbershop Extravaganza, Come Join In Song, Something New, A Tribute To Walt, The Melody Lingers On, Up-Up And Away, Salute To Disney, Brian's Song, Comin' In On A Wing And A Prayer, Barbershop Medley.

### Thanks Dad and Fourthwith Sound

Jason and I were very happy and touched to have dad's quartet, Fourthwith Sound, sing at our wedding on June 9, 2001.

Their singing enhanced our marriage ceremony and then they sang again for our guests at night.

This is a special remembrance for both of us. Special thanks go to John, Jim and Keith and especially dad, for sharing in our day.

**Kathy and Jason Groves.**

# Quartet News Fourthwith Sound

# Harold's Angels

by Marilyn McPherson

by Jim McDougall

(since last report)

- Feb. 14 Several singing valentines- Strathroy, Poplar Hill, London and back to Strathroy with Les Campbell singing for Frank.
- Feb. 19 Two singing valentines- London with Bob Fennell pinch hitting (singing ) for Frank.
- April 28 Strathroy Annual Shows 1:59 and 7:29 p.m.
- June 9 Wedding and reception of Kathy and Jason ( Frank and Joan's middle daughter).

Summer is just around the corner and many of us are ready for holidays so here is an up date of the events planned by Harold's Angels.

Dance- A Big Band Dance is being planned for October 12<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will soon be available so remind your friends to save the date and be ready with your tickets.

Christmas Around The World- A fund raising party will be held Sunday , Sept. 23 at 2 o'clock. Another chance to bring your friends to a fun afternoon.

Cheese Orders- Be ready for cheese orders. Word will come through the chapter.

## Rural Roots

By Roswell McPherson

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

June Performances:

- June 3 Strathroy Seniors Center- celebrating its first anniversary.
- June 19 Community Living Strawberry Social

The next meeting of Harold's Angels will be at Sylvia's on Aug. 22.

Everyone is welcome and we would like to see you there. Have a nice summer everyone!

**Summer Hours- 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. with business scheduled towards the end of the meeting.**

The Vocal Federation is considering a Christmas Show this year. The possibility of a Christmas Show on alternating years with the Cabaret, of the past two years, will be reviewed.

## Computer Crash

My computer apologizes for crashing just before the Fanfare publication date. This means I am unable to retrieve e-mail from Frank Knoll and Don Pyper that was to go in this issue of Fanfare.

I plan to get these articles, publish and distribute them to the membership separately. The page with these articles will be included with the regular mail out of Fanfare.

### EVOLUTION OF THE QUARTET MAN...

The long road from Primate to Performer

by Jay Garber, Pres. J.A.D. '97

GENERAL FEELING	"Want to give it a try?"	"We don't sound too bad"	"Let's give it a shot"	"Do you think we've peaked?"	"We just may be very good"	"We've come this far- let's go for it"
WHAT YOU NEED	Chapter Coach +	Apple Corps +	Pop Gun +	Society Coach +	Top Gun +	Be come a Coach
WHAT YOU GET	Lots of fun	A little bit of recognition	Freebee requests	Sing-outs for pay	Featured spot on chapter show	Lots of pride & recognition
WHAT YOU GIVE	An extra night +	More songs +	Plenty of +	Lots of self +	Ponder: "Is it all worth it?"	Find that "it is all worth it"

# Vocal Federation Music Plan

by **Donald Pyper**  
Chorus Director.

## 1). Irving Berlin—"The Melody Linger On" songs.

### Chorus-

- No Business Like Show Business
- Alexanders Rag-time...
- Midnite Choo Choo Leaves...
- Easter Parade
- Always
- God Bless America (Our Canada).
- The Song is ended But...
- Play a Simple Melody

### Quartet

- Mandy
- When I Lost You
- When It's Nite Time In Dixie
- White Christmas
- Play A Simple Melody

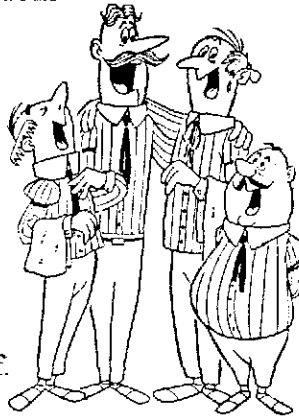
## 2).Spiritual

### Past-

- Battle Hymn of the Republic
- Peace On Earth
- Medley Of Spirituals
- Lords's Prayer
- I Believe
- Irish Blessing

### New:

- How Great Thou Art
- It Is No Secret
- Peace In The Valley
- Thank You Dear Lord
- Tell Me Why
- Precious Lord
- Surely The Presence Of.



## 3)Performance Repertoire

- Spoonful Of Sugar
- Disney Medley
- Heigh-Ho
- Ten Feet Off The Ground
- Zippidee Doo Dah
- Over The Rainbow
- Sentimental Journey
- When The Midnite Choo...
- Sam Accordion Man..
- Standing On The Corner
- After You're Gone



## Rehearsal Schedule

May 9- No Business Like Show..  
May 23- p(Hello Mary Lou)  
30- s(It Is No Secret)

June 6 -Always

13 p(Little Pal)  
20  
27 s(How Great Thou Art)

July 4 God Bless (Our Canada)  
18 p(Lazy River)  
25 s(Peace In The Valley)  
Aug. 1 Easter Parade

Sept 5 Play A Simple Melody  
Oct. 3- Alexander's Rag-Time...  
Nov. 7 The Song Is Ended

Feb. 6, 2002- off paper.  
20- 23 Division Novice  
Mar. 9- Retreat.  
April 6- Show 2002.

## Irving Berlin

contributed by **Gord Vair.**  
(edited for Fanfare).



In 1911, the song "Alexander's Ragtime Band" catapulted a 23 year old composer named Irving Berlin to international stardom. Over the next five decades, he wrote a succession of hits, both romantic and rousing that included "Blue Skies," "God Bless America," "White Christmas" and "There's No Business Like Show Business". The songwriter led a remarkable rags to riches life. A Russian Jewish immigrant who grew up in a New York City tenement, he made a fortune in the music business. He died an immensely wealthy man in 1989 at the age of 101.

He composed his own tunes and lyrics on a conventional piano where he used only the black keys. Throughout his career, he relied on an instrument called a transposing piano, which made it possible to change keys with the shift of a lever. After composing a tune, Berlin either sang or played it for an assistant, who would then transcribe it into musical notation. In that way, he produced a lifetime catalogue of some 1500 songs.

By the 1930's, Berlin was writing for Hollywood as well as Broadway. He wrote the scores for three Fred Astair and Ginger Roger movies, including Top Hat (1933), and the romantic Cheek To Cheek.

In his last years, he was the Howard Hughes of show business. He was worth tens of millions when he died. He refused to allow his music to be licensed for movies or commercials.

For six years, a group of fans gathered outside Berlin's home on his birthday and at Christmas to serenade him. On Christmas Eve 1983, as they were singing "White Christmas", the maid apparently invited everyone in for cocoa. Berlin hadn't made public appearance since his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1968. He said it was his loveliest Christmas present ever and gave all the men a hug and all the women a kiss.

He was one of America's greatest songwriters, but at the same time he was as astonished as anyone that he was so successful. Underneath he was just Izzy Baline from the lower east side of New York City.

## "THE PYPE LINE"

by **Donald Pyper**  
**Chorus Director.**

### A GREAT EXPERIENCE

Its been almost two years since I answered an invitation to come and join this great chapter as a director. You have treated me well and leaving will not be comfortable.

To be honest, you can understand that the drive each week is the only part of the project that I won't miss. It makes so much sense to return to my home area where I started barbershopping after retiring and moving to Port Stanley. You also probably realize that it's difficult to take part in all the little extra activities of a chapter like Strathroy when we live at this distance. You all have been quite hospitable to Ruth and I and we thank you for that.

The arrangement we have had with John and Jim and I taking our turns directing has, been unprecedented in my experience. They each agreed to participate with any song and in my humble opinion we were all the better for it. I've told you all before that in 35 years of directing, I've never seen a group of barbershoppers sing so well with no lyric help from the director out front. You passed with flying colours and proved a point. Thank you again.

The only thing that makes a chorus sing and perform well is the combined attitude of the member singers. I believe that we could hold our own at the pep rally or on the convention stage. The two shows in which I had only a small part, in my opinion were well performed and very entertaining to the audiences. Congratulations. You guys are exceptional.

It is most important now, that the chapter

**Page 6.**

take a good focus on the sense of "chorus" and what it means to the life of the harmony family you have created in just a few short years. The "ANGELS" are a big part of the life of this chapter. It is my greatest wish for the "VOCAL FEDERATION" (what a great name) to "SHARE THE DREAM" of your own visions and grow this chapter to a comfortable impressive size. 50 singers on stage is not far away. With a group that size and your great singing desire, you'll be dangerous.

It's almost impossible to say thank you to each one of you singly on paper here, so let me say that being a director for you has been one of the best directing experiences I've had.

You know that the one feature in a singing group that keeps a director interested and working hard is the desire of the singers to improve the group. You've done that.

You must be aware that I enjoy helping others ring chords (the magic of barbershop over any other vocal style). I hope that you've enjoyed the musical "stuff" we've done. It would seem that I'll be with you until the 25th of July and hope we can learn a few new tags in the remaining time. Tags are great to get the musical blood flowing and experience the joy of ringing good chords.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the contribution that the quartetting, four-tetting, program in this chapter has made to the overall confidence of the "VOCAL FEDERATION" chorus. It works, and well. Don't let this program disappear. Its also great to get new members up to speed on the art of harmonizing.

In closing I would like to thank a friend of

many moons, jsmcd@execulik.com, for thinking of me when you were looking for some musical help. Its been a blast. Keep up the good work for the community, they obviously like what you're doing. We used to say in Ontario district ..... "EXPERIENCE THE JOY and ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE" It really is great to be a barbershopper, in a group like VF.

**SINC-CERELY....."PYPE"**

### **Message From The President**

by **Frank Knoll,  
President.**

Well, with today being the first official day of summer, I thought it would be appropriate to jot down a few thoughts for the Fanfare.

Let's not take for granted how beautiful the lawns, flowers, gardens, trees and farm crops all look this time of the year! Even though we're all busy, it is important to stop and "smell the roses" once in a while.

After enjoying our very successful chapter shows in April, the Vocal Federation has already showed tremendous enthusiasm in attacking the repertoire for next year! I must commend Blake Hughes and the music team along with the directors, especially Don Pyper, in their well-made plans already at this stage for what will be destined to be an even better show in 2002.

It is with sadness that we are facing the departure of Don Pyper as a valued music teacher, planner and organizer, experienced

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barbershopper, and above all, just a great man in our chapter. We will all miss you, Don, when you leave. All the best in your new role as director of the Elginaires in St. Thomas.

One more person deserves notable mention in this article .....Gord Vair. The enthusiasm this guy has shown in the last year for quartet activity and "polecatting" is visibly becoming contagious at our meetings. Gord, you put us all to shame on June 20/01 at the meeting when we started practicing "Mary Lou" and you ripped off the bass part by yourself in a quartet without the music! Great stuff. The only negative comment I could make was that perhaps there was just a little too much 'hot air' in your jokes!

Isn't it great tp be a barbershopper?!

## STRATHROY CHAPTER

Western Division - Ontario District - SPEBSQSA

Home of the "Vocal Federation"

The performing chorus of the Strathroy Chapter

### Board of Directors

President	Frank Knoll	(519)264-2856
1st 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
Dominating 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 Pyper  
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.bam.on.ca/vocalfederation/](http://www.bam.on.ca/vocalfederation/)

Ontario District- [www.ont.spebsqsa.org](http://www.ont.spebsqsa.org)

Barbershop International- [www.spebsqsa.org](http://www.spebsqsa.org)

Show  
[www.ahsow.or](http://www.ahsow.or)

*Remember to share your Janfare with all of  
our family, friends and neighbours.  
Share the joy of singing.*

**Meeting at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**  
the corner of Albert and Richmond Streets in  
Strathroy - **Wednesday Evenings at 8:00 pm**

### 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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