

May 2003
Issue 8-3



♪ Fanfare ♪

Strathroy, Ont.
Chapter
Established
1995
Member of
Ontario
District

"Home of the
Vocal Federation
Chorus"

"Trumpeting the Federation's news to its borders"

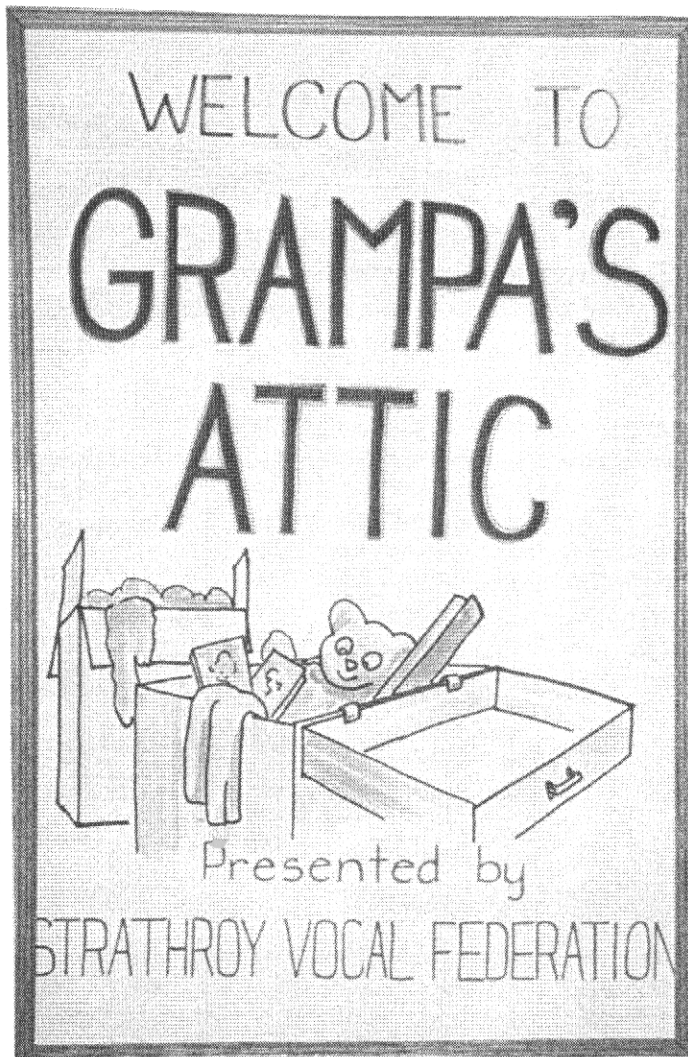
MOMENTS TO REMEMBER

by **Orval Allen**
Show Committee Chairman

Oh what fun, ha! ha! ha!, a so called freak spring ice storm caused, particularly when it comes on our annual show weekend.

I didn't have any reason to leave warm and comfortable surroundings Friday morning so I hadn't given much thought to what impact the storm was having. I knew the schools were closed but, so what. Anymore, it seems they either don't open or close down early even if the potential storm or fog conditions are somewhere off the B.C. coast.

I wasn't alarmed when **Les Campbell** called to let me know he had picked up the cube van from Tadgells at their request because they were closing on account of the mid morning power outage and didn't know if they would be open again during the weekend. It wasn't until I went out early in the afternoon that I realized the severity of the storm. There were downed tree limbs and large branches on the sidewalks and roadways, ice laden trees either bent to the extreme or uprooted and thickly ice coated electric and telephone wires stretched and sagging to the maximum from the weight of the ice. Some were already broken from falling branches, ice or wind.



Chapter Hero, Harold Boekhoven, powers up the 2003 Shows

Moments to Remember (continued from page 1)

As I drove, I realized the potential danger the ice coated tree branches overhanging the roadway presented and was intentionally driving from one side to the other to stay as clear as possible from this danger. Luckily I did, because as I drove along Adelaide Street a large branch broke free and fell on the road where I would have been driving under normal conditions. The car was heavily showered with flying pieces of ice but didn't damage it.

Returning home, I talked with **Henry Wiersma**, Principal, the Strathroy Community Christian School and learned there was a blackout at the school, the site of our Saturday shows. I then called **Ray Pierce** at Pierce Sound and Equipment to discuss the situation. Storm related delays had already pushed him behind schedule and he didn't expect to be at the school until 7:15/7:30 p.m., vis-à-vis our planned 6:00 p.m. setup time, and it was beginning to look like we could be in for a late night.

Ray confirmed that an 8:30 a.m. start Saturday would provide adequate time to setup for our matinee show if we decided to change from our Friday evening plans. I had further discussions with **Les Campbell** as well as **Bob Fennell** and decided to transport the stage scenery from **Bob's** and all the choral risers, chairs, podium, etc. from the Presbyterian Church storage to the school as soon as possible and while there was still daylight.

crossed my mind different times and I had accepted the fact this might be necessary. Thousand of events have been canceled in the past because of weather conditions. However, changing locations had not occurred to me and it was not something I was now too receptive to do on very short notice. I felt that with numerous changes to be addressed it would be very onerous if not impossible to change locations and still do justice to all the theme related preparation specifically done to fit the school environment. Besides, there was no guarantee there could not be a blackout at another location.

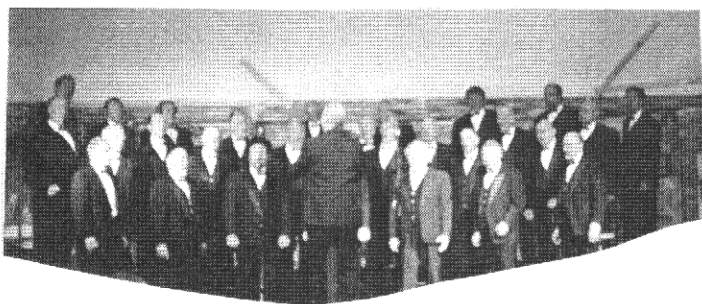


Grampa (played by Blake Hughes, gives instruction to his grandson (Rob Boynton in front of the show's attic backdrop designed by Blake)

Cancel and reschedule was a more appealing option for me and this also presented many hurdles to overcome, i.e. the school was reserved for next Saturday and unavailable unless the existing lessee would agree to change dates, Pierce Sound was also booked for the weekend but available Easter Saturday (not considered a good day from attendance point of view), Saturday, April 26th would conflict with the St. Thomas chapter annual shows, we didn't know the Crossfire quartet's upcoming schedule, etc., etc. Consequently, I wanted to stay the course.

When the scenery and other items from the church arrived we moved them by light from flashlights into the pitch-dark school auditorium and decided to leave all other setup plans until 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Arriving at the school Saturday, things looked encouraging despite the fact full power had not been restored. There was insufficient power to operate the forty foot lighting truss system and sound system. However, there was enough power to light



The lights finally come on for the Vocal Federation Chorus at about 2:20 p.m. Saturday April 5.

Les and Bob set about to organize this and I left for the school with three flashlights, cell phone, Ray's cell phone number, Chapter Directory members telephone numbers page, list of London radio station telephone numbers, tools and other items.

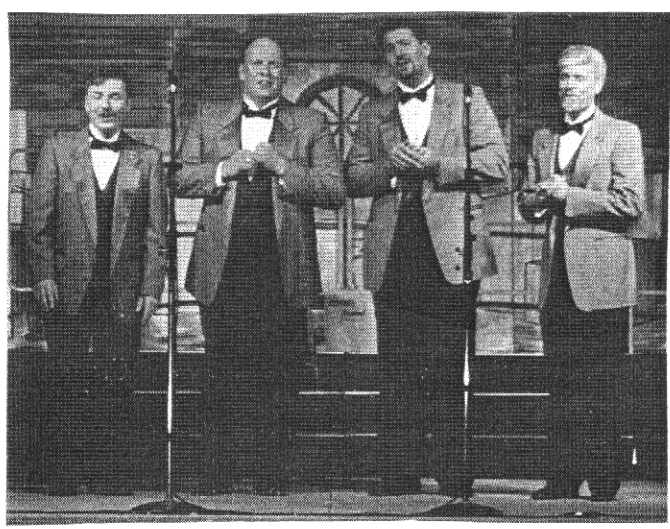
Once there, I was surprised and disappointed to find some plans and phone calls were being made with regards to finding another location. By this time, the possibility of having to cancel the shows had

Moments To Remember (continued from page 2)

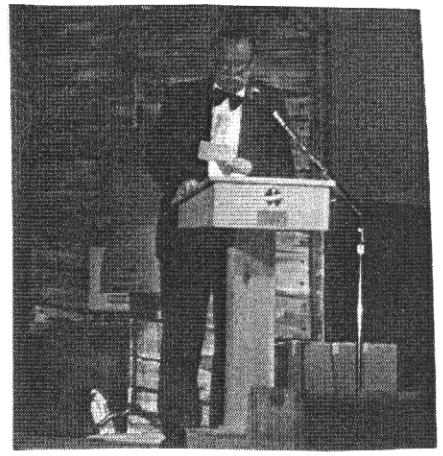
two of the three sections of the ordinary auditorium lights and, given the circumstances, it would be satisfactory. Also, the auditorium acoustics are ample to permit doing without amplification and, lack of same would not be a show stopper even knowing beforehand it could be a real source for complaints from some of the audience. At this time, things seemed to be shaping up better for the show but, the situation was creating problems for our ladies auxiliary, the "Harold's Angels". There were, no kitchen lights, insufficient power to accommodate any appliances and the automatic starters on the gas stoves wouldn't work. I thought **Henry Wiersma and Gord and Mary Vair** might send all of us into orbit using matches to try and light the stoves, particularly the oven elements.

In the meantime, the stage scenery and auditorium setup up was progressing smoothly and everyone seemed optimistic that the Hydro One crews would have full power restored by about noontime, as per newspaper and radio reports and other so called reliable sources. As we now know, the opposite occurred and we were cast in darkness just when the stage lighting system was about to be raised to the ceiling joist. During this forced work stoppage I left to do a couple of errands and I used the opportunity to check three places for portable generators. None were available. I returned to the school hoping to find full or at least partial power had been restored but, that was not the case. We were in an indefinite blackout situation.

I was delighted when someone informed me that during my absence **Harold Boekhoven**, one of our newer members, had arrived at the school and he had a tractor p.t.o. driven portable generator that we could use. **I found Harold and Ray discussing this and I became very excited when Harold told me the generator could produce enough power to operate both the light and sound systems.** Harold volunteered to return home and drive the tractor with generator in tow back to the school, however, it was impossible to do this within the less than two hours remaining until our 2:00 p.m. matinee show start time. The generator could be transported by truck but there was no trailer readily available to move the tractor. Where can we get a tractor? No member living nearby had one. I knew from an early morning conversation with **John Gough**, the closest member with tractors, that he could not help because his were being used to operate power generators on his farm. **Suddenly the light went on and I thought of Bruce Gipton, a London Chapter member and friend of many of our members, who lived within sight of the school.** Knowing Les was a long time friend and seller of show tickets to Bruce, I had him telephone. Luckily Bruce was home and not only was the tractor ours, he would deliver it. With this news Harold and **Roswell McPherson** immediately left to bring back the generator and, as they say, the rest is history. **Harold was able to hard wire the generator to the lights and sound system and our matinee show was underway less than thirty minutes behind schedule.**



Crossfire, the show's feature quartet, performs for an appreciative audience
L.to R., Robb Smith (T), Brian McDougall (L), Scott Risley (B) and Rich Lauzon (Bar).

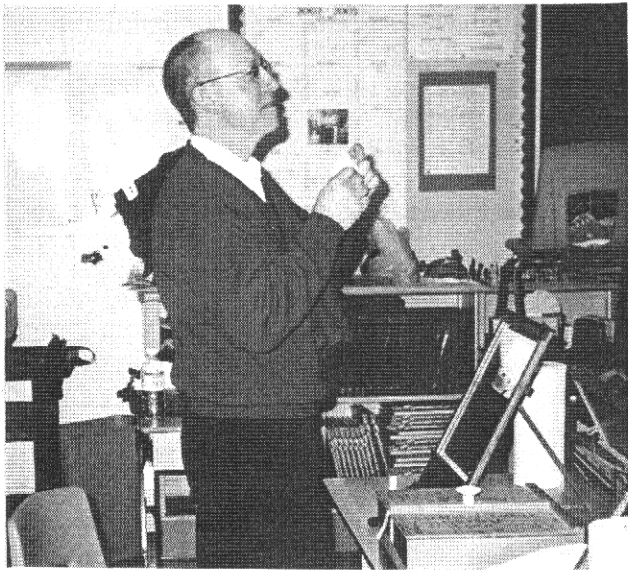


Doran McTaggart was the M.C. for the shows. His wit and comedy kept the audiences laughing.

Our **Harold's Angels ladies** adopted the "just-in-time" food delivery service, they gathered water from various sources and served a very delicious and piping hot dinner to cast members, their spouses, guests and friends between shows in the auditorium.. Flashlights, candles, a portable

Moments to Remember (continued from page 3)

propane light and vehicle headlights were used to ensure the safety of our audience (fortunately there were no accidents) in other parts of the school and the parking lot. Of course, our evening show also was staged with the portable tractor/generator power system. It was quite comical to be part of and witness fellow chorus members putting on make-up and dressing in our finest tuxedo costume by candlelight and the light from vehicles parked outside the school classroom windows.



John Gough, Chorus Director, prepares for the matinee performance.

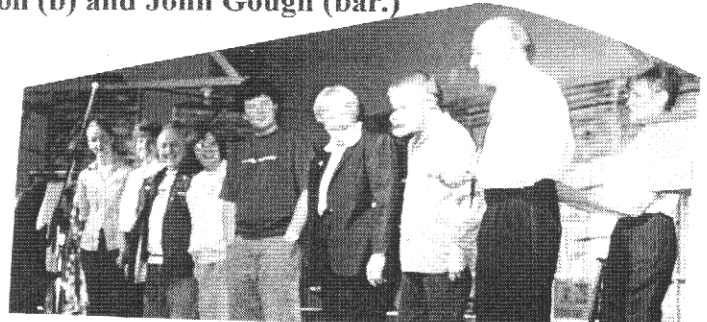
Attendance at the matinee was the largest of any annual show to date and the evening show was considered a sellout. From the audience feedback everyone received following the shows, they were highly entertaining family shows of which we should be proud.



**Rural Roots Performs
Ernie McEwen (t), Bob Howlett (l), Craig
Bycraft (b) and Roswell McPherson (bar.)**



**Fullhouse-does "you gotta be a football hero"
Mark Carruthers (t), Jim McDougall (l), Frank
Knoll (b) and John Gough (bar.)**



**Gord Vair, the chapter's ventriloquist, keeps
the audience in "stitches".**

Henry Weirisma, Norma Allen and I were the last at the school Saturday night and prior to leaving we were recalling some of the many things that happened Friday and Saturday. A passerby would have thought everything was normal and we were closing down shop following another "ho hum" routine day. It was difficult for me to believe we had successfully put on both shows - due in whole to the huge contributions made by two fellow barbershoppers, **Harold Boekhoven** and **Bruce Gripton** - and it was finally over. What a relief! They were the "show-savers" and probably also saved my you know what. At the same time in my reflections, I couldn't think of anything more fitting to describe the experience than the song the chorus sang to close our shows - "**Moments To Remember**".

I don't think I and many others will forget our eighth annual shows on April 5, 2003 for a long, long time and I hope we don't have a repeat any time soon. Sometime, I'd like to compare notes with the Show Chairman of the Greater Toronto and Grimsby Chapters to see how their shows went that day.

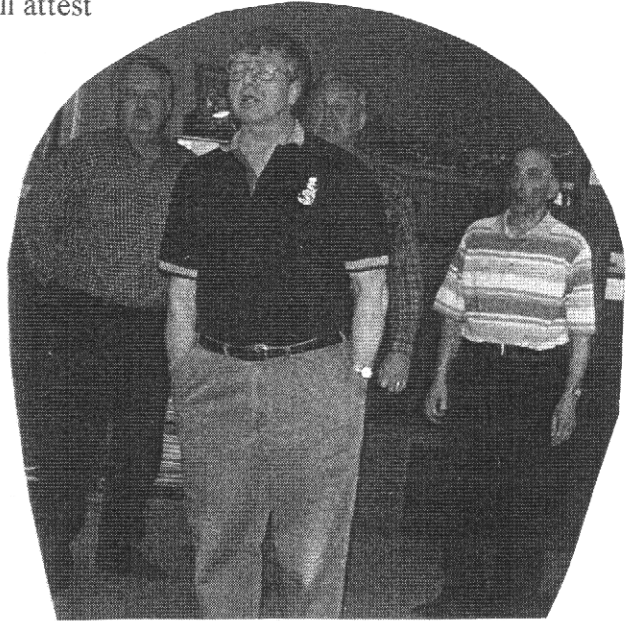
**Your haggard Show Chairman,
Orval Allen.**

AFTERGLOW

Jim and Sylvia McDougall graciously hosted the "afterglow" for the 2003 shows again this year. It was a great party as some of the following photographs will attest



Gordon Nisbet receives a plaque from Blake Hughes gratefully acknowledging Gord's outstanding advertising sales achievement for the past 5 chapter shows.



Frank Knoll does "Murphy" with support from Mark Carruthers, Jim McDougall and Roswell McPherson.



CROSSFIRE



RURAL ROOTS

(photographs in this issue are courtesy of Pat Dixon, Grant Knox, Jeanne King and John King.)

Coming Events

- Tuesday, June 17, 2003 - APOC Pep Rally, Mississauga
- June 25-7:30 Country Terrace Nursing Home-Komoka.
- June 29/July 6, 2003 - International Convention, Montreal
- Horseshoe Championship-Aug.
- Golf Day -Sept.
- Oct 19-10:30 Forest United Church Anniversary
- Western Division Christmas concert -Strathroy- Nov. 30.
- Chapter Christmas party -Dec.

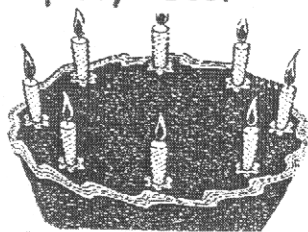
Celebrations

Chapter Anniversaries

May 4 Gord & Mary Vair

Chapter Birthdays

May 19 Enid Gough
 May 14 Garnet Snelgrove
 May 27 Frank Knoll



**Sun. May 4, 2003 - Cooks United Church Anniversary
 11.00 A.M.**

Approximately 23 barbershoppers from the Strathroy chapter attended this performance on 136th anniversary of Cooks United Church. The service was well organized and included Rev. Don Keenlside and Jim Van Horne (formerly from CFPL News in London) and of course, the Vocal Federation chorus. The chorus sang 5 songs and after the service we were treated to an excellent lunch. I thought the church had good acoustics and the our songs were appreciated.

This church reminded me of the small church I attended as a child, when I sang in the church choir. I suspect that many of us got our first experience with singing while attending church and in these cases, we owe the church a debt for giving opportunities of this nature to young people. I was told that this is the Gough family church and I'm guessing that the music in this church has had an

young people such as Mark Gough who is now pursuing a music career at the university level.

From a barbershopper perspective, Cooks United Church gave us a singing opportunity and one that was thoroughly enjoyable.

Harold's Angels

by Marilyn McPherson

Beans - A few bags of beans are still available.

Dates to mark on your calendar-

May 10 - Choral Festival, Sarnia
 7 p.m. Grace United Church
 The Village Ladies will participate.
 Eunice Fennell has tickets.

May 21st - The Home Interiors sale
 7:30 p.m. at Jean Brown's in Mt. Brydges.
 Bring a friend. If you need a ride please call Mary Vair.

Sept. 24th - Card Party to be held at the United Church, Stathroy.
 Watch for more information.

Nov 30th - Western Division Benefit Show.

Dec. 13th - Barbershop Christmas Party
 Anglican Church Hall, Strathroy

Next Meeting - May 21st in Mt. Brydges.

E-mail addresses:

Frank Knoll
fjknoll@porchlight.ca

Walter De Ruiter

wdruiter@attcanada.ca

Please make these additions to your chapter directory.

Next Fanfare Deadline:

June 11, 2003.

SUPPORT OUR "KING"

by Orval allen
Chapter Secretary

I quote the following from recent correspondence sent to members on the District E-mail List by Bev Grahlman, Secretary, Ontario District; - "there are very few Chapters who now have bulletin editors, so those Chapters who do have a bulletin editor, best keep giving them articles to allow them to continue."

I was surprised by the first part of this statement but, confirmed its accuracy by checking the District Directory, i.e. only 25 (70%) of the 36 Chapters have a Bulletin Editor recorded and the other 25 (30%) record the position as vacant or TBA.

Our editor, John King, is doing a great job! However, I am sure he would appreciate more support from each of us and as it is up to the members to ensure our Chapter will always have a Bulletin Editor I strongly encourage you to support him by continually providing material for the "Fanfare". I hope Ron Carradine will find time to write about his winter vacation barbershop singing experiences for all of us to enjoy and, I know from Bud Jackson's e-mails during the past few months that he could provide some hilarious reading relative to his singing buddies in Arizona. Let's hear from you fellas soon. On the other hand, I don't think all stories need to be about a barbershopping event but, if there is any doubt about what you have in mind, check with John.

Sing-cereely,
Orval

The Board's Business

- Gil Craenen and Gord Nisbet are chapter audtors for the year 2002.
- Strathroy chapter to host Western Division Christmas benefit on November 28.
- Chapter President Frank Knoll to select and chair a committee which is to prepare and submit a brief to The Trillium Foundation for funds to assist the chapter.
- Looking for a volunteer to assist Jim

- McDougall with new member orientation.
- 2003 Christmas party to be held at the Anglican church hall in Strathroy.
- Mission statement updated to reflect changes to charitable component.

The chapter has decided to proceed with incorporation

The following joke is from Gil Craenen.

"Nagging wife

A man left work on Friday afternoon, but instead of going home,

he stayed out the entire weekend, hunting with the boys and

spending his entire paycheck.

When he finally appeared home Sunday night, he was confronted

by his very angry wife and was lectured for nearly two hours

for his irresponsible actions.

Finally his wife stopped the nagging and said to him:

"How would you like it, if you didn't see me for two or three days?"

To which he replied: "That would be fine with me."

Monday went by and he didn't see his wife.

Tuesday and Wednesday came and went with the same results.

Thursday....., the swelling went down just enough where he could see

her a little out of the corner of his left eye."

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 (519)

Frank Knoff.....	President.....	264-2856
Jim McDougall.....	Past President.....	245-0843
Orval Allen.....	Secretary.....	246-1234
Les Campbell.....	Treasurer.....	245-0359
Bob Fennell.....	V.P. Chapter Devel.....	693-4280
John Gough.....	V.P. Music.....	264-1031
John King.....	V.P. Communications.....	245-0762
Bill Gough.....	V.P. Program.....	245-2244
Arnold Dixon.....	V.P. Performance.....	294-0128
Roswell McPherson..	Board Member at Large....	245-1711
Bill Robertson.....	Board Member at Large....	245-0979

Appointments

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

Music Team

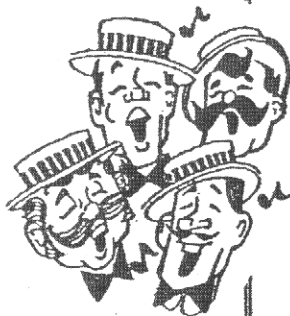
Music V.P. - John Gough
 Chorus Director - John Gough
 Chorus Director - Jim McDougall
 Librarian - Arnold Dixon

Section Leaders

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

WEB SITES

Strathroy Vocal Federation
www.bam.on.ca/vocalfederation/
 Ontario District- www.ont.spebsqsa.org
 Barbershop International- www.spebsqsa.org
 Ashow
www.ahsow.or



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

P . R . O . B . E .

The Fraternity of
 PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS AND BULLETIN EDITORS.

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 charities.

The Federation's
Fanfare

Editor - John F. King

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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 America, Inc.