

December 2003  
Issue 8-7



# Fanfare

Strathroy, Ont.  
Chapter  
Established  
1995  
Member of  
Ontario  
District

"Home of the  
Vocal Federation  
Chorus"

Merry Christmas to all and a special thank you to all the contributors to Fanfare during 2003.

John King, Fanfare Editor.



Audrey & Blake Hughes

Ernie & Eileen McEwen

Gil & Niny Carney

Les & Dora Apple

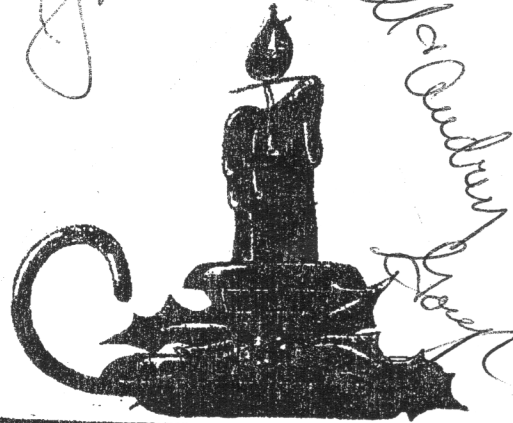
Jan & Betty Schieman

Arnold & Pat Depion

John & Jeanette

Bill & Audrey

Craig & Cathy & Ross



Harold & Mary

John & Ernie Gough

Quat & Norma Allen

Harold & Del Bachmann

Grant & Barbara Knox

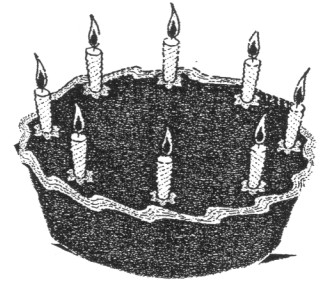
Walter & Lydia De Rues

John & Frank Knoll

"Keep the light of hope glowing at Christmas for those in need... give to the Harmonize For Speech Foundation so that barbershoppers can help those with speech and hearing difficulties".

# Western Division Concert Celebrations

by **Dr. Frank Knoll**  
President



Gentlemen:

Like most of us, I feel I've been somewhat delinquent in not helping **John King**, our Fanfare Editor, by providing regular articles for the bulletin. Perhaps we need an event like the Western Division Christmas concert that our chapter just sponsored more often to spark enthusiasm to submit more often.

This concert, held on November 30, 2003 at the United church in Strathroy, was an incredible success. Thanks to the hard work and planning of the committee made up of **Gil Craenen, Bill Robertson** and **Jim McDougall**, the show was virtually sold out and enjoyed by all.

The great response and participation of all five chapters, London, St. Thomas, Sarnia, Seaforth and ourselves made for a tremendous performance and, as our Division Coordinator, **Ken Dodge** stated, did our Western Division proud as a great group of guys.

The Joy Bell chorus from St. Marys, also added the thrill of variety to the event. Harold's Angels, as always, impressed everyone with their assistance in ushering and supplying coffee and cookies after the concert.

Most of all, I felt very proud to present a cheque for \$2575 to constable **Bob McIlmoyle** of Strathroy O.P.P. for the Toys for Tots, the charity chosen for the event.

Thanks again to Harold's Angels, all participating members of the Western Division, and all guests for making this a great success.

## Chapter Birthdays

November 19

November 27

November 25

December 13

December 16

December 31

January 1

January 1

January 9

January 9

January 20

January 29

## Chapter Anniversaries

December 2

December 18

December 25

December 28

December 31

**Craig Bycraft**

**Gail Wiersma**

**Bob Howlett**

**Patti Bycraft**

**Eileen McEwen**

**Bill Bowron**

**Peggy Abel**

**Tom Linden**

**Eunice Fennell**

**Marilyn McPherson**

**Blake Hughes**

**Lydia DeRuitter**

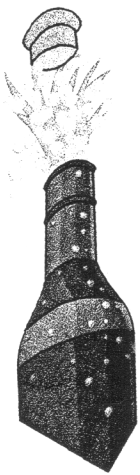
**Deb Boekhoven**

**Gord & Jean Nisbet**

**Les & Donna Campbell**

**Tom & Elaine Linden**

**Ron & Dianne Carradine**



**Henry Wiersema gives Blake Hughes a hair cut (or is it a close shave?) on the Santa Claus parade float.**

## Recent Chapter Activities

- November- Float in Strathroy Santa Claus Parade.
- Friday, November 28, 2003>>7:45 p.m. @ Strathroy CTC midnight madness sale.
- Sunday, November 30,2003>>2:00 p.m. @ Strathroy United Church. Strathroy Chapter hosts Western Division Christmas Benefit Concert.
- Monday, December 1, 2003>>6:45 p.m. @ Strathroy Town Hall re Strathroy/Caradoc Inaugural Council meeting.
- Wednesday, December 10, 2003>>7:00 p.m. @ Strathroy Community Living, 3 Industrial Rd., Strathroy.
- Friday, December 12, 2003>>7:00 p.m. @ Strathroy B.I.A. (Business Improvement Association) Christmas Caroling evening in downtown Strathroy.
- Saturday, December 13, 2004, Chapter's annual Christmas party

## Coming Events

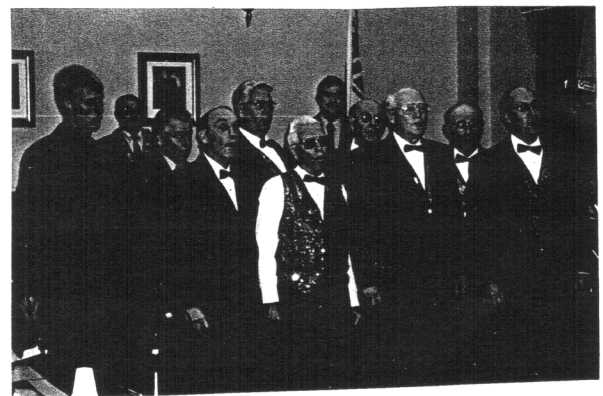
- **Sunday, January 18, 2004>>9:30 a.m. service @ Christian Reformed Church, 22638 Adelaide Rd., Mt. Brydges.**
- **Saturday, March 6, 2004>>9:00 a.m. Chapter Retreat @ Strathroy Community Christian School (SCCS).**
- **Saturday, April 3, 2004>>12:00 p.m. Chapter Annual Show @ Strathroy Community Christian School (SCCS).**
- **Ontario District Spring Convention in April 16-18, 2004 at Niagara falls.**

- **Fall convention is in Brantford October 15-17, 2004.**

## The Board's Business



- Western Division looking for someone to become assistant Division Coordinator.
- Next Western Division meeting is February 12, 2004.
- Ontario District Spring Convention is April 16-18, 2004 at Niagara falls.
- Fall convention is in Brantford October 15-17, 2004.
- Regular chapter meeting to be conducted in neighbouring town every 2 months to try to obtain new members.
- Additional quartets needed to assist Rural Roots with singing valentines this year.
- Pros/cons of donating to local community projects being investigated.
- Incorporation finalization is pending registration of chapter's incorporated name. Letters patent have been mailed to the Province.
- 2004 budget is approved.



**Chorus performs at the inaugural for Strathroy councillors Gil Craenen and Joanne Vanderheyden**



**Blake Hughes (right) presents Jim McDougall (left) with the chapter's Hall of Fame Award.**



**Orval Allen presents Gord Vair with the Barbershopper of the Year Award.**

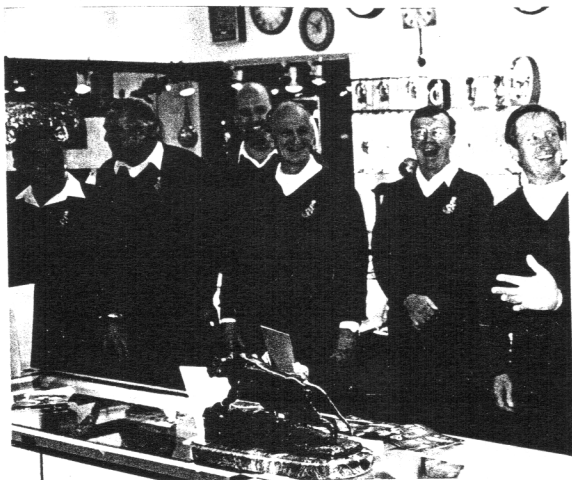


**Bill Robertson presents Ken Vanderheyden with the Rookie of the Year Award.**



**Sylvia McDougall recognizes Mary Vair for her work as President of Harold's Angels.**





**Christmas Carolling:  
Gil Craenen shows  
off his new nose.**



**Eunice Fennell takes  
Harold's Angels to  
new heights at the  
Christmas party.**



**President, Frank Knoll (center),  
recognizes Chorus Directors  
Jim McDougall (left) and John Gough (right)  
for their dedication and hard work.**



**Mary Vair gets a big kiss from  
treasurer, Les Campbell, for  
donating \$3000 to the Chapter  
from Harold's Angels ( total  
donations to date are \$27,750...wow!)**

## STUFF FROM RURAL ROOTS QUARTET where this is heading.

by **Craig Bycraft**



Merry Christmas to all. Our quartet has been busy over the Christmas season and just to keep you up to date, I will start back on Oct 25<sup>th</sup>. We were asked to sing for the Church's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration supper in our own practice hall in the church basement.

After a fine dinner, we got up and performed a twenty-minute package and when we were through, we were asked back up for an encore. My voice had started to disappear during dinner and I felt that I had let the quartet down but we gratefully supplied an encore.

As we were talking with folks after the program, one gentleman came up to me and said, "you know what I don't like about barbershop?" I braced myself for his answer. He said, "the music is always over before I want it to be". I thanked him and invited him to a chapter meeting. He said "in two years when I retire".

On Nov. 25, we traveled to Embro to sing at a seniors home for their Christmas dinner. Again we had a fine dinner (with all this good food, I can't understand why Ros, Ernie, and Bob are not as big as the bass). We did a twenty minute package and again we were asked for an encore. Now I'm getting a little upset, because my voice was still very hoarse and I really was not putting out a good bass sound and we had been asked for an encore not once but twice. Which just proves, never mind, I don't like

Next up was the sing-out at the Community Living Centre where Rural Roots started the show. After we finished our first song, one of the patrons was up and out of his chair heading for the stage. When he got up there he said, "I want to sing with you guys". Bob just said, "all right, we'll sing Jingle Bells" and had the whole audience sing with us. This gentleman wanted one of our red sweaters and a staff member was already on his way up to escort him back to his seat. By this time the audience was smiling at the way this situation was handled and was very supportive of us for the rest of our performance. Then the whole chorus came and "wowed" them..

Until next time SEE YA! Craig

## Notes and Letters to the Editor:

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**New E-mail address  
for Henry Wiersema:**

[hg.wiersema@sympatico.ca](mailto:hg.wiersema@sympatico.ca)

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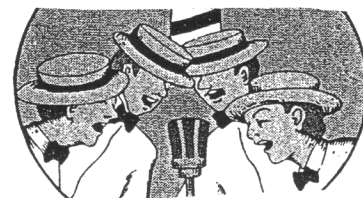
## September Golf Tournament

In the last issue of Fanfare, there was a nice write-up about the golf tournament and in several places the writer thanked Elaine and I for running it. For this we are truly grateful, but we were assisted by some very able people namely **Bill and Audrey Gough**. Thanks for all your help.

We would also like to thank those who donated prizes and all those who turned out for golf and dinner. It is you who make the tournament a success.

Thanks to everyone!

**Tom and Elaine Linden.**



## The 2004 Show

by **John Gough**  
**Chorus Director**

Year after year the guy amazes me! I just got a look at the set design for the 2004 show. It is fabulous! **Blake Hughes** is a creative genius. When I look at the set, I immediately see new choreography, new costume ideas and great gags for between songs and in songs.

Again, **we are going to have the best show ever!** As always, we need to put the refining touches on the repertoire so that we are completely confident with the performance of each song and each performance between songs as well.

Please treat your fellow performers in the chapter by knowing the notes and words as soon as possible so we can get on with the interpretation and the other fun stuff.

It is great to see guys step forward to help with the music team by doing some directing and teaching. It is not easy to step up in front of the chorus, all alone, and lead the ensemble, however, after you do it a bit, it's kind of fun. It is especially fun with a great group of encouraging barbershop singers who are willing to learn quickly. I hope you will give each person who steps up to lead and help the chapter lots of encouragement and attention.

I love quartet singing. Our chapter meetings rarely miss having a quartet or two sing in front of the chapter. We all know it's hard to get up there and do it, but, what a great bunch of guys to sing for. No matter what happens with the quartet the response from the audience is

always on a scale of how good it was, how many great chords they hit or how much fun they had. I have never heard anybody have negative comments about any of our pick-up quartets.

Isn't it great to have a bulletin editor putting out a great Fanfare, edition after edition?

I think I've gushed enough.

---

## Harold's Angels

by **Marilyn McPherson**

With special memories, laughter,  
and great fun -  
may your Christmas be a happy  
one.

**Congratulations fellows. The Western Division Benefit show was a fun and worthwhile afternoon. So many told us how much they enjoyed the program and music. The results, \$2575 for Toys for Tots, shows how worthwhile your efforts were. Thanks to everyone who participated.**

*Dates to mark on your calendar-*

**Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> - Barbershop Christmas Party at the Anglican Church Hall, Strathroy**

*Things to think about*

*Tapes - Regal - Doll Cloths*  
**Please save your tapes from A&P, Dominion and Zehrs, also Campbell soup labels. These can be given to Gil Craenen. Orders for Regal can be given to Sylvia McDougal and Diny Craenen has knitted doll cloths etc. available.**

**Next Meeting - Jan 14th at McDougal's**



**Strathroy Chapter**  
 Western Division - Ontario District - SPEBSQSA  
 Home of the "Vocal Federation"  
 The performing chorus of the Strathroy Chapter

**Board of Directors (519)**

Frank Knoll.....	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	
Historian	Emie 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 - Emie McEwen  
 Lead - Bob Howlett  
 Baritone - John Gough  
 Bass - Jim McDougall

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)

Ashow

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

*Remember to share your Fanfare with all of  
 your 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 charities.

The Federation's  
**Fanfare**

*Editor - John F. King*

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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.

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.

**P . R . O . B . E .**

*The Fraternity of*

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS AND BULLETIN EDITORS.