



Fanfare

Strathroy, Ont.
Chapter
Established
1995
Member of
Ontario
District

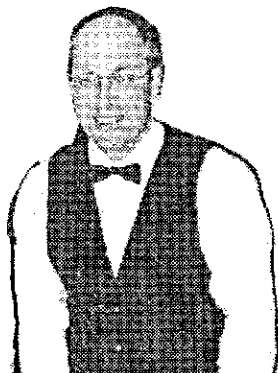
"Home of the
Vocal Federation
Chorus"

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

5th Anniversary and Christmas Party

by

Frank Knoll,
President.



John Gough is Barbershopper of the Year

On Saturday night, Dec. 16, 2000, the Common Wealth Place in Strathroy was the setting for the 5th anniversary celebration and Christmas party of our "Vocal Federation".

The wonderful facilities, combined with excellent food and a great program organized by Arnold Dixon, made this event very successful. While the entire evening was enjoyable, a few highlights need to be mentioned. John Gough did a tremendous job as our master of ceremonies. Brian McDougall entertained everyone with a video reminiscing our first five years as a chapter and a big thank you to Frank Lewis for putting the tape together.

Our **Barbershopper of the Year** award went to **John Gough** who very deservedly joined our group winning that award in the last 4 years; Les Campbell, Ernie McEwen, Jim McDougall and Brian McDougall.

Sylvia McDougall wins Hall of Fame Award



(Photo. courtesy of Ernie McEwen)

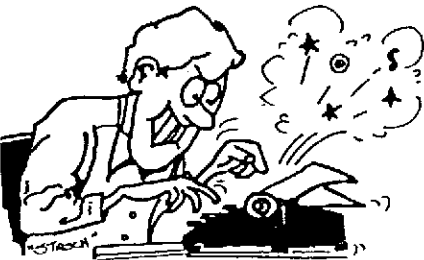
Probably the highlight of the evening came when **Sylvia McDougall** graciously accepted the Vocal Federation's prestigious **Hall of Fame** award. The standing ovation for this lady told it all. Congratulations, Sylvia!

All in all, it was an enjoyable event and I look forward to the next 5 years.

Finally, I think we all need to remind ourselves that our chapter has done well in its first five years and that presently we have two experienced people with over 80 years of barbershopping in Jim McDougall and Don Pyper. Let's never take these guys for granted... and remember its great to be a barbershopper!

Editor's Report

by **John King,**
Fanfare Editor.



It wasn't long ago that I took an early retirement thinking that I would have plenty of time for just doing nothing. In fact, I remember reading an article that mentioned one poor individual that retired and did absolutely nothing but eat, sleep and set in his rocking chair. According to the article, this person died shortly after retiring apparently due to his lack of mental and physical activity (was this author selling the North American work ethic or what?).

So what has happened to this life of leisure that was supposed to come with retirement as I seem to be busier than ever. I admit to doing things I like to do for the most part but there are a few items I would like to lose.

Funny thing about volunteering, the time demands can be just as great as a job even though there are few or no financial rewards. In fact, a review of my calendar indicates more night meetings than I had on the job. Not bad for a guy who doesn't particularly like meetings. My calendar is so tight I was afraid I would have to tell Orval Allen I couldn't make the next show committee meeting. Don't worry Orval, the conflicting event will be canceled instead as the barbershop show must go on.

Now I admit, in theory, I could quit my part-time jobs, the numerous boards, committees and my building projects and just focus on leisure activities such as sports but I know I would be bored. I tried a month in Florida and this was quite difficult (bored stiff -you can only go to Disney World so many times!).

After 30 years on the job, I just have to be doing something constructive. It's just ingrained in my system. In fact, one of the reasons for taking on the editorship of Fanfare was that it was an opportunity to learn and improve my computer skills and I haven't regretted it one little bit. You see, unlike the guy who decided to leave the rest of his life to the rocking chair, my mind and body need mental and physical activity and this can be challenging, rewarding and fun. So what happened to that life of leisure?

After thought

Some people have asked me what my e-mail address is so they can forward material for Fanfare; while others have asked for my fax number.

One person even managed to find my wife's e-mail address as he apparently couldn't find mine.

Please be reminded that these numbers are on the back page of every issue of Fanfare. This page is updated periodically so it wise to check for changes.

Fanfare Recognition

Fanfare wishes to recognize all of those who contributed to the chapter's bulletin in the year 2000.

Those 17 very important people (V.I.P.'s) are listed below:

Gord & Mary Vair
Orval & Norma Allen
Arnold Dixon
Gord Nisbet
Don Pyper
Frank Knoll
Brian McDougall
Roswell & Marilyn McPherson

Bob Fennell
Bill Galbraith
Ian Cooper
Jim McDougall
John Gough
Sylvia McDougall

One of these important individuals contributed to every issue of Fanfare in 2000 and this person is the winner of special Fanfare recognition:

Fanfare
recognizes

Gordon Vair
of the
Strathroy Chapter
SPEBSQSA

for achieving the highest contribution rate to the chapter's bulletin for the year 2000.

A big thank you to all contributorsI couldn't do it without you!

John King,
Editor.

Next Fanfare Deadline:
March 14, 2001.



(Photo courtesy of Ernie McEwen.)

Federation Finds Favour

by **Gord Nesbit**
Sunshine Chairman.

Bud Jackson had an idea.

Our annual Christmas sing out, held rather haphazardly, in the evening in downtown Strathroy, had really not achieved its purpose.

The aim was to meet as many people as possible and bring them the Federation's joy in song. In past years, the audience tended to be sparse. Apparently, only a few citizens are downtown at night.

Why not (asked Bud), extend the sing-out to daylight hours? "Why not more carefully target those locations at pre-selected times where an audience is almost certain to be found?" This would require the permission and the co-operation of the host in each case.

Bud's committee was of the opinion that the idea would work if the membership co-operated. Accordingly, we got to work..

On Dec. 20, beginning precisely at 11 a.m., an impressive number (swelled to 25), started at S.D.C.I, and by noon, had appeared at five more preselected locations. In the afternoon, we sang at an additional five, including the Industrial plants, where we appeared by appointment at shift break and turkey distribution time.

This excursion into the industrial estate was a first for the chapter. The hosts were very co-operative.

They hope that we may see fit to come back.

The evening hours took us to six more locations. Bud's idea was correct. At each stop, we found audiences who greeted us warmly, frequently with some surprise. The hosts were equally impressed and delighted.

Bud is to be congratulated on his originality and preparation. His time table was fixed but not rigid. Each of us, who took part, felt that this time we had shared meaningfully in spreading the joy of Christmas in the barbershop style. Thanks is also extended to our members. They did indeed respond.

Maybe next year.....? Any ideas..?

Singing Valentines-Feb. 14.

Only a few days away ...get your requests in soon ...only \$35 ...what a deal for a worthy cause! Support the "Harmonize for Speech" program and surprise your sweetheart with a song ...remember the rewards might just be greater than you think.

COTS

by

**Frank Knoll,
President.**

Seven members of the Strathroy Chapter had the privilege of attending COTS 2001 at Geneva Park in Orillia on Jan. 5 to 7. The weather was a little questionable on Friday morning before we left but the roads were good and under the capable driving skills of our pilot, John Gough, we made the trip in just a little over 4 hours, arriving just after 5 p.m.

After checking into our rooms, we settled into our first meal of the weekend. Our two members, Gord Vair and Bill Gough, who were attending their first COTS, quickly realized one of the reasons why guys keep coming back... the food as usual was incredibility good.

Saturday morning started with a general session led by Gary Stumm from International, followed by the Ontario District's unique attraction called "The Happening" and featuring of course, Mr. George Shields. This event demonstrated the tremendous generosity of Ontario barbershoppers to Harmonize for Speech and continues to make George and his organizers the envy of the entire society. Certainly for me it is always one of the high points of the COTS experience. Way to go Ontario!

I had the privilege of attending the President's sessions taught by Steve Wyzsomierski from Pittsburgh and like myself, the rest of our group enjoyed the training sessions during the weekend.

Hats off to John Santori and COTS organizers and Dave Daniels (past-president), Ted Devonshire (president) and the Ontario District executive for the dedication, time and work they are doing for us. God willing, we'll be back next year.

Attendance at Sing-Outs

A new procedure has been implemented on a trial basis. Anyone **not** planning to attend a performance is required to sign the performance sheet. So if you are **not** planning to attend, make sure you sign the sheet so our music directors know who will be at the performance.

Reflections on COTS

(Chapter Operations Training Seminar)

by

Gord Vair.

Quartet Activity Chairman

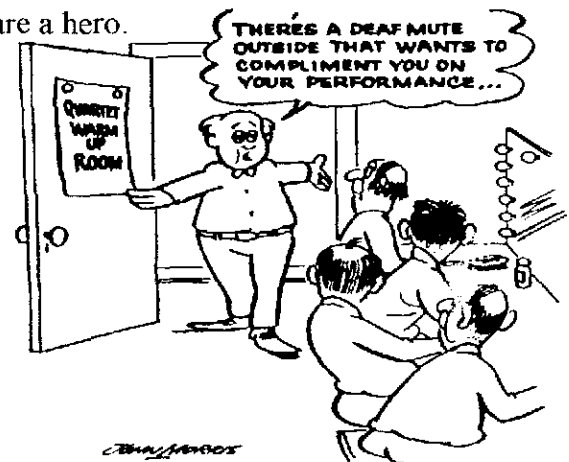
The weekend retreat was well run and informative. Lots of harmonizing, fellowship and learning; not to mention the fabulous food and excellent service from the kitchen staff.

The highlight for me was Charley. Charley was a recipient of the Harmonize For Speech program that we support. You see, Charley has a speech problem.. Charley gave a keynote address. His thoughts were organized, focused and well presented. Charley was there to thank us for our help.

I talked to Charley afterwards and discovered that he is a high school student who is on a student council. I'm not sure, but I think he said he was the president.

Here is a young man who is striving to expand his communication skills and putting himself right into the heat of battle. That takes courage.

Charley, you are a hero.



Joke:

John J. Moore

by

Gord Vair.

Income tax time is coming up fast!

Really, I've got nothing against income tax.

It's just that by the time my ship comes in, the government is there to unload it!

Gord Nisbet-A Chapter Champion

by **Gord Vair**
Quartet Activity Chairman.

Gord put a great deal of time and effort, on behalf of our chapter, selling advertising space in for last year's show program.

He topped this off by organizing a strategic public relations approach to our Christmas sing out. We visited 19 different places to sing a thank you to those who supported us. We even received a \$50.00 donation from Poags Jewelers for our Harmonize for Speech program.

I personally thought the day was a great success and our efforts were well received.

Thank you Gord Nisbet. You made us look good!



We Get E-Mail

Subject: Getting Older

Now that I have finally admitted I'm older, here's what I've discovered:

- I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
- My wild oats have turned into prunes and All-Bran.
- I finally got my head together; now my body is falling apart.
- Funny, I don't remember being absent minded...
- All reports are in; life is now officially unfair.
- If all is not lost, where is it?
- It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
- I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few...
- It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
- If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.
- When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everyone decide to play chess?
- These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter... I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm here after.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

by **John Gough**
Chorus Director.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! What a great thrill and honour it is to be "Barbershopper of the Year" for the Strathroy chapter. It is always an honour to be recognized by your peers, but I think is especially thrilling when you are recognized for just being yourself.

Barbershopping is something that I really want to do. I do it because it's fun, I like the sound of the music, I like the challenge of singing, I like the challenge of directing, I like to hear the guys say Hi John, good to see you! I like to tell them "it's good to see you"! Because it really is good to see them.

I like see faces light up when those good chords lock in. I like seeing guys get excited about organizing a show, or a novice quartet contest or a division day or guest night. It feels good to be around people who do this because it's barbershopping and it's great to be a barbershopper.

Thanks for letting me be me and for letting me be part of your life.



Chapter President Circulates Questionnaire.

President Frank Knoll circulated a new questionnaire to the membership on Jan. 10. This clearly shows that the chapter's leadership is interested in your views. This is your opportunity to input the direction of the chapter. So think it through carefully and return it to the president. Thoughtful answers will encourage our leaders to continue this healthy

Celebrations

Chapter Birthdays

February 4	John King
February 8	Bob Day
February 22	Doug Simpson
March 8	Bill Stanley
March 9	Audrey Gough
March 20	Jeanne King
March 23	Fran Galbraith
March 26	Don Pyper
March 29	Ted Gough
March 31	Jiggs Gough

Chapter Anniversaries

March 12	Bob & Jill Day
March 28	Bill & Audrey Gough

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

Coming Events

- Feb. 14.....Singing Valentines.
- Feb 21.....Christian School-Strathroy.
(arrival at 1 p.m. performance at 1:30 p.m.)
- Feb. 24.....Western Division Contest.
Sarnia.
- Mar. 24.....Chapter retreat.
- April 21..... District Convention
Toronto.
- April 28Strathroy Chapter--Disney
Show

Changes to Officers and Appointments for 2001.

These changes are shown on the back page of Fanfare. Please read this page and familiarize yourself with the new officers and appointments for the chapter for the year 2001.....you might be surprised to see your name and if you should see an error in your telephone number etc., please advise your editor.

Wednesday Rehearsal Time Change

Please note that the Wednesday rehearsal time has been changed from 8 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.
This is a 3 month experiment to determine the time suitability to the membership.

Quartet Activities



The Wave

by **Brian McDougall.**

- December 7th - Performed with the London Chapter at the Annual Meeting for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (London Branch)
- December 16th - Strathroy Chapter Christmas Party (And we all had a great time. Thanks Vocal Federation!)
- January 13th - Brief Coaching Session with Dave McEachern
- We are currently preparing for Spring Contest, fine tuning and performance planning, while we pick up a couple of new songs to feature harmony voices.
- Feb.- New PL- new day program.
- March 2nd - We are booked to sing the U.S. and Canadian National Anthems at the London Ice House prior to a game between the Plymouth Whalers and the London Knights

Rural Roots

by **Ernie McEwen**

- (since last report)
- Nov. 18, 2000.
Middlesex Federation of Agriculture-annual meeting and banquet.....Caradoc Community Centre
- Dec. 8, 2000.
West Williams Township Christmas Party and Dinner.
- Jan. 2001.
Donation to Harmonize for Speech at COTS near Orillia.....\$100.

BEING PREPARED TO SING

Submitted by George Harris

We have Learned from experience, that over a period of time, no matter what we are involved in doing, we have a tendency when we keep doing the same things over and over again to become complacent. It is only human nature that tells us that we have done these same things so many times in the past, that we become lax in how we do them, our accuracy and perfection slips, not because we don't want to do our very best, but because we don't use all of our tools at our disposal in order to do our best, whether it be taking that initial tune-up or singing that old standard pole cat song that we have sung umpteen hundred times. We all have to be constantly on our toes in order to keep doing our very best. Here is just a small sampling of what we all should do in order to take that tune-up properly or sing your favourite barbershop song.

Posture:

Feet shoulder width apart, one foot slightly forward, body weight on the balls of the feet, not on your heels

Knees should be slightly bent and relaxed and not locked.

Chest should be comfortably high and wide with the lower ribs expanded.

Arms, loosely at the side, slightly bent at the elbows, no tension in fingers or hands.

Shoulders should be back and let them drop. Don't raise them.

Head should be level or tilted slightly forward. Don't tuck the chin in towards the chest.

Jaw should be relaxed, no tension or you could have similar tension in the throat and tongue.

Mental

Lack of attention! Concentrate on what you are doing. No distractions.

Lack of energy! This will cause poor tone quality and flat notes.

Failure to listen! We not only sing with our vocal folds, we we must use our ears as well. Try singing with your ears blocked! The result is not very good.

Anxiety! Intonation is affected by improper breath support and lack of concentration. This is caused by anxiety or

nervousness.

Note intervals! Failure to think the intervals correctly caused by carelessness or lack of concentration.

Remember the target for each note you sing! Lets relate this to a target bulls-eye with the respective rings. When shooting with a bow and arrow or target shooting with a gun, the object is to place your shot dead center in the bulls-eye. Not so with singing! Take the note you are going to sing as being the bulls-eye. Your objective is to place your shot, so to speak, at twelve o'clock high on the outer ring. Remember we are constantly being told, when going up the scale, the steps are large ones in order to reach that outer ring of the note. Conversely, you take a small step when coming down to reach that same outer ring of the note at twelve o'clock high.

If we all try to do the above, I'm sure that our pitch taking and singing will be more accurate.

Remember, energy, concentration, ears and staying on top of the notes will make for better singing!



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



HARMONIZE

FOR

SPEECH

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
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 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/

Ontario District- www.ont.spebsqsa.org

Barbershop International- www.spebsqsa.org

Ashow
www.ahshow.or



Meeting at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
the corner of Albert and Richmond Streets in
Strathroy - **Wednesday Evenings at 7:30 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

Editor - John F. King
240 Mill Pond Cr.,
Strathroy, ON., Canada
N7G 3R1

Home: (519) 245-0762.
Work: (519) 245-3710.
Fax (519) 245-3348.

E-mail: jfk@execulink.com

The Federation 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, friends and neighbours. Share the joy of singing.