

2009 - No.3 - March

2008 Awards

By Ian McGillivray

Barbershopper of the Year



Gord Ross (l)
Don Rush (c)
with 2007 BOTY
Jim Bates (right).

Gord Ross, as
Executive
Producer of the
Spring Show,
worked endless
hours and days to

ensure this show was a great success. From picking and encouraging show committee members in their individual tasks to challenging the chorus to contribute to the Silent Auction, Gord kept the plans and schedules on track resulting in another GOF performance high.

Don Rush, outgoing Secretary/Treasurer, has given yeoman service to the GOF over the past 9 years on the Board. Working behind the scenes, Don has been instrumental in compiling the applications to the BC Gaming Commission for grants that have supported the GOF for several years. As Secretary/Treasurer, Don has ensured that our financial records are accurate and auditable and has been the quiet voice of reasonableness on the Board of Directors.

Barbershop Fellowship Award



Moe Jones with
2007 BFA winners
Arthur Loyie (l) and
Andry Layarda (right)

Moe Jones truly
embodies the spirit of
fellowship in the
GOF. A previous Past
President, Moe has a

great gift for enthusiastically greeting everyone and

encouraging them (through his exuberance) to take on a task or responsibility that supports the chorus. Moe led the planning and organization for the GOF participation in the 2008 Pan Pacific Harmony Convention in Hawaii and is Co-chair of the planning committee for the 2009 District Convention to be held in Whistler in October.

Barbershop Woman of the Year

Frances Hollington & Maya Whittier

Frances with Shoji & Taro Whittier and 2007 BWOTY Dorothy Fallan (left)



As well as being loyal supporters of the GOF, **Frances** and **Maya** spent many hours in 2008 coordinating the measurements of all chorus members as part of the new Uniform initiative.

These new outfits will be showcased in the Division Competition in Vernon in late March. In addition to their work on the Uniform Committee, Frances and Maya support us on an on-going basis - Frances for ensuring that David Jones is properly turned out each Tuesday evening and Maya for having worked diligently with Taro and Shoji to have them always on/ahead of schedule in knowing their notes and words to chorus repertoire. [The boys accepted the award on Mom's behalf. Ed]

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In addition to the three awards listed above, two additional presentations were made at the Installation Dinner.

Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame is the highest award that can be bestowed upon a chapter member. It is primarily based on contributions of an exceptional nature to Chapter, District or Society over a long period of one's barbershop life.



Antique Gold

On a special motion by the Board of Directors, Antique Gold was inducted into the GOF Hall of Fame. Their gold medal performance at the International Seniors Barbershop

Quartet Competition in January, 2006 makes them just the second quartet to be awarded this honor by the GOF. In addition to their Society recognition, the GOF is proud to thank and recognize **Antique Gold** for their continued support of the chapter in various shows and performances over the past number of years. **George Wakeham** (left) and **George Metzger** show the GOF Hall of Fame banner.

Special Award – Chester Colpitts

In a special recognition of long-time member Chester Colpitts, Jim Bates presented a Bronze Medal to Chester from the Pan Pacific Harmony Convention where the GOF placed third in the Chorus Competition. Chester, now a member of the Society for 57 years, was unable to travel with the Chorus in the fall of 2008 but this medal recognizes his unique place as part of our chapter.

2008 GOF Chapter Award Winners



(left-right) Don Rush, Gord Ross, Moe Jones, Frances Hollington, Chester Colpitts, George Metzger, George Wakeham, Taro Whittier (for Maya).

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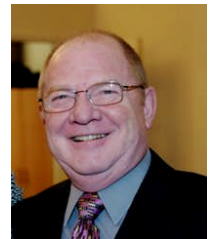
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New VP Music

By Rich Clark

Byron Walton has taken on the challenging role as the new Music VP, the position recently vacated by Rick Morrison. Byron has recently rejoined the GOF after being away for five years. He was the assistant director when I joined the chorus in 1997 and had been a member of the GOF for a number of years before that. Over the years he has contributed to the GOF in all of the chapter executive positions, with the exception of President.



Byron has been an avid quartet member and competed many times at both the division and the district levels. He will bring a lot of energy to the Music Leadership Team, which spearheads our support of Charlie, in our march to the A level category. Byron, thank you for volunteering your time and talent for the benefit of all chorus members.

2009 Board Installation

The Awards and Installation Banquet was held on Saturday March 7th at the Surrey Golf Club and the excellent buffet dinner was well attended by members and partners. **Ray Fallan**, in his once-a-year suit and tie, emceed us well through the evening, including handing out the door prizes donated by **John Van Zanten**.



2009 Chapter Board
(l-r): **Bill Martin, Don Giles, Gord Ross, Dave Whittier, Rich Clark, David Jones, Peter Lissett**. Absent: **Doug Affleck, John Loucks**.

Gerry Borden, the District Past President,

described the Winter Olympics Bobsleigh races. As he introduced the members of the 2009 GoF Board of Directors he compared them to bobsleigh team members (driver, 2 pushers and brakeman) and their support group, all working together to achieve their goal. Once installed, the Board sang for the audience, which was an interesting performance with 3 basses, 3 baritones and one lead - one of the baris ended up singing tenor.

The chorus then sang to the ladies with Andry directing (Charlie was away coaching). Much good harmony and socialising before we braved the frosty night.

Valentine's Day(s)

By Don Giles

GOF Valentine sing-outs this year were scheduled for both Friday [13th] and Saturday [14th]. We had a total of ten quartets who initially signed up to sing – however two withdrew due to illness. Quartets *Something Smooth*, *Central Park*, *CQT*, *Next Attraction* and *The Jones Boys* hit the road on Friday for a fun-filled day; while *B's & G's*, *The Music Men* and *Pacific Spirit* performed on Saturday. A total of 61 sing-outs were completed for a net profit of approximately \$2,100. We received several calls from those who arranged Valentine sing-outs to their special ones, thanking the quartets for fine performances.

John Loucks supported that effort by ordering four sing-outs for his office staff and his mother [who at 95 was singing along AND directing *The Jones Boys* in their songs]. **Chris Ogilvie** coerced several of his business contacts into ordering Valentines. Thanks for the support.

I would like to thank **Lawrence Spencer** who secured and distributed the roses and chocolates for the quartets.

A personal thanks to my wife, **Roxie**, who handled late requests and scheduling problems on Friday, allowing me to sing with *The Jones Boys*. Finally, sincere thanks to all participating GOF members in another successful Valentine Day's fund raiser.

Perhaps next year's event will have an International audience by performing to many 'sweethearts' who will be visiting Vancouver during the 2010 Olympics.

Something Smooth Quartet: Jim Bates, Rod MacLeod, Allan Pinvidic & Rick Morrison

It was a slow year this time around, probably because of the 14th being on a Saturday, as well as the sluggish economy. Not many memorable stories, but we did go into one



office where Jim Bates saw his brother-in-law, as well as meeting a woman who is a long time family friend of the Metzger's. The lady in the picture had us frame it with her paintings in the background. Ah, but no Madame Cleo's this year... [said Allan, sigh]

A Memorable Valentine

By Carl Gung

Next Attraction Quartet: Taro & Shoji Whittier, Carl Gung, Lawrence Spencer & Al Alain.

It started as a day of apprehension for it was to be my first experience in a quartet environment. I awoke early (6:00 am) singing the words and notes in my mind as I prepared for my drive out to Lawrence Spencer's home, our designated mustering place. Of course, I arrived a half hour early, so I sat in my car singing out loud to myself. After 20 minutes I decided to see if Lawrence was ready and I proceeded to call him from my cell and he quickly invited me into his home. There we practiced our three songs and then, on schedule promptly at 8:00 am, the rest of our group arrived.



Our first gig was at 9:00 am so we had time to practice our parts. With the help of **Maya Whittier**, as an observant coach, we were able to fine tune the sounds of our quartet. It was impressed upon me to sing with more visual sound (i.e. I was singing too soft) as I was responsible for the melody. This was at first challenging, as I always want to blend in with the leads in the chorus group and therefore was not so inclined to sing with a little more bravado. The experience and encouragement I received from Al Alain, Lawrence, Maya, Taro and Shoji with comments such as **“relax, relieve the tension and enjoy the moment”** made this transition much easier. So off we went and after the seven scheduled performances, I was able to really appreciate the joy and some emotional tears that we brought to the young ladies through song.



Our final performance was for a special GOF brother, **Chester Colpitts**. It was great to see him and sing for him. This is why I find such enjoyment in the fellowship that we share and bring at the GOF when we open our

voices in song because I believe it really expresses what is in our hearts.

The Bus Driver’s Valentine

By Peter Lissett

The Music Men Quartet: Tucker Goodwin, Moe Jones, Peter Lissett & Ed Arnold

It took a fair bit of heavy lifting, not to mention anxiety on his wife’s part, to get the directions to the right place at the bus loop at Coquitlam Centre. We had to be there precisely at 10:30am to ensure meeting the bus when it came in for a short break. Despite the directions, we got there in good time and met up with himself’s wife; and then waited...and waited looking for P3332.



The bus pulled into the expected place by the fence and we were led aboard. We put on a stellar performance (ask Moe!)

while our target looked anxiously around every so often expecting to see his supervisor homing in. His wife,

meanwhile, looked at him adoringly. What a shame the bus was empty!

It is quite surprising how many girls go by the name of ‘Mary Lou’. There was one right outside a Starbucks, for example, where we’d dropped in for a coffee and a pit stop. Then, when we were having lunch in a pizza restaurant on Commercial Drive, there were five ladies at the next table all owing to that name, not to mention a friend of our waitress who got to listen over the phone. That was the highlight of the day for me! We got a tremendous round of applause from the whole restaurant as we walked out. Everyone was smiling!

We were going east on McGill when we saw Gord Ross standing beside his not so new Mercedes outside Ray and Dorothy Fallan’s place. Well, we were in desperate need of a pit stop so we circled and came back and sang a chord to Gord...he was still admiring his car. He was quite surprised! Naturally, we had to sing to Dorothy once we were comfortable.

Thanks from Bob & Keena Moller



Hi Harry, thought you might like an article for Valentines Day. Saturday afternoon we answered a knock on the door and to our surprise there

were four gentlemen in red and white striped jackets. **Leroy Pattison, Wayne Tamkin, Don Frost and Don Rush** stopped by on their way to a gig downtown. I thought Keena had ordered them and she thought I had. Anyway, what a neat surprise. Thank you guys I really appreciated it and it brought back some great memories of my own singouts. What a fun time that was. I hope the day was a great success. Bob

Pacific Spirit Quartet: Leroy Pattison, Wayne Tamkin, Don Frost & Don Rush

Our day started at 10:00am with a warm-up. At 11:00 to our first gig in Burnaby where a very groggy gal appeared in pyjamas and a robe. When told of the Valentine she made some comments about the sender. However, when we sang for her, she realized the full meaning of her boyfriend’s intent and then near tears with emotion, she smiled and made our day as well.

Next was way out to a White Rock Ice Cream Parlour to serenade the 2 attendants. Lunch in Surrey and sang for the ladies in the restaurant. Back in Burnaby we called on Bob and Keena Moller for a quick hello and a couple

of songs. At a Thai Restaurant in Metrotown at 4:00 we sang for a young fellow and his girlfriend. They were leaving in a day or two for his homeland in England where we presume she was to be introduced to his family—sort of a pre-honeymoon trip for her.

Then downtown to St. Pauls Hospital by 5:30, to sing for a couple celebrating their 50th Anniversary, and she had only been allowed an hour to attend the party for her. The request came from friends who had spent Valentines Day with them for the past 25 years. We did a set for a fellow in the West end at 6:00 and he was quite taken with the sound and commented on our accurate pitch.



Out at 6:30 to East Burnaby for an engagement for a 40 person group dinner and well received by all.

Further East to Walnut Grove, Langley for 7:30 gig to sing for a lady who had decided her day was done and had changed into her lounging attire. On to the Albion Ferry as the second to last car on board, and Pitt Meadows to a Bistro to sing for Greg Spencer (son of Lawrence), his lady and another couple right at the scheduled 8:30 time.

Our last stop was Applebees Restaurant in Coquitlam where, as we entered, the manager said “Oh good, they’re here to sing for us” so, obligingly, we responded and were rewarded with some drinks for our dinner.

Our thanks and compliments to Dorothy Frost, our driver for the day, who had to put up with 5 backseat drivers, including the lady on the GPS unit, all giving varying instructions to each destination. It turned into a 14-hour session covering about 400 km by the time we got home, but the smiling rewards we received during the day were well worth the fine efforts of all involved.

Barbershopper of the Month

February - Don Giles



There was some concern as to whether the Singing Valentines would be done this year by the GoF. However, **Don Giles** stepped forward and took on putting together the team to advertise, organise quartets, get and prepare roses and chocolates, field calls and despatch on the two days (13th and 14th). This was done admirably by Don, with great help from his wife **Roxie** who handled everything on the 13th while Don went delivering with his quartet.



March 2009 Down Memory Lane

By Ross Hood

40 years ago this month (1969)



Another **Big Wheel** night and another call for rule changes. I guess it will go on and on. But this time we had judges in all 5 categories. Yes there were 5 then.

Arrangement, Vocal Expression, Harmony/ Accuracy, Balance and Blend, and Stage Presence. The **Lake City Lads (Putt Mills, Doug Lee, Dave Matheson, Cliff Burchell)** competed it the Forest Grove contest in Oregon. It was interesting that they were entertained by the top 8 quartets, sixth place quartet being the **Most Happy Fellows**.

30 Years ago this month (1979)



Four'n Connection



Jim Dandies

On March 2, 3 & 4 the chorus traveled all the way to Shawnigan Lake on the island for a harmony retreat.

Bud Leabo was called in from the international office to lead us through our competition songs. One was “*Summer Sounds*”, I can’t recall the other. When asked what the greatest thing our chapter had, Bud’s reply was spirit, camaraderie and desire. Four couples and Chester Colpitts went to **Seattle** to see their annual show. Featured were the **New Rendition** and the **Commencement Bay Flounders & Seafood Conspiracy**. The **Vancouver Thunderbirds** featured the district champs the **Four'n Connection (Moe Jones, Steve Kurtz, Al Hayward, Ron Forsyth)** along with the **Jim Dandies (Bob O’Shaughnessy, Jim Leger, Ron Harvey, Lawrence Spencer)** with their famous St. Patrick’s Day costumes.

New Member: Wilf Martin

By Arthur Loyie



Wilf Martin, our newest member, hails from Kitchener ON. As a boy, along with his four sisters, he did a lot of singing with their father's encouragement. He was fortunate to have a teacher that entered students in music festivals and had them sing in duets and trios.

Wilf joined the navy for five years based on the East coast, sailing the Atlantic with 2 aircraft carriers, a destroy and a frigate. His love of music was put on the backburner during this time. After the navy, he got married in Calgary, had two sons and a daughter, and moved to Vancouver where his third son was born.

Singing then became a bigger part of his life; he sang with a Poco church choir and a group from the Wilson Centre entertaining at nursing homes. Wilf was also a member of the GOF Gospel Chorus until it disbanded.

David Jones invited members of the Gospel Chorus to try out for the main GOF chorus and, when the request went out last fall for community singers, Wilf decided to take the plunge and his love of singing harmony has him singing baritone. He informed me that his greatest revelation since he joined the GOF was finding out where his soft palette is, so he can lift it when requested.

Happenings & Reminders

Division Convention Registration

Everybody who will sing on stage must be a paid up member, and have purchased an All Events Registration for the Division I Convention & Contests in Vernon on **March 27/28**. If you have not yet registered, or have registered through another chapter (e.g. Abbotsford), please let David Jones know – he has to certify that you are a GoF paid-up member **before you go on stage.**

Division Singing Order in Vernon

Quartets: Friday evening

MT Antique Gold

1. Late Harvest (Vernon/Kelowna) Senior
2. The New Originals (Bellingham)
3. And How! (Vancouver)
4. Synchronesh (Langley/GoF)
5. Four Some Time (Vernon/Kelowna) Senior
6. West Coast Fusion (Abbotsford/GoF)
7. Guys' Nite Out (Nanaimo)
8. Placeholder (GoF/Vancouver)
9. U4eeuh (Bellingham)
10. Some Other Time (Vernon) Novice

Choruses: Saturday morning

MT Desert Airs Osoyoos

1. Vernon Timbretones
2. Bellingham Mt Baker Toppers
3. Vancouver Thunderbirds
4. Abbotsford Voices of Harmony
5. Chilliwack Harmony Chorus
6. Langley First Capital Barbershop Chorus
7. Nanaimo Tidesmen
8. Greater Vancouver Gentlemen of Fortune

EVERYDAY LAWS

Variation Law:

If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will start to move faster than the one you are in now.

Comment #11 by Bill Gibbons

"The guy who says that Stage Presence is an easy, risk-free way to get added contest points should be shot. Twice!"

Deadline for the next issue is April 7, 2009

CALENDAR

2009

Mar 27-28	<u>Division I Convention</u> Vernon, BC
April 10	Easter
May 8-9	Prelims/Div IV, Portland, OR
May 12	BC Election Day
May 18	Victoria Day
June 20	<u>Singout</u> Richmond
June 28-July 5	International, Anaheim, CA
July 17-19	HCNW, Tacoma, WA
July 26	Anacortes Salmon BBQ
Sept 5-7	Harmony Hollow, Squamish, BC
Sept 7	Labour Day
Sept 11-13	<u>Retreat</u> Brackendale, BC
Oct 12	Thanksgiving
Oct 30-Nov 1	<u>District Convention</u> Whistler, BC
Dec	<u>Christmas Show</u>

2010

Jan 26-31	Midwinter International, Tampa, FL
Feb 12-28	Winter Olympics
Feb 14	<u>Valentine's Day</u>
Mar 12-21	Winter Paralympics
April 2	Easter
May 24	Victoria Day
June 27-July 4	International, Philadelphia, PA
July 16-18	HCNW, Tacoma, WA
Sept 6	Labour Day
Sept 23-26	<u>District Convention</u> Portland, OR