



# FORTUNETELLER

Newsletter of the Greater Vancouver Gentlemen of Fortune  
An affiliate chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Evergreen District  
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**"WORKING TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP, WE ENRICH SOCIETY WITH A-LEVEL BARBERSHOP ENTERTAINMENT"**

2009 - No.5 - June-July

## Prelims Award

### West Coast Fusion



The Evergreen District International Quartet Prelims were held in Tigard OR on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Seven District quartets vied to qualify for International – qualifying score is 1824 (76%) or higher. **Jet Set** (1866) and **3 Outa Four** (1852) made it and will compete in Anaheim this July. Our own **West Coast Fusion (Pat Downton, Sean Huston, Jeremy Wong, Andry Layarda)** came a respectable 4<sup>th</sup> with a score of 1789 (74.5%) just 35 points shy of qualifying. However, they won the **"Al Fraser" Novice Quartet Award** – this goes to the highest scoring "novice" quartet at the District Spring Prelims Contest. A "novice" quartet is one in which at least two members have never before competed in an International Prelims Contest.

**West Coast Fusion** won the Division I Quartet Contest and will be competing for the District top spot in Whistler this fall. Good luck guys.

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## EVG District Convention Update

By Moe Jones

Your Greater Vancouver Gentlemen of Fortune Convention Planning Committee has been working now for a year and a half on all the arrangements for the **October 30/31, 2009** District Convention in Whistler. Whistler Conference Centre management and Tourism Whistler staff are great to work with, are very professional and experienced, and are very excited about our convention. The following is a brief update about the convention:



**Venue:** The Conference Centre auditorium is a flat floor ballroom which has a capacity of 1800. The stage will be built out with a stage curtain to give a seating capacity of approximately 1300. The lower floor meeting rooms will be used for warm up; quartets and choruses will dress and make up at their hotels.

**Judges:** Arrangements are being made for the triple panel of judges; services include the pit requirements, green room, catering, transportation and evaluations.

**Photographs** We will do photos this year **before** the contests and have booked Coast Mountain Photography for the chorus and quartet photo shoots. This company does all the Whistler ski and recreation photography. Quartet photos will be taken on or near the downstairs spiral staircase. Chorus photos will be in front of the Conference Centre Grand Foyer stone fireplace.

**QCED Afterglow:** The Grand Foyer will be used immediately following the Saturday evening contest and show. The audience will spill out to the Foyer where a stage, sound system and seating will be in place. There will be a couple of bars and a pizza station. Chorus and quartets can sell their CDs without out any commission from the Conference Centre, and contest photos and DVDs will be available there.

**Hotels:** The Head Quarters Hotel, the Delta Whistler Suites, has 254 room nights reserved already of the 528 block. The District Board and the House of Delegates

meetings will be there. The two overflow hotels, Listel and Crystal Suites, are also starting to receive bookings.



(l to r): Harry Gray, Gord Ross, Barbara Mares (Tourism Whistler), Moe Jones, Dorothy Fallan

**Ladies Program, Hospitality, and Registration:**

Tourism Whistler is looking into merchant discount cards, samples, pins and family discounts, etc for our convention bags, as well as maps and other promo items. Convention T-shirts will be on sale at the registration desk for US\$10 and Cdn \$12. The Whistler Brew House will have a special short menu and provide the upstairs area exclusively for Barbershoppers. (This will be a great meeting place).

**Volunteer Program:** We are delighted with the response for volunteers. Over 70 volunteers are needed to cover everything from hosts, runners, door closers, riser crew, registration, judge’s hosts and drivers, and other volunteer jobs. Volunteers will be supplied with yellow T-shirts.

**Promotion:** We are working with the municipality for a mass sing to be held in the village square on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:30. We anticipate 500 to 600 barbershoppers will participate. We have also asked VANOC to have the Olympic Mascots with us for 2 hours before and after the mass sing. The Mayor, MLA’s, MP’s, and other local dignitaries have been invited to attend our gala Saturday evening show and afterglow. We will also ask the Village Fathers to proclaim “*Barbershop Harmony Week*” during our convention.

There are many other details forthcoming as we near convention time. In the meantime, the Whistler Conference staff, Tourism Whistler and the municipality are looking forward to hosting the Evergreen District Convention. There are a lot of things to do at the Whistler Resort for the whole family.

**GoF Planning Committee Members**

- Co-Chairs - Harry Gray & Moe Jones
- Treasurer - Rich Clark
- Registration - Don Rush
- Hotels & Secretary - Harry Gray
- Contest Coordinator - Moe Jones
- Production Coordinator - Allan Pinvidic

- Judges Services - Gord Ross
- Promotion & Hosting - Ian McGillivray
- Ladies Program & Hosting - Dorothy Fallan
- Web Master - Ian McGillivray
- DVD Production - Harry Gray
- Photography - Moe Jones
- Program & Printing - Rod MacLeod
- Sponsors - Ed Arnold
- Program Advertising - John Loucks
- Support the Arts- Carl Gung
- Awards - Tucker Goodwin
- Properties and Risers - Ray Fallan
- QCED & Afterglow - Moe Jones
- Front of House – Dave Ellis
- Volunteers - Maya Whittier
- Stage Manager - Chrys Lauzon

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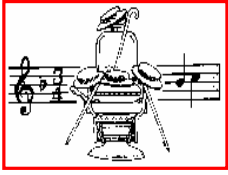
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**EVERYDAY LAWS**

**Law of the Workshop:**

Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.



## June/July 2009 Down Memory Lane

By Ross Hood

### 40 years ago this month (1969)

The **Howe Sounds** placed 23<sup>rd</sup> at the International Contest, with **Mark V** taking the top spot, **Golden Staters** 2<sup>nd</sup> and **Suntones** 3<sup>rd</sup>. The **Thoroughbreds** captured the top chorus spot by overwhelming the **Tidelanders** by 256 points. **Seattle Seachordsmen** placed 15<sup>th</sup>. We held an in-house quartet competition during a regular meeting night, where prizes were presented to the “Most Harmonious”, “Best Quartet Made Of One Section” and “Most Humorous”. Eight quartets were entered.

### 30 Years ago this month (1979)

The **Nanaimo Tidesmen Chorus** hosted the Big Wheel contest. **Rob Hood, Charlie Metzger, Ross Hood** and **George Metzger**, competing as the **Brothers Four**, got the top quartet spot. Our own **Sound Policy** performed their Minneapolis International contest set for the attendees. **Byron Walton, Jim Leger, Ron Harvey** and **Orland Lee** captured the comedy cup singing as **The Acorn 4** with a chipmunk sound.

### 20 Years ago this month (1989)

The GOF car rally ended up at the summer home of **Don** and **Dorothy Frost** on Bowen Island. We had a great barbeque there, and sang as a chorus in a nearby park for some of Don's neighbours. A few stayed overnight in his basement. The chorus spent a nice sunny day, first singing for the competitors in a Triathlon at Simon Fraser University, and then we spent several hours wandering around Burnaby's Heritage Village in full competition dress, singing in any area that would accommodate over 50 of us. Afterwards we tripped down to Westminster Quay where we performed in front of the Kids Boat along the wharf. The whole day was filmed thanks to a crew put together by **Rob Hood** and **Elie Savoie**.

## What the Directors Discussed

By Rich Clark

**Ian McGillivray** briefed the board on the progress on the website overhaul, which is now expected to be completed by Sept 1. Ensuring that a chorus member will be capable of ongoing content maintenance will be a cornerstone of the new site.

Thanks to **Don Rush** for submitting an application for a grant to the BC Gaming Commission. **Don Giles** is working with **Byron** and **Charlie** to develop the plans for recording and producing a CD.

Music VP **Byron Walton** is preparing a Christmas Show marketing plan for review by the board by June 15, to ensure that a financially successful show is in hand, in advance of placing the deposit on the venue.

**John Loucks** tendered his resignation as the **VP Communications & Promotion**, and as of June 9 **Ed Arnold** has accepted the challenge and taken over that function.

Feelings of information overload were expressed as a result of the flow of emails generated by **Groupanizer**. Questions were posed as to the purpose of Groupanizer to the general membership.

## MLT Update

By Byron Walton



Hope you are enjoying each week's rehearsals. We are working hard to keep our *Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings* exciting, informative and a great learning experience for all members. Each week we are coming closer to our goal of “A” level singing and performance. Feedback from all participants is becoming more positive and a great learning experience for all who have been involved...keep up the great work Gentlemen!

**Groupanizer** – This tool is awesome if we use it. Get on, Get involved, Give us your feedback, so we can make this beneficial to all members.

**Christmas Show – Saturday December 5, 2009**, at the Michael J. Fox Theatre. Matinee and Evening shows and a great Afterglow are being planned. We have identified a Marketing & PR Team who will be working hard to sell out both of our shows this year. We are also expecting *All Chorus Members* to help us achieve our goal this year. So, get your lists of guests you are going to invite to the shows ready....we will need them!! More details will follow as to the show theme, songs and guests who will be performing on the shows. Let's all chip in and make this a fun and profitable show!!

## Happenings & Reminders

### GoF Annual Summer Picnic

Gentlemen, reserve **Saturday August 8, 2009** for our Annual Chorus Picnic!! **Byron & Marg Walton** have offered their home to host the picnic

this year. They have lots of room for games, camp fire & tons of singing. This event is for the whole family so bring the gang for a fun filled day!!

**Singout Sat June 20th**

We have a 45 minute program at 2.00pm in Richmond.

**Obituary**



**WHITE  
John Vernon  
1925 - 2009**

Vern White passed away suddenly on May 2, 2009. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Barbara, daughter Sheryl Beach, son Brad (Marcia) and grandchildren Rebecca, Coady, Evan and Jeremy.

**Vern Remembered**

By Tucker Goodwin

Vern was a long time Barbershopper, beginning with the **Kingston** chapter in 1960, at which time his wife, Barbara, joined Sweet Adeline's. Then, after a move to the west coast, he joined the **North Vancouver** chapter in 1967, then **Vancouver Thunderbirds**, also the **Gentlemen of Fortune**. Vern was very involved with the Young Men In Harmony, spending time visiting schools, teaching our craft and, at times, directing our beloved "tags."

His working world, after leaving the navy just after the war, included Fuller Brush Sales, Texaco Oil Co., General Motors, Simpson Sears, BCAA, and Great Pacific Management as Financial Advisor.

Barb & Vern spent much leisure time at Black Mountain, south of the border, where they owned property. Curling, camping, and Little League were also some of Vern's' ventures.

A service of remembrance was held for Vern on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Boal chapel in North Vancouver, at which time a Barbershop chorus of over 45 men sang **The Lords Prayer, The Irish Blessing**, and, of course, finished the service by teaching everybody a favorite tag of Vern's: **Pack Up Your Troubles !!**

**Comment #46** by Bill Gibbons

"If you think you're good enough to sing in a quartet, or if you think you're not good enough to sing in a quartet, you're right."

**Deadline for the next issue is August 11, 2009**

**CALENDAR**

**2009**

- June 20 **Singout** Richmond
- June 28-July 5 International, Anaheim, CA
- July 17-19 HCNW, Tacoma, WA
- July 26 Anacortes Salmon BBQ
- Aug 8 GoF Summer Picnic @ Byron's
- Sept 5-7 Harmony Hollow, Squamish, BC
- Sept 7 Labour Day
- Sept 11-13 **Retreat** Brackendale, BC
- Oct 12 Thanksgiving
- Oct 30-Nov 1 **District Convention** Whistler, BC
- Dec 5 **Christmas Shows**

**2010**

- Jan 26-31 Midwinter International, Tampa, FL
- Feb 12-28 Winter Olympics
- Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**
- Mar 12-21 Winter Paralympics
- April 2 Easter
- April 9-10 **Division I/Prelims** Abbotsford
- May 24 Victoria Day
- June 27-July 4 International, Philadelphia, PA
- July 16-18 HCNW, Tacoma, WA
- Sept 6 Labour Day
- Sept 23-26 **District Convention** Portland, OR
- Oct 11 Thanksgiving

**2011**

- Jan 18-23 Midwinter International, Tucson, AZ

**Internationals**

- 2011 Kansas City, MO
- 2012 Portland, OR
- 2013 Toronto, ON
- 2014 Minneapolis, MN
- 2015 Pittsburgh, PA
- 2016 Nashville, TN