



FORTUNETELLER

Newsletter of the Greater Vancouver Gentlemen of Fortune
An affiliate chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Evergreen District
Editor Harry Gray: e-mail bunionbari@sycorp.com
Info: (604) 526-2212 or online <http://www.gof.bc.ca>



"WORKING TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP, WE ENRICH SOCIETY WITH A-LEVEL BARBERSHOP ENTERTAINMENT"

2009 - No.6 - August

2nd Annual GoF Summer BBQ

By Gord Ross

This year's bbq (**August 8th**) was another (and drier) success. **Byron** and **Marg Walton** have a great place for this event, being on a 17 acre farm. There were about 40 members & spouses in attendance and the afternoon started with drinks, great appys, socializing and singing. The GoF made an impromptu performance for Byron and Marg's landlady. However, let me just say that it was not a performance that we would want to take to contest.

Byron had built a horseshoe pitch just for the occasion and lots of other games were available. However, everyone was having so much fun that the games kind of never happened. The bbqs were fired up about 6pm and I noticed that **Dave** and **Maya Whittier** had a couple of juicy looking steaks for themselves. I asked what the boys were having and Dave pointed to a couple of pieces of spam cooking on the back burner. **Dorothy** and **Ray Fallan** found out that it takes a bit longer to cook a steak when you throw it on the bbq still frozen. There was lots more singing throughout the evening (good to see **Peter McBride** from the T-Birds show up – yeaaaaaah another tenor). I left about midnight with the usual hangers-on still partying.

It's a shame more of our members never showed up as it is the only true social that our chapter has for the whole year. Think about it for next year guys.



Richmond Singout



On the afternoon of **Saturday June 20th** 31 members of the chorus gathered at **Richmond Courtyard Gardens**. The GoF have performed there before, and it was also the residence of the late long time GoF member **Herb Carey** and his wife Gladys. Charlie directed our 45 minute performance package and the enthusiasm expressed by the residents was terrific, especially for *Freddie Feelgood & His Funky Little 4-Piece Band*, and Taro & Shoji's solo in *You Raise Me Up*. Noting that many were singing with us, Charlie had everybody sing along with some of the older well known songs - the "Lion Hunt" was planned, but it was agreed that this might be too strenuous for some of the audience.

Inside this Issue

- 2nd Annual GoF Summer BBQ
- Richmond Singout
- District Convention Update
- Down Memory Lane
- Obituary: Chester Colpitts
- Obituaries: Ian & Rita McGillivray
- What the Directors Discussed
- Happenings & Reminders
- Calendar
- Tags a Lot

UNDERSTANDING TOOLS

Table Saw: A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

EVG District Convention Update

By Harry Gray

Registration: All contestants MUST have an All Events ticket, and MUST have their membership fees for Society, District and Chapter up to date. Registration fee includes all the contests, Show and QCED Afterglow. It is \$80.00 Canadian until September 4th, after that it is \$100.00.

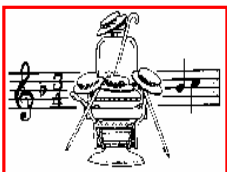


Website: Dave Whittier is now the webmaster. Get all your info at www.gof.bc.ca/district2009/

Friday Night: The Quartet semi-finals and Seniors International Prelim & District quartet contest start at 6.00pm in the Whistler Conference Centre. There are 28 quartets entered and maybe a couple more to come for the seniors prelims. Mic Testers are the current District Champs **3 Outa Four**.

Saturday Morning: The Chorus contest starts at 10.00am with Mic Testers Chilliwack Harmony Chorus. There are 19 choruses competing and GoF sing last. Evals and coaching will be in the warm-up rooms at the venue followed by a Mass Sing at 4.30pm in the Village Square.

Saturday Night: Quartet Finals start at 7.30pm followed by the Show of Champions featuring the top 3 quartets and choruses, and **Realtime**. The QCED Afterglow is in the Conference Centre lobby after the show.



June/July 2009 Down Memory Lane

By Ross Hood

40 years ago this month (1969)

President **By Gordon** reported in *the Reflections* that our chorus was hosting what was to become the first of an annual division chorus competition in place of our regular show. We received promises from all the surrounding chapters that they would attend this TEST, although it was not official. The first annual chapter golf tournament was scheduled for Hazlemere Golf Course. A pitch and put tournament was underway. Entrants were paired off and expected to find some time within the week to play off. We had our First Annual Picnic at Semiahmoo Park in White Rock where we had a great baseball game.

30 Years ago this month (1979)

A special induction ceremony night was set for new members, a total of 17 men were given their membership kits. Membership was at a high of 77. I note that none of these members are with us now. We raised \$506.00 at a garage sale. We were well received when we presented four half hour shows at Heritage Village in Burnaby and we ended the afternoon with a chicken barbecue hosted by **Orland** and **Helen Lee**.

20 Years ago this month (1989)

We were given the arrangements for "*The Wizard of Oz*" by the late great Lloyd Steinkamp. They were for our future performance at Carnegie Hall. The chorus got together to do a videotaping at several locations in the lower mainland. We started at SFU, then to Heritage Village where we were filmed at the gazebo, on Main Street, the barber shop, train station, and the Mansion. Then to Burnaby Hospital, and the Westminster Quay. This was all arranged by **Rob Hood** and **Elie Savoie**.

2009 Chapter Officers

President

Rich Clark 604-572-5588
rich.clark@investorsgroup.com

VP Music & Performance

Byron Walton 778-298-2409
waltonbm@shaw.ca

VP Chapter Development

David Whittier 604-466-2920
scarybari@shaw.ca

VP Communications & Promotion

Ed Arnold 604-929-2904
ed_arnold@telus.net

Secretary

David Jones 604-984-4047
davej34@telus.net

Treasurer

Gord Ross 604-736-2204
gordon.ross@telus.net

Past President

Peter Lissett 604-929-3235
plissett@shaw.ca

Board Members-at-Large

Don Giles 604-929-7864
dongiles@shaw.ca

Doug Affleck 778-284-1179
djaffleck@telus.net

Musical Director

Charlie Metzger 604-581-1423
cometzger@shaw.ca

Assistant Director

Andry Layarda 604-420-6969
alayarda@gmail.com

Youth in Harmony

Bill Martin 604-291-1744
baribill@shaw.ca

Obituary



COLPITTS **Chester Logan** **1926 – 2009**

Chester Colpitts passed away very peacefully at Peter Lougheed Hospital in Calgary on July 10, 2009 surrounded by his loving family. He was 83 years of age. Chester was born at Synton, Albert County, New Brunswick and is survived by his sister Eva Ellard, sister-in-law Mary

Colpitts, 6 nieces and 2 nephews. He was predeceased by two sisters and a brother.

Chester served in the Canadian Navy 1944-46. He had a varied career as postal worker, waiter on CPR trains, real estate agent, HBC Meat Dept Manager, Corrections Officer, and managing a hotel in the Grand Cayman Islands. He lived in Manitoba for a short time, moved to Calgary in 1949 and Vancouver in 1969.

Chester came from a very musical family; his mother and father were musicians and all the children were given an appreciation for music. Chester was involved in music all his life including: Church Choir, School & Community Musicals, Calgary HBC Choir, Calgary Stampede Chorus, Gentlemen of Fortune and Abbotsford Voices of Harmony. He joined the BHS in 1956. His many quartets included: Rocky Mountaineers, Bathtub Serenaders, School Patrol Dads, Meg-A-Tones and Mint Edition. He sang on the International Stage a number of times with both the Calgary Stampede Chorus and the Gentlemen of Fortune.

Chester was a consummate organizer. He worked tirelessly for Harmony Hollow; made sure our retreats were organized and we were well looked after; arranged to get the chorus to and from the conventions, buses, rooms, special breakfasts and afterglows. He was on the first delegation to lobby the International Society in getting the SPEBSQSA International Convention to Calgary. For the Evergreen District he was instrumental in setting up the first Mini Hep (Harmony College NW), and was District Music Educator and District VP for Division I. In the GoF he was Chapter Secretary, President (1974-75), Program VP and Chapter Mother.

Chester's service was recognised by his peers: he was the District Barbershopper of the Year (1991), GoF BOTY, GoF Special Barbershopper of the Year many

times, Barry Smorenburg Award (Division I BOTY) 1992, and GoF Hall of Fame 1999. Small tokens of appreciation for a very BIG man who epitomised a bygone SPEBSQSA slogan "**Barbershop is Love**". Chester's Life will be celebrated on September 19th.

Thoughts on Chester Colpitts

By Charlie Metzger

When you came to visit the Gentlemen of Fortune, one of the men you were sure to meet was Chester. His middle name was hospitality and he knew how to make everyone feel welcome. Back when he was still in good voice – he sang a pretty tenor – it was quite likely that he'd have you singing in short order, especially if you were a visiting barbershopper. He was a legend that way, and many people remembered him for it. There are a lot of vivid memories of Chester.



The bus would pull in Queen's Park at 5:00 am, ready to set off to a contest out of town. Chester would have become bosom buddies with the driver already, and would be organizing the loading of risers and luggage, and food and drink for the trip. There'd be a stash of food and

beverages established in the back and Chester would navigate the walkway of the bus making sure everyone was fed and watered, their presence applauded, their friendships cemented, their opinions sought, their ears bent. Chester made sure that everyone knew they were important. He was careful to be cordial to everyone, but the ladies received special attention. After all, they weren't singing members and had only periodic exposure to the group. He made sure they were made welcome too. For Chester, everyone belonged and he made sure they knew it!

He was an organizer on a grand scale. Often he would take a trip to our intended venue months or weeks in advance to seek out answers to the various needs that he would unerringly anticipate. He'd stay in the hotel and make friends, check out eating spots, determine where we might practice, note the routes for travel to and fro, arrange a room for makeup, for breakfast and, of course, for the afterglow. Everyone was organized to bring something for the party, but Chester would provide the special touches and the glad greetings that would garnish the whole event. He didn't sleep much, but that didn't seem to matter. His invitations for a wee nightcap were a personal touch that showed his regard for those who

contributed in special ways.

The man who was most responsible for the music and performance success of our trip to Pittsburgh in 1982 was Lloyd Steinkamp. I was wondering how we would cope with competing at International, and wondering what we would sing, and Chester remarked that he thought he could get his friend Lloyd to help us. He made a request to Lloyd, and Lloyd answered the call. Chester was the only one of us who had every competed at International, and he was clearly well connected in high places. Chester was everybody's friend.

Now Chester wasn't a pushover either. He had opinions and stated them clearly. He was prepared to grouse a bit too. But that was just the flip side of his personality shown to his closest associates. With Chester, everyone was accepted and appreciated for who they were, and he was just trying to make things better.

We all loved and appreciated Chester, and we all miss him. I sure hope that we continue to walk in his footsteps and make everyone welcome, treat everyone as a special one, and spread the good will of the barbershop singer and performer. He always chose to treat us in a way that showed we mattered, and he was right. We all do. Here's to Mr. Fellowship, Chester Colpitts!

Obituaries

McGILLIVRAY

Ian: 1949 – 2009 Rita: 1956 – 2009



Ian and Rita McGillivray, together with Rita's mother Marie Zetsen, were killed in a tragic vehicle accident on July 21 near Edmonton, AB. Both were widows of their first marriages and struggled with their respective losses but found strength in their family and friends. In 2002 the pair met, fell in love, and were married Nov. 12, 2005 at an intimate wedding in Mexico.

Rita (53) was born and raised in Edmonton. She is survived by seven siblings, their children and grandchildren, and her children Ryan Dyrbye, Laura Wait (Dyrbye), Heather McGillivray, and Brad Dyrbye, as well as grandson Jasper Wait.

Ian (60) was born in Elan, China, grew up in Taiwan, and moved to Canada at age 18. He obtained his Engineering degree from UBC in 1978. He is survived by his sister Jennifer, four nieces and nephews as well as Ryan, Laura, Heather, Brad, and Jasper.

Rita and Ian loved to sail, garden, cook and entertain for friends. An accomplished musician and active member of the chorus, Ian turned Rita on to jazz music, and the two attended various local venues and events in pursuit of this delight. Ian retired from his management position at General Electric last July and Rita had just begun her semi-retirement from Pan American Nursery Products. They completed and complimented each other in every aspect of life, and will be missed terribly.

Memories of Ian

By Jim Lohnes

Ian McGillivray joined the GOF in 1987 and was very active with the Chapter serving on the Board as VP Music & Performance 2002-04, President 2005/06 and Past President 2007-08, bringing his very organized management skills to the job. He was a front row chorus member and baritone section leader for many years, and was 2003 Barbershopper of the Year.



Ian was a great story teller, often recounting stories of Valentine quartet experiences, events at our annual Squamish retreat, bus trips to District conventions in Spokane, and our 1990 memorable performance of the Wizard of Oz at Carnegie Hall in New York. He was well liked by all and will be deeply missed by his barbershop family throughout the Evergreen District.

Ian, after losing his first wife Annie to cancer, was married in 2005 on the beach in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico to Rita. The celebration was shared with his daughter Heather, Rita's three children Ryan, Laura and Brad, Rita's good friends Heather & Bruce Wiesmiller, Ian's good friends Jim & Val Lohnes and Rod MacLeod.

Rita and Ian experienced the wedding of Ryan to Nicole on a ship sailing Vancouver Harbour, and the Fairytale wedding of Laura to Brad at a Castle on Vancouver Island with both couples recently buying new homes, and Heather an apartment. They were a wonderful couple who enjoyed sailing and had recently renovated

their home to include a suite in preparation for retirement and traveling.

Ian & Rita's Celebration of Life will be held August 24 at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club in Vancouver.

What the Directors Discussed

By Peter Lissett



Here are the highlights of the most recent Board of Directors meeting held at Don Giles' residence on **August 10th 2009**.

Ed Arnold, our new Vice President of Public Relations, Marketing and Communications was welcomed.

Secretary, **Dave Jones** reviewed the chapter membership list and noted that we are currently 66 members strong.

The Honorary Treasurer, **Gord Ross** presented his report which was discussed at some length. Our financial position is not as robust as it has been in the last many years owing to the purchase of our new uniforms. However, it is anticipated that the situation will change soon with registrations for the District Convention coming to repay the advance to the Convention.

Don Giles, spearheading the arrangements for our next CD recording, reported that he has identified an individual with the technical skills, and experience, to do the recording and editing. He will be attending a chapter rehearsal in early September to assess the suitability of our venue for recording.

VP Music and Performance, **Byron Walton** presented his revised budget and list of guest performers (**Realtime** and the **Lions Gate Chorus**) for our Christmas Show. To make the enterprise financially viable will require that ticket sales are greater than in recent history. It is anticipated that the good marketing team in place, and strong support from the membership, will carry the day.

VP Chapter Development, **Dave Whittier** volunteered to oversee the development of the GoF web site which is being done by Tom Metzger. A great deal of progress has been made and it will be completed on target by September.

Byron Walton indicated that arrangements for our annual Retreat were well in hand. He confirmed that **Doug Affleck** is the retreat organizer this year and that **Royce Ferguson** would be coaching. After discussion, it was agreed that the cost to each member would be subsidized as usual and that the charge would be \$75 per member; \$40 for students under 18 years of age.

Dave Whittier reported on attendance levels through the summer which were, unsurprisingly, lower than at other times of the year. *American Harmony*, the movie, did not get the response hoped for, so it will not be pursued.

Ed Arnold reported that six performances have been booked for November and December so far. He put forward the idea of establishing a smaller group of members to perform at locations where venue space was limited and time inconvenient for working people. This met with a positive response and will be followed up.

The proposal that the chapter provide breakfast on the day of the District Convention at a cost of \$25 per member was discussed and rejected.

The next meeting will be held at Peter Lissett's residence on **September 28th** at 7pm.

Happenings & Reminders

Chester's Celebration of Life

Chester's Celebration of Life will be held **September 19th**. There will be a short service at Como Lake United Church starting at 3:00pm. Immediately following the service we will be gathering at the Port Moody Recreation Centre, 100 Ioco Road, Port Moody. There will be food and refreshments. Chester requested a party with lots of singing. If you have a quartet you are invited to sing and entertain. If you don't have a quartet get 3 other fellows and get ready to sing. We will have a quartet festival and there will be a stage set up for performing. If you wish to say a few words there will be an opportunity. It will be a great party but as Chester would have said "It's not a marathon you know". We will have the facilities for 7 hours so get ready to have some barbershop fun.

Ian & Rita's Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life will be held on **August 24** from 1pm – 4pm at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club in Vancouver at 3811 Point Grey Road. Memorial Donations in memory of Rita and Ian may be made to either MADD or the Canadian Cancer Society.

Christmas Shows & Singouts

Ed Arnold asks you to make a note of these singouts, with more to come.

1. St. Mary's Parish 50:50 Show, evening, **Sat. Nov. 28**
2. Lions Gate Hospital, afternoon, **Wednesday, Dec. 9** (small chorus or quartet)
3. Como Lake United 50:50 Show, **Dec. 12 or 13** to be determined
4. Fleetwood Centre 50:50 Show, afternoon, **Sat Dec. 19**

Deadline for the next issue is September 22

Visitors

On Tuesday August 4th one of our newest members, **James Wilson**, (right) was proud to welcome his family from Australia. Mother **Caron**, step father **Philip Hawley** and step brother **Alex**. They had come to see what he was up to in a barbershop chorus and he also sang for them in a quartet. Way to go James.



Squamish Retreat

Be prepared for a great learning experience and fun weekend from Friday evening to noon Sunday, **September 11-13**. In recognition of our **25th year at Squamish** the North Vancouver Outdoor School are giving the chorus a discount of \$20. Your fee for the weekend is \$75.00 (\$40.00 for students under 18). **Doug Affleck** is the Retreat Coordinator, please make your payments to Doug commencing next Tuesday – Aug. 18th (cheques preferred). All fees must be paid prior to attending the retreat. Remember to bring your own bedding, towels & refreshments.

Whistler Registration

Have you registered yet to compete on the District stage in Whistler? There are just 3 weeks left to get the Early Bird All Events registration for \$80. EB deadline is **September 4th**, after that it's \$100.00. "Save your money" and get the form and cheque to Don Rush now.

Comment #46 by Bill Gibbons

"The three other guys in your quartet (or parts in your chorus) always have an uncanny ability, without any apparent signals between them, to simultaneously go sharp."

Tags a Lot from Ross

And Left Me Lonely Nights

I'm lone-ly, you on-ly, left me lone-ly nights
and left me lone-ly nights.
I'm lone-ly, you on-ly, left me lone-ly nights
And left I'm lone-ly, you on-ly left me lone-ly nights

Earl Moon

CALENDAR

2009

Aug 24 Ian & Rita's Celebration of Life
Sept 5-7 Harmony Hollow, Squamish, BC
Sept 7 Labour Day
Sept 11-13 **Retreat** Brackendale, BC
Sept 19 Chester's Celebration of Life
Oct 12 Thanksgiving
Oct 30-Nov 1 **District Convention** Whistler, BC
Nov 28 **50/50 Show** St Mary's Parish
Dec 5 **Christmas Shows** MJ Fox Theatre
Dec 9 **Singout** Lions Gate Hospital
Dec 12 or 13 **50/50 Show** Como Lake United
Dec 19 **50/50 Show** Fleetwood Centre

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