

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

August 2008

First Annual Summer BBQ

By Gord Ross



After many years lacking in social activities, the GOF had its first annual summer BBQ on Saturday, August 9. Thanks to **Rita and Ian McGillivray** for opening their home for this function and to **Rod MacLeod** and **Martha** for taking on the organization.

After a stretch of warm, sunny days, Saturday started off cool, overcast and showery. However, undaunted GOFers started arriving around 3:00 and by 5:00 the place was hopping with about 50 chorus members and their families. It was great to see so many of the



"next generation" barbershoppers in attendance and certainly bodes well for the future of our chorus.



The afternoon was cloudy but mostly dry so people mingled in the back yard and played a few games of quoits (like horseshoes but with rubber rings). A wonderful array of appetizers were

served throughout the afternoon and, at about 7:00, master chef Rod fired up the BBQs, just as the heavens opened up.

The dinner was a culinary delight with many wonderful salads and accompaniments to the different items off the BBQ, followed by a great assortment of desserts. We certainly have some amazing cooks amongst the GOFers and their wives. Maybe we should put out a cookbook sometime?



I must admit that I was preoccupied most of the time so



probably missed many of the little side stories of the evening. However, as was referred to by Ian at

rehearsal following the party, **George Gregory** won the award for the most "unique" wine of the evening. That Ian returned George's bottle still 7/8 full speaks volumes about its quality and popularity.

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Based on the terrific turnout and the fun had by all it's pretty clear that the GOF want more of these social activities. It's one of the few times that the wives and partners can attend without being left alone while the men head off into corners to sing. So, hopefully, this was the first of many annual GOF BBQs. All we need is for someone to step up each year to provide a venue and

take care of the organization. So do we have volunteers for next year?



Some comments:

- We got through the rain with the help of **Mac Matheson's** awesome tent. **Bob Bradley's** summer tent was good till it got really wet, and then it became a misty tent until a tarp was put over top. Rodney was able to cook all the meat on the huge BBQ supplied by **Jim Gibson**. **Tate Clarke** stood over Rod with an umbrella to ensure the cook stayed dry. Our famous photographer **Carl Gung** was taking pictures. (**Rick Morrison**)

- The BBQ was a huge success, in spite of the weather. This type of event simply exemplifies the camaraderie and enjoyment of one another's company shared in our chorus. (**Al Alain**)

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Happenings & Reminders

GoF AGM

As required by the BHS, Revenue Canada and the BC Societies Act, the Greater Vancouver Chapter Annual General Meeting was held during the rehearsal break on Tuesday June 24th. The Agenda and Financial Report and 2008 Budget having been sent out ahead of time, President **Peter Lissett's** railroad whistled us through the formalities in record time with all motions duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Memorial

On Saturday July 19th the GoF supported **Lawrence Spencer** at the Memorial Service for his wife **Audrey**. She had been a strong supporter of the chorus for many decades and the chorus sang "*I Heard You Singing*" and "*Love at Home*". **John Newell** gave a beautiful rendition of "*I'll be Seeing You*".

West Coast Fusion

The annual Anacortes Show and Salmon BBQ were held July 26/27 and many of the GoF were there as participants and performers. Wowing the audience were the recent International Bronze Medallists **Old School** and Division I Champs **West Coast Fusion** (**Andry Layarda, Sean Huston, Jeremy Wong, Pat Downton**). At the Afterglow they combined together for a phenomenal sound. West Coast Fusion, with **Alex Leung** and **Nick Tinney**, sang with the Abbotsford **Voices of Harmony** at the Show, Afterglow and BBQ.



Old School & West Coast Fusion l-r: Andry, Rick Taylor, Pat, Joe Connelly, Jeremy, Joe Krones, Sean, Jack Pinto.

Harmony Hollow

This is the first year at its new venue in Squamish, Aug 29-Sept 1. For info and to register contact Jim Bates or go to www.evg.org and click on Events links.

Squamish Annual Retreat

This is a must for all chorus members. Sept 5 – 7 at the North Vancouver Outdoor School in Brackendale. Fri evening to noon Sun, *bring your own bedding, towels, toiletries and beverages*. Coach is **Royce Ferguson** from Westminster Chorus. Give your tax deductible \$65 to

Don Rush – the chapter picks up the rest for Fri snack, 3 meals Sat and Sun breakfast.

Singout September 3rd

Singout for the Canadian Coalition for Senior's Mental Health; 4.30pm at the **Fairmont Hotel Vancouver**.

What the Directors Discussed

By **President Peter Lissett**



Here are the highlights from the **July 7th** Board of Directors meeting:

Honorary Treasurer **Don Rush** spoke to his financial statements circulated prior to the meeting. Essentially, the chapter is in good financial health despite a small deficit. It is recognized that the Gaming Commission is most helpful with regard to our finances. Don also reported that our membership still stands at 72, although the record keeping in Nashville is problematic.

VP Music and Performance **Rick Morrison** confirmed that the Squamish Retreat will take place on the weekend after Labour Day, as usual, that is **September 5, 6 & 7th** (our coach will be **Royce Ferguson**).

Ray Fallan, Chairman of the 'Uniform Committee' and a guest at the meeting, presented the findings of his committee. Basically a new uniform has been found at a reasonable cost. The recommendations were discussed at some length. The Board passed a motion to accept the committee's recommendations and, further, that a basic charge of \$150 per member be charged for a complete new uniform, with the balance to be paid by the chapter. Each member will be measured in the near future and the uniforms will be ordered thereafter.

VP Chapter Development **Arthur Loyie** reported that word of mouth seemed to work the best for recruiting new members. VP Marketing and Promotion **John Loucks** indicated that he has plans in hand to discuss at the next meeting, which is scheduled to be in the third week of September.

Rick's Notes

By Rick Morrison - Music & Performance VP



By the time you read this summer holidays will be almost over. Kids will be going back to school, and the chorus will be back into the swing of preparing for our upcoming trip to Hawaii and Christmas Show. Where has the time gone?

After the run up to our very successful cabaret show, we've been busy with internal programs otherwise known as **Bootstrap**. Not only do we find time to sing in quartets or small chorus ensembles, we also have the opportunity to hone our music reading skills with **Charlie Metzger** and **Andry Layarda**, or performance skills with **Allan Pinvidic**. **Donya Metzger** has graciously devoted time doing chorus vocal warm-ups and providing private lessons for members. New members get free singing lessons. Yes, it rained for the 1st annual BBQ but we managed to find ways to amuse ourselves regardless. A big hug for **Rita & Ian McGillivray** for hosting and to **Rod MacLeod** and **Martha Todd** for organizing.

As usual the GOF head into September anticipating the **Squamish Retreat weekend Sept 5, 6 & 7** held at the North Vancouver Outdoor School. **Ray Fallan** will give us more information closer to the day. **Royce Ferguson** (International Quartet Member & Chorus Director) will be coaching us for the weekend. There is a golf game on Friday at the Squamish Golf Course, **Rod MacLeod** is organizing that. For others, arrive around dinner time and eat at a local restaurant in Squamish. You should be at the school in Brackendale **well before 8 p.m. Friday** as the evening session starts then. We practice for 2 hours and then it's off to our cabins (remember your sleeping bag, pillow, etc). Saturday starts early, with one sitting for breakfast. We practice all day with generous breaks. Dinner is a highlight and then we practice some more. The evening fun is around the fire pit with a number of guys strumming a song or two. There is singing for all. It can get cool up there so I recommend a jacket, and watch out for bears. The weekend is capped off with our final practice session Sunday morning and then we perform for the school staff. We are done by noon and, for those who just can't go straight home, a number of us stop in Horseshoe Bay at Trolls for some fish and chips.

We then have about six weeks to hone our songs for Hawaii and the Christmas show.

Please look at the chorus riser chart to ensure you are standing in the right place. We have had new and old members join and some changes have been made. If you're lost, please see me.

Cheers
Rhinstone Ricky

EVERYDAY LAWS

Law of the Theatre:

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

Welcome Back



Just over 10 years ago one of the stalwarts of the GoF front row left us for the Valley and then walked across the water to Nanaimo. He sang tenor or, depending on the song, was it bass? He was an assistant director, active in quartets, resident chorus comedian,

as well as the butt of many jokes. It is a great delight to welcome back **Byron** and **Marg Walton**. Byron says that Marg was getting fed up with commuting from Nanaimo every Tuesday to sing with Lions Gate Chorus so she got a transfer back to the mainland.

Obituary



RICH HASTY 1967-2008

On July 14, 2008 Rich Hasty passed away unexpectedly from complications of pneumonia at age 41. He had just returned from Nashville with a gold medal won singing with the **Masters of Harmony**. Rich directed the Gentlemen of Fortune in 1998-2000 and

Studio One was just one of his many quartets. He is survived by his wife Kristen and children Matthew and Abigail.

Reflections on Rich Hasty

By Charlie Metzger

The barbershop world was shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden and untimely death of Rich Hasty. I had a couple of intense years with Rich when he succeeded me as GoF's chorus director. I remained as a singer in the chorus and experienced the elation of new leadership and direction, the man's musicality, the wonderful arrangements he provided and great optimism for the future. Issues other than these intervened and Rich moved on and soon away, back to California. But I continued to see him quite often at conventions and communicated with him regularly. He was wonderfully supported in his dreams by his wife, Kristen, and smitten with wonder and joy in his two children. He suffered through a difficult recovery after a particularly violent car accident and bounced back quite well, coping with pain and lack of mobility. In all of this, music, especially barbershop music, was his passion and joy. If he loved

beyond family any greater, it was directing and he directed choruses in barbershop, male and female, and in churches as well. I knew him to be a man of faith and one who honoured family and friendship very highly.

Rich was a complex man. Sometimes he led others with flair, verve and talent. Sometimes he lost patience and control. Through it all he followed his passion and did his best to be the leader and musician he wanted to be. His musical talent and subtlety comes out most clearly in his arrangements. We of the GoF sang quite a few and enjoyed them immensely. He showed us a new level of commitment and artistry, and wanted us to attain great heights. We have much to thank him for, and he was a blessing to us. Let us remember and appreciate him, especially when we sing the music he brought to us.

Comment #30 by Bill Gibbons

"Singing lead (or any other part) is as much attitude as it is technique."

Deadline for the next issue is September 18, 2008

CALENDAR

2008

Aug 29-31 Harmony Hollow, Squamish
Sept 1 Labour Day
Sept 3 **Singout** Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
Sept 5-7 **Retreat** Brackendale
Oct 13 Thanksgiving
Oct 24-25 District Convention Boise, ID
Oct 30-Nov 2 **Pan Pacific Convention** Hawaii
Nov 29 **50/50 Show** St Mary's, Vancouver
Dec 6 **Christmas Show** Michael J Fox

2009

Jan 16-17 QCED Show Seaside, OR
Jan 29-31 Midwinter, Pasadena, CA
Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**
Mar 27-28 **Division I Convention** Vernon, BC
April 10 Easter
May 12 BC Election Day
May 18 Victoria Day
June 28-July 5 International, Anaheim, CA
July 18-19 HCNW, Tacoma, WA
Sept 7 Labour Day
Sept 11-13 **Retreat** Brackendale
Oct 12 Thanksgiving
Oct 30-Nov 1 **District Convention** Whistler, BC
Dec **Christmas Show**