



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"

September 2008

2008 Retreat



The annual Retreat at the North Vancouver School Farm was on the weekend of Sept 5, 6, and 7. Warm sunny days with cool evenings made it just right for singing, learning and having fun. **Royce Ferguson**, Director of the **Westminster Chorus** and tenor of **Revival** (that's 2 golds) was our coach. In addition, **Paul Tamblyn** kept **Charlie** on the straight and narrow while **Donya** made notes. Here are comments from some of the guys:

Rod MacLeod: On the Friday before retreat 16 of us gathered at the Squamish Golf & Country Club for a round of Golf before going up to the camp. This year we had 2 newbie's join us, **Eric Morrison** & **Matt May**, & the first thing Eric said to his folks when he got back home was "that he beat Rod MacLeod". That's not exactly true, but if he thinks he did I won't spoil his glory. The day started out just great with the weather sunny & warm & not a cloud in the sky. We finished around 4pm & gave out the prizes, then proceeded to the Pub for a few libations & dinner where a bunch of the other guys joined us. Great time had by all.

Byron Walton: Well, as an old member coming back to the chorus I thought the week-end retreat was absolutely great. Coaching from **Royce** & **Charlie** was first class. It is such a great feeling to come back to the chorus and see the commitment & focus of the chorus members. The quality of singing, in my opinion, has improved very much since the last time I was here. I believe the only direction the GOF can go is UP, UP, UP!!! It's great to be back with old & new friends & singing with a quality group.

Ian McGillivray: On Saturday Moe, Rod, and I headed back to the cabins for light refreshment before supper. Nearing one of the cabins, we saw **John Loucks** leaning on the rail looking a bit awkward. As we came closer, John called out "**Hey, guys, can you give me a hand - I've got a bit of a problem**". Sure enough, John had slipped in the shower, dislocated his hip, and had crawled in no little pain to the cabin front porch. While he claimed he could "probably drive OK" if we got him in the car, we ignored that suggestion and carefully, oh so carefully, levered him into the back seat and drove him to Emergency in Squamish, with Jim following in John's car. Most of us would be writhing in pain, but tough old John was chatting and joking all the way. Fortunately, **Gloria** was home and came up to collect John when his hip was re-inserted properly. The down side for me, unfortunately, was that I had to drive John's 5-series BMW home on Sunday. Oh well, any tough assignment is worth it to help a fellow GOF member. When we arrived back in Surrey, John was up and about like nothing happened - his usual cheery and exuberant self.

John Loucks: T'was happy & sad for me. It was an unbelievable experience of learning with **Royce Ferguson** that had me right on the edge of crying while trying to get my head around all the new sound. Joy. The sad part was that I missed part of the Saturday afternoon lessons. As everybody knows I got myself stuck in the doorway of the bunk house - need I explain? At any rate my thanks go out to **Jim** & **Rod** & **Ian** who rescued me. Luv ya all.



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Charlie: The Retreat was a most successful one, clarifying, as it did, a more consistent, resonant, artistic way of singing. I want to thank you for suspending any disbelief, and also for being enterprising and forthright in exploring the possibilities for your own voices. My own challenges were also considerable and I made considerable progress with smoothing my brow, smoothing my gestures, and showing my appreciation of your singing facially.



Royce & Charlie

The Sunday warm up was quite extensive and literally “sung us into tune”. It also served as a series of exercises that isolate each principle of the sound we are creating:



Brow-smoothing hat? the stance, the breathing, the use of air to begin phonation, the opening of the “cathedral”, the brilliance of the “ng” frequencies on top of that, the sense of connection in the small mouth, the sense of every vowel being included in the “uh” sensation of the cathedral, the sense of hearing everyone by contributing equally to the sound, the sense of locking in to the tuning given to us by the other voices and our sense of the key. It still feels somewhat unfamiliar, and because we tend to return to the familiar, we must accept the unfamiliarity of it until the new sound becomes our new familiar. Rather like a magician adopting a new black cat that has different habits from the one which used up all nine lives!

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Charlie & Paul Tamblin



(left)
Royce shows Lawrence how the proper sounds are formed.

(right) What red shirt Ian?



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Harmony Hollow

By Sean Huston & Tucker Goodwin



On the Labour Day weekend, Harmony Hollow, Division One's banner event, was held at **Camp Squamish** for the first time. After 25 years at Camp Kwomais, in White Rock, we had to vacate as the Camp was sold to Surrey Municipality to be kept as parkland. **Jim Bates**, our Camp Commandant, and wife **Sue**, set out to find replacement facilities and - Voila! - the new camp is perfect!

The camp ground was fantastic - with amenities, common rooms, a great covered fire pit (used also as a good covered venue for the quartet contest), bbq's, trampolines, a great walk along the river for wildlife viewing. The facility is wheel chair accessible with ramps everywhere! There is plenty of room for camping and RV's, dorm rooms, and a heated swimming pool for



Jim Bates

"The Lion Hunt" and the new HH event - the 'True Love' dance competition. Have an idea for a fun event? Run with it! Oh yes, there was also lots of singing of course.

Next year's event promises to be the best ever. With the new facility and space we have the opportunity to organize and build on the traditions of the past 30 years.

Thanks to **Jim** and **Sue Bates** for their tireless work to find this amazing venue for us.

kids (both young and old).The single best feature had to be the night sky. It was beautiful!

This Labour Day weekend we saw, Bocce, Volley Ball, Football, Frizbee, Bear Chasing, Horseshoes, Trampoline Acrobatics, a Meat Festival, Scooter Racing, The Booth Family Smores Party, Nick Tinney's new version of

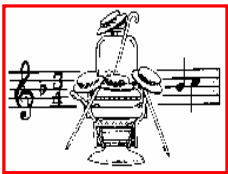


Gord & Rod, 2nd in horseshoes

September 2008

Down Memory Lane

By Ross Hood



40 years ago this month (1968)

Way back in '68 I wrote an editorial berating the chapter executive for the fact that the chorus had decided to sing "Let's keep Canada Singing" instead of "Keep America Singing". I expounded on the fact that America shouldn't be taken as meaning the USA but North America. I received letters from throughout the Society agreeing with me. I even got a personal letter from Society President at the time, Barrie Best. He suggested that he hoped that some day South America could also be included. He and I couldn't have foreseen what has happened to the Society since then - we now sing "**Keep the Whole World Singing**".

30 years ago (1978)

We ran our regular car rally, this time crossing the border on route, and going under the freeway in a tunnel not too many knew about. It was always a lot of fun for

the few that entered. **Barry Shields** took over as our new Assistant Director. The **Okanagan Chapters** put together their own "Harmony Camp Out" at Sandy Point near Sicamous. A few of our guys attended.

20 years ago (1988)

Wally Coe's first performance as director was at the hundredth anniversary of Stanley Park where we performed on a sunny day for a huge crowd. We had a chapter visitation by "**The DYNAMO**" consisting of **Mel Knight** and **Jim DeBussman** two of the best from the Society at the time. Here's a few songs from our repertoire back then. Do you remember - *Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah, Forgive Me, Dear Old Girl, When The Midnight Choo-Choo Leaves for Alabam, Come Josephine in My Flying Machine, Aint' She Sweet?* Some of those songs still hang around at Harmony Hollow and at the Big Wheel.

Happenings & Reminders

September 3 Singout

On Wednesday September 3rd the chorus battled the rush hour to downtown Vancouver and the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver for a 4.30pm singout. They came by carpool, bus, seabus and skytrain and about 25 guys made it in time. We sang to delegates from the **Canadian Coalition for Senior's Mental Health** who came from a day of seminars to have dessert and relax. **Charlie** coped very well with us being at one side (and end) of a long room with no risers, but **Antique Gold** didn't sing as **George Metzger** was away and his sub, **Jeremy Wong**, was stuck in traffic, so the chorus sang more songs. The crowd were very appreciative, especially when the "Man from Oz", **Dave Ellis**, appeared in time for the last two songs. The dessert buffet was opened to us afterwards and **Jeremy** and **Nick Tinney** arrived just in time to eat.

Member Dues Notice

I was notified that GOF members with membership **renewal dates from 9/30/2008 to 11/15/2008** will be receiving their billings in **CDN dollars**. From now on, we will need your invoices for forwarding on to Nashville for them to expedite their processing. **Don Rush**, Secretary/Treasurer

2009 Conventions

Once the Pan Pacific Convention next month in Hawaii and the Christmas Shows are done, we have next year's Conventions and Contests to look forward to: **March 27/28** Division I in **Vernon** will be hosted by the **Timbretones** at the Vernon & District Performing Arts Centre – a beautiful 750 seat modern theatre. This is the first time in 15 years Div I has been outside of the Lower Mainland.

October 30/31 District Fall Convention in **Whistler** will be hosted by the **GoF** at the Telus Whistler Conference Centre – a great 1500 seat auditorium. After the Retreat the Convention Committee drove up to Whistler to tour the venue and HQ Hotel (Delta Whistler Village Suites) and plan for next year. Committee members are: **Harry Gray, Moe Jones, Ray & Dorothy Fallan, Ian & Rita McGillivray, Rich Clark, Allan Pinvidic, Gord Ross & Don Rush.**

EVERYDAY LAWS

Oliver’s Law of Public Speaking:
A closed mouth gathers no feet.

Comment #41 by Bill Gibbons
“Always try to look your best on stage. It’s easier to fool their eyes than their ears.”

Deadline for the next issue is October 21, 2008

CALENDAR

2008

- 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**

2010

- Feb 12-28 Winter Olympics
- Feb 14 **Valentine’s Day**
- Mar 12-21 Winter Paralympics
- April 2 Easter
- June 27-July 4 International, Philadelphia, PA
- Oct 15-17 **District Convention** Portland, OR
- Oct 19-23 SAI International, Seattle WA

Seen at the Retreat



GoF Fireside Band & Chorus



Baritones & Leads (sorry about the leg Tate)



Tenors



West Coast Fusion



Basses

Photos by: Carl Gung, Sean Huston & Barb Bourbonnais