

## HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Fall 2014

report of the VP - Music and Performance

### COACHING SCHOOLS

Throughout November and December 2013 President Towner and I tried very hard to find dates that would work for running our traditional TOP GUN and Sr TOP GUN schools. Coaches and venues were lined up but it proved to be impossible to find viable dates.

Thus we did not have Top Guns schools per se. Instead, the District used some of the funds that were budgeted for these events and offered it to the quartets to pay for their coaching.

### EASTERN DIVISION - SCHOOL

This was a combination CDWI - by Pat Hannon, VP- CDD, and school/coaching day. Held in Cornwall on June 21, 2014, for only \$15 the people attending got coaching and or classes, coffee breaks, and a light lunch. Classes included: Basic Directing, Find Your Great Voice, Presentation [aka Acting] 101, Performance Analysis, Digital Media and Barbershopping.

The school attracted about 80 people (BHS, SAI, HI, and educators) from the Eastern region, including Senecaland. By all accounts the day was a huge success. Everyone had fun and learned some new things about our great sport. Many thanks to Eastern Division Coordinator Dan Sutherland and James Essex-Macintyre for all their work as local chairmen. A financial report is attached.

### HARBOURFRONT TORONTO - SUMMER 2014 BUSKING

The organization, HARBOURFRONT, that manages Toronto's waterfront has a summer program whereby performers can apply, by audition, for a busking slot. The spaces and times are closely regulated and each performer is expected to do up to 10 slots over the summer.

Gerry Beckerle, (East York) did a massive amount of discussion and persuading with the Harbourfront organization and with ONT. We put a video of our top quartets together and submitted it to Harbourfront via Gerry.

The net result was that The Ontario District:

- gained the respect and confidence of the Harbourfront people
- avoided the necessity of individual quartets having to go to downtown Toronto for separate auditions,
- we got a busking slot for an Ontario barbershop quartet.

This is a huge achievement. Thanks to Gerry Beckerle for his diligent work.

Our District vision was to get a barbershop quartet slot that we would fill with quartets invited/selected by the C & J team. Harbourfront wanted only one quartet who had to go through a security photo ID badge system. In the end, Supertonics was able to occupy the quartet slot. A report will be coming.

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Busking slots are separate from the Festival-like events that are also held at Harbourfront. Thus an additional Harbourfront treat last summer was that Young Guns had a very successful gig as part of Classical VI: voice and strings.

#### ONTARIO QUARTETTING EVENT 2014 - aka extreme quartetting

Sat. Aug. 9 was the Ontario Quartet Event. Again this year it was a huge success. The 20 quartets enjoyed the experience of wonderful chorus singing, great food, and fine coaching. A summary report is attached.

Many thanks to Ray Danley and his team for organizing the songs, the quartets, the coaches, and the day. Huge thanks to Hayley Sziklasi and Cathy Gillespie for all their work on the registration and details of feeding and watering over 100 people for lunch and for dinner. The District is also deeply grateful to Harmony Ranch and all the Ranchers for allowing us to 'invade' their bit of paradise for the day.

A tentative date of Saturday August 8 has been set for OQE 2015. Make your plans now.

#### LARRY DALE COACHING AWARD

The 2014 Larry Dale Coaching Award Winner is Steve Armstrong. Many thanks to the selection committee, past winners of the award, for their work in making the selection.

#### ONTARIO SENIORS QUARTET TOP GUN SCHOOL

The International Senior Quartet contest is quite early this year. Thus both the identification of our Sr Quartet representative(s) and providing them with a high-level coaching experience, has to be squeezed into an already busy Christmas season. We have started the process of communicating with quartets and coaches to find a date that might work for everyone. Our top 4 quartets from the Fall 2014 Seniors Contest, will be invited to participate.

#### POTENTIAL SCHOOL NEXT YEAR

Very preliminary discussions about possible school(s) for next year have begun.

#### MUSIC MENTOR/COACHING PROGRAM

Over the past decade the Society and the District have tried out several different programs that have the goal of offering assistance to the music programs in chapters. None of these lasted. However, there seems to be a general agreement that there should be some district mechanism to provide chapters with music program assistance.

Thus over the next year we will assemble a committee and try to create a defined and effective program. Expect to see some invitations to offer ideas, tear up ideas, etc.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Fisher  
VP - Music and Performance, ONT District

<b>Ontario District of the Barbershop Harmony Society</b>											
<b>Financial Report</b>											
<b>CDWI and Eastern School</b>					<b>June 20 - 21, 2014</b>						
<b>Revenues</b>											
Registrations, including US \$59.00											
									\$ 948.13		
<b>Expenses</b>											
Conference calls										\$ 191.28	
Venue rental										350.00	
Food and refreshments										196.10	
Hand-outs and miscellaneous supplies										174.41	
Faculty costs											
Vehicle rental, including gasoline										\$ 176.59	
Mileage										1,798.36	
Lodging										745.14	
Meals										264.17	2,984.26
Total expenses											3,896.05
<b>Net subsidy of CDWI and Eastern School</b>										\$ 2,947.92	
<b>On September Treasurers' Report as</b>											
School subsidy										\$ 1,898.32	
CDWI subsidy										1,049.60	
										\$ 2,947.92	

Executive Summary of  
Report  
To  
The Ontario District Board  
Ted Devonshire, VP Events

**The Ontario Quartet Event 2014**  
**Saturday, August 9, 2014**  
**Harmony Ranch**



original submitted by

**Ray Danley**  
Event Coordinator  
September, 2014

## Background

The Ontario Quartet Event 2014 was an activity designed as a quartet experience for Ontario's "Joe Barbershopper". It was intentional that the event was significantly different from other quartet events across the Society using the words "*Extreme*" and "*Harmony Brigade*" for 2 important, fundamental reasons. First, the Ontario Quartet Event was designed for "Joe Barbershopper" with average singing skills who would like to try a quartet experience. The Brigades are designed for skilled, experienced quartet singers who want to sing with other A+ experienced quartet singers. Second, the level of difficulty of the 8 songs for OQE 2014 was intentionally chosen from easy to easy/medium arrangements that were within the vocal capability of average singers.

### Goals of OQE 2014

- to encourage average singers in Ontario District to try a quartet experience where they have to sing their own part independently with 3 other voices.
- to strengthen skills of learning new music independently from learning tracks
- to experience the challenge of singing with 5 different combination of voices throughout the day
- to experience the challenge of quartet competition
- to grow in vocal skills and bring a better voice to the chorus
- to become part of a chapter quartet
- to enrich the social dimension of singing Barbershop harmony in Ontario by mixing singers with singers from other chapters.

## Event Description for marketing

### ONTARIO QUARTET EVENT 2014

Following a most successful experience from last August, the Ontario District is proud to announce another full day of quartetting. This event is for "wannabe"s to experienced competitive singers.

Here's a chance to learn some great songs and sing your own part - all by yourself - with 3 others. You might even find the voices for your next quartet. If you're already in a quartet, this is a perfect opportunity to add 8 new arrangements to your repertoire.

### MUSIC

The music for OQE 2014 consists of 8 great singable arrangements that include: "*Basin Street Blues*", "*Bye, Bye, Love*", "*I'm Feelin' Fine*", "*Mam'selle*", "*My Cup runneth Over with Love*", "*That's Life*", "*Toyland*", and "*What'll I Do*"

**WHEN** - Saturday, August 9, 2014

**WHERE** - ! *Harmony Ranch*, Baldwin, Ontario.

Harmony Ranch is located 80 km north of Toronto on Hwy 48 just south of Sutton.

## HOW MANY

The event works best if we have an even number of voices in each of tenor, lead, baritone, and bass. Twenty singers in each voice part, for a total of 80, would be ideal.

## REGISTRATION

The registration fee of **\$90.00** includes these items:

- a music package of 8 great singable arrangements
- a CD with voice-predominant learning tracks
- a registration package on the day of the event
- a special OQE shirt with logo for 1st time registrants. Those who got a new black shirt last year are asked to wear it again. New OQE shirts can be purchased for \$25.00.
- lunch and dinner

## COACHES

A most successful component of the day was the positive help and support given the quartets by the cadre of coaches. Around the perimeter of the common area of Harmony Ranch there were 17 singing stations. At each singing station the quartet worked with a coach who was an experienced quartet singer who had been given a package of the music. The coaching staff mainly provided support and encouragement plus a little help with the music and the singing.

## A Successful 2014

Here is an unsolicited response from one of the participants of the event:

*"Thank you and your whole team of special people for putting on such an amazing "Quartet Event". We, the participants, and the District are much better for it. I believe that these are the type of events that will make the hobby attract more members because we will become better singers and they will want to do what we are doing. "BRAVO"  
Paul Wagg !*

The participants were most enthusiastic in their words of support and appreciation of the opportunity to try quartetting. Not everyone was able to be an independent singer all the times and sing every note correctly in tune. This was not because of a lack of many hours of preparation but because they do not yet have the vocal skills to be intune singers all the time. Yet one thing is absolutely true - every participant came away a better singer. The event provided an opportunity for enriching the experience of singing Barbershop harmony with 3 other voices.

The success of the event was affected dramatically by the organizing team of helpers from Harmony Ranch. This team included **Ed Russell** as the liaison HR member, **Hayley Sziklasi**, our Registrar, and **Cathy Gillespie**. The team recruited a large number of volunteers from members of Harmony Ranch who provided the help behind the scenes to make the whole event a very smooth fun-filled experience.



## ONTARIO QUARTET EVENT 2014

### PROGRAM

- 8:00 am Registration in the barn
- 9:00 Opening Session "The Old Songs"  
Introduction of OQE organizing team  
Introduction of coaches  
OQE Chorus rehearsal
- 10:00 am First quartet session
- 11:00 am Second quartet session
- 12:00 noon LUNCH
- 1:00 pm Third quartet session
- 2:00 pm Fourth quartet session
- 3:00 pm Fifth quartet session
- 4:00 pm OQE Chorus rehearsal
- 5:00 pm DINNER
- 5:45 pm Draw for competition quartets and song  
Quartet rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Quartet contest  
MC - Barry Stringer  
Judges - P.A.G.E. 4  
Announcement of quartet results
- 8:15 pm Show
- 8:45 "Keep the Whole World Singing"

# Financial Summary of OQE 2014 prepared by Bruce Herdman

Ontario District Quartet Event									
Registrations	77	Members @	\$90						\$ 6,930.00
Guests' meals and sale of sweaters									682.00
Sale of music									150.00
<b>Total revenues</b>									<b>7,762.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>									
<u>Venue costs</u>									
Harmony Ranch rent		Paid to Ranch		\$		\$	250.00		
<u>Music costs</u>									
Sheet music evaluation copies									
Sheet music		(\$1,498.23 US)		\$	1,731.69				
Learning tracks		(\$640.00 US)			704.00				
Blank CDs, envelopes and labels					130.16				
Music books binding					169.78				
Audio equipment rental							2,735.63		
43 sweaters		\$23.15 each			999.75				
		HST			129.97		1,129.72		
<u>Catering</u>									
Dell House Caterers									
106 Adult lunches		\$8.00			848.00				
121 Adult dinners		\$14.00			1,694.00				
		15% gratuity on dinner			381.30				
					2,923.30				
		HST			380.03		3,303.33		
<u>Miscellaneous costs</u>									
Pop, water, ice and other							217.79		
<b>Total expenses</b>									<b>7,636.47</b>
<b>Net 'profit' of Ontario Quartet Event</b>									<b>\$ 125.53</b>

The financial plan for OQE 2014 was to have the event be cost neutral. Two major decisions helped produce that result. The first decision was to increase the registration fee by \$10.00 from \$80.00 to \$90.00. The second decision was to ask the previous participants in OQE 2013 to wear the same shirt with the OQE logo that they had received at the previous event.