



## Peninsula Division Report



Below are the reports submitted for the Peninsula Division. Oakville never seems to have a report. I will work on trying to get at least one a year to start.

### Simcoe

The following summarizes our chapter's activities (excludes weekly meetings and chapter quartet activities) over the period May 1 to Aug 31:

- May - 4 sing-outs
- June – 1 sing-out
- Pep Rally – attended and performed 2 songs
- July – 3 sing-outs
- August – 1 sing-out (at wedding of chapter member Brian Voke)
- Ontario Quartet Event at Harmony Ranch – 21 chapter members participated - Simcoe Chapter members, led by Ray Danley, were prime organizers for this OQE event
- Hosted in Simcoe a 3-chapter visit with Guelph and K-W Chapters.

Looking ahead:

- Simcoe Chapter is hosting the next **Little Wheels** event for Peninsula Division, and a date will be released later this month.
- Our Harmony Showcase (featuring **Ringmasters**) will take place on November 8<sup>th</sup> in Simcoe, and ticket sales have been very good – we expect to sell 1500 tickets between matinee and evening
- About 25 of our members will be attending the MidWinter Convention in New Orleans (Jan-15)
- Gentlemen of Harmony will be performing daily in the **Harmony at Sea Caribbean Cruise** sailing out of New Orleans Jan 10-17, following the MidWinter, with the Musical Island Boys and Tim Waurick

### Oakville

- After taking 6 weeks off for the summer we got started back after labour day.
- We have 3 goals in mind for the coming year first, increase our numbers, second improve our vocal production, and third enter the spring contest.
- We will be putting in place a number of events for objective 1, and we have already placed an ad in the Oakville Beaver, and planning a guest night.
- We are fortunate to have Ken Beard in our membership and he has been leading weekly vocal technique sessions at the start of rehearsals and providing assistance to our director relative to technique and interpretation.



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- We are also encouraging more quartet and octet singing to help members increase their confidence. Third, we are in the process of selecting our two songs for competition.

### Grimsby

- Grimsby held two bbq's over the summer to spread good cheer and maintain the camaraderie of our chorus.
- We have begun preparations for our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas benefit concert held the first Tuesday of December at the same location as last year.
- Our focus over the next year will be that of putting the absolute best music out in the public to entice and recruit new members.
- One of our long time members passed away during the summer. We sang at the memorial for George Martini.
- Grimsby was represented at the annual St.Catharine's corn roast.
- Our second annual garage sale at Calder School was a success this past Saturday.

### St. Catharine's

- No report as of this writing

### Niagara Falls

- ACNIAGARA has just completed its first year at the Welland Community Wellness Centre in Welland. The move was good as the venue was much better with a full stage and concert area in which to practice. There was a time change which caused some adjustment but for the better in some respects. Full practice is from 7:00 to 9:00 PM which means we really need to focus and use the time well. Then it is off to home or Trappers to continue singing with some libation. We have added a Polecat Programme at 6:30 which I personally am excited about. I sang my first Polecat with some degree of competency which bolstered my confidence. I saw this with other newish members as well.
- Our summer break in July was interrupted by our participation in the Fonthill Summerfest on July 19. Most members were able to perform. Vintage Blend spent the morning and JAQ the afternoon busking.
- In August we returned to practice as well as helping the St. Catharines Saints put on their annual Corn Roast. This event is well attended and ACN is interested in taking a larger role in keeping the roast going in the future.
- In November we are having two concerts. Yonge Guns, along with Vintage Blend, JAQ and other quartets TBA will perform as well. We are planning a Saturday work shop with Yonge Guns



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taking the lead in introducing A Cappella singing to area high schools. We hope this can be accomplished.

- Performances are in Welland at the WCWC on Friday, November 28, and in Fonthill at the Fonthill United Church on Saturday, November 29, 2014.
- The concerts are preceded by our participation in the Welland Santa Clause Parade on Friday, November 22, 2014.
- We close out the year with our annual performance at the evening Carol Sing in Niagara on the Lake on Friday, December 5, 2014. There will likely be performances at various senior citizen homes as is our custom.
- Our practices will be returning in January to prepare in earnest for the spring convention.

### Hamilton

- Hamilton had a relatively quiet summer as we took a little down time after representing the great Ontario District at International this July.
- We did not however take a month off this summer as we wanted to stay in performance mode for competition in October.
- We are very excited to announce that we have completed our search for an assistant director and are thrilled to advise that Mike Neff joined us last wednesday and was able to fit it to our chorus very quickly.
- We will be singing this November at Kroemer Hall in the Royal Conservatory of Music in downtown Toronto. We will be part of a program to help raise money to fight cancer.
- November 29th is the date of our annual Christmas Show "A Gift of Song" to be held at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre. This year our guests are A Cappella Showcase and we are presenting 2 shows, a matinee at 2:00pm and an evening performance at 7:00pm.
- We are pleased to announce that we now have 92 men on our roster, 12 of whom are "youth" members of the society.
- On September 19th we had a chorus BBQ to celebrate our 10th year of membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Scott Durward

DC – Peninsula Division