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choirs all my life. We learned to sing. We learned to share our music with others without expecting anything in return, other than knowing we brought some joy. Mind you, caroling at Christmas likely brought us more joy than it did to those who heard us.

The music programs are being done away with in many schools. A lot of children no longer attend Sunday School. So, who is it that is supposed to "Teach The Children To Sing" if we don't do it?

That is why it is so important for Barbershoppers to support the new charitable mission of the Society and support the Harmony Foundation. If you do, who knows, you too might enjoy someone taking the time on a cold winter's night to sing carols at your door in the middle of the night?

Of course, with the soundproof windows that have now been installed, a sound sleeper may never even know, so maybe it shouldn't be in the middle of the night anymore.

**Donna and I wish each of you a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year** ❁



Submitted photo

At the opening of the *London Speech and Language Centre*, the above quartet sang. (L-R) **Peter Hughes** (T), **George Shields** (L), **Darcy Smith** (Bs) and **Alec Burns** (Br). That's either the new centre behind them, or this gives a whole new meaning to the term "woodshedding!" ❁

New speech centre opened

By Alec Burns, London Chapter VP communications

The London Speech and Language Centre opened their new facilities on June 26, 2001. Under the capable leadership of **Kerry Erle**, the *Speech Language Centre* has expanded due to great demand for their services. The expansion was long overdue.

The centre is one of Ontario's largest private speech-language clinics. Their new facility has now tripled in size.

There is demand for such a large centre since the education system can't adequately service all children with special needs.



COTS Plus 2002 Geneva Park, Orillia January 11-13, 2002

By John Santora, COTS Coordinator, Ontario District

Now that chapter elections have been held for 2002 all incoming officers and directors should be thinking of attending COTS. Mark the dates in your calendar, work on your chapter treasurer to set aside the funds and pack your bags. There is no better way to kick-start your year in office than to get the latest information from the Society, district and perhaps most importantly, your peers in other chapters.

This year, in addition to the Society's classes for incoming presidents, treasurers, secretaries, chorus directors, music and performance, member services, program, marketing and public relations, and Young Men In Harmony chairmen, the district is also offering courses for quartet activities chairmen (taught by **Peter Dennett**) and leadership in volunteer organizations (**Digger MacDougall**), along with the ever-popular Joe Barbershopper track with **Rick Snoultten**, ably assisted (hopefully) by the new district quartet champion. And there will be plenty of opportunities to woodshed in the AHSOW room and audition for membership in that august organization.

This year's sessions start off Friday evening with dinner and a keynote address by **Gary Plaag**, chairman of the Society's Membership Committee and our faculty member for the Young Men In Harmony track.

On Saturday morning, there is a brief *House of Delegates* meeting, followed by THE HAPPENING. If you don't know what THE HAPPENING is, ask your chapter delegate. You won't want to miss it. Classes start right after lunch on Saturday, and continue through lunch on Sunday. The traditional Saturday night show featuring quartets and other entertainment is being planned.

Information kits and registration forms were given to the chapters at the House of Delegates meeting at the fall convention in Brantford on Sunday morning, October 28.

If you have any questions about COTS, Geneva Park, or any of the courses, please contact **John Santora**. ❁

Also, there is more awareness of the importance of speech and language pathology, so more people access private services. The centre has 30 staff members, including six full-time staff who work with more than 100 people.

Kerry and her staff are very generous with their praise of the Ontario Barbershoppers and sincerely grateful for the contributions from the *Harmonize For Speech* fund.

George Shields was in attendance at the grand opening of the speech centre and brought best wishes from the Harmonize For Speech fund and the Barbershoppers of Ontario. ❁