

A wonderful opportunity

By Peggy Silver, Sir Oliver Mowat, Toronto

Due to the vision of the Ontario District VP, YMIH, five educators in Ontario were given the privilege of attending *Harmony College North* this year. This proved to be an enlightening and very worthwhile opportunity.

The men who attended were welcoming and made all of us feel special. In addition, it was a terrific chance to brainstorm with the sponsored educators and others attending on their own. . . .

This was a wonderful opportunity to learn new techniques, warm-ups, rehearsal tips and generally just to get oneself rejuvenated about making music come alive for others and for myself.

I sincerely thank the *Ontario District* for having the vision to bring educators to *Harmony College North*. What a great weekend and what a great idea! ❁



Photo by Waldo Redekop
Nightlife performing on the Saturday evening show at *Harmony College North*.

(L-R) Jeff Baker, Baritone; Brett Littlefield, Bass; John Sasine, Lead and Rob Menaker, Tenor. ❁

What an endorsement!

By John Kirby, V.P., Y.M.I.H. Ontario District

What kind of endorsement and promotion of our art form can be gained by financially promoting the participation of professional educators at our *Harmony Colleges*. The effects are immeasurable.

We must continue to open our doors to all members of the vast musical community. We have a process and a product that we all can be proud of, and a genuine concern for the promotion of music everywhere. If we want to "Keep the Whole World Singing," let's continue to be more inclusive at every opportunity. ❁



An Adventure in "Harmony College Land"

or, How to rekindle your excitement about singing!

By Chitra Dath, Music Educator, Sarnia Ontario

My adventure began when John Kirby the *Young Men In Harmony (YMIH)* Youth co-ordinator for the Ontario District, extended a generous invitation from the Ontario District of SPEBSQSA to attend the *Harmony College North* workshop at the University of Guelph. I was unaware then that I would meet hundreds of wonderful people and learn a plethora of excellent vocal techniques — and sleep a mere six hours in two nights.

You would think that a group of mature and intelligent adults would know when to go to sleep, but at *Harmony College North* we were all too busy soaking up as much of the knowledge, creativity, and love of singing we could get in the brief 48 hours we had been given.

The moment that I arrived in the parking lot at 7 p.m. on Friday evening, I was whisked to my first master session. We dove into the classes with relish.

There were so many to choose from. I took classes in such things as coaching, performance, warm-ups and directing from people who were friendly, caring, and dedicated to the preservation of music.

I attended dynamic rehearsals where choral and vocal techniques were being put into action for me to see, hear, and discuss with the group. The emphasis in every class was on sharing, on learning, and on having fun — and we did have fun!

The fun never stopped at *Harmony College North*. Everywhere you went you heard quartets singing. Everywhere! In the stairwells, in the bathrooms, in the hallways, in the kitchenettes, in lecture halls, in front of buildings, in dorm rooms, in the elevators and even on the walkways. I fell asleep listening to beautiful music from across the hall and woke up to the sounds of someone singing softly in the next room. What a way to energize your soul.

My experience at *Harmony College North* was one that I will always cherish. The people there were the most caring, interesting, kind, knowledgeable and friendly people I have met in a long time. They truly embody the wonder and the joy of singing. ❁