

VP CHORUS DIRECTOR DEV. PAUL TAMBLYN



The Best for the Best

By Paul Tamblyn, VP CDD Ontario District

We often wonder if it is worth bringing in the outside expert to assist the Ontario District to improve education for our directors. The answer is an unqualified yes. On September 28, nine front line directors and four assistant directors received the best from the best.

The best was **Dr. Chris Petersen**, music professor at University of Wisconsin, Ph.D. in Music, baritone extraordinaire and a dedicated Barbershopper. Chris has a focused, creative, and gentle style of drawing the best out of directors. He also demonstrated in a variety of ways that a director could maintain pitch, create unity in sections, develop a rich resonant sound, keep all members involved, clarify target vowels and still maintain flow and expression in the song.

He modeled clear ways of helping the men with syncopation and ideas for having the men take ownership of being a unit, singing with commitment and learning away from rehearsal nights. Most of all he encouraged directors to use the basic skills when needed and have them at their disposal and then be free to be themselves and let their personality be expressed through the chorus.

Participating in the workshop were, **Keith Baldrey**, Guelph; **Bob Pyper**, Grimsby; **Jim McConnachie**, Owen Sound; **Gord Miller**, London; **Don Pyper**, St. Thomas; **Dave Fewtrell** and **Paul Tamblyn**, Kingston; **Bob Young**, Quinte Region, **Arlington Riviere**, Markham; **Derek Stevens**, Niagara;



Photo — Paul Tamblyn

The Best for the Best with **Dr. Chris Petersen**
Front row (L-R) **Clarke Edward, Keith Baldrey, Jim McConnachie, Chris Petersen, Dave Fewtrell, Derek Stevens**
Back row **Gord Miller, Bob Pyper, Ross Bangham, Don Pyper, Rob Arnold, Bob Young, Arlington Riviere.** 🏆

Ross Bangham, Stoney Creek; **Rob Arnold**, MegaCity and **Clarke Edward**, Newmarket.

We called this workshop the “*Best for The Best*” and it was the wonderful hospitality that was the best as well. Thank you goes out to **George and Gail Shields** who picked up Chris at the airport, and planned to host Chris in their home. That was until their daughter decided that she was ready to have a baby — and so **Rick and Gayle Snoulten** agreed to host Chris at their place. Now all this is after Rick had been in for surgery the week before.

What is with these guys from East York? They just keep modeling what barbershop is all about. The Ontario District thanks you, again. 🏆

Thanks, and congratulations

By Jeff Taylor, East York Chapter music director

In behalf of the *East York Barbershoppers* I want to thank and congratulate some folks in the wake of this past weekend’s convention.

Peterborough — terrific job hosting, way to go!

Northern Lights — again, brilliant! All the best in Montreal, you’ll have a huge cheering section (me included).

MegaCity — what an energetic performance. We’ll know by the end of next weekend if you’ll have a wild card slot in Montreal (or maybe mic-tester?). The score is close. In different acoustical environs, one suspects the score would have been just enough higher to have virtually guaranteed you a spot. Ah well. Here’s keeping our fingers crossed!

Ottawa — what rapid musical growth! You’re in the zone, don’t lose it. Good work, Denis!

Oakville — “Most Improved” — the most important award of all! Good job, all. Hint: Jordan is a keeper!

And one from me: **Paul Tamblyn** — what a terrific gentleman/teacher/leader you have been as our VP of Chorus Director Development. Through your efforts, Ontario’s participation in the Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive program is the highest in the Society.

Your masterful teaching at these events, at *Harmony College North*, and in many other contexts has bettered so many — me included. Many of us may not know that Dr. Paul Tamblyn holds a doctorate in Education and, before retiring from teaching, was one of the province’s most decorated teachers. As a Science and Outdoor Education teacher, Paul single-handedly created a thriving music theater program at his school.

He now moves on to chair our Society’s Chorus Director Development program. Couldn’t be a better choice for the job. Like President Ted said on Saturday, Paul, we’re all grateful and proud. . . .

Thanks to all who worked so hard on this convention. I always enjoy seeing so many good folks in one place and hearing some fabulous music too. 🏆