

FREE barbershop show!

From the Team of COTS, submitted by Don Pyper

We want you to attend the best show in town on the weekend of January 9–11, 2004. This greatest of traditions lives on in a brand new improved format.

We are talking about **COTS PLUS, 2004**. All Barbershoppers should experience the fellowship, great singing, and the best of information on how to get more out of your harmony hobby.

Below you will find testimonials and some of the top ten reasons why you should attend this very popular event of our district's barbershopping year.

Here are some comments and information from the excellent survey responses given last year.

a) Eighty percent of responses listed fellowship, instruction, singing, idea exchange, and food as some of the best parts of the weekend.

b) Seventy percent wanted the weekend program to start earlier and have an easier send-off Sunday.

c) Ninety percent of respondents said that their chapters would help support member's attendance.

d) Eighty-five percent supported the district continuing this as a three day event and improve time use.

e) A strong majority were very happy about the information received, the inspiration of donation at "*The Happening*," the big sings and the planning help for their chapter's future successes.

I could list more good comments about the weekend on the white crispy snow of Geneva Park. As many of you already know from reading the last *Trillium*, COTS PLUS 2004, on the weekend of January 9–11, 2004, will be the first of it's kind in the Ontario District. The planners are pretty excited about the new format.

Classes and program will start Friday night, through Saturday with a public show in the *Orillia Opera House* on Saturday night. A final class and special closing session with a fabulous brunch on Sunday morning will finish the weekend.

We will also have as our faculty the top instructors from the Society COTS Faculty Committee. They have chosen our



COTS to hold their special meeting. In addition to all of this the *Ontario District Top Gun Quartet Coaching School* will be on site with us all weekend. You could have a chance to sing with one (or all) of them.

This has the potential of going in the record books. You'll want to be there. It's much better than hearing about it from someone else.

What else can I say. Well, organize a special fund in your chapter to help as many members as possible to attend COTS. Encourage, especially the new members, to come and experience the big picture of Ontario barbershopping.

We are expecting to have at least 17 percent of each chapter in our district (use 20 percent for easy figuring).

We have answered almost every suggested comment in last year's survey in planning this new COTS, including keeping the cost in line, providing more for your money. You will receive further details shortly, as soon as we put the registration package together.

Your division co-ordinator will be delivering the packages in person to your chapter prior to the fall convention, where we'll have a table set up. Registration deadline is December 1, 2003. We want 250 singing registrations at this COTS.

Let me finish by saying that if we had a list of the top ten reasons why you should start planning to attend *COTS PLUS* now, the eighth, ninth, and tenth would be

#8: You will experience the joy of the best of barbershop in Ontario.

#9: You will enjoy the experience of fun, fellowship, food and participation in fine singing like you never have before.

#10: You will learn more, and share more, than you may have known possible.

Remember, start talking it up now, so you'll be ready when the time comes to sign up.

The members of the COTS Team are: **Don Pyper**, COTS co-ordinator, chairman - COTS Team; **Chuck Alexander**, district. Music and Performance V.P.; **Bev Grahlman**, district. secretary; **Wylie Forster**, district executive V.P.; and **Harry Sirna**, district. treasurer. ♣

Great opportunity

By Gordon Vair, Strathroy

June 1, 2003, and I just had my first exposure to *Harmony College North*. I took two workshops – *How to Sing Better* and *Barbershop Basics*.

The quality of the workshop leaders was first rate. They really knew their subject matter and were very helpful — great stuff!

The Saturday evening show in itself was worth the trip. What a wonderful evening of excellent quartet presentations with the *Northern Lights Chorus* concluding the program. You can't get better than that!

This is a tremendous opportunity for our local chapters to send their men on a weekend that will develop their skills under highly qualified instructors. In addition, this will give your chapter a shot in the arm by your men coming back inspired and ready to share their knowledge and enthusiasm. You might consider having an education fund to assist your men in going to such a worthwhile event.

A big thank you to all those who worked so hard to provide a quality weekend.

It's Great To Be A Barbershopper! ♣