

Nostalgia ain't what it used to be

By John Ford

We beg to differ. Over 130 *Dukes of Harmony* gathered at *Harmony Ranch* on Saturday, October 4, 2003 for their first rehearsal of "The Dukes' Nostalgia Package." It will be performed at the district fall convention in October, 2004, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the *Scarborough Chapter*. Close to 200 are expected to be on stage then.

Ron Whiteside got things started three months before with a strong e-mail and telephone campaign which brought both active and inactive Dukes together for a day that they'll never forget.

Barry "Spanky" Stringer and **Eddy Russell** contributed more than just moral support with a lot of the planning.

Ray Danley put together a package that included most of the great songs that carried the Dukes to two gold, two silver and a handful of top-five medals. These included "Keep Your Sunny Side Up," "Gee, But I'm Lonesome," "Goodbye, My Lady Love," "Danny Boy," "Strike Up The Band," "Who'll Dry Your Tears," "Dem Bones" and "Why Should I Cry Over You." Sheet music, tapes and CDs were distributed.

It was an effort to keep your emotions under control, especially when Ray directed "Who'll Dry Your Tears" for the first time in almost 20 years.

And, if that didn't turn on the moist memories, "Why Should I Cry Over You" got us into full emotional overdrive.

The weather was far from co-operative, but most Dukes would give anything to again work with Ray and Ron. It would have been impossible without the efforts of **Ted Ott** and **Rodger McTaggart** and their crew who rigged construction tarps all around the picnic pavillion. They left an opening in the east end for the barbecue and bar. Thank heaven for that.

If you missed this great day, contact **Ron Whiteside** at or telephone 416-494-6094 and find out when the next rehearsal is.

Some of us may have forgotten, but to be a Duke is to be part of a brotherhood. You can't resign, but you can go home. ♣



Photo—John Ford

Ray Danley leads the *Dukes* through his "Nostalgia Package." ♣



Photo—Waldo Redekop

Gina Carl selling *Onta/Fame* tickets and showing the beautiful prints donated by **Greg Backwell**. ♣

Onta/Fame draw

By Roger Carl, VP Marketing & PR

Iwould like to thank all chapters who participated in the advance mailing of *Onta/Fame* draw tickets. This was certainly a boost to ticket sales. Due to the generosity of **Greg Backwell**, who donated the prizes of two of his prints, we exceeded all previous ticket sales.

The winners were **Mr. Stewart** from the *Samia Chapter*, and the **St. Catharines Chapter** who entered their tickets under the chapter name.

I would like your response as to whether you feel that the advance mailing of draw tickets is still viable, since some chapters did not return tickets, therefore we were unable to keep a record of advance sales.

With travel costs increasing, it is important for us to meet the needs of the chorus and quartets traveling to International. Any donations for future conventions would be much appreciated. Thanks again!

Spring Convention - Niagara Falls - April 16-18 2004

A new location for our Spring Convention, historic Niagara Falls. Don't delay in sending your registration and obtaining choice seating for the contest. Location for the contests will be the Kingston College, 4700 Epworth Circle, Niagara Falls. A short walk from the hotels.

Hotels

Listed below are the hotels, previously shown in your convention package.

Sheraton on the Falls (HQ): Traditional \$139, Falls View \$189.

Brock Plaza Hotel: Traditional \$119.00, Falls View \$169.

Skyline: Traditional \$99.

The above rates are for single, double, and quad. Two nights stay is required to receive the rates. Saturday only there will be an extra charge of \$35 plus \$5 per day parking.

For reservations call 1-800-519-9911 code word "Barbershopper". Book early as this is a tourist town. Please support the listed convention hotels.

The convention committee has covered many areas for a new convention site. We now have set locations for 2004 and 2005. These will include Niagara Falls and Brantford.

Newsletters will keep you informed of activities for the spring convention. ♣