

Show me the money!

By David Austin, finance V. P.



I am pleased to report that the district concluded 2003 in a surplus cash position. This is a positive turnaround from 2002, where we ended the year at a deficit. This means that we generated a positive cash flow in 2003.

A main part of the reason for this surplus traces to recovery of GST that we paid. Our plan for 2004 is to generate a positive cash flow. You can contact me for a copy of a more detailed summary for your review.

Our two biggest events in the year, the spring and fall conventions, also represent our biggest risk with respect to district finances. This past year, our spring convention lost money and our fall convention made money a little money. It is clear to me, as it should be to all of our members, that enthusiastic attendance at our conventions is the best way to keep our district on a healthy financial footing.

Keep that in mind when you are considering whether to attend the conventions. Our convention teams work unbelievably hard, without compensation, to make them exciting events for competitors, judges and the audience. This spring convention in Niagara promises to be one of the best yet!

Our objective is to make our events at least break even but that is not always achievable despite best efforts to do so.

We have an exciting year ahead of us and I will try to keep you posted on how the district finances are doing. ❀

[ED: Taken from The Barrie Chapter's "Off The Risers," Ted McAlpine editor.]

Bulletins — Thumbs up!

By Roy Keys, Barrie Chapter

Had I been paid for every article that I've written lately about the importance of chapter bulletins, I'd have enough cash to take advantage of a steak dinner for two at The Keg, including a bottle of Cabernet.

Next to music, the bulletin is the information highway for the chapter. Maybe I feel so strongly about this because I used to work for a trade paper catering to Canada's largest industry at that time. Every executive office that I visited had a copy of our magazine prominently displayed.

We need to be informed about what is going on during the year even if we are forced to miss a few meetings. The bulletin is the

way to do that important job. Of course, it is only as good as we, the members, make it.

The editor has his editorial slot, but the bulk of the bulletin belongs to you and me. Lets use it! ❀



[ED: Used with permission from Acton's "The New Tanner," Hartley Coles, editor.]

Area Code 519 hits right notes at new Extendicare

By Ted Tyler, The New Tanner

Call it a holiday high note for **Dorothy Clark**. With Christmas approaching, Clark's relatives were hard-pressed to find her the perfect gift. But when *Area Code 519* quartet arrived at Extendicare in Georgetown on Saturday [December 20, 2003] for a lyrical lunch, it seemed they hit just the right chord.

Clark's family members in Ottawa came up with the idea after running across a company called Florasong.com on the Internet. The company, in turn, arranged to have the popular local quartet show up and surprise her.

Until recently, Clark resided at Riverside Glen in Guelph, but moved to Extendicare to be closer to her family. She was one of the first to move into the New Lindsay Court facility when it opened earlier this year [2003].

[ED: When **Bill Powers** arrived with the *Area Code 519* quartet to sing to Dorothy Clark, he was pleasantly surprised when he recognized that the person he was about to sing to was the same woman who had, for many years, eaten her meals with his mother at the Riverside Glen retirement home.

Just as I was going to press, I was informed of Dorothy's passing at the end of February and how happy her children were that they had been able to contact Florasong and arrange the delivery of the flowers by the quartet before it was too late.] ❀



Photo — Ted Tyler

Members of *Area Code 519* serenade a delighted **Dorothy Clark** on December 20, 2003.

In holiday harmony are (L-R) **Bill Powers**, tenor;

Don Cherry, bass; **Dorothy Clark**,

Bob Shaw, lead and **Don Lindsay**, bari.

This thoughtful gift was arranged through

www.Florasong.com (see ad on page 23 of this issue.) ❀