

## Harmony College North - What's in store for 2004

By Ken Fisher, HCN dean



The 17<sup>th</sup> annual edition of *Harmony College North* is coming this June 4-5. Our *Ontario District* is going to have the huge treat of a visit from *Michigan Jake*, the 2001 International champion quartet.

As guest faculty, these talented and very nice guys will be around all weekend for HCN students to meet and trade tags with. Thank you to the Association of International Champions (AIC) program which allows us, Joe Barbershoppers, to experience this golden opportunity to greet the 'Gold'.

Bed, breakfast and barbershop is a new feature we introduced just last year. In a two-hour block of time, you get to sing, laugh, learn and be amazed. It was so much fun last year that the time flew by. We had to have a motion to adjourn the proceedings to a nearby watering hole.

Come to Guelph on the Friday night and enjoy your first fix of barbershopping for the weekend. Quartets who want to get a bit more coaching over the weekend can arrange for this through our registrar, **Barry Greig** or the dean, **Ken Fisher**. [ED: See pages 12-13 for contact information.]

Harmony College North itself, features wonderful opportunities to learn more about the art and business of our hobby.

You can learn what it feels like to sing better, to protect your voice so that it lasts as long as you do. If you have ever heard a chord which didn't quite make it, take the Sound Management class to find out what could be improved.

Performing is story telling. All of us have stories to tell but how do we release our own. Ontario's own guru extraordinaire, **Dave McEachern**, will show you how.

Who among us does not feel the occasional urge to actually understand the music we sing? Free yourself from the agony of ignorance and take the Arranging classes.

Finally, the lifeblood of a performing art form is to get out in front of an audience. Doing a good show is a 'balance and blend' of business and technical management. Everyone who ever has to make a public presentation anywhere, for whatever reason, should know the fundamentals of show production.

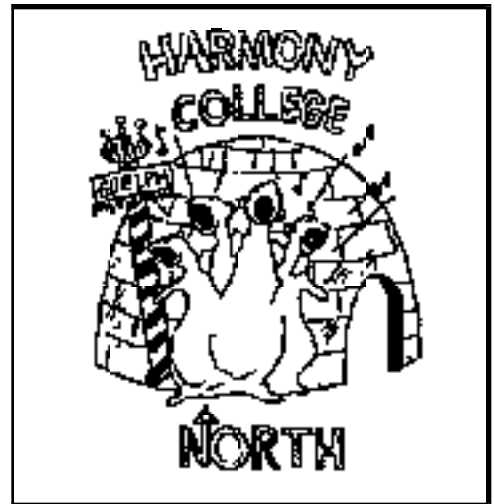
As a special treat this year, the students in the Technical class will be the crew for the Saturday Night Show, in addition to touring the backstage of a state of the art professional theater.

At COTS this past January, our VP music and performance introduced a new icing for the cake. He produced a Saturday Night Show which was a resounding success. It is not rocket science to figure out that we have *Michigan Jake* on campus. Let's then put on a show and let the community enjoy the "Best of Barbershop."

So, as a first for Harmony College North there will be a proper show in a proper little theatre. You can even sell tickets to your family and friends.

**See you at Harmony College North.**

**It's Great To Be A Barbershopper! ♣**



## The cup is half full

By John Case, membership V. P.



Forgive me for being a little Pollyanna-like but *Ontario District's* cup is definitely half full to say the least. To elaborate — right from the get-go at the Leadership Forum in November, a problem regarding COTS attendance was laid before your executive team.

Before you could sing, "Down Our Way," wham — discussion/solution. The 2004 Ontario COTS experienced an unprecedented growth from previous years in COTS attendance. The largest in the Society!

Ask anybody who attended about Saturday night's show and for other details. Folks let me assure you this is not a one act play.

At the time of writing, Ontario welcomes its newest chapter, Hamilton, *The Harbourtown Sound*. What a thrill for me to visit

this wonderful group of singers. As sure as St. Paddy's day arrives on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, there are more significant happenings in the works.

Your executive team recognized opportunities on several fronts. These included:

- A program to improve awareness in the general population of the need for vocal music in our institutions.
- A district-wide program to help grow our membership.
- A program to help ourselves (self-evaluation). We'll in fact help ourselves, in an effort to elevate our public image with participation at like-minded organizations.

As a team we committed ourselves to being more visible, more attainable and certainly more dedicated to addressing the needs of our membership. Speaking of conventions — how about our spring fling in one of the most picturesque locations in the world. A wise old man once said if this doesn't light your fire — then your wick is wet!

At the upcoming HOD, several officers will reveal the details of their respective plans. Make sure that your chapter delegate is present.

It is an exciting time to be an Ontario District Barbershopper. ♣