

IN MEMORIAM

MONTE BANKS

1912 — 2004

By Doug Drew, Ottawa Chapter

Herbert Wilfred “Monte” Banks passed away peacefully on Friday, February 6, 2004, in his 92nd year. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2004.

Monte, as we knew him, was a past president of the *Ottawa Chapter* and of *Ontario District* (1976). He established the Ottawa Chapter Past Presidents Trophy for Barbershopper Of The Year (BOTY) and also presented to the Ontario District the official presidents gavel.

Though his active participation in things barbershop ceased some years ago, he, for many years, maintained his Society and chapter membership, up to the current date.

R.I.P. Monte, they've been waiting for you on Cloud 9, the meeting place of the Eternal Chapter. ✦

GEORGE BELL

1934 — 2004

By Waldo Redekop

In his 70th year, **George Bell** was killed in the horrific accident that took place south of Huntsville on Sunday, February 8, 2004. George and his wife, **Vivian**, were in the SUV heading north on Highway 11 that was struck by a southbound car driving in the wrong lanes.

George was the V.P. membership for the *Huntsville Chapter*. The funeral took place on Friday, February 13, 2004 in Huntsville, with the *Muskoka Music Men* singing at the funeral service. ✦

MARINUS VAN OSCH

1934 — 2004

Submitted by Helen Young

Cayuga United Church was filled to capacity January 5, 2004, as people gathered to pay their final tribute to **Rene van Osch**, a member of the *Gentlemen of Harmony, Simcoe Chapter*. Rene had quietly passed away in the early hours of January 1, 2004, after battling cancer for the preceding three-and-a-half months.

Rene, the oldest of nine children, was born in Holland and at age nineteen, with the whole family, moved to Canada and settled in the Ridgeway area. He was introduced to barbershop singing by **Don Martindale** and decided to join the Simcoe Chapter in 1994, singing bass first, then joining the baritone section. Rene loved music, and also was part of the Vittoria Community Choir, the Singing Friends and the Cayuga United Church choir.

He leaves his wife, Dorothy, two daughters, a son, and six grandchildren. The Gentlemen of Harmony were honoured to sing “I Believe” and “An Irish Blessing” at the memorial service, and will long remember Rene’s beautiful smile, as well as his help making coffee and having refreshments ready at break time during the weekly rehearsals. ✦

AL MARDON

1933 — 2003

By Clarke Edward, Upper Canada Chordsmen

We regret to tell you of the passing of **Al Mardon**, a ten-year veteran and charter member of the *Newmarket Chapter*. The funeral took place at Roadhouse and Rose Funeral Home in Newmarket on Monday, December 1, 2004.

Al was a keen and highly regarded Barbershopper, not only as a bass in his own chorus but in quartets. He was the ultimate volunteer, serving on his chapter board and helping with district events, and participating in conventions and COTS.

He had been named Newmarket Barbershopper of the Year for 2003 just weeks before his death. ✦

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

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