

55th Annual show!

By Al Spence, Oakridge D. C.



OSHAWA CHAPTER: enjoyed a very successful first quarter of the year, averaging good attendance from its active membership, hosting multiple guests at most weekly meetings, and recently picking up two new members, including one youth member, as a result of a community performance by the chorus.

Their attention was focused on preparing for their 55th annual show held on April 24, which featured the return of International Gold Medalist quartet, *FRED*, but the chorus and chapter quartets still managed to perform at a number of senior's residences, hospitals and other community sing outs to make it an exciting and busy time.

Their YMIH program with Coronation Public School in Oshawa continues, and a number of members have attended weekly practices with the boy's chorus, *Men in Vests*, working on barbershop arrangements for the school's performance on the chapter show. The chorus recently sang the national anthem with Men in Vests at an Oshawa Generals OHL game.

Plans are in the works for a combined guest night, inter-chapter meeting, and YMIH function involving **Jim DeBusman**, to be held at the Bowmanville High School on May 31. Chapter quartet, *Tickety-Boo*, is planning on attending HCN in Guelph for the coaching program in June, and a number of chapter members will be supporting the annual APOC Pep Rally.

PETERBOROUGH CHAPTER: completed a very successful Singing Valentines program involving 26 performances and the distribution of 56 roses to the lucky recipients.

The chorus was also thrilled to perform in a concert with the Peterborough Concert Band, which included a joint number under the band leader's direction.

Their first quarter also included sing outs at a local retirement home and the Selwyn Outreach Centre under the sponsorship of Lakefield Community Care.

The chorus was honoured to perform at the Niagara Falls convention as outgoing district champs and is looking forward to a number of planned activities over the next three months, including singing the national anthem at the Ontario Special Olympics in Peterborough, participating, as a YMIH activity, with a number of school choirs and their music educators at the OZANAN event which supports people struggling with addiction, and their annual pilgrimage to the APOC Pep Rally in June.

Following on tradition, the chapter will also take part in a Sunday service at the church where they hold their weekly meetings.

QUINTE REGIONAL CHAPTER: has also been working hard for the first quarter of this year on preparing for their annual show on May 15, to be held at the new Empire Theatre in Belleville. The chorus was still able to perform at two community sing outs over this period. In addition, chapter quartet, *Back Forty*, operated a Singing Valentines program to

C-Way Sound on rebound

By Bill Vermue, Eastern D. C.



KINGSTON CHAPTER: With 20 on stage in Niagara Falls, the Townsfolk stepped outside their comfort zone and dared to be different. They decided to concentrate on the Presentation aspect of their performance, enlisted the help of several coaches, and had a great experience on stage. An e-mail from them said that it has really shown them that all aspects of the performance can be fun. Also, in the past month, their incorporation has been finalized.

NEPEAN CHAPTER: The *Northern Stars Chorus* entered the contest in Niagara Falls with a simple and straightforward goal, that being, to make it a good experience for all those participating. To say that it was a good experience is an understatement. They walked off stage feeling great, but when their much deserved second place finish was announced they were nothing short of ecstatic. **Tony Bove-Dallas** has done a masterful job steering this chorus in a positive direction.

BROCKVILLE CHAPTER: Having garnered a number of new members recently, the *Melodymen* are in a positive mode and looking forward to a good year. One unfortunate occurrence is the pending resignation of their president, **Peter Kaldeway**, due to a significant career change. Peter has done a wonderful job keeping this group moving forward through a very difficult 2003. He very much deserves our thanks and well wishes. Luckily, he is staying in the area and will remain as an active member of the chorus.

OTTAWA CHAPTER: While the chorus didn't compete, they were represented by two quartets in Niagara Falls, *As Time Goes By* and *Polaris*. The *Capital City Chorus* has an active music committee and coaching program and has started planning in earnest for the fall competition in Brantford. They also have a very active May and June planned with a number of sing outs as well as participation with the Cornwall Chapter (see below).

CORNWALL CHAPTER: Plans are underway to help this small, dedicated group rebuild the *C-Way Sound Chorus*. Ottawa, with help from Brockville and Nepean will go to Cornwall at the end of May on a public relations excursion to promote a recruiting drive. They will then participate on three consecutive Wednesday nights in June to put together a "Learn to Sing" program for men in the local area. I will hopefully have a success story in the next edition. ♣



raise money for H4S, which was followed by a chapter dinner party for members and wives at which the chorus performed.

The chapter is currently working, with the help of the *Kingston Chapter*, on a Trillium grant for new uniforms and equipment.

Divisional issues: All three chapters are in the final stages of completing their Incorporation applications, and should be able to get this task accomplished by June 30. ♣