

## APOC says “Thank you!”

By Duncan Macgregor, APOC Treasurer

**O**n June 15<sup>th</sup>, Ontario’s 18<sup>th</sup> Annual *Pep Rally* was held. The *Association of Ontario District Champs (APOC)* extends a BIG thank you to all Ontario Barbershoppers.

The *Pep Rally* allowed APOC to disperse a total of \$10,000 to our International chorus and quartet competitors. In addition, the *Scarborough Chapter* donated an additional \$1,000 to our competitors and the *St. Catharines Chapter* donated another \$200 (in honour and appreciation of **Jim O’Neill** directing their chapter through to their most recent chapter show in May).

There were a record number of tables (56) reserved by a record number of Ontario chapters (31). Two quartets (*TKO* and *As Time Goes By*) reserved tables and four chapters (*North Bay, Ottawa, Sarnia, and Strathroy*) reserved tables even though their members could not be present at the *Pep Rally*.

**Greg Backwell**, once again, donated three of his wonderful prints for the draw. The entertainment provided by all of the quartets, choruses, and our emcee, **Neil Aitchison**, was worth the price of admission.

For each table that was reserved, there was an added bonus provided through a donation of a free *Four Chorders* CD for one special person at each table.

So, once again, APOC wishes to say THANK YOU to all the chapters and to all those individuals who supported the *Pep Rally* and who provided the funding to pass over another significant amount of money to our International Reps.

The funds came from Ontario Barbershoppers to encourage Ontario Barbershoppers — a win/win scenario if there ever was one! We’ll look forward to seeing everyone once again at our 19<sup>th</sup> annual *Pep Rally* next June.

On behalf of all APOC members, thanks again. ✱

[Taken from the Grimsby Chapter’s Knightline, **Doug McLellan**, editor.]

## What a Pep Rally

By Doug McLellan

**T**he 2004 edition was much improved as the bar and food sections were relocated to other parts of the hall. This was to allow more tables to be utilized.


Relocating the bar and putting it behind a screen was a great idea. The noise level was almost eliminated. At least it was at our end of the hall.

The June 15 event drew about 450 enthusiastic Ontario District Barbershoppers who applauded their way through the evening when they weren’t singing.

**Neil Aitchison** was up to his usual funny stuff and kept the program moving to the final act, which was our chorus representatives to International, *Toronto Northern Lights*. They performed their two-song package, which received a standing ovation.

*The Fixx*, were the quartet representatives, along with the wild card entry, *Union Station*. The college entry was *Misnomer* and

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they gave us a sample of what they were planning for the contest stage.

The three quartets, as well as the chorus, received monetary assistance for their travel and living expenses from the proceeds of the *Pep Rally*, as well as the *Onta-Fame* fund.

In total, ten choruses and seven quartets performed for the all-male (**June Dale** excepted) audience.

The choruses, in order of appearance, were the *APOC Chorus* (who also organized the evening), *Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Scarborough, Barrie, Guelph, Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo, MegaCity* and *Toronto Northern Lights*.

The quartets were *Misnomer, Timbre Tones, Conspiracy, Budda Boom Budda Bing, Mirage, Union Station* and *The Fixx*.

We wish each and every one of the competitors the best of luck at contest and we hope that you enjoy yourselves. You have truly earned your place in the sun.

Another great night from the APOC gang. Though it does end a tad late in the evening, it is definitely worth staying up for. ✱

**Don't miss Pep Rally 2005!** ✱