

Stoney Creek Chapter history — 1980 - 2004

By Doug Macdonald,

Secretary and charter member, Stoney Creek Chapter.

Our history began in March 1980, when seven former Barbershoppers, got together and made plans for starting a chapter. Our first meetings took place in a local business office but soon we had to move to larger quarters. We obtained the use of the Eastgate Square auditorium where regular Monday night meetings were held.

We chartered on November 9, 1981 with 34 members. The *Oakville Entertainers* were our sponsors and they gave us a great start by donating their old risers to us, which were previously owned by the *Scarborough Dukes of Harmony*.

We held our first show in April 1982 and the Oakville Entertainers were our featured guests. The proceeds from the show allowed us to purchase 100 used uniforms from the *Dapper Dans* in New Jersey, U.S.A. These uniforms had history, as the Dapper Dans won the International Contest in 1967 wearing those uniforms.

We have had six directors in our 24 year history and they were:

- 1980-1984, **Harvey Sherwood**, former *Ontario District* president and Ontario District Barbershopper of Renown,
- 1984 -1987, **Bill Taylor**, Ontario District Barbershopper of Renown,
- 1987-1992, **Dennis Adams**,
- 1992- 1995, **Bob Ungar**,
- 1995-1999, **Paul Coutts**,
- 1999-2004 **Ross Bangham**.

We were known as the *Stoney Creek Barbershop Harmony Chorus* until 1988 when we became known as the *Monumentals* and then changed to the *Monumental Chord Company*. Our current name and logo reflects the monument that was erected in the City of Stoney Creek to remember the location where the British repelled the Americans during the war of 1812.

We began having annual chapter planning sessions in 1984 where every member is given the opportunity to have hands-on involvement in the business and development of the chapter. These are all day sessions and are usually held on the first or second Saturday in January, after the chapter officers returned, all charged up, from the *Chapter Officer Training School (COTS)*.

Our membership has fluctuated over our 23 year history with a high of 68 members. We have competed, with distinction, 13 times at the spring conventions.

It was in the fall of 1983 that we were invited to sing on CHCH TV program "New Faces." We sang two songs and the show was hosted by **Dan McLean**. It was broadcast in December of that year.

In 1986 we moved our practice location from Eastgate Square to the Salvation Army Citadel in Stoney Creek. where we have established an excellent rapport with the "Army" over the years. We moved our meetings from Monday to Tuesday nights which made us more available for inter-chapter visits within the district.

The Salvation Army sold the property in 1999 and we were

forced to find a new location, finally ending up at the Hall at Olivet United Church.

We began running Bingo games in 1988 and the revenue from them has enabled us to

- * Purchase new risers (we gave our old risers to the *Grimsby Chapter*, who became the fourth owners).
- * Purchase new uniforms (we gave our old uniforms, to the *North Bay Chapter*, who became the third owner).
- * Build a trailer to transport the risers.
- * Purchase a sound system.
- * And enabled us to donate thousands of dollars to the *Harmonize for Speech Fund*.

We started the new century with a small but dedicated group of men who made the ambitious step of booking Hamilton Place for our last three annual shows.

With the help of the ladies of the *North Metro Chorus* and with *MegaCity* and *Northern Lights* mens choruses, we were able to fill the theatre three years in a row. November 2002 saw our last show after which we lost a number of our key singers and slid on a slow slope to where we are today.

As part of our closing of the chapter, we decided to give our risers to the *Simcoe Chapter*. We gave our red and black uniforms to the *Owen Sound Chapter*, the sound equipment to the new *Hamilton Chapter* and our learning tape library and music to the *Grimsby Chapter*.

The *Stoney Creek Chapter* had its last regular meeting on October 27, 2004, at our regular meeting place at Olivet United Church. ✻

Great chorus director's workshop

By Ron Madill, St. Thomas Chapter member

On October 2, 2004, the *St. Thomas Chapter* hosted a chorus director's workshop, conducted by **Paul Tamblin** and **Mac Dallman**. The morning session involved working with **Linda Livingston**, **Bruce Green** and **Malt Dalton** of the St. Thomas Chapter.

In the afternoon, our chorus members were involved. They were directed by each director in different phases. This proved to be a very worthwhile experience for all involved. Thank you Paul and Mac. ✻

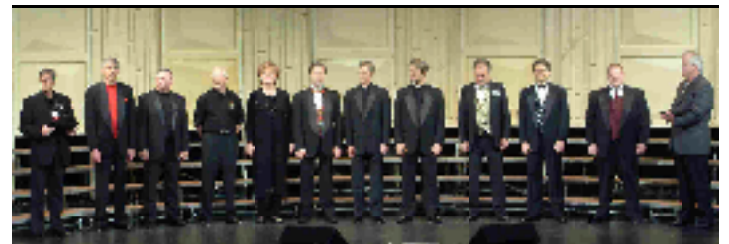


Photo — Alan Eidt, Shades Imaging

Chorus directors who directed competing choruses Saturday afternoon, receiving their participation certificates. ✻