

Mgr. Heartland Div Don Coghlin

Guelph

“Juke Box Harmony” was a very successful show on April 8. This was their 37th annual show. The audience was entertained by their chorus and quartets. The crowd was filled with laughter while being entertained by their guest quartet of *The Authentics*. The evening was kept rolling with *Master of Ceremonies Neil Aitchison*. Plans are well underway for their next annual show. The chapter participated in the spring convention in Niagara Falls.

Kitchener/ Waterloo

The Harmonizers presented their “Salute to Satchmo” at their annual show on April 30. Guest quartet was the Ontario Champions *The Fixx* along with the *Timbretones* and their own quartets. On May 3, the chapter held an open house for new members. They had over 20 young men attend. They participated and enjoyed an evening of song with *The Journeymen* as their special guests. Along with their own quartets and the *Timbretones*, the evening will bring some of these young men back to another chapter meeting and hopefully become a member. A number of members attended the spring convention.

Mount Forest

They entertained at a concert on Sunday, April 24, to assist a delightful little five year-old girl who loves music but has autism. This presents challenges for her and her family. Proceeds of the show assisted them to purchase a computer to help her learn to communicate with others. Nearly 200 people attended the concert. The chapter is working on material for their 35th annual show at the end of October. Five couples attended the spring convention.

Owen Sound

They are working on their annual show “Hear the People Sing” for May 28. A good number of members attended the spring convention. They are planning to take the whole chorus to Kitchener for the Novice quartet contest. An active membership committee has proven to be successful, resulting in a number of new members and quests coming out. ❁



Photo—Waldo Redekop

The *Ottawa Chapter* receives the award for being “*Chapter Of The Year*” at the spring convention. (L-R) **Bill McKiernon**, manager of events and **Sam Sloane**, manager of marketing & PR present the plaque to **Larry Martens** and **Don Willis** of the Ottawa Chapter. ❁



A message from Society President Rob Hopkins

By Rob Hopkins, Society President

While all organizations with professional staffs periodically go through times of change in key personnel, I know that many members are concerned about the recent resignations of *CEO Don Harris* and *Director of Music Education and Services Greg Lyne*.

Don made some significant and important contributions to the Society as our CEO, and of course Greg has been a particularly revered musical expert in the Society for many years. I expect that Greg will continue to be very active throughout the Society in helping us learn more about our unique style and how to perform it to the best of our musical ability. Indeed, his skills will now be more available to our membership, not less.

Through this time of transition, we have the benefit of the leadership of two outstanding and longtime Barbershoppers who I am sure will be very effective in their interim positions.

Roger Lewis is our interim CEO and is particularly well-suited to serve in that position. A retired businessman and our current past international Society President, Roger is an accomplished manager and a great team leader, who also has extremely broad knowledge of the Society based on experience as a performer, leader, and judge. We are grateful that Roger has agreed to assume this position until we select a new Executive Director and CEO. (Details on the search, now underway, are available at www.spebsqsa.org/ceosearch).

At Roger’s request, **Joe Liles** has agreed temporarily to act in the role of Director of Music Education and Services, a position he held for many years prior to his being named Society Executive Director. Joe is a great musician, an inspiring leader, and a Barbershopper who knows and appreciates the needs of our members. He will ensure that our talented music staff continues serving the needs of our membership with outstanding dedication and skill.

With Roger and Joe in these interim positions, we are in good hands. You will not find two Society members more dedicated to our style, our members, and the prosperous future of our organization. Many of you know them, and know how deeply they love our Society.

Our staff will continue striving to meet the needs of our membership every day. Roger and Joe are helping to provide continuity; and our dedicated staff is, as usual, committed to handling the myriad details that keep our Society running well. Naturally, in addition to other ongoing projects, they are currently hard at work on arrangements for a fabulous celebration of barbershop at our international convention in Salt Lake City. Hope to see you there! ❁